



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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MONTHLY MEETING

Friday, March 26

"WILDFLOWERS" BY DICK SMITH

Dick Smith, Santa Barbara News-Press writer and an outstanding nature photographer, will present his wildflower slides which appeared in the News-Press last spring. This is a great opportunity to learn about the numerous wildflowers now appearing around Santa Barbara. 8 p.m., Fleischman Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. Joy Parkinson will lead a hawk identification class in the Bird Hall of the Museum at 7:30. Please bring your own cup for refreshments!

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- March 18
Thursday Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural History. All members are invited to attend.
- March 20
Saturday Point Mugu Lagoon - Cmdr. Robert Baker has retired and won't be able to accompany our group as in previous years. Instead, Elmer Colley, a civil service employee, and a knowledgeable birder, has volunteered to co-lead us on a "dry foot" tour of the lagoon. Admittance is by reservation only, current members only, with a limit of 25. Preference is given to those who haven't previously been on this field trip. Pack a lunch, wear warm clothes, spotting scopes useful. No cameras are allowed. Car-pool at All Saints by the Sea Church parking lot near U.S. 101 and Eucalyptus Lane (San Ysidro Road exit) at 7:45 a.m. Driver donation is \$2.
Reserve immediately: 687-3466 (Bill Gielow)
Local leader: Tomi Sollen, 966-4836
- March 28
Sunday Ventura County Game Preserve - An excellent marshy open area for viewing migratory species - something special always shows up. Good area for raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Although it's been a dry winter, plan on a little mud, dress warmly, and pack a lunch. Car-pool at Von's Montecito parking lot on Hot Springs Road at 7:30 a.m. or meet the group at the parking lot of the Wagon Wheel Restaurant at U.S. 101 and Hwy. 1, in Oxnard, before proceeding to the preserve. Driver donation is \$2.
Leaders: Jim Hodgson, 967-3627
Joy Parkinson, 967-9371
- April 3
Saturday Big Sycamore Canyon - Beautiful streamside birdwatching in this canyon environment in the Santa Monica Mountains. Good spot for seeing migratory species, especially orioles. Car-pool from All Saints by the Sea Church (see description above), at 7 a.m. or join the group at the main entrance to Point Mugu State Beach at 8:15 a.m. Driver donation is \$2.
Leader: Ruth Parker, 643-5711

Calendar of Coming Events - continued

- April 10-11 Morongo Valley - Joshua Tree Natuional Monument - High desert in San Bernadino County. Spring migration is an exciting event in the Big Morongo oasis area. Hugh cottonwoods line the spring-fed pools and stream. Unusual mixture of plants (see Sunset, November 1975) that, along with the water, attract desert birds and migrants seldom seen here. Probable attractions: vermillion Flycatcher at Morongo and Scott's Oriole in the Joshua trees. Coyotes serenade you at night in Morongo. Camping or motels available nearby. Call leaders for information.
- Leaders: Bill and June Gardener, 962-0152
- April 17 Goleta Hot Spots - will be checking Goleta and Devereaux sloughs, Devereaux gardens and tamarisk trees, and Atascadero Creek for a variety of spring migrants. Pack a lunch. Meet at Goleta Beach Park at 7 a.m.
- Leader: Louis Bevier, 964-1030
- April 25 Hollister Ranch - Birdwatching along the coast near Gaviota in the canyons and beaches of this beautiful local historical area. Limited 30 people. Details in next issue.
- Leader: Brooks Allen, 969-0912

NOTE: If you sign up for reservation-required trips, be sure to phone in your cancellation due to illness or unforeseen conflict, so that members on the waiting list can have the opportunity to go. Thank you,

Bill Gielow, Field trip co-chairperson

President's Message

I spent February 28-March 2 attending a Park and Recreation conference in Sacramento. Although the conference schedule was very full I did find time to telephone Earl Quinleven, DECAL coordinator for the Department of Fish and Game. "Quin" told me that the department has selected its first two projects: three desert waterholes, and a warden to protect the Peregrine Falcons at Morro Rock during the 1977 nesting season.

The DECAL fund is now about \$21,000 but they had run into a problem. Apparently many people who could not afford \$5.00, but who wished to support the program, had sent lesser amounts. Unfortunately, because state law enabled the department to accept only gifts of \$5.00 or more, all smaller gifts had to be returned to the donors. The program is now being changed so that ANY amount may be accepted. This will enable more people to participate. The decal for 1976 has been selected. Would you believe - the Bald Eagle!!!

"Quin" also told me of Marin Audubon's clever way of handling donations to DECAL. To make it easier for members they collect donations at meetings and send them to DECAL every month or so, with a list of donors. DECAL then sends each donor a decal and a letter of thanks. Several people have asked me if they could buy a decal at our monthly meetings. We cannot distribute the decals, but we could collect your gifts and forward them. Perhaps someone would like to perform this pleasant task?

Fish and Game will have a DECAL exhibit at the Audubon Western Regional Conference at Asilomar, April 10-13. Earl Quinleven will be there to answer questions and accept donations for non-game conservation in 1976.

Which brings me to my next subject. I also called the Audubon Western Regional Office while I was in Sacramento. Director Paul Howard was not there - he is leading a nature tour of Israel - but I had a nice chat with Gwen Ross, his efficient secretary and "right arm." Gwen told me that reservations for the Asilomar Conference are coming in apace, but there is still room and still time for you to make reservations.

President's Message - continued

The Asilomar Conference is a very interesting and worthwhile experience which I recommend to all Auduboners. I find the Regional Conference more productive than the National Convention. It is also one of the few bargains left today. Where else can you have rooms and meals in a beautiful State Park, a choice of three field trips, and meet friendly people with similar interests, and have a lot of fun, all for about \$55 for three days? I know that six of us are planning to attend, and hope that more will decide to join us. Try it, you'll like it!

Last, but by no means least, I have some great news. Guy Coheleach, the world-famous wildlife artist whose work has appeared many times in Audubon, will be in Santa Barbara on Saturday, May 1. He has consented to give an illustrated talk to SBAS that evening. Make a note of it on your calendar. More information will be forthcoming in the April El Tecolote and through the news media. You won't want to miss the opportunity to meet him.

Joy Parkinson

Audubon Monthly Meeting - 2/27/76

An enthusiastic audience greeted the reinstatement of our bird identification class, conducted by Paul Lehman, on our local gulls. Some of the species included Mew, California, Western, Thayer's (a form of Herring Gull), Ring-billed, Bonaparte's, Heermann's, and Glaucous-winged Gulls. All these can be viewed in Santa Barbara most of the year. Paul concluded with slides of rare birds which have been seen in this area recently. These included Ross' and White-fronted Geese, Oldsquaw, female Harlequin Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Catbird, White-throated, Clay-colored, and Harris' Sparrow, longspurs, and Red-necked Grebe.

Jim Pollack of the Forest Service gave us a most enlightening talk, "Exploring the Northern Cascades," which are in the state of Washington. Jim and his wife spent a September vacation hiking in the mountains of Mount Ranier. He compared the magnificent scenery to that of the Swiss Alps. For those of us who are not backpackers or mountain climbers Jim's superb slides showed us many scenes of the numerous glaciers we could otherwise never witness. He also had aerial photographs taken from a seaplane over Lake Chelan. It was altogether an enjoyable presentation.

Minna E. Smith

California Condor Recovery Plan

A California native is in danger. Less than 60 California Condors now inhabit California's coastal and inland mountains from Santa Clara and Fresno counties south to Los Angeles. Loss of living space and inadequate reproduction continue to jeopardize this small population. Although the future looks bleak, implementation of a recently prepared recovery plan may reverse the downward trend and stabilize the population.

The objective of the Condor Recovery Plan is to maintain a minimum population of at least 50 condors, well distributed throughout their 1974 base range with an average birth rate of at least 4 young per year, and the lowest possible annual mortality.

The provisions of the plan include: 1. Insuring adequate nesting conditions; 2. Insuring adequate roosting sites; 3. Protection of food sources, most of which are on private lands; and 4. Protection from harm, including shooting, poisons, and powerlines.

The Recovery Team includes representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Game, and National Audubon Society. Address inquiries to the Team c/o the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 3737, Portland, Oregon 97208, or Director, California Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

Central City Redevelopment Program

There are now approximately 1200 parking spaces in Santa Barbara's downtown lots. The redevelopment program calls for an increase of more than 2500 additional spaces, plus 1000 more spaces for a trial car-pooling program.

According to Morton E. Cohen, 966-4434, the head of a committee that opposes the city's plan, his committee would like to see the city put its money into refurbishing the many architecturally attractive and well-built present structures of the lower State Street area.

Either choice - raze the area and replace the current structures with a new shopping area and parking spaces; or rehabilitate the existing buildings, leaving the businesses located there intact, will dramatically affect the lower State Street area. Downtown business does need a boost. But the way in which this is done will ultimately be decided by the voters of Santa Barbara, who should be made clearly aware of what is being planned, and of all the consequences involved.

Michael Goodwin

Facing the Ecological Future

The Continuing Education Division of Santa Barbara City College, in cooperation with the Museum of Natural History, and the Institute for Higher Studies, is currently presenting a series of free meetings designed to elucidate current problems and provide a forum in which solutions can be discussed. The meetings are on Thursday evenings, from 7:30 to 9:30 in the Fleischman Auditorium, with Dr. Harvey Wheeler as moderator.

The remaining meetings in the series include: March 18, "Protecting the Ozone Layer: What Can Be Done?" with Dr. Mario Molina, Assistant Professor, University of California at Irvine, and co-discoverer of the aerosol threat; March 25, "Solutions to Ecological Problems," Dr. Wheeler and panel; April 22, "Energy, the Environment, and the Economic Crisis" by Dr. Barry Commoner, Director of the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, Washington University.

Board of Directors Meeting - 2/19/76

Tomi Sollen announced that Audubon's Golden Trout Camp will be in operation from July 25 through August 21, 1976. SBAS's session will be August 15 to 21.

Ruth Meadows has accepted SBAS's proffered scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West; Molly Rosencrants and Helen Robertson are unable to accept the joint scholarship offered to them. The consensus of the board was to give only one scholarship this year.

The Resources Management Specialist of Death Valley National Monument will lead a field trip in the Monument April 24 and 25 to study the impact of feral burros on desert area and residents, particularly the Desert Bighorn Sheep. Bill Gielow, Mary Lou Hand, and Jim Hodgson plan to represent SBAS.

Field Trip Report - Dune Lakes, February 14

Thirty birders enjoyed a sunny and beautiful day at the lakes, ably led by Jim Hodgson and Brooks Allen. Seventy species were seen, including many Chestnut-backed Chickadees, male Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds, several Snipe, both Sora and Virginia Rail, many Shovelers, and one beautiful melanistic Red-tailed Hawk. Song Sparrows, Thrashers, towhees, and Bewick's Wrens were in full spring song. Although we heard the Long-billed Marsh Wren in the reeds, we were unable to spot him. On the return trip Jim Hodgson reported seeing a Prairie Falcon just this side of Los Alamos.

Gerrie Human

Nesting Birds

The Mockingbirds are singing and displaying all over town. The House Finches are starting to build their nests. Male Anna's Hummingbirds are continuing their courtship displays around the Museum of Natural History. Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds were sighted at the Goleta Sewage Plant and McMenemy Trail. Two Mourning Doves were seen nesting in Goleta. The Towhees, both Brown and Rufous-sided were very busy in Scofield Park and Rocky Nook Park, as well as Song Sparrows. The Western Wood Pewee and the Western Flycatcher were heard singing their persistent calls on Tunnel Road. Two titmice were sighted occupying a woodpecker hole in Manning Park. Can spring be upon us???

Minna E. Smith

Rare Bird News

The most exciting bird this month appeared at Playa del Rey in Los Angeles: a Bar-tailed Godwit, the 3rd California record and the 1st for Southern California. Call the Los Angeles Audubon tape alert, 213-874-1318, for current information.

Locally, a pair of Black-chinned Hummingbirds were found courting behind the Museum of Natural History.

Some observations from Cherie Bratt on birds in the Los Carneros Lake area. The female Evening Grosbeak is still in the toyon area on the La Patera side. Three Western Tanagers are still present, as is a Green Heron, several Spotted Doves, Fox Sparrows, a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, and a pair of Barn Owls. Check out all the palm trees carefully for the owls.

Please remember, if you see an unusual bird, call the Rare Bird Alert, 969-4015, so that hopefully, many of us can find the bird too! If you have problems with identification visit the fine Bird Hall at the Museum of Natural History, where those birds don't fly away; or check with Waldo Abbot at the Museum, as he is always happy to help.

Please send in your winter reports for American Birds, for the period of December 1 to March 31 by March 31. Send to Gerrie Human, P.O. Box 287, Summerland, 93067.

Gerrie Human

Southern California Coordinating Council

The San Bernadino Audubon Society organized a fine program for the Southern California Coordinating Council, attended by 51 persons from 12 chapters, plus Paul Howard, and Norm McIntosh of Starr Ranch. The theme was "What our Audubon Societies can do to assist agencies that control our environment."

John Scull of the San Bernadino County Regional Parks, Dave Mortenson of the Desert Planning Office of the Bureau of Land Management, and Hal Seyden of the U.S. Forest Service, San Bernadino National Forest presented different viewpoints, but each asked for information from Audubon as to the number and species of wildlife in each area.

The BLM use of overlays on the desert map of various public interests was revealing - vast open areas, and areas used by: off-road vehicles, hunters, miners, rock hounds, and environmentalists' preserves for wildlife. The areas overlap - but Bighorn Sheep and people activity are not compatible.

Jim McDaniels, from the Department of Water Resources spoke on the "Delta Alternative Study." My minutes are available for anyone who wishes to see them.

Tomi Sollen, 966-4836, and Michael Goodwin

Field Trip Report

Last December 14, 6 Sierra Club members joined 23 Auduboners on a joint field trip to Lake Cachuma. We hiked along the Santa Ynez River to the mouth of the lake, where we spotted a female Hooded Merganser. An injured Cooper's Hawk, whose wing was broken as it tried to fly between barbed wires, was returned to the Museum, but lived for only a few days. At the lake we saw Canada Geese, and 3 immature bald eagles. Our thanks to the ranchers for their generosity in welcoming us to their ranches.

Jim Hodgson and Tomi Sollen

"404" Permit Plan

Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act requires that future development respect important wetland resources, and requires the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency to analyze wetland development plans, issuing permits allowing wetland development only after the firmest assurances that wetland resources will not be destroyed. The government is being asked to halt the "404" program. If you wish to express your opinions on the program, write President Ford, and your senators and congressmen, with copies to Ray Roberts, Chairman, Water Resources Subcommittee, House Public Works Committee, Washington, D.C. 20515; and Jennings Randolph, Chairman, Senate Public Works Committee, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology

The Institute offers two programs in Sonoran desert ecology: a camping program in Aravaipa Canyon, May 7-10, and a guest ranch program August 6-8 and 13-15. Obtain information from Janing Hernbrode, director, 3851 West Redwing Street, Tucson, AZ 85704, (604) 297-6996.

Address Changes

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

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Deadline for the April issue is Monday, March 29, 1976. Please send contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 2431-B Castillo Street, Santa Barbara, 93105, or call 682-1779.

El Tecolote
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
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