

JLLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 15, Number 10 November-December, 1977 Joy Parkinson, President 568 Beaumont Way Goleta, CA 93017 967-9371

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# MONTHLY MEETING - DECEMBER 2, 1977

# "AFRICAN EXPERIENCE"

Dr. Ralph Schrieber of the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History, who returned from Africa on November 1, 1977, will present slides entitled "African Experience," including slides of both birds and mammals. Dr. Schrieber will be remembered for his excellent slide presentation last year of the "Sooty Terns." The meeting will be at 8 p.m.in the Fleischmann Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History.

Brush up on your bird identification skills before the December 31 Christmas Bird Count by attending a Bird Identification Class in the Fleischmann Auditorium at 7:30 p.m., December 2, immediately preceeding the regular program.

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# CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

November 17 Thursday

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

Saturday-Sunday

November 19-20 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. This is a good chance to observe wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Take a lunch for 2 days. Please call the leader if you plan to go. Leader: Sid Tarbox, 687-2067

December 2 Friday

Regular Monthly Meeting - Bird Identification Class at 7:30 p.m., followed by "African Experience" at 8 p.m. See above for details of both. Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. Be sure to bring a cup for refreshments.

December 3 Saturday

Carrizo Plain-Soda Lake - Wintering ground of the Sandhill Cranes, and excellent area for hawks, eagles, and Mountain Plovers. We have chartered a bus with reclining seats and restroom and will have our same fine driver, Hank Hamber, as last year. The bus will leave the Museum of Natural History at 6 a.m., and the shopping center on Highway 33 in Ojai at 6:50 a.m. This will be a long trip - about 13 hours - so bring plenty of lunch and water. Bus fare is \$10 per person. Please make checks payable to SB Audubon Society, Inc., and mail promptly to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017. If you wish confirmation of your reservation please include a self-addressed stamped envelope or postcard. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: Tuesday, November 29.

Leader: Joy Parkinson, 967-9371

# Calendar of Coming Events, continued

December 19 Sespe Area Christmas Count - This is the only Christmas Bird Count in the nation that counts California Condors on its list. See page three for details.

Count Chairman: Michael Goodwin, 963-1265

December 31 Santa Barbara Christmas Bird Count - Last year Santa Barbara placed second in the nation, close behind Point Reyes, California. You can help us place first this year! See page 3 for details.

January 15, El Capitan Beach - Meet at Thrifty Drug Store parking lot in the Five-1978 Points Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. More details in the January El Tec-Sunday Olote. Leader: Ron Smith, 687-3963

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you haven't visited the Bird Hall in the Museum of Natural History lately you are in for a couple of surprises when you do. The first surprise is that almost half the birds are missing. The cases are empty!

The second surprise is that the birds which <u>are</u> there look very different-- much brighter. The feathers glow, the eyes gleam; the drab look has gone!

The reason for this change is that the Museum is "re-doing" the Bird Hall. Waldo Abbott is repainting faded legs and bills, smoothing feathers, and polishing eyes. The difference is amazing. Also, the background is being repainted in a soft off-white which allows light to deflect all around the birds showing their true colors.

Birds are arranged by order, and each order has several small symbols showing habitat, food, etc. This new look will add immesurably to the educational values of the Bird Hall. According to Dr. Dennis Power the cost of completing the work will be \$3,800.

SBAS has something over \$900 in the Maxim Smith Memorial Fund. Minna has asked that the fund be donated to the Museum to aid in this project. We are delighted to comply with her wishes, and I'm sure you'll agree this is a fine use for the fund when you see the tremendous improvements that are being made.

There will be a small plaque at the entrance to the Bird Hall stating that SBAS made the donation in Maxim's memory. The donation will be made at the end of this year.

As this is the last bulletin for 1977 I would like to wish you all a happy holiday season and good birding, especially on Christmas Count Day, December 31.

Joy Parkinson

# FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Storke Rd. tamarisks and Devereux Slough, October 2 - Seventy species of birds were seen, this number due to fall migration which was in "full swing." Notable sightings included an immature Roseate Spoonbill and an American Golden Plover, both of which had been present for some time by this date. This has been an unusually good fall for hawks migrating on the coast, evidenced this day by at least 2 Prairie Falcons, a Marsh Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. Following the morning's outing some of the participants went to Pershing Park in Santa Barbara and saw the ultra-rare (in California) Wormeating Warbler which stayed there 4 days. All in all, a nice fall morning for 20 members and friends.

Goleta Slough, October 15 - Despite a heavy fog, or perhaps because of it, birding was excellent on Goleta Beach and the sandspit. Gulls and terns by the hundreds were present and we had time to examine them through telescopes. Hundreds of Brown Pelicans flew by in flocks of up to 100+ birds. We saw several Parasitic Jaegers chasing the gulls—the aerodynamics were impressive. An immature Glaucous—winged Gull was seen on the beach looking just like its picture in the field guide. Terns—Royal, Elegant, and Forster's—were seen in many stages of plumage.

Devereux Slough was not as productive, but a few early ducks, and many herons and egrets were seen. A total of 58 species were seen, 34 water-dependent, and 24 land birds.

Joy Parkinson

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# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

It's time once again to start thinking about Christmas Bird Count. There is room for everyone from expert to novice, hikers and drivers, recorders and feeder watchers, all day or half a day.

Last year in lousy weather we had 132 participants and spotted 191 species. Perhaps with more participants and better coverage we can reach 200 or break our record of 202 species. Perhaps we can even be first in the nation.

Be sure to come early to the December meeting to brush up on bird identification and mail your forms in early.

Team assignments will be given as soon as possible, but it's usually not possible until about a week before unless everybody signs up earlier than they did last year.

Sespe Count Chairman
Michael Goodwin 1235 Salsipuedes, SB 93103 963-1265

Santa Barbara Count Chairman
Cherie Bratt 6505 Camino Venturoso, Goleta 93017 967-7043

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SESPE COUNT - Dec. 19

NAME

ADDRESS

WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH

AREA PREFERRED

MAIL TO: Michael Goodwin, 1235 Salsipuedes St., Santa Barbara 93103

SANTA BARBARA COUNT - DEC. 31

NAME

ADDRESS

AREA PREFERRED

WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH

ALL DAY HALF DAY FEEDER COUNT

LEADER SPOTTER RECORDER

MAIL TO: Cherie Bratt, 6505 Camino Venturoso, Goleta 93017

# Garden Bird Walks

For the fourth year the Society is conducting public bird walks in the Botanic Garden-October through June. They occur on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, beginning at 9 a.m. in front of the Information Office. While designed primarily for visitors and newcomers, beginning birders are always welcome.

Sid Tarbox

# La Cumbre Plaza Fair Award

SBAS won the \$50 award for the best display in La Cumbre Plaza's Health and Charity Fair on September 24. Our booth was arranged by Virginia Smith, and staffed by Virginia and several volunteers.

<u>Christmas Note</u> - SBAS has a few prints of Guy Cohleach's Red-shafted Flicker, which were donated by Mr. Cohleach for fund-raising purposes. They will be available at the December 2 meeting, or contact Joy Parkinson at 967-9371 to reserve one now. At last report they were worth \$75 each, but are for sale by SBAS for \$50 each.

 $\overline{\text{Dial-a-Bird}}$  - SBAS's Dial-a-Bird phone is proving to be very popular, according to Cherie Bratt, whose voice you hear when you call. A 3-minute recorded message provides information on unusual sightings in the area. The number to dial is 964-8240.

Address Changes and El Tecolote Mailing Problems - send to Barbara Greene, 4512 Via Huerto, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, or call Barbara at 964-3075.

El Tecolote Deadline - The deadline for the January, 1978 issue is Friday, December 23, 1977. Send or bring your contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 1731 Robbins Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or call 682-4044. Please try to be on time, or call me if you need a little more time.

El Tecolote Santa Barbara Audubon Society P.O. Box 2067 Santa Barbara, California 93102 Non-Profit Organization
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