



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 14, No. 4  
April, 1976

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## MONTHLY MEETING Friday, April 23, 1976 "Desert Tortoise Preserve"

A slide lecture by Beverly Stevenson, a guide at the Preserve. The fascinating story of the desert tortoise and the efforts being made to preserve this unique animal and its habitat. 8 p.m., Fleischman Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. At 7:30 p.m. Brad Schram will present a shorebird identification class using slides in the Fleischman Auditorium. Please remember your cup for refreshments!

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- April 15 Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Thursday  
Natural History. All members are invited to attend.
- April 17 Goleta Hot Spots - Meet at Goleta Beach Park at 7 a.m. Bring a lunch. Saturday  
Leader: Louis Bevier, 964-1030
- April 23 Monthly Meeting: 8 p.m., Fleischman Auditorium, Museum of Natural Friday  
History, see details above.
- April 25 Hollister Ranch - Birdwatching visit to historical area with beaches Sunday  
and coastal canadas. Car-pool at Thrifty parking lot at 5-Points Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. Limited to 30 members in seven cars. Even if you have already signed up, please call again.  
Leader: Brooks Allen, 966-5080
- May 1 Guy Cohleach - 8 p.m. Fleischman Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. Saturday  
See insert for details.
- May 2 Spring Boat Trip - To Anacapa Island and part of Santa Cruz Island. We Sunday  
will land on Anacapa for the pleasure of birdwatching along its trails for about 2 hours. We expect to see migratory shore and land birds, and pelagic species.

In Santa Barbara meet for car-pooling at Von's parking lot in Montecito at 6:30 a.m. or at Ventura Sport Fishing Landing (Anchors Way Drive near the Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant in Ventura). Maps are available from Bill Gielow. We embark promptly at 7:30 a.m. and return by 4 p.m. aboard the Paisano. Bring lunch, waterproof jacket, warm clothes, sturdy shoes, and seasick pills if applicable. Deck chair is optional (a fair amount of seating is provided).

Reserve space immediately by sending a check for \$11.50 (\$12.50 for non-members) payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society to Bill Gielow, 3043 Hermosa Road, Santa Barbara 93105 (687-3466). Note: priority will be given to currently listed members; if thusly filled, all other checks will be returned. Limited to 48 people.

May 8-9 Davy Brown-Manzana Creek (Overnight) - Plan a relaxing weekend in this beautiful area of the Los Padres National Forest. There will be several optional short hikes, walks along the creek, and a longer trek either to Hurricane Deck or towards Manzanita Schoolhouse. Good birding right in the campground (2 years ago saw a male Summer Tanager near our spot). Arrive Friday night and look for the Audubon sign or join us early on Saturday (8:30 a.m.). Provide your own food, or if you wish to join our Saturday night potluck, call leaders for assignment. Reach this Figueroa Mountain campground by taking Hwy. 154 to Armour Ranch Road, then Happy Canyon Road to Cachuma Saddle. At the Ranger Station do not continue up the mountain, but go straight on towards Nira- Davy Brown is on the left before that (Sunset Valley). Leaders: Linda & Bill Gielow, 6873466

May 15 Red Rock - Gibraltar Dam hike - Several mile walk along Santa Ynez river bottom and bluffs. Pack a lunch and water. Meet at 5-Points Thrifty parking lot at 7:30 a.m. or at Red Rock campground past Los Prietos Ranger Station at 8 a.m. We plan to end the hike at about 3 p.m.

Leader: Joe Gartland, 968-3307

June 5 Annual Members Picnic - Scofield Park, spaces 1, 2, and 26. Details in Saturday May El Tecolote.

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#### President's Message

Guy Cohleach - With this issue of El Tecolote you will find an announcement of the visit of Guy Cohleach to Santa Barbara and Ventura. I am sure that many of you will want to see and hear him on Saturday, May 1. Mr. Cohleach is generously donating his time. The \$1.00 donation we are requesting is to benefit the Museum of Natural History with which we have such a fine relationship. The Museum, as you know, is in need of support.

Thanks, Education Committee - On Page 3 you will find a report by Sid Tarbox on the activities of the Education Committee. I'm sure that many of you are unaware of the very fine work this committee is doing. We are sincerely grateful to Chairman Sid, Minna Smith, and Cherie Bratt for the many hours they give to this program. We are not the only ones who are grateful; here are excerpts from three of many letters from students:

"I appreciated (sic) you coming and showing us the slides. They were very nice.

"I have a bird book just like yours..."

"I want to thank you for showing our classroom slides of birds... It was very fun and thoughtfull (sic) of you. I hope to find out more about birds so you can come here again. P.S., I was the person that sat in the desk on your right."

"... I thought it was facinating (sic). I like birds. They are one of my favorite animals... You must have a lot of facinating (sic) birds at the Audobond (sic) Society. I liked your talk ..."

Thank you, children; and THANK YOU, Sid, Minna, and Cherie. We are proud of you and the work you are doing.

More Thanks - To Cherie Bratt for the gift of our bulletin board. This board will be used at meetings for announcements and to advise potential volunteers of various projects. To Jan Hamber for volunteering to accept donations to DECAL. To make it easier for you to give to the conservation of non-game species in California, Jan will accept and forward your gifts to the Department of Fish and Game. In return you will receive a decal of the Bald Eagle and a letter of thanks from DFG, and the satisfaction of knowing that you have contributed to the preservation of such species as the Peregrine Falcon.

Joy Parkinson

Board of Directors' Meeting - March 18, 1976

The County Schools office sent thanks for the binoculars donated by SBAS for use in the Outdoor Science Education program.

Two commercial fishermen, Fred Hepp and Rick Vogel, spoke to the board against airplane spotting in the swordfish industry. They asked that individuals write the California Fish and Game Commission on their behalf before a public hearing is held in San Diego on April 30. Joy Parkinson will write on behalf of SBAS lending our support to the fisherman's position, asking the commission to ban aerial spotting of swordfish until more data is obtained.

Least Tern Nesting Survey

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game are cooperating with the California Least Tern Recovery Team in a comprehensive survey of Least Tern breeding in California. All likely locations along the California coast will be checked for evidence of Least Tern nesting. If you see any Least Terns, please report the date, place, and numbers to Fish and Wildlife Service, California Field Station, 1190 East Ojai Avenue, Ojai, California 93023, attention Sanford Wilbur.

Field Trip Report - Fish Hatchery, Lake Piru, Fillmore

On March 13, 35 birders led by Jim Hodgson had a memorable day. We had magnificent views of an adult and an immature California Condor. Also seen were two Golden Eagles (adult and immature), Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, March, and Cooper's Hawks, Western Bluebirds, Snipe, two Green Herons, two Rock Wrens, Violet-green and Rough-winged Swallows, and a beautiful male Tri-colored Blackbird. Forty species in all were seen.

Gerrie Human

Education Committee Report

In the school year 1974-1975 our offer to take illustrated bird talks to elementary and junior high schools was well received. Requests came from Santa Barbara, Goleta, and some Simi Valley schools who were using a campsite at El Capitan. In all we spoke to some 600 young people.

This year's response has been even more gratifying. To date we have had 21 talks to an audience totalling almost 1,400, and further bookings will probably raise this total to over 2,000. Teachers are pleased that we have added Nesting Neighbors to our original talk on Our Bird Neighbors, as a special spring offering. Increasingly, they are also asking for programs tailored to particular class interests such as Waterfowl and Shorebirds, Birds of the Canyons and Chaparral, Birds and Ecology, etc. Some always ask for talks which will help prepare their sixth graders for the Cachuma Nature Camp experience.

Fortunately, our expanding slide collection is making it easier to respond to these requests, not only with good bird portraits, but with more slides that depict the birds' life styles. This is why we will always be on the lookout for good action pictures - flight, feeding, territorial and courtship behavior, nesting activity, and so on.

This year has produced several new twists in requests received. Minna Smith has been answering numerous inquiries for talks before youngsters from kindergarten through second grade. Cherie Bratt was asked by her local school, La Patera, to talk to the entire school about bird life around Lake Cachuma; she did so in two presentations including almost 600 youngsters. I've responded to requests to give a talk and, later, lead a walk for the classes. In fact, the three of us expect to be involved in two large projects of this sort for schools in May and July.

Our investment in a growing slide collection and in good equipment is paying dividends in the increased exposure of school children to the wonders of the bird world and the importance of birds in the economy of the Earth. The letters which we have received from students and teachers attest to the fact that our investment is well worthwhile.

Sid Tarbox

Rare Birds

An adult White-throated Sparrow turned up on March 18 and 19 at Maxine Maier's residence on Foothill Road. A male White-eared Hummingbird appeared in Ojai on March 19 and 20. This is apparently a new state record. Please phone 969-4015 to report any rare birds.

Gerrie Human

New Library Acquisitions

A Field Guide to Birds' Nests - new in the Peterson field guide series, by Hal Harrison. A thorough description of bird nests west of the Mississippi, with color photos. (How many ways can an egg look?)

Families of Birds - by Oliver Austin, Jr. A golden guide to simple family classifications of birds of the world with drawings and general family distribution and habits. Also Les Line's The Pleasure of Birds; a wonderful photography and essay collection from recent Audubon magazines.

Donnis Goodwin

El Tecolote: Deadline for the May issue is Monday, May 3, 1976. Please send your contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 2431-B Castillo Street, Santa Barbara, 93105. After May 1, send to 2016 Emerson Avenue, Santa Barbara, 93103.

Address Changes

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

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