



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 15, Number 5
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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May 19 Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural
Thursday History. All members are invited to attend.

May 21 Annual Meeting and Picnic - at Tucker's Grove, Cathedral Oaks at Turnpike
Saturday Rd., starting at 4 p.m. with dinner at approximately 5 p.m. The cost of
\$1.00 per person includes salad, ranch-style beans, French bread, relishes,
liquid refreshment, and a charcoal fire. Bring your own meat, table serv-
ice (cup, plate, silverware, napkin), and a dessert to share.

The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, May 17, 1977. Your check,
payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, should accompany your reservation.
Send checks to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017.

See you there!!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are fast approaching the end of another year of SBAS activities. Thanks are
due to the Board of Directors, committee chairpersons, and members who gave time and
effort to make our 14th year successful.

Thanks to ---

- Jim Hodgson, Ron Smith, Bill Gielow, and all leaders for a year of great
field trips.
- Michael Goodwin for a variety of interesting programs, and for heading the
Sespe Area Christmas Count.
- Sid Tarbox and the Education and Exhibits Committee for giving slide talks
to thousands of school children and others, leading walks, and providing
monthly exhibits at public libraries. The annual report of this very act-
ive committee is on page 2 of this bulletin.
- Cherie Bratt, Christmas Count; Dorothea Fox who manned the exhibit table
at meetings; Donnis Goodwin, librarian; Barbara Greene, Membership; Mary
Lou Hand, Editor and Hospitality; Gerrie Human, Rare Bird Alert and Ameri-
can Birds; Alice Kladnik, Secretary; Dorothy Martone, Bird Refuge; Minna
Smith, Treasurer; etc.

Many of these people served SBAS in several capacities.

And special thanks to Jean Johnson and her committee -- Marcella Richards, Joan
Vincent, Fern Kastler, et al, for publishing the bulletin. El Tecolote is vital to
SBAS. Without it there would be no communication with the membership. Jean and her

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued

committee have worked many hours to bring you news of SBAS activities.

Now that we are printing almost 1500 bulletins each time, we have decided to employ a professional printing service. We are grateful to all who, during the past fourteen years, have given time to this necessary task.

Joy Parkinson

EDUCATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Three areas of interest dominated the activities of the Education Committee this past year - slide talks, public bird walks, and educational exhibits.

We have had a busy year with the slide talks. Virginia Smith and Bill Drew have joined Cherie Bratt, Minna Smith, and the chairman in this work.. During the year we have spoken to about 2,600 in 52 meetings involving 20 schools, 4 youth groups, and 7 adult audiences. Several talks were followed by field trips, and many were preparatory to the sixth grade conservation camp experience at Lake Cachuma. Our audiences ranged in age from kindergarteners to senior citizens, and in interests from science classes to campers at Cachuma County Park. Geographically we might be said to have gone "nationwide," since the chairman gave a show on Eastern birds to sixth graders in Massachusetts at his grandson's request last fall.

While about half these presentations emphasized wintering birds or nesting activities, depending on the season, many were tailored to fit the needs of specific classroom programs. The development of such special talks has been greatly facilitated by the fine contributions of new slides from our membership during the year. Your continued assistance will give us even greater flexibility in the months ahead. We are always on the lookout to make duplicates of additional slides, especially those of interesting bird activities or showing the less common Santa Barbara residents and visitors.

Last year's experience with public bird walks led us to offer only two special habitat trips this year, both devoted to waterfowl and wading birds. However, we have provided bi-monthly birding in the Botanic Garden from September through June, with an average attendance of ten. Some have been newcomers to the area, a number of whom have joined SBAS; others have been visitors from as far as British Columbia, England, and points on the East Coast from New England to Florida. Many other visitors have called committee members for suggestions on birding sites. Dorothea Fox, Bill and June Gardner, Virginia Puddicombe, and Tomi Sollen have assisted in this work.

Early this year Virginia Smith volunteered to take charge of educational exhibits when Dorothy Watkins and Ethel Lyans could no longer serve. At the suggestion of the Board, this program was added to that of the Education Committee. Virginia, with the assistance of Maurine Jarrell and Jim and Ray Court, has provided a monthly rotation of exhibits at the Santa Barbara and Goleta libraries. Next year they will be developing new exhibits covering more of the common birds of the area. They would welcome the help of other volunteers, especially those with skills in writing and exhibit building. If you can help, please call Virginia Smith at 963-2875.

In all, the committee had a busy and rewarding year, one which has not only been useful to our schools, but which has, we hope, added to the ecological understanding of many people, young and old.

Sid Tarbox, Chairman

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! FLASH !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Results are in for the Christmas Count, and Santa Barbara has placed fourth in the nation, second in California! The top four are: Freeport, Texas, 196; Corpus Christi, Texas, 195; Point Reyes Peninsula, California, 193; and Santa Barbara, 191.

BIRD REFUGE NEWS

To reduce the future population of domestic ducks Joy Parkinson and Hank Hamber from the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, with two members of the Domestic Duck Committee took to boats in March and again in April. They collected a total of 69 goose eggs and 49 duck eggs. These eggs will be used as food for pets by the Humane Society.

At Park Commission request the City Council has approved in concept the recommendations of the scientific-oriented citizens committee, headed by Dr. Dennis Power. In order to solve long standing water quality problems adequate data must be available. It was suggested that the city hire a consulting firm to make a thorough analysis of the physical and biological elements of the lake. Perhaps the new municipal finance consultant will be able to fund the project. The feasibility of various plans of action, their costs, and impact would be determined. Possibilities include dredging, Andrasko deeutrophication, new sources of water and recycling of waste water. The nutrient-rich water of the Bird Refuge useful for fertilizing might be exchanged for needed fresh water. The establishment of physical and chemical standards to be monitored is essential in order for the lake to support all types of wildlife.

We are all most grateful to Catherine Boeddeker, former Park Commissioner, whose great interest in the Bird Refuge sparked the "do something" policy. Long-term solutions are in the making.

Dorothy Martone

SBAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, APRIL 14, 1977

At its April meeting, the Board approved the following motions --

- SBAS will contribute \$1,000 to the Museum of Natural History's Dick Smith Memorial project, the reprinting of California Condor, with additional pictures and notes taken from Dick's materials. Profits from the sale of the book will return to the Museum and to Olive Smith.
- SBAS is having a copy made of a videotape, which was recorded by Dick Smith and an SBCC student. The film, "Water Resources," will cost \$18.00 for printing by SBCC. It could then be loaned to schools, or shown at SBAS meetings.
- SBAS will again donate \$350.00 to the California Department of Fish and Game's nongame wildlife program for wildlife protection.
- We will again sponsor an award for the "Best Bird in Flight" in the S.B. International Salon of Nature Photography's contest, which will be judged in mid-July.

RECIPE FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE GOLDEN HIGH

Take a butterfly catcher, a star gazer, a mountain contemplator, and a chaser after the elusive Blue Grouse. Take students and teachers, farmers and fishers, housewives and writers, and non-retiring retirees. Place together in air-cooled tents and feed well. Separate daily into smaller portions for hikes to lakes, mesa, or Langley. Expose part of the mixture to Mary Coffeen's plant-keying sessions in the meadow, another part to Gene Cardiff's seven-league strides over boulder and stream. Return all together each evening to a campfire songfest and re-warm in the lodge. Result: a beautiful gel. That was Golden Trout Camp, 1976.

Hint: Try a few golden days this summer in the high Sierras at our Audubon Nature Workshop July 23-29, July 30-August 5, or August 6-10. Call Tomi Sollen at 966-4836 for details.

Nancy McNeill

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to work in the Book Store at the Museum of Natural History. If you can help, contact Laurel Johnson at 682-4711.

FIELD TRIP REPORT - SANDYLAND SLOUGH

Twenty seven eager birders met at the gate to Sandyland to greet our hostess, Mrs. Judy Chamberlain, a new member. She graciously led us through her property to the beach front. Ann Terry was our leader, and Sid Tarbox and Bill Drew brought their scopes along. The highlights included a Common as well as a Red-breasted Merganser, an Avocet in full regalia, and thirty seven other species of the marsh and ocean.

Minna E. Smith

GOLETA VALLEY PHOTO CLUB ANACAPA ISLAND FIELD TRIP

Spring is the ideal time to visit Anacapa Island. The bird population is breeding, the plants are in full bloom, and the sea lions are pupping. On May 29, the Goleta Valley Photo Club is sponsoring a trip to explore and photograph the natural history and beauty of the island. Anyone is welcome to participate. The fee is \$16.50 per adult. Call 968-7971, after 5 p.m. for full details.

THE SANTA BARBARA UNDERSEAS FOUNDATION is sponsoring a slide/lecture by Dr. Charles Woodhouse, on the Marine Mammals of the Northern Channel Islands, on Friday, June 17, at the Museum of Natural History, Fleischmann Auditorium, at 7:30 p.m. A 95¢ donation is requested, with proceeds going toward a special benefit for the Museum.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND EL TECOLOTE MAILING REQUESTS - Send changes to the membership chairperson, Barbara Greene, 4512 Via Huerto, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, or call 964-3075.

EL TECOLOTE CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE - The deadline for the June issue is Friday, May 27, 1977. Please send or bring your contributions on or before that date to Mary Lou Hand, 1731 Robbins Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or call 682-4044. Your promptness will help me meet my deadlines. The June issue is the final issue for the year. The next issue will be the combined August-September issue, so any events between June and mid-August should be in the June issue.

El Tecolote
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
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