



BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 15, Number 4
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Joy Parkinson, President
568 Beaumont Way
Goleta, CA 93017
967-9371

Mary Lou Hand, Editor
1731 Robbins Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
682-4044

MONTHLY MEETING - APRIL 22, 1977

"DOWN BY THE SEASHORE"

This month's program is a slide-lecture on some of the more exotic shells to be found around the world, particularly in the South Seas. There will also be slides of the scenery in the South Pacific. The program is presented by Ted Phillips, an associate of Malacology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The meeting will be at 8 p.m., in the Fleischmann Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History, on Friday evening, April 22.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- April 14 Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural History. All members are invited to attend.
- April 22 Regular Monthly Meeting - 8 p.m., Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. See above for details. Be sure to bring your cup for refreshments.
- May 7 & 8 Pine Mountain Campout - There will be day hikes from Reyes Peak Campground to look for montane birds and wildflowers, and plenty of conversation in the evening. Call the leader for details if you plan to go.
Leader: Bill Gielow, 687-3466
- May 14 Harbor - Bird Refuge - Meet at the Bird Refuge at 8:30 a.m. for a morning walk. This is a good area for gulls and shorebirds. Spotting scopes are useful.
Leader: Minna Smith, 966-7971
- May 21 Annual Meeting and Picnic - Tucker's Grove, Cathedral Oaks at Turnpike Rd., from 4 p.m. Dinner will be at approximately 5 p.m. We are changing the format this year. The cost of \$1.00 per person will include charcoal fire, salad, ranch-style beans, French bread, relishes, and liquid refreshment. Bring your own meat, table service (cup, plate, silverware, napkin) and a dessert to share.
The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, May 17, 1977. Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., and mail to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1977 - 78

Members will vote at our annual picnic on May 21st for our next Board of Directors. Sid Tarbox, vice-president, and Barbara Greene, membership chair, have completed their maximum 3 year terms. The new members have been carefully selected by your nominating committee for their interest and enthusiasm in furthering our numerous activities. They are: William B. Drew, who was born in Greenwich, Connecticut, and has an A.M. and Ph.D. from Harvard University in Botany. He was Chairman of Botany and Plant Pathology at Michigan State University in East Lansing. The other new member is James H. Tannahill, who was born in Fresno, and has been a Santa Barbara resident since 1972. He is a retired businessman.

The other nominees, who are already Board members, are: Cherie Bratt, Lila Eisberg, Mary Lou Hand, Jim Hodgson, Alice Kladnik, Alan Manee, Joy Parkinson, Ron Smith, and Virginia Smith. Respectfully submitted, the Nominating Committee,

Barbara Greene, Jim Hodgson, Minna E. Smith

GOLDEN TROUT CAMP

Once again it's that time of year when we can begin daydreaming about spending a week in "primitive luxury" at Golden Trout Camp. It's at 10,000 feet elevation in the southern Sierra, near Mount Whitney, and we hike in the 2½ miles from the end of the road, carrying our sleeping bags and personal belongings. We'll spend our days hiking with naturalist-leaders learning about the flora, fauna, and ecology of the alpine and sub-alpine area, and maybe ascend nearby 14,000-foot Mount Langley. We'll see Foxtail Pines, Pikas, Dippers, Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, Goshawks, profuse wildflowers, and who knows what else. Delicious dinners are served in the central log cabin, after which we'll stay cozy around the wood stove, review the day's adventures, and hear guest lecturers. Sleeping tents and all meals are provided.

Dates for this year's workshops are from July 23 through August 10, 1977. Costs are from \$70 to \$90 per adult, and from \$55 to \$70 for children, 11 and under.

For a brochure, with more details, write Golden Trout Camp, c/o Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, CA 93103, or call her at 966-4836.

Next month's El Tecolote will feature a first-hand account of the Golden Trout Camp by Nancy McNeill, who has already participated.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CONVENTION - JUNE 9 to 12, 1977

The deadline for registration for the NAS Convention at the YMCA Camp of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado, has been extended to April 29, so there's still time to register, if you act soon. Speakers will include U.S. Senator Gary Hart of Colorado, a member of the Senate Committee on Public Works and the Environment, and sponsor of the Federal Aid to Non-game Wildlife bill. NAS President Elvis J. Stahr will deliver the keynote "State of the Society" address. Workshops will tackle such issues as Alaska d-2 areas, strip mining, and returnable bottle legislation. There will be a Nature Art Show/Sale, field trips, and special educational activities for children. For a brochure, with registration details, write: Convention, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

DICK SMITH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

From the 7 applicants for the Dick Smith Memorial Scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West, the Education Committee has selected 2 recipients. They are Hal Hallock, ranger at La Purissima, State Department of Parks and Recreation; and Ann Puddicombe, receptionist at Paradise, Forest Service. Mary Goslin, Assistant Curator of Education, Museum of Natural History, will receive a scholarship to the Golden Trout Camp.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1976

On the 1976 Christmas Bird Count, held on January 2, 1977, a cold and rainy Sunday, we logged 192 species, with an additional 10 during the count period. There were 132 participants, and 14 feeder counts. The results are as follows:

16 Common Loon	5 Sora	574 Anna's Hummingbird
24 Arctic Loon	3 Common Gallinule	1 Allen's Hummingbird
48 Red-throated Loon	1743 American Coot	4 Selasphorus, species
24 Horned Grebe	29 Semipalmated Plover	21 Belted Kingfisher
44 Eared Grebe	120 Snowy Plover	260 Common Flicker
1161 Western Grebe	612 Killdeer	207 Acorn Woodpecker
166 Pied-billed Grebe	1 American Golden Plover	4 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
5 Northern Fulmar	189 Black-bellied Plover	4 Hairy Woodpecker
39 White Pelican	25 Black Turnstone	14 Downy Woodpecker
271 Brown Pelican	31 Common Snipe	19 Nuttall's Woodpecker
418 Double-cr Cormorant	53 Whimbrel	3 Tropical Kingbird
151 Brandt's Cormorant	23 Spotted Sandpiper	1 Ash-throated Flycatcher
9 Pelagic Cormorant	1 Wandering Tattler	51 Black Phoebe
50 Great Blue Heron	177 Willet	18 Say's Phoebe
12 Green Heron	18 Greater Yellowlegs	41 Horned Lark
1 Cattle Egret	1 Lesser Yellowlegs	225 Violet-green Swallow
27 Great Egret	75 Least Sandpiper	425 Scrub Jay
51 Snowy Egret	34 Dunlin	894 Common Crow
49 Black-cr Night Heron	3 Short-billed Dowitcher	1 Mountain Chickadee
6 American Bittern	114 Long-billed Dowitcher	227 Plain Titmouse
1 Canada Goose	36 Western Sandpiper	943 Bushtit
1 Snow Goose	69 Marbled Godwit	28 White-breasted Nuthatch
162 Mallard	480 Sanderling	2 Red-breasted Nuthatch
16 Gadwall	15 American Avocet	2 Brown Creeper
300 Pintail	2 Red Phalarope	209 Wrentit
208 Green-winged Teal	3 Pomeraine Jaeger	9 House Wren
3 Blue-winged Teal	6 Parasitic Jaeger	1 Winter Wren
50 Cinnamon Teal	11 Glaucous-winged Gull	55 Bewick's Wren
348 American Wigeon	1503 Western Gull	32 Long-billed Marsh Wren
434 Northern Shoveler	6 Herring Gull	5 Canyon Wren
146 Redhead	4 Thayer's Gull	1 Rock Wren
8 Ring-necked Duck	873 California Gull	188 Mockingbird
120 Canvasback	878 Ring-billed Gull	68 California Thrasher
88 Lesser Scaup	1056 Mew Gull	141 American Robin
14 Common Goldeneye	1016 Bonaparte's Gull	7 Varied Thrush
43 Bufflehead	416 Heermann's Gull	107 Hermit Thrush
5 White-winged Scoter	98 Forster's Tern	31 Western Bluebird
101 Surf Scoter	13 Royal Tern	1 Townsend's Solitaire
34 Ruddy Duck	2 Caspian Tern	24 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
6 Hooded Merganser	13 Common Murre	83 Golden-crowned Kinglet
74 Common Merganser	1 Xantus' Murrelet	353 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
42 Red-breasted Merganser	97 Band-tailed Pigeon	374 Water Pipit
51 White-tailed Kite	797 Rock Dove	213 Cedar Waxwing
9 Sharp-shinned Hawk	396 Mourning Dove	24 Loggerhead Shrike
11 Coopers Hawk	7 Spotted Dove	1824 Starling
73 Red-tailed Hawk	5 Barn Owl	17 Hutton's Vireo
20 Red-shouldered Hawk	10 Screech Owl	54 Orange-crowned Warbler
2 Golden Eagle	15 Great Horned Owl	1 Yellow Warbler
9 Marsh Hawk	3 Burrowing Owl	840 Yellow-rumped Warbler
118 American Kestrel	2 Short-eared Owl	3 Black-throated Gray Warbler
365 California Quail	1 Poor-will	93 Townsend's Warbler
7 Turkey	35 Vaux's Swift	2 Hermit Warbler
9 Virginia Rail	11 White-throated Swift	1 Palm Warbler

Christmas Count, continued

62 Common Yellowthroat	319 Lesser Goldfinch	During Count Period:
1 Wilson's Warbler	6 Lawrence's Goldfinch	
356 House Sparrow	137 Rufous-sided Towhee	Greater Scaup
566 Western Meadowlark	796 Brown Towhee	Prairie Falcon
3223 Red-winged Blackbird	260 Savannah Sparrow	Peregrine Falcon
711 Tri-colored Blackbird	1 Vesper Sparrow	Merlin
1 Hooded Oriole	12 Lark Sparrow	Black-legged Kittiwake
6 N. (Bullock's) Oriole	6 Rufous-crowned Sparrow	Rhinoceros Auklet
1 Rusty Blackbird	1146 Dark-eyed Junco	Pygmy Owl
2012 Brewer's Blackbird	2084 White-crowned Sparrow	Cassin's Kingbird
108 Brown-headed Cowbird	222 Golden-crowned Sparrow	Sage Sparrow
3 Western Tanager	3 White-throated Sparrow	Harris' Sparrow
1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak	40 Fox Sparrow	
21 Purple Finch	38 Lincoln's Sparrow	
2202 House Finch	1 Swamp Sparrow	
13 Pine Siskin	181 Song Sparrow	
486 American Goldfinch		

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Vandenburg Air Force Base - La Purissima Mission, Sunday, February 6, 1977

It was a sunny, warm day when 24 eager birders met Russ Spowart at Purissima Mission. We also enjoyed admission to the Air Force grounds and 80 species were sighted. Highlights included an American Bittern, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Green-winged Teal, and many Marsh Hawks.

Thanks, Russ, for your genial hospitality.

Minna E. Smith

Monterey Peninsula, Saturday & Sunday, February 19 and 20, 1977

Less than ideal weather greeted the 25 birders who made the long trek to this spectacular seashore area. In spite of the fog and wind, a total of 75 species were identified during the two days.

We birded the Point Lobos State Reserve, all three wharves on Monterey Bay, the coast line along Pacific Grove, and a small pond on Highway 68 near Laguna Secca.

In Monterey Harbor we viewed the loon which is suspected to be a Yellow-billed Loon. Positive identification was not agreed upon by our group. Whales, otters, and sea lions were seen both days. The rare find of the trip was an adult female Ruff (Reeve) on Pacific Grove beach. According to local birders the Reeve has been on this beach for several months.

Ron Smith

Lake Cachuma, March 6, 1977

What a fantastic day! Eighteen birders enjoyed the March sixth trip to Lake Cachuma. The weather was near perfection with moderate temperatures, gentle breezes, and relatively cloudless skies.

Highlights of the hike included an Osprey at close range, a very vocal Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawks of both light and dark phases, White-tailed Kites, Golden Eagles, and an adult Bald Eagle. At the Bradbury Dam overlook we sighted a single Common Goldeneye, and a mixed flock of several thousand Lesser Scaup and Western Grebes. We were able to watch several pair of Western Grebes in their courtship dance. A total of sixty-three species were sighted.

Special thanks to the Power's for allowing us access to their beautiful property.

Ron Smith

FIELD TRIP REPORTS, continuedMcGrath State Beach, Ventura; March 12, 1977

It was a beautiful, sunny day for this half-day trip to one of the better areas in coastal Southern California to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, and terns. A total of 80 species were seen by the 18 participants. Some of the species of note included: Black Brant, Gadwall, Ring-necked Ducks, Glaucous-winged Gulls, Thayer's Gulls, Herring Gulls, and Royal Terns. Certainly the bird of the trip was the Red Phalarope seen feeding in the Santa Clara River below us as we stood on the bridge. This species is normally encountered only out at sea during migration in May and again in September and October. It can occasionally be observed from shore or on the larger estuaries at the same time of year. A rare individual might remain until the beginning of January, but a March record such as this is truly outstanding.

Paul Lehman

BLACK PHOEBE STUDIES

Don Schroeder, graduate student at UCSB, needs help with his studies of the distribution of the Black Phoebe in the South Coast area. When you spot a Black Phoebe, check carefully for a leg band. Reports of any banded living or dead phoebes will contribute to the knowledge of the habits of this flycatcher. In addition, Steve is interested in any Black Phoebe nesting sites you find on your walks. He will be happy to explain his methods of study of the dispersal and mortality of phoebe young to anyone who contributes. Phone or leave messages at 961-3910.

Bill Gielow

ISLA VISTA BIRDWATCHERS NEEDED

The Isla Vista Community Council Ecosystem Management Group needs birders in the Isla Vista area for helping endangered species in the area recover, and for a general bird survey to help public agencies determine areas to acquire for their actual or potential avian value. If you can help, phone 968-8377. The address is 966-C Embarcadero del Mar.

Martin Kellog

CARTER TO OUTLAW OFFROAD VEHICLES?

According to Cycle News, March 30, 1977, President Jimmy Carter's environmental message to Congress will announce a ban by Executive Order of all offroad vehicle (ORV) use on all public lands administered by the Federal government. This information was made public by the vice-president of the International Snowmobile Industry Association, William Jobe, who has verified the report with White House staff members. To express your views on the issue, write or telegraph the President; also notify Cecil Andrus, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior (Washington D.C. 20240); Bob Bergland, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington, D.C. 20250); and your Senator and Congressman.

CALIFORNIA ISLANDS PHOTOGRAPHY AT NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Photographs by Ron Morgan on the Coastal Islands of California will be on display at the Museum of Natural History from April 15 through June 6. Ron uses large-negative photography to capture detail often lost in other processes. He combines his training in photography and fine arts with work as a chemist to develop techniques that convey the special atmosphere of the islands. The Museum is currently preparing a comprehensive photographic survey of the Islands, and recording the contemporary and historic lifestyles of the Islands' inhabitants. Ron Morgan is the director of the project. The public is invited to a reception for the artist on Saturday, April 16, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Gallery.

TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

Channel Islands Mensa is planning a cruise and island camp-out August 12 to 15, on Santa Barbara Island. The trip is limited to 45 people, and costs \$35 for adults, \$30 for children under 14. Participants are responsible for their own camping gear, food, and water for four days. For reservations contact Frank Schipper, 221 San Nicholas, Santa Barbara, CA 93109, or call 962-6194, by July 10.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is sponsoring several trips between May and December. In May, they will descend into the Havasupai Indians' sylvan stronghold deep in the Grand Canyon for 3 days of relaxation. June is the Archaeology of Guatemala, Alaska will be visited in July; they will witness Southwest Indian Ceremonials in August; take a river rafting and paddlewheel expedition through Cataract Canyon in September; tour the California gold country in October; explore the Baja Peninsula, with the return trip by sea, in November; and journey to Chiapas, Mexico, in December. For a brochure on any of these trips write to the Museum, 2559 Puesta del Sol Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

PORTABLE TAPE CASSETTE RECORDER WANTED to borrow or buy, by graduate student in Natural Resources from Humboldt State. She is conducting research on 3 local marshes, and needs the recorder for one year. Call Venita Basham, 685-2633, after 5 p.m.

ADDRESS CHANGES - Send address changes to the membership chair, Barbara Greene, 4512 Via Huerto, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, or call 964-3075.

EL TECOLOTE DEADLINE - The deadline for the May issue is Friday, April 29, 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. Promptness is greatly appreciated!

El Tecolote
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2067
Santa Barbara, California 93102

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