



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 14, Number 9  
November-December 1976

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MONTHLY MEETING - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1976

## MEMBERS' SLIDES NIGHT

December 3 is Members' Slides Evening. Please collect several of your favorite slides - they don't have to be bird shots - and call Michael Goodwin, 963-1265. Evenings, especially around dinnertime are the easiest to reach him. We will share vacations and scenery. See you there! The meeting will be at 8 p.m. in Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History. At 7:30 p.m., also in Fleischmann, there will be a meeting for all who plan to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count. See page 3 for details.

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

November 20-21 Morro Bay-Montana de Oro - Meet at the museum at Morro Bay State Park at 9 a.m. Saturday. Allow 2 hours driving time from Santa Barbara. Either camp at the park, or make your own reservations at one of the local motels. A good chance to observe wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Take lunch for two days. Please call the leader if you plan to go.

Leader - Jim Hodgson, 967-3627

December 3 Meeting of all Christmas Bird Count participants - 7:30 p.m., Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History.

December 3 Regular Monthly Meeting - Members' Slides Night, 8 p.m., Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. Be sure to bring a cup for refreshments.

December 5 Carrizo Plain-Soda Lake - Wintering ground of the Sandhill Cranes. Excellent area for hawks, eagles, and Mountain Plovers. The lodge is closed for the winter so we will make the round trip in one day this year. This will be a long day, so bring plenty of lunch and water. The bus will leave the Museum of Natural History at 6 a.m. and the shopping center at the intersection of Routes 150 and 33 in Ojai at 6:50 a.m. Bus fare is \$8.50 per person. Please make checks payable to SB Audubon Society and mail promptly to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta 93017. Bus fare must be in by Wednesday, December 1. NOTE: At \$8.50 per person we have to have 30 reservations to cover the charter fee. If we do not get them by the deadline the trip will have to be cancelled as it was last year.

Leader: Joy Parkinson, 967-9371

December 12      Goleta Slough - Meet at the east end of Goleta Beach parking lot at  
Sunday            8 a.m. for a leisurely walk around parts of the slough. A good  
                     chance to observe wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Lunch is op-  
                     tional.

Leader - Mike Goodwin, 963-1265

December 28      Sespe Area Christmas Count - See page 3 for details.

Tuesday Leader - Michael Goodwin, 963-1265

January 2      Santa Barbara Christmas Count - See page 3 for details.

Sunday Leaders - Cherie Bratt, 967-7043

Jim Hodgson, 967-3627

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the last bulletin for 1976, so I take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous holiday season.

December is not only the month of Christmas, but also of Christmas counts. This year Cherie Bratt will be coordinating the Santa Barbara count -- a big job which Michael Fishbein handled so well for us for several years. The Sespe count will again be in the capable hands of Michael Goodwin.

It is very important that you mail in the sign-up forms which Cherie has prepared. Years ago, when 30 or so of us covered the area, the coordinator often had to do a great deal of telephoning to find party leaders and recorders. Now that we have well over 100 people in the field on the Santa Barbara count this is no longer possible.

Do, please, fill out the form and mail it in before it gets lost in the rush of holiday preparations. The count provides valuable information on bird populations, habitat changes, etc. and besides that it is a great deal of fun. Last year the Santa Barbara count was second in the nation in the number of species recorded. This year -- who knows? But, as a rental car ad claimed a few years ago: "We're Number 2, we try harder!"

Good luck, and good birding!

Joy Parkinson

# Bird Refuge News

The Audubon Society has been working with the Park Department in an advisory capacity for several years in the formation of a master plan for the Refuge. The newly formed Bird Refuge Committee, headed by Catherine Boedecker, Park Commissioner, has drawn the interest of other concerned citizens. Engineers, scientists, botanists, limnologists, and landscape architects have been meeting to explore all the possibilities. Their recommendations, if implemented, could result in a quality environment for both wildlife and wildlife study.

An opinion has been requested of the City Attorney on the legality of abandoned ducks and geese at the Refuge, although their all-year presence adds much to the pollution of both lake and shore. The State Fish and Game Department has asked the help of all public park managers to eliminate domestic ducks in order to stop the spread of duck plague. Ranch owners in Cuyama who offered them a home have rescinded their offer. If you have any suggestions as to a place where the problem ducks might be welcome, please let me know. Thanksgiving goose, anyone?

Dorothy Martone, 969-0444

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Christmas Count time is rolling around again. After a marvelous showing last year, with 202 species, second in all the nation, we're gearing up to do at least that well this year. We hope that we can involve even more people this year, including many, many more feeder counts, finding lots more owls, seeking out the Roadrunners, and having special tasks for those who can only work half a day, or even an hour or two.

The real nitty-gritty work of each Christmas Count is done by those stalwarts who go out at dawn and keep at it until sundown -- may their numbers ever increase!

EVERYBODY must fill in the form below and either mail it or turn it in at the December 3 meeting. No more, "but I always do it, you know." We don't know, so please tell us by filling out the form.

In addition, there will be a meeting on December 3, at 7:30 p.m., in Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History, immediately preceeding the regular December meeting, for all who plan to participate in the Count. PLEASE try to attend so we won't have to have a special meeting on another night.

There will be a \$1 fee for all participants to help defray the costs of the Count.

If you have any questions call Cherie Bratt, 967-7043; Michael Goodwin, 963-1265; or Jim Hodgson, 967-3627.

## SESPE AREA COUNT, DECEMBER 28, 1976

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

AREA PREFERRED \_\_\_\_\_ HAVE TRANSPORTATION \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH \_\_\_\_\_ NEED TRANSPORTATION \_\_\_\_\_

LEADER \_\_\_\_\_ SPOTTER \_\_\_\_\_ RECORDER \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: Michael Goodwin, 1235 Salsipuedes, Santa Barbara, CA 93103; 963-1265

## SANTA BARBARA COUNT, JANUARY 2, 1977

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

AREA PREFERRED \_\_\_\_\_

AREAS WORKED PREVIOUSLY \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH \_\_\_\_\_

ALL DAY \_\_\_\_\_ HALF DAY \_\_\_\_\_ FEEDER COUNT \_\_\_\_\_ NEIGHBORHOOD OWLS \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: Cherie Bratt, 6505 Camino Venturoso, Goleta, CA 93017; 967-7043

Indian Craft Sale - On December 4-5, the Museum of Natural History will hold a special Christmas Indian Craft Sale. Hopi and Papago baskets; Hopi, Navajo, and Zuni jewelry; Kachina dolls by Paul Coochyamptewa, Hopi; Cochiti, Jemez, Maricopa, and Santa Clara pottery and handwoven Navajo rugs, throws and pillow tops are among the many southwestern Indian crafts that will be for sale. Proceeds benefit the Museum. Hours are: Saturday, December 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, December 5, 1 to 5 p.m.

Audubon Library - Hawaiian Birdlife, Andrew J. Berger, 1972, is a lovely, detailed treatment of this popular vacation spot. It is a must if you're planning a trip to the islands or even if you've been. Many photographs and reproductions of Rothschild drawings.

Moving around the world - Michael Harris' A Field Guide to the Birds of the Galapagos (1974), Bertel Braun's Birds of Europe (1970), and Hugh Land's Birds of Guatemala (1970) are each definitive guides to visiting these areas. Where to Go Birdwatch in Canada, David Stirling (1975), is a general overview of focal areas with reference lists of further sources and Christmas Count Summaries.

Donnis Goodwin, 963-1265

Address Changes - Send El Tecolote address changes to Barbara Greene, 4512 Via Huerto, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, or call 964-3075. Also please inform Barbara of any problems in receiving your newsletter.

El Tecolote Deadline - Deadline for the January 1977 issue is Monday, January 3, 1977. Please send all contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 2016 Emerson Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93103, or call 966-0069. Please try to be on time (or even early) if at all possible.

El Tecolote  
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