



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - MARCH 25, 1977

### "CALIFORNIA CONDOR RECOVERY PLAN"

John C. Borneman, Audubon Condor Naturalist, and member of the Condor Recovery Team, will discuss the captive propagation program for the California Condor, which the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society has unanimously endorsed. John will answer questions from the audience on all aspects of the plan. This is a controversial issue which should interest all Auduboners as well as members of other environmental and scientific groups. This is your opportunity to learn, in detail, about the plan. The meeting will be Friday evening, March 25, at 3 p.m., in the Fleischmann Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History.

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- March 17  
Thursday      Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural History. All members are invited to attend.
- March 25  
Friday        Regular Monthly Meeting - 8 p.m., Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. See details above. Be sure to bring your own cup for refreshments!
- April 2  
Saturday     Big Sycamore Canyon - Excellent streamside birdwatching in this canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains. Good spot for sighting migratory species, especially orioles. Car-pool from All Saints by the Sea Church parking lot near U.S. 101 and Eucalyptus Lane (San Ysidro Road exit) at 7:00 a.m., or at the main entrance to Point Mugu State Park at 8:30 a.m. Pack a lunch. Driver donation is \$2.00.
- Leader: Ruth Parker, 643-5711
- April 9  
Saturday     Sandyland Slough - We have obtained special permission to visit this private property. Trip limited to 25 current members; reservations required. Spotting scopes helpful. Meet at the Museum at 8:30 a.m. for car-pooling. Driver donation 50¢
- Leaders: Minna Smith, 966-7971  
Ann Terry
- April 16-17  
Saturday/  
Sunday      Butterbread Canyon - This is a new area of the desert never before visited by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society. Should be good for migrants and other desert residents. Call the leader for information and directions. Driver donation \$5.00

Leaders: Jim Hodgson, 967-3627  
Ron Smith, 687-3963

Calendar of Coming Events, continued

May 1      Spring Boat Trip to Anacapa Island and part of Santa Cruz Island. We  
 Sunday      will land on Anacapa for approximately 2 hours to birdwatch along the  
              trails. We expect to see migratory shore, land, and pelagic birds.  
              Meet for car-pooling in Santa Barbara at Von's parking lot in Monte-  
              cito at 6:30 a.m., or in Ventura at Ventura Sport Fishing Landing  
              (Anchors Way Drive near the Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant) at 7:30  
              a.m. We will leave at 8 a.m. aboard the Paisano and return at 4 p.m.  
              Pack a lunch and motion sickness pills; wear warm clothes, a water-  
              proof jacket, and sturdy shoes. Deck chairs are option, some seating  
              is provided. Reserve your space immediately by sending a check for  
              \$12.00 (\$12.50 for non-members), payable to Santa Barbara Audubon  
              Society, to Jim Hodgson, 579 Carlo Drive, Goleta, CA 93017 (967-3627).  
              Note: Priority will be given to currently listed members; if so  
              filled all other checks will be returned. Limited to 48 people.

Leader: Jim Hodgson

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have all been saddened by the loss of our good friend, Dick Smith. Dick was a great help to SBAS in many ways as, indeed, he was to all who care for the land.

Not only did he give us some superb slide lectures over the years, he also was of great assistance many, many times in providing resource material for our environmental work. If you needed a date, a name, some information on wildlife, history, land use, or almost anything about Santa Barbara County, you could call Dick and he would provide the answer. How he found the time to do all he did I do not know. He had only the same 24 hours each day the rest of us have.

Many of you probably do not know that Dick designed our El Tecolote masthead, in 1965. The little Screech Owl is one of his own photographs. He also drew the map for "Birds of the Santa Barbara Region" and provided maps and slides for us to use in exhibits at horticultural shows and the now defunct "Santa Barbara Home Show" at Earl Warren Showgrounds. He once even loaned me a complete set of slides on the 1969 oil spill which I used to give a slide talk at the annual meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, in San Francisco, in 1969.

At its last meeting, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to rename our scholarships to the Audubon Workshop in the West the "Dick Smith Memorial Scholarship," in honor of our friend. The results have been gratifying. As of this writing, at least seven applications have been received. The Education Committee is screening applicants and the results will be announced in the next bulletin.

We plan to do more in the future. When a fitting memorial for Dick has been determined, SBAS will, happily and gratefully, contribute. Dick is gone, but the values he held and the problems he fought remain. We will all have to work harder now to fill the gap his passing has left.

Joy Parkinson

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California Field Ornithologists

California Field Ornithologists is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the educational and scientific values of ornithology in the western U.S. and Canada. They sponsor pelagic field trips, and review documentation for verification of sight records. Membership includes a subscription to Western Birds, a quarterly journal of field ornithology. Membership costs are: regular, \$5 per year; contributing, \$10; sustaining, \$20; life, \$150; or patron, \$1,000. For more information write to California Field Ornithologists, 367 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920.

### Whale Watching With Museum Naturalists

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, in cooperation with Greentree Realty, has arranged Saturday morning trips on board the Shirley Ann to observe the California Gray Whale and other wildlife in the Channel.

Now is the ideal time to observe California Gray Whales at their greatest concentrations, closer to shore and somewhat slower because the females are accompanied by their calves. To help sight the whales and other marine mammals, Dr. Charles Woodhouse, Research Associate in Marine Mammalogy, will be along as guide. He will provide information on identification, habits, conservation, and mythology of the California Gray Whale. Paul Collins, a Museum ornithologist, will identify sea birds in the Channel.

The Shirley Ann will leave Sea Landing at the Santa Barbara Harbor at 9 a.m. and return at 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays, March 19, 26, and April 2. The cost to the general public is \$5 (adults) and \$3 (children), with a discount to Museum members. Call 682-4711 for reservations.

### Rare Bird News

Interesting rare bird sightings in January included 2 Bald Eagles at Lake Cachuma, a Snow Goose at Carpinteria State Park, a spotted Owl at the Botanic Gardens, a Ross' Goose at Sandpiper Golf Course, a Pygmy Owl in Montecito, and White Pelicans at the Bird Refuge. Spotted in February were White-fronted Geese at Devereaux Slough, a White-throated Sparrow at More Mesa, and a pair of Cactus Wrens in Camarillo. Thanks to W. Berger, Helen Matelson, Mr. Phillips, Minna Smith, Ron Smith, Ann Terry and her class, Joan Vincent, and Ardyth Woodbury for sharing their discoveries with us.

New Bird Alert Procedure - To report a rare bird, please phone the Museum of Natural History and leave a message with the Department of Ornithology - 963-7821. Then please call Nelson Metcalf at 682-3258. Then call either Gerrie Human at 969-4015, or Gladys Singletary at 969-3064.

If you think you have seen an unusual bird, please check Nelson Metcalf's booklet, "Birds of the Santa Barbara Region," available at the Museum store. This is an indispensable guide for serious birders in Santa Barbara.

I want to thank all the birders on the alert, and others who have reported rare birds. Without your enthusiasm and help there would be no alert.

Gerrie Human

### Color Banded Long-Billed Curlews

Adult and juvenile Long-billed Curlews have been banded with red, yellow, green, and light blue plastic leg bands, along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal leg bands, in the Columbia Basin of southeastern Washington. The bands are the same size as the USFWS bands, and are placed on the opposite leg. They each have a black number printed on them, and are visible on standing or perching birds.

If you see any birds so marked, please write: Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, Maryland 20811. Include the date, time of day, and location of the observation; plus the name(s) of observer(s), color of the band, and, if possible, the number printed on the band. Also include the activity of the bird, the type of habitat it was sited in (e.g., grassland, mudflats along a lake, etc.), and the number of other curlews present.

### After School Natur Classes for Children

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History will hold after school nature classes for children 4 years of age through high school, beginning the week of March 14, 1977. Classes are available in many subjects, including insect study, animal adaptations and habitats, and a special class on spring activities of animals, for grades 3-6. A free nature workshop for parents will be held on Thursday afternoons. All classes will meet weekly (except April 4-8, Spring Vacation), for 6 weeks. For information regarding schedules and costs, call the Education Center, 682-4334.

President Carter Strikes 19 Water Projects From 1973 Budget

President Jimmy Carter has deleted funding for 19 water resource projects, most of them long opposed by the National Audubon Society, from the 1973 budget, pending review for environmental safety and economic necessity.

Opponents of the President's recommendation have raised the issue of the drought, but many of the projects do not provide irrigation water; those that do lead to depletion of ground water. In any case they could not be finished for many years, and so could not help alleviate current drought conditions. They would take water from other regions, and cannot create any totally new supply.

Congress still has to approve the President's recommendation. A letter to your Senators and Congressman, with a copy sent to the President, would help insure the recommendation's adoption.

The Audubon Leader, February 25, 1977

To Donate to California's Nongame Wildlife Conservation Program, make your check for \$1 or more payable to Nongame Wildlife, and mail it to Wildlife, Box DFG, Sacramento, CA 95801.

Address Changes - Send address changes to the membership chairperson, Barbara Greene, 4512 Via Huerto, Santa Barbara, 93110, or call 964-3075. Let Barbara know if you're having trouble receiving El Tecolote.

El Tecolote Deadline - The deadline for the next issue is Friday, March 25th, 1977. Please send your contributions on or before that date to Mary Lou Hand, 1731 Robbins Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or call 682-4044.

El Tecolote  
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