



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 14, No. 2  
February, 1976

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## MONTHLY MEETING

Friday, February 27

"EXPLORING THE NORTHERN CASCADES"

A slide presentation and lecture by Jim Pollack, landscape architect with the U.S. Forest Service. Included will be some aerial photos. 8 p.m., Fleischman Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. At 7:30 p.m. Paul Lehman will conduct a bird identification class using slides to aid in the difficult identification of local gulls, including some rarities seen this year. Bring your own cup for refreshments.

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- February 19 Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural History. All members are invited to attend.
- February 27 Regular Monthly Meeting - 8 p.m. Fleischman Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. See details of program above.
- February 29 Vandenburg Air Force Base - La Purisima Mission - Good birding for raptors, shorebirds in the Lompoc area. A short walk in the mission garden will precede a drive through portions of the missile base. Wear warm clothes, including a windbreaker, gloves, and head/ear protection. Bring lunch or purchase it at the snackbar. Spotting scopes useful. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Thrifty Drug Store at Five-Points Shopping Center for carpooling, or at La Purisima Mission at 7:45 a.m. Call Minna Smith, 966-7971, if you plan to go. Driver donation \$1.50. In case of rain the trip will be rescheduled for Sunday, March 14.  
Leader - Russ Spowart, 805-733-1525
- March 6 Tunnel Road - San Roque Canyon - Park at the end of Tunnel Road (near Botanic Gardens) for a rigorous hike up Mission Canyon, over the ridge to Jesusita Trail, and back down through San Roque Canyon. Please phone to see if your car is needed for the shuttle. Terminus: Stevens Park. Meet at 8 a.m., pack lunch and a canteen.  
Leader - Bill Gielow, 687-3466
- March 13 Lake Piru - Filmore Hatcheries - Very good chance of seeing Golden Eagles in the mountains in Piru Canyon area. Excellent spring birding in the hatcheries as well. Pack lunch and spotting scope, if possible. Meet in Santa Barbara in the All Saints by the Sea Church parking lot (U.S. 101 San Ysidro Road exit, turn right onto Eucalyptus Lane, lot is soon on the right) at 7 a.m. In Ventura County meet at Henry's cafe just as you enter Filmore at 8 a.m.  
Leader - Jim Hodgson, 967-3627

### President's Message

It was good to see so many members and guests at our last monthly meeting. There were familiar faces we had not seen for a long time, and many new faces.

Those of you who were there will remember that I reported our membership as being over 1,110, and appealed for more volunteers to help ease the load of the few people who keep our society growing and flourishing. As I told you, less than 4% of our membership gives time to SBAS.

For an organization to stay healthy it must continue to recruit new helpers. It cannot rely on the same people year after year. It is easy to "let George do it" but, one day, George may move away, or just get tired and resign!

When we were a small group it was easy to telephone around to find helpers when we needed them, but now it is impossible. There is, undoubtedly, a great reservoir of time and talent available to us, but we don't know what you are able to do to help. Only YOU know that.

There are many ways in which you can help -- some of them require several hours a week, some only a couple of hours a month or less. In fact, if we had enough volunteers, it could mean that you would be called on no more than two or three times a year. It is not necessary to commit yourself to a regular monthly schedule. Everyone has times when he cannot be available. This is no problem if there are several others able and willing to step in, but it can be very difficult if the person who is ill, out of town, or whatever is the only one who can handle that particular job.

We have been thinking of ways to overcome this problem, and one which was suggested at the last meeting has much merit. It is to construct a bulletin board for use at our monthly meetings. On this board will be sign-up sheets for the various committees and what help they need in the next month or two. If you feel you can help, even once, you will be asked, indeed urged, to sign up. We haven't decided what to call our bulletin board -- "Volunteer Corner," "Help Wanted," or even "Stick-your-neck-out" might be appropriate. Maybe someone can think of a really succinct phrase for us.

We are grateful for your financial support, but ask you to ask yourself if you could possibly take one more step, and donate a small portion of your time to Audubon. The rewards are great --- a feeling of really doing something for conservation, and a wonderful sense of camaraderie with fellow members. And most of all, we **NEED YOU!**

Joy Parkinson

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### More About the Society's Slide Collection

Late December and early January proved to be quite a Christmas season for the Education Committee. Mike Fishbein screened his slide collection and made us over 30 duplicates that fill many needs; the L.R. Carters presented the Society a collection of over ninety, including many fine nesting shots; the Joseph Sextons contributed slides of gulls; and Brad Schram offered to duplicate several of the group he showed at the December meeting. To all these members we extend our hearty thanks. We have not only scratched many off our "most wanted" list, but have materially broadened the collection.

However, some gaps remain. We can use more good examples of territorial behavior, courtship display, nest building (especially waterfowl, House Wrens, and House Finches), feeding habits, and other interesting activities. Believe it or not, we still lack good pictures of:

Shoveler	Cooper's Hawk	Black Phoebe	Black-crowned Night Heron
Rock Dove	Roadrunner	Bewick's Wren	American Goldfinch
Common Crow	Common Bushtit	Lark Sparrow	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Mockingbird	Hermit Thrush	Loggerhead Shrike	

Maybe you can help us narrow the gap. If you can, please call and let us know.  
Sid Tarbox, 687-2067

### Board of Directors Meeting

At the January 15 meeting of the SBAS Board of Directors, the following were among the motions approved:

Scholarships to the Audubon Camp of the West are to be given to Ruth Meadows and jointly to Helen Robertson and Molly Rosencrants.

Jean Johnson (Mrs. Paul B.) will coordinate the monthly mailing and mimeographing of El Tecolote.

Mary Lou Hand was appointed to complete John Arnold's term as board member.

Mary Ankeny, Marge Capiello, Jan Hamber, Joy Parkinson, Minna Smith, and Tomi Sollen will attend the April 10-13 Audubon Western Conference at Asilomar.

SBAS will provide \$75.00 for new covers for ten chairs in the Fleischman Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History.

### Field Trip Report - Tucker's Grove, January 24, 1976

About twenty birders enjoyed a leisurely morning's walk along San Antonio Creek before weekend activity picked up in the park. Among seed eaters in the field above the picnic grounds were Lark Sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos. Several White-breasted Nuthatches gleaned insects from oak trunks, and a Yellowthroat was found along the creek bottom. One member got an interesting photo of a female Acorn Woodpecker poking her head out of a tight nest hole in the middle of a sawed-off limb scar.

Bill Gielow

### Sespe Area Christmas Count

A very good turnout of local birders and a few visitors produced the second best Sespe area count ever. There were disappointingly few waterfowl, and heavy wind conditions on the mountains, which makes us even prouder of our excellent count. 112 species were seen including Ross' Goose, California Condor, Prairie Falcon, Golden and Bald Eagles. Our thanks to all who participated.

Michael Goodwin

### Hawaiian Adventure - December 20, 1975 to January 4, 1976

We took the Questers Naturalist Tour, part of a group of fifteen, including the leader and a guide, and covered all six islands.

Our guide was a doctoral candidate in Ecology, strong in ornithology and vulcanology, who teaches and does research at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. He has spent the past fourteen years on the islands, studying bird life and habitats. His knowledge is encyclopaedic - he seems to know the location of every bird on every island, exactly where and when they can be found!

We visited his laboratory at Oahu, and viewed the Apapane, Amakihi, and Anianiau in cages under study. We also visited the breeding pens on Maui where the Nene and Hawaiian Ducks are being successfully bred and returned to the wild.

Our total species count was 43, of which 11 were endemic, and the rest introduced. There are only about 20 endemic species in Hawaii. Endemic species seen were: Nene (Hawaiian Goose), Noio (White-capped Noddy), Oma'O, Elepaio, Amakihi, Hawaiian Duck, I'iwi, Akepa, Hawaiian Creeper, I'O (Hawk), and Pueo (Owl). The introduced species included: Skylark (heard singing), Brown and Red-footed Boobies, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Chinese and Shama Thrushes, White-eyes, Ricebirds (from Malaysia), Brazilian Cardinals, and one White-tailed Tropicbird.

Minna E. Smith

### Ascent of Man Series

Six films of Jacob Bronowski's series charting the progress of human civilization and its relationship to the natural world still remain to be shown in Fleischman Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History. "The Ascent of Man" is filmed on location throughout the world and is narrated by Dr. Bronowski, noted scientist, philosopher, and historian. Recently aired on Public Broadcasting Television, this BBC production beautifully charts in capsule form the course of civilization and cultural evolution. There will be two films per evening, on Tuesdays. The first will be shown at 7:30 p.m., the second at 8:30 p.m. each evening; coffee will be served at intermission. Donations will be accepted. The schedule is as follows:

February 17 Majestic Clockwork, and Drive for Power  
 February 24 Ladder of Creation, and World Within World  
 March 2 - Generation upon Generation, and Long Childhood

### New Nature Bulletin

In the interest of bringing information to the public on nature and the rich environment of the Tri-counties area, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is now issuing a bimonthly publication, "The Museum Bulletin," prepared by the staff of the Museum.

The purpose of the bulletin is to encourage the community at large to realize more fully the educational potential of the museum and to gain a fuller appreciation of the natural history information available about this region.

The first issue of the Museum Bulletin includes an article on the California Brown Pelican and recent studies showing that the southern California populations are on the road to recovery after near extinction in the late 1960's. There is also a complete list of museum events, such as films, lectures, planetarium programs, field trips, and special exhibits. In the future, gallery shows, new permanent exhibits, and news on recent research will be presented. An innovative feature of the new bulletin is a section called Timetable of Natural Events, which lists seasonally occurring natural phenomena and where to see them, including comments on birds visiting local beaches and harbors, Gray Whale migrations, winter clusters of Monarch Butterflies, celestial events, and times of extremely low tides.

Persons interested in museum membership and in receiving the Museum Bulletin should visit the museum during normal open hours on weekdays, or may phone the administrative office at 963-7821 between nine and five on weekdays.

### Art Note

Maxim (Smitty) Smith will exhibit a new collection of Needlepoint rugs based on Navajo designs at the Art and Music room in the main branch of the Santa Barbara Public Library during the months of February and March.

### Up From the Egg - The Confessions of a Nuthatch Avoider

Bird watchers top my honors list  
 I aimed to be one, but I missed.  
 Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,  
 My aim turned out to be erratic,  
 And I, bespectacled and binocular,  
 Exposed myself to comment jocular.  
 We don't need too much birdlore, do we,  
 To tell a flamingo from a towhee;  
 Yet I cannot, and never will,  
 Unless the silly bird stands still.  
 And there's no enlightenment in a tour  
 of ornithological literature,

Is yon strange creature a common chickadee,  
 Or a migrant alouette from Picardy?  
 You rush to consult your nature guide  
 And inspect the gallery inside,  
 But a bird in the open never looks  
 Like its picture in the birding books --  
 Or if it once did, it has changed its plumage,  
 And plunges you back into ignorant gloomage,  
 Which is why I sit here growing old by inches,  
 Watching the clock instead of finches.  
 But I sometimes visualize in my gin  
 The Audubon that I audibin.

Ogden Nash



From the Audubon Leader, December 26, 1975

Pollution control bringing jobs and profits - Quoting a study by two Wall Street analysts, Chairman Russell W. Peterson of the Council on Environmental Quality told an audience of business leaders that "environmental control-related employment has been one of the relatively few areas of job strength during the recent recession." Peterson was countering assertions that environmental requirements hamper business and are a drag on the economy. He said that since 1971 environmental costs may have contributed to the closing of 75 marginal plants with a total of 15,600 jobs, but, in contrast, government and private spending for pollution control in 1975 alone has totalled \$15.7 billion and generated a million jobs.

Major Sporting Event - "Though it may sound preposterous," comments Bartlett Hendricks in his column in the Pittsfield, Mass. Berkshire Eagle, "it is a fact that more outdoor people participate each year in a bird count than in the qualifying round for the U.S. Open Golf Tournament or any other event in the wide, wide, world of sports." Close to 30,000 persons took part in the National Audubon sponsored annual Christmas Bird Count this season, covering 1165 areas from Alaska to Venezuela.

How to Communicate with your Legislators

U.S. Senator Alan Cranston

2102 New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Tel. 202-224-3553

Also, Federal Building, 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, 90024. Tel. 213-624-7641

U.S. Senator John V. Tunney

6237 New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Tel. 202-224-3841

Also, 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Rm. 14223, Los Angeles 90024. Tel. 213-824-7344

Representative Robert J. Lagomarsino, 19th Congressional District

1319 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Tel. 202-225-3601

Local Office: 120 El Paseo, 814 State St., Santa Barbara, 93102. Tel. 963-1708

Ventura Office: 5740 Ralston Avenue, Ventura, 93003. Tel. 644-7900

Santa Maria Office: 120 West Cypress Street, Santa Maria, 93454. Tel. 922-4491

State Senator Omer L. Rains, 18th District

State Capitol Building, Sacramento, Ca. 95814. Tel. 916-445-5405

District Office: Studio 127, El Paseo Building, Santa Barbara, 93102. Tel. 963-0634

Assemblyman Gary K. Hart, 35th District

State Capitol Building, Sacramento, Ca. 95814. Tel. 916-445-8292

District Office: 1129-B State Street, Santa Barbara, 93101. Tel. 966-1766

Emergency Appeals

The Sequoia Audubon Society needs \$50,000 to preserve more of the Pescadero marshlands. They have raised \$14,000 so far and are now asking members of other Audubon societies to donate \$3.00 or more to their Pescadero Marshlands fund. Please mail your contributions to Sequoia Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5273, San Mateo, Ca. 94402.

The Conservation Library of the Denver Public Library, a national repository of books, historic manuscripts, photos, and other invaluable records of the conservation movement will have to close unless \$45,000 can be raised to save it. Checks payable to the Denver Public Library Foundation, Inc., Conservation Library Account, may be sent in care of the Rocky Mountain Center on Environment, 1115 Grant St., Denver, Col. 80203. ROMCOE is coordinating the fund-raising campaign.

True or False?

If a Golden Eagle can eat one jackrabbit per day (which it can) and if 8 jackrabbits will eat as much grain as one 800 lb. steer (which they will), does it then follow that when somebody illegally shoots an eagle, he saves the lives of 365 rabbits and starves 45 head of cattle for each year that the eagle would have lived?

Thanks to Valley Audubon Society, Joliet, Montana

Rare Birds

If you see a rare or out of season bird, or wish to be notified when such sightings are made by others, call Gerrie Human, 969-4015.

Address Changes

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

El Tecolote

The deadline for the March issue is Monday, March 1, 1976. Send your contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 2431-B Castillo Street, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105, or call 682-1779. Even if you doubt the newsworthiness of your contribution, please send it. We especially need descriptions of your recent birding trips. Include tips to help others enjoy your favorite areas - when and where to go, where to stay, what to bring, pitfalls to avoid, and what type of plant or animal life to expect.

El Tecolote  
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