



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

June 16      Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural  
Thursday      History. All members are invited to attend.

July 14      Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural  
Thursday      History. All members are invited to attend.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month I thanked the Board of Directors, committee chairpersons, and members for their many contributions to SBAS. This month I would like to recap our activities for the past year.

Twenty-five field trips were conducted, ranging from the desert to the sea -- from overnight campouts to boat trips to the Channel Islands.

The monthly programs covered a variety of natural history subjects in places as far apart as the Arctic Circle and the South Pacific -- from caribou to tropical shells.

The Education Committee, as reported in the May bulletin, spoke to over 2,600 individuals and led many public bird walks.

We continued to work with the City of Santa Barbara on its Bird Refuge Committee. Our involvement ranged from acting as advisors to collecting domestic duck and goose eggs from the islands.

We conducted two Christmas Counts -- Sespe and Santa Barbara. In spite of an all-day rain, our Santa Barbara count of 191 species placed us fourth in the nation.

The Board of Directors met monthly to conduct necessary Audubon business. Some of the highlights:

-- In July, 1976 we testified at a BLM hearing in Ojai in opposition to the planned U.S. Gypsum phosphate mine in the Los Padres National Forest, north of Ojai.

-- In other areas of the LPNF we submitted written comment on the Off-Road Vehicle Plan, and oral comment on the Wild Horse-McKinley fuel break -- the latter following a Forest Service conducted field trip to part of the proposed fuel break.

-- Last year, SBAS presented an award for "Best Bird in Flight" at the Santa Barbara International Salon of Nature Photography. The award was given to David Chapman of Damariscotta, Maine for his slide, "Herring Gull." We plan to present another award this year.

-- Two Dick Smith Memorial Scholarships to the Audubon Workshop in the West were granted this year. The recipients are Hal Hallock of the State Department of Parks and Recreation, and Anne Puddicombe of the U.S. Forest Service.

-- Minna Smith was selected as our delegate to the National Audubon Society Convention in Estes Park, Colorado, June 9-12, 1977. We know that she will more than

President's Message, continued

adequately represent SBAS, and are pleased that she consented to do so.

-- In addition we made a number of donations in support of various causes: \$1,000 to the National Audubon Society's Bicentennial Sanctuary Fund; \$350 to the California Department of Fish and Game's Non-Game Wildlife Fund (DECAL); \$200 to Point Reyes Bird Observatory; \$100 to the Community Environmental Council; \$100 to the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum's Ornithological Research Fund; \$1,000 to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for the Dick Smith Memorial Fund, and several smaller donations to various conservation organizations.

Approximately 70 people attended the annual meeting and picnic at Tucker's Grove on May 21. The following persons were elected to the Board of Directors for 1977-78: Cherie Bratt, William B. Drew, Lila Eisberg, Mary Lou Hand, Jim Hodgson, Alice Kladnik, Alan Manee, Joy Parkinson, Ron Smith, Virginia Smith, and James H. Tannahill.

Thanks to Barbara Greene and Sid Tarbox who completed their maximum three years on the board. We have enjoyed working with you and appreciate your efforts on behalf of SBAS. Welcome to new board members, Dr. Bill Drew and James Tannahill. We are looking forward to your enthusiastic help.

Well, "that about wraps it up," as one newscaster says. The Board of Directors will be meeting during the summer to appoint committees and plan next year's activities. You may be receiving a call, one day soon, asking if you would be willing to serve on a committee. If you do, I hope you will say "yes." We need your help.

Meanwhile, have a wonderful summer, wherever you may journey in your search for birds. As for me, I'm off to Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Mountains. The Coppery-tailed Trogons and Red-faced Warblers are nesting -- and who knows what else?

See you in the fall! Good Birding!!!

Joy Parkinson

Birds of the Santa Barbara Region

Birds of the Santa Barbara Region will be given by UCSB Extension in cooperation with the Museum of Natural History on two weekends during the summer. Charles Versaggi of UCSB and Paul W. Collins of the Museum staff will lecture and conduct field studies on Coastal Birds (June 25-26), and Land Birds (July 9-10). Emphasis will be on field identification and the dynamic interplay between bird communities and adaptations to their habitats. Each weekend is a separate course and may be taken singly or together. Call UCSB Extension at 961-3231 for further details.

Summer Session of Nature Classes at the Museum

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History announces its Summer Session of nature classes beginning the week of June 20, 1977. Classes are available for four year olds through adults.

In addition to many natural history subjects, a variety of special classes will be offered. Primitive pottery, as well as spinning, weaving, and dyeing, will stress the use of natural materials. Classes in photography and batik will emphasize nature as a focal point for creative activities. A class in astronomy may be enjoyed by the whole family. Marine biology will consist of exciting weekly field trips.

For more information regarding schedule and fees, call the Museum Education Center, 682-4334.

National Audubon Board Supports Carter's Energy Plan

National Audubon's Board of Directors pledged support for the general goals of President Carter's energy program. In a letter to the President the Board said, "As a group of diverse men and women concerned about orderly growth within a framework of environmental protection, the Audubon Board applauds your courage in bringing a sense of urgency to the Republic. The major significance of the program has been to focus attention on the need to educate and plan, and we would like to be of continuing help."

Maxim Smith

We were saddened to learn of the death, on May 21, 1977, of Maxim "Smitty" Smith. Smitty was the creator of many beautiful needlepoint rugs which have been displayed a number of times in the Santa Barbara Public Library.

He was also the unflappable super-chef at several of our annual picnics -- a man who could barbecue 50 pounds of ball-tip steaks without losing his cool.

Smitty seemingly has been everywhere and done almost everything. He was a fascinating conversationalist. We will miss him.

Our deepest sympathy to Minna Smith, who serves SBAS in so many ways.

Friends may remember SBAS in memory of Smitty.

Joy Parkinson

Natural History of the Mono Basin

Presented by U.C. Davis Extension, on July 7-10, this course will provide a field-oriented introduction to the Mono Basin, one of the most awesomely beautiful and biotically interesting regions of the world. Set immediately east of Yosemite National Park, this landscape of volcanoes and sheer granite escarpments is dominated by the blue expanse of Mono Lake. Observational and identification skills will be stressed in the field -- telling warblers from sparrows from vireos, distinguishing plants by leaf, flower and growth form, interpreting animal behavior, etc. Afternoon lectures and campfire discussions will cover topics ranging from geology and climate to community ecology and conservation. Car-camping near Mono Lake. The fee is \$50, excluding food, transportation, and campground fees.

To enroll, contact University of California Extension, Davis, California 95616.

Field Trip Reports

Butterbread Springs, April 16-17, 1977

Ten birders made the trip to Butterbread Springs in the Mojave Desert. The springs, Butterbread Canyon, Jawbone Canyon, Kelso Valley, and the south fork of the Kern River offered good birding, much beautiful scenery, and perfect weather. Seventy-six species were observed during the two days, including numerous Costa's Hummingbirds and a Blue Grosbeak.

Ron Smith

Bird Refuge and Sandspit, May 14, 1977

A party of twelve birded these two standbys. Many thanks for able assistance of Sid Tarbox, Virginia Smith, and Bill Bailey. Sighted at the Refuge were a pair of Redheads, a Black Brant, many baby coots (with startling red heads), many Ruddy Ducks, a pair of Yellow and a pair of Wilson's Warblers.

Seen at the sandspit were 3 Arctic Loons, 4 Red-throated Loons, a Wandering Tattler, many Western Sandpipers, 2 Spotted Sandpipers (with spots!), many Bonaparte's Gulls and Forster's Terns, as well as 3 Eared Grebes in full plumage. A most rewarding morning!

Minna E. Smith

Golden Trout Memories

My family and I spent a week in heaven, figuratively. We attended a family week at the Golden Trout Camp. At an elevation of 10,000 feet we had a high time. The good memories include a happy, efficient crew, good food, well-planned program with plenty of free time, and a congenial group of fellow campers. The eastern slopes of the Sierras offer a rare opportunity to experience new birds for life lists, botanical finds, mammals, and geological discoveries. Everyone should have a chance to experience the beauty and grandeur of the Golden Trout, and we recommend it to you.

Priscilla Pearce

Citation to Industry

The Davis California Audubon Society has honored the Hunt-Wesson Food Corporation for designating a 320-acre field a hawk and owl preserve. The company uses the field as a disposal site for waste wash water from its tomato processing plant: the water is sprayed on the field, hay is grown and harvested twice a year. When the field was first planted, rodents were causing considerable loss of seed and young plants, and the company considered a poisoning program. It was decided, however, to leave the rodent control to the White-tailed Kites, Marsh Hawks, Burrowing Owls, Red-tailed Hawks, and Rough-legged Hawks. Now both raptors and hay are flourishing.

Audubon Leader, May 14, 1977

Address Changes and El Tecolote Mailing Problems - Send changes to the membership chairperson, Barbara Greene, 4512 Via Huerto, Santa Barbara, California, 93110, or call Barbara at 964-3075.

El Tecolote Contribution Deadline - The deadline for the August-September issue is Friday, July 29, 1977. Please send or bring your contributions on or before that date to Mary Lou Hand, 1731 Robbins Street, Santa Barbara, California, 93101, or call 682-4044. Promptness is greatly appreciated.

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