



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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MONTHLY MEETING
Friday January 23

"CALIFORNIA CONDOR...VANISHING AMERICAN"

A slide program by Dick Smith, co-author of the book of the same name, nature photographer, News-Press writer, and a leading authority on the Santa Barbara back-country. 8p.m., Fleischman Auditorium, Museum of Natural History.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- January 21 Wednesday Anacapa Island Underwater Nature Trail - Santa Barbara Underseas Foundation meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Fleischman Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. The program features films, slides, question and answer session and refreshments. For further information call the Foundation at 966-4314. Audubon members are specially invited.
- January 24 Saturday Tucker's Grove - Meet at the park at 8:00 a.m. for a morning's walk along San Antonio Creek. Chaparral birds and winter visitors. Lunch is optional. The park is located at the corner of Cathedral Oaks Road and Turnpike Road.
Leader - Louis Bevier, 964-1030
- February 14 Saturday Dune Lakes - A private reserve in San Luis Obispo County near Oceano on Highway 1. Fine natural area for wintering ducks, marsh birds, and raptors. Limited admittance, phone the leader for reservations and car-pooling information. Driver donation is \$2.50. Pack a lunch and wear warm clothes. Priority will be given to those members who have not visited this beautiful area before.
Leaders - Jim Hodgson, 967-3627
Bill Gielow, 687-3466, for reservations

TENTATIVE FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

- February 29 Vandenburg Air Force Base, La Purisima Mission
March 6 Tunnel Road, San Roque Canyon
March 13 Lake Piru, Filmore Hatcheries
March 20 Point Mugu
March 28 Ventura County Game Preserve
April 3 Sycamore Canyon

Tentative Field Trip Schedule (Continued)

April 11-12 Morongo Valley, Joshua Tree National Monument
April 17 Goleta Migration Hot Spots
April 25 Hollister Ranch
May 1 Anacapa Island - Spring Boat Trip
May 8-9 Davy Brown, Manzanita Overnight
May 15 Gibraltar - Red Rock Hike
June 5 Annual Picnic, Scofield Park

President's Message

A Happy New Year to you all, and good birding in 1976!

I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season. The Parkinsons and the Hambers spent Christmas in Yosemite National Park. There was very little snow but the weather was crisp and beautiful. We saw very few birds - would you believe a dozen or so Stellar's Jays, a couple of Mountain Chickadees, three Dark-eyed Juncos, and one Winter Wren in four days? We decided that all the birds must be in Santa Barbara, and, from the results of the Christmas count, it would seem we were right.

There are no holidays from the problems of protecting the environment, however. We have received an urgent request for help from the Florida Audubon Society. The Deltona Corporation of Miami proposes to dredge and fill over 2,200 acres of mangrove wetlands and 735 acres of natural bay bottom in order to construct 5,325 waterfront lots which it sold prior to even applying for the federal permits that are necessary to deliver these properties to purchasers. The Army Corps of Engineers is now considering whether to grant or deny permits for this massive dredge and fill project. Public opposition to the project has been overwhelming. Over 1,900 individuals and more than 75 organizations have filed written objections. More letters of objection are urgently needed and should be addressed to: The Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Forrestal Building, Washington, D.C., 20314. In addition, it would be extremely helpful if you would forward copies of your letter to Senators Cranston and Tunney and to Congressman Lagomarsino requesting their assistance (this is not legislation; it is an administrative proceeding).

The Florida situation will be discussed at our next board meeting for possible Chapter action, but, meanwhile, members can help by writing individual letters. I have fact sheets on the project and will be happy to make copies for anyone who wishes further information. Call me. This is a precedent-setting decision of great importance to all of our nation's wetlands. If this permit is granted, how can permits in other areas, including our own, be denied.

Representative Robert J. Lagomarsino has introduced H.R. 10867, a bill to terminate any phosphate lease or rights in the Los Padres National Forest near Highway 33 north of Ojai. This bill has been referred to the Subcommittee on Mines and Mining. This area, you will recall, has been the subject of much argument since U. S. Gypsum announced, a few years ago, its plans to locate a phosphate mine near the Sespe Condor Refuge and to transport the phosphate in huge trucks along scenic Highway 33. Several hearings were held and great opposition was voiced by conservation groups, the U. S. Forest Service, and many individuals. Proximity to an endangered species, the California Condor, increased traffic on Highway 33, and air and water pollution were some of the objections brought out at the hearings. Letters are needed and should be addressed to: Rep. Patsy Mink, Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Mines and Mining, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Joy Parkinson

Santa Barbara Christmas Bird Count - January 3, 1976

The following list includes all birds sighted on the count day. Species or numbers that are unusual are underlined> (some of these sightings may be contested).

Common Loon	40	Calif. Quail	585	Barn Owl	6
Arctic Loon	36	Mountain Quail	2	Screech Owl	4
Red-throated Loon	46	Turkey	11	Great Horned Owl	10
Loon, species	150	Virginia Rail	5	Pygmy Owl	7
Horned Grebe	21	Sora	20	Burrowing Owl	3
Eared Grebe	31	Common Gallinule	4	Short-eared Owl	2
Western Grebe	237	American Coot	1494	<u>swift, chaetura, species</u>	2
Pied-billed Grebe	190	Semipalm. Plover	10	White-throated Swift	19
<u>shearwater, species</u>	1	Snowy Plover	125	Anna's Hummingbird	557
<u>White Pelican</u>	2	Killdeer	859	<u>Selasphorus, species</u>	5
Brown Pelican	210	Black-bellied Pl.	180	Belted Kingfisher	22
Db.-cr. Cormorant	897	Ruddy Turnstone	2	Common Flicker	238
Brandt's Cormorant	289	Black Turnstone	18	Acorn Woodpecker	325
Pelagic Cormorant	30	Common Snipe	27	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	22
Great Blue Heron	44	Long-billed Curlew	1	Hairy Woodpecker	7
Green Heron	5	Whimbrel	87	Downy Woodpecker	37
Great Egret	63	Spotted Sandpiper	18	Nuttall's Woodpecker	47
Snowy Egret	44	Willet	276	Cassin's Kingbird	1
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	57	G'ter Yellowlegs	25	<u>Ash-throated Flycatcher</u>	1
American Bittern	6	<u>Red Knot</u>	1	<u>Eastern Phoebe</u>	1
Canada Goose	2	<u>Least Sandpiper</u>	77	Black Phoebe	62
<u>Snow Goose</u>	4	Dunlin	36	Say's Phoebe	34
<u>Ross' Goose</u>	3	Short-b. Dowitcher	4	Horned Lark	50
Mallard	273	Long-b. Dowitcher	101	Scrub Jay	757
Gadwall	4	dowitcher, sp.	21	Common Crow	676
Pintail	362	W. Sandpiper	21	Mountain Chickadee	4
Green-winged Teal	137	Marbled Godwit	185	<u>Chestnut-backed Chickadee</u>	1
Blue-winged Teal	5	Sanderling	736	<u>Plain Titmouse</u>	186
Cinnamon Teal	16	American Avocet	11	Bushtit	1421
American Wigeon	711	Parasitic Jaeger	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	43
Northern Shoveler	187	Glaucous-w. Gull	5	Red-breasted Nuthatch	15
Redhead	28	Western Gull	696	Brown Creeper	7
Ring-necked Duck	290	Herring Gull	18	Wrentit	372
Canvasback	36	Thayer's Gull	2	Dipper	1
Greater Scaup	3	California Gull	327	House Wren	22
Lesser Scaup	80	Ring-billed Gull	854	Winter Wren	3
Bufflehead	21	Mew Gull	738	Bewick's Wren	106
White-winged Scoter	1	Bonaparte's Gull	544	<u>Long-billed Marsh Wren</u>	16
Surf Scoter	69	Heermann's Gull	331	Canyon Wren	21
Ruddy Duck	753	Black-l. Kittiw.	2	Rock Wren	5
Red-br. Merganser	42	gull, sp.	816	Mockingbird	219
Turkey Vulture	3	Forster's Tern	107	California Thrasher	79
White-tailed Kite	98	Common Tern	2	American Robin	1466
Cooper's Hawk	13	Caspian Tern	3	Hermit Thrush	193
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	Royal Tern	51	Varied Thrush	3
Red-tailed Hawk	61	Common Murre	45	Western Bluebird	36
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	<u>Ancient Murrelet</u>	1	Townsend's Solitaire	5
Golden Eagle (imm.)	3	<u>Band-t. Pigeon</u>	347	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	50
Marsh Hawk	3	Rock Dove	373	Golden-crowned Kinglet	17
Merlin	1	Mourning Dove	493	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	677
American Kestrel	121	Spotted Dove	13	Water Pipit	416
falcon, species	1	Roadrunner	1	Cedar Waxwing	446
Phainopepla	4	N. (Bull.) Oriole	5	White-crowned Sparrow	3218
Loggerhead Shrike	51	Brewer's Blackb.	1231	Golden-crowned Sparrow	664

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Starling	1138	Brown-headed Cowbird	65	White-throated Sparrow	4
Hutton's Vireo	33	Western Tanager	3	Fox Sparrow	89
Orange-crowned Warbler	35	Rose-br. Grosbeak	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	197
Nashville Warbler	2	Black-headed Grosbeak	3	Swamp Sparrow	1
Y.-r. (Myr.) Warbler	20	Purple Finch	44	Song Sparrow	666
Y.-r. (Aud.) Warb.	1710	House Finch	2920	Harris' Sparrow	1
B.-throated Gray Warb.	2	Pine Siskin	62		
Townsend's Warbler	37	American Goldfinch	93		
Hermit Warbler	3	Lesser Goldfinch	379		
Palm Warbler	1	Red Crossbill	1		
Common Yellowthroat	241	Rufous-sided Towhee	272		
Wilson's Warbler	1	Brown Towhee	768		
House Sparrow	316	Savannah Sparrow	415		
Western Meadowlark	664	Lark Sparrow	11		
Y.-headed Blackbird	4	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	9		
Red-winged Blackbird	3053	Sage Sparrow	1		
Tricolored Blackbird	756	Dark-eyed Junco	1154		
Hooded Oriole	2	Chipping Sparrow	1		
Scott's Oriole	1	Clay-colored Sparrow	1		

Total: 202 species (1 additional race), about 45,536 individuals. (In the count area during the count week but not seen on the count day were: Black Brant, Lesser Yellowlegs, Glaucous Gull, Spotted Owl, Tree Swallow, Common Raven, Summer Tanager, and Evening Grosbeak.)

There were 105 observers in 32 parties.

Cherie Bratt
Michael Fishbein

Audubon Workshop of the West

The National Audubon Society offers four two-week conservation seminars each summer at the Audubon Workshop of the West, held at the Trail Lake Ranch at Dubois, in the Wind River Range of western Wyoming. The emphasis of the camp is on understanding the ecological interrelationships between each organism, be it mammal, bird, insect, or plant, and its environment. There is abundant wildlife in the area, including moose and bighorn sheep.

Bill Downy, the Outdoor Writer for the Santa Barbara News-Press, was the recipient of a scholarship to the camp, provided by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society. He wrote of the camp in his column in the News-Press on December 28, 1975, "I can speak with the authority of one who has been there in saying that it's a magnificent experience."

Information regarding the workshop may be obtained by writing Audubon Workshop of the West, P. O. Box 3232, Boulder, Colorado, 80303 (303-499-0219).

Disneyland Trip

The Missile Space Recreation Association of Vandenberg Air Force Base is sponsoring a special Disneyland Private Party on Saturday evening, March 6, 1976. Admission is limited to persons in the Vandenberg AFB, Lompoc, and Santa Maria area as the tickets must be purchased in advance. The \$5.00 ticket includes parking, admission, and unlimited use of the attractions (except shooting gallery and foods). Russ Spowart of Lompoc will be at the January and February Audubon meetings, and tickets will be available from him.

Russ Spowart, Publicity Chairman

Board of Directors' Meeting

At the meeting of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society's Board of Directors, held on November 20, the board approved the purchase of ten pairs of binoculars, at \$22.00 per pair, from Douglas Telescopes, for the Cachuma Church Camp. Twelve pairs were actually purchased for the same price and donated to Phyllis Gandy, director of the camp, at our last meeting.

The board decided to again provide a \$275 scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West. Sid Tarbox will attempt to locate a worthy candidate.

John Arnold's resignation from the Board was accepted. John has moved away from the Santa Barbara area.

A donation in memory of Preston Webster III was made to the Library Fund of the Museum of Natural History.

FREE OFFER

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The National Audubon Society will send a free copy of Audubon Illustrated Handbook of American Birds, a complete single-volume guide to all the birds of North America, containing over 500 pages, and 410 photos and 100 drawings to any member who enrolls three or more new members. The Society has established the following rules:

1. Charged memberships are not eligible.
2. All applications must be forwarded in groups of three or more, with remittance checks enclosed.
3. The name and address of the individual to receive the book must be included.
4. All categories of membership, including gift memberships, count as one unit.
5. Applications must not be sent directly to National Audubon, but must be routed through the Chapter's membership chairwoman, Barbara Greene, 4512 Via Huerto, Santa Barbara, Ca., 93110.
6. In all matters relating to the campaign, which begins immediately, the decisions of the Director of Membership of the National Audubon Society shall be final.

Librarian's Libido

New Books!!

For aspiring photographers and everyone fascinated by colorful birds - Birds of the Tropics is a treasure. This pictorial introduction to the spectacular birds found in the tropics features lovely portraits of the Malachite Kingfisher, Seven-colored Tanager, and the Paradise Flycatcher.

The Habitat Guide to Birding lets you select the type of terrain you are covering and determine what species of birds you can expect to see, which species nest there, breed there, and which visit there. Also, a technical treatment, Craighead's Hawks, Owls, and Wildlife for raptor freaks.

And something we all should check out, Everyman's Guide to Ecological Living, is a small practical conservation guide. Learn the meaning of the ecology symbol, which brand of detergent to purchase, and see how you stack up to their "general rules to live by."

Someone mysteriously gave to us a copy of Margaret Gabil and Lana Rose's Seashore Syllabus, a local guide to the inter-tidal animals and plants of our own south county. Explore and learn about our beach!

Donnis Goodwin

Field Trip Report

The Morro Bay - Montana d'Oro trip, November 1 and 2, provided the usual good time for twenty-six birders. Despite extremely high tides, one very foggy day, and duck hunters, we managed to find 97 varieties, including an excellent sighting of one Peregrine Falcon.

Bill and June Gardener

American Dream and the City of Man

C.E.C., in cooperation with the Continuing Education Division of Santa Barbara Community College, is sponsoring a lecture series beginning January 19. Each speaker is universally recognized for his contribution to his respective field, and for his ability to transcend the bounds of his profession to engage in building the foundations of a future social structure. All lectures will be on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Fleischman Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History.

The series schedule is: January 19, "The American Dream and the City of Man," with Raghavan Iyer; January 26, "The Garden and the City," Alan Chadwick; "The City in the Image of Man," Paolo Soleri on February 2; and Barry Commoner's "Energy, the Environment, and the Economic Crisis," date to be announced.

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Deadline for the February issue is February 1, 1976. Please mail your contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 2431-B Castillo Street, Santa Barbara, 93105, 682-1779.

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

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