



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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MONTHLY MEETING - JANUARY 27, 1978

"WANDERING WITH WALDO"

Waldo Abbott, former Assistant Director of the Museum of Natural History, who retired last year after 38 years as "Mr. Museum," will narrate his movie of birding at the Salton Sea and in Texas.

Waldo was a founding director of SBAS, and led field trips and conducted classes for us for many years. His many friends will be delighted to have him join us, once again, for our January meeting. The meeting is at 8 p.m. on Friday, January 27, in the Fleischmann Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History.

January 15 Sunday El Capitan Beach - Meet at Thrifty Drug Store parking lot in the Five- Points Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. for carpooling. This is a good area for gulls and shorebirds. Bring a lunch and a spotting scope if possible.

Leader: Ron Smith, 687-3963

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

January 27 Friday Regular Monthly Meeting - "Wandering with Waldo" at 8 p.m., Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. See details above. Be sure to bring a cup for refreshments.

January 28 Saturday Tucker's Grove, Stow Park, Lake Los Carneros - Meet at Tucker's Grove at 8 a.m. for a short hike up the canyon, then proceed over to Stow Park and Lake Los Carneros.

Leader: Dean Bazzi, 967-5200

February 4 Saturday Harbor, Bird Refuge, Santa Barbara Cemetery - Meet at 8 a.m. at the Bird Refuge for a half day of birding along the Santa Barbara waterfront.

Leader: Bill Drew, 687-9948

February 12 Sunday Goleta Beach, UCSB Campus and Lagoon - Meet at 8 a.m. at Goleta Beach near the pier. Bird along the beach and estuary and then on to the campus.

Leader: Sid Tarbox, 687-2067

February 25	Saturday	<u>Dune Lakes</u>
March 4	Saturday	<u>Lake Cachuma</u>
March 11-12	Sat./Sun.	<u>Los Banos</u>
March 18	Saturday	<u>Figueroa Mountain</u>
April 2	Sunday	<u>Sycamore Canyon</u>
April 8	Saturday	<u>Botanic Gardens</u>
April 15	Saturday	<u>Lake Piru</u>
April 23	Sunday	<u>Channel Islands Boat Trip</u>

Leader :	to be announced
	to be announced
	to be announced
	Bill Gielow
	to be announced
	to be announced
	Jim Hodgson & Ron Smith
	to be announced

Calendar of Coming Events, continued

May 6	Saturday	<u>Refugio Canyon, Nojoqui Falls</u>	Leader: to be announced
May 13-14	Sat./Sun.	<u>Morongo Valley</u>	to be announced

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You will be pleased to learn that the Museum of Natural History has acquired sufficient funds to complete the Bird Hall. The amount originally needed for completion was \$3,800.

As I mentioned in the last El Tecolote, Minna Smith requested that the Maxim Smith Memorial Fund of \$1,000 be donated for this purpose. Your Board of Directors voted unanimously to donate an additional \$1,000 to the Museum, making a total gift of \$2,000.

In his letter of acknowledgement, Dr. Dennis Power, Museum director, wrote: "I am also pleased to announce that, as a result of an appeal to members (of the Museum), we have obtained an additional amount that insures completion of the Hall. Your donation, however, started the ball rolling so we are especially grateful. Please relay my best regards to your Board and the members of your fine organization."

We are happy to know that the birds will soon be back in their cases.

Next month we will have some important information about the Nature Conservancy's purchase of Santa Cruz Island and how you can help. I would have included it in this month's message, but I am just recovering from the 'flu, so ask you to be patient with me for a while. I think the purchase is an exciting proposition which deserves my full attention (and yours). Meanwhile, have a Happy New Year, and good birding in 1978.

Joy Parkinson

ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS CONSERVATION ACT

Congressman Lagomarsino is on the House Interior Committee, which will be "marking up" HR39, the "Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act," early in the year. Please call, write, or telegram Mr. Lagomarsino as soon as possible and let him know that you support the Subcommittee print of HR39, which is a compromise bill, but will still provide the necessary protection for the federal national interest lands in Alaska. Urge his support on this issue and ask him to vote against any further reduction of the acreage proposed for protection or other types of weakening amendments. We have the ability to strike a balance in Alaska and HR39 provides us with this chance! Write to Congressman Robert Lagomarsino, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Barbara Blake

AUDUBON INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY

The Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology will present its eighth annual spring program May 18-22. This institute will explore the delicate environment of the Sonoran Desert with four nights and five days of desert camping. A staff of six scientists and educators will guide the sixty participants in their study of the interrelationships of earth and life forms. Rancho Romero, 25 miles north of Tucson at the base of the Catalina Mountains, will furnish an ideal outdoor classroom and a picturesque campsite. All meals will be prepared by a catering service, but participants must furnish a tent or vehicle. The registration fee of \$145 includes all workshops, instruction, and thirteen meals. University credit is available for an additional fee. The institute is open to all adults over 18, and membership in the Audubon Society is not required. For a brochure and registration form write Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology, 1642 N. Westridge Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705. The institute is sponsored by the Tucson Audubon Society.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

The unofficial total number of species reported on the December 31 count is a rather incredible 213 or 214! The count was coordinated by Cherie Bratt, and included 135-140 participants, including 25 feeder counts. Some of the rarities found include Whistling Swans, Orchard Oriole, Roadrunners, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeak, numerous warblers, and Varied Thrushes. Next month's El Tecolote should contain a complete list.

Cherie Bratt

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Refugio Beach, Top of Refugio Canyon, and Storke Road Tamarisk Trees, October 23, 1977

A group of fifteen eager birders met Joy Parkinson and Minna Smith at 8 a.m. Sunday morning! We totalled 54 species, including the lovely Lark Sparrow. Notable was the Golden Eagle being chased by a Red-tailed Hawk at the top of the canyon. At the tamarisks all five species of warbler listed on our Dial-a Bird were viewed, including the Palm Warbler.

Minna E. Smith

La Purisima Mission and Vandenburg AFB, November 6, 1977

Upon arrival at the mission, the Santa Barbara people were surprised to find that John Bullock of Lompoc had decorated his van with a huge welcome sign to the SBAS. He provided donuts and very welcome hot coffee. Apparently Lompoc is a very friendly city. The group of 12 persons visited the varied habitats of Vandenburg AFB. In the freshwater marsh there were sightings of the Sora and American Bittern, with many species of ducks. The saltwater marsh revealed a beautiful Belted Kingfisher and numerous grebes. Raptors were varied and plentiful.

Russ Spowart

Morro Bay and Montana de Oro, November 19 and 20, 1977

A "baker's dozen" birders enjoyed 2 good days at Morro Bay and Montana de Oro. Except for windy mornings, we had excellent weather. Total species identified just exceeded 100, and included Peregrine Falcons hunting. The bay provided White Pelicans, a flock of at least 200 Black Brants, 4 species of grebes, as well as gulls, ducks, and egrets. Near the Museum was a Great Blue Heron rookery of at least 2 dozen nests. At high tides we saw Avocets, Northern Phalarope, and 14 species of sandpipers.

Along the ocean bluffs at Montana de Oro were scores of all 3 types of cormorants, as well as Black Oystercatchers, Black Turnstones, and a Wandering Tattler. A Sea Otter lying on his back being harassed by 2 hungry gulls provided a humorous touch. Since his efforts to lose his tormentors by submerging were not successful he had a very distracted meal.

Though we concentrated on water birds, we also saw Chestnut-backed Chickadees, numerous Marsh Hawks, and a White-tailed Kite.

Sid Tarbox

Carrizo Plain, December 3, 1977

The word for the Carrizo was DRY. We searched unsuccessfully for Sandhill Cranes. Soda Lake appeared to be completely dry; the only water we found was in the pond at California Valley. Hundreds of Horned Larks were seen there coming in to drink and bathe. If any of the 37 birders who was on this trip cannot now identify a Horned Lark they were not really looking.

In spite of the dryness 45 species were recorded, including a Roadrunner. Some saw a Ferruginous Hawk; and all saw the "Golden Eagle" which posed beautifully for 'scopes, then flew away displaying a dark red tail, leaving a red-faced leader to admit she had mis-identified a melanistic Red-tailed Hawk.

The bus was filled with happy chatter and laughter all day, which leads me to suggest that we should have more bus trips. Let's all take the bus and leave the driving to Hank Hamber, our wonderful driver who did an outstanding job for us, even providing storage space for telescopes where they could be left with tripods extended so that we could use them quickly, with no fumbling.

I hope everyone else on the trip had as much fun as I did!

Joy Parkinson

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAD A FIELD TRIP? We are desperately in need of leaders! Even if you think you could never lead a group you would probably be very good at it. Just fill out the form below and send it to Jim Hodgson, 579 Carlo Drive, Goleta, CA 93017, or call 967-3627. You'll be glad you did!

NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 AREA YOU WOULD PREFER TO LEAD A TRIP TO _____

'Anisq'oyo' and Vicinity Birdwatching Class

Over 340 species of birds have been seen within an area comprised of 'Anisq'oyo' (the Indian name for Isla Vista- UCSB mesa) and adjacent lands and waters out to about 2 miles- one of the richest areas for birds in the entire nation. A class on field identification and appreciation of these birds will be offered starting this month, and lasting for a full year so that all the species that occur during different parts of the year could be observed. The class will only be held if enough people are interested.

The class will be geared toward those with little or no birding experience, and will focus on field identification, and on when and where species occur, in what abundance, their life histories, ecology, behavior, and some special topics such as making birdcalls and creating home-yard habitats. The class will probably meet once a week and include field trips. If interested please contact the Isla Vista Community Council Ecosystem Management Group, 966-C Embarcadero del Mar, 968-8377, by January 12 if possible.

Martin Kellog

DIAL-A-BIRD

If you had called Dial-a-Bird on January 1st you would have heard the results of the Santa Barbara Christmas Count, and the location of some of the rarities reported on it. What will you miss if you don't call Dial-a-Bird today? To hear Cherie Bratt's 3-minute recording call Dial-a-Bird at 964-8240, anytime, night or day.

ADDRESS CHANGES OR EL TECOLOTE MAILING PROBLEMS

Send these to Barbara Greene, 4512 Via Huerto, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, or call Barbara at 964-3075.

EL TECOLOTE DEADLINE

The deadline for the February issue is Friday, January 20, 1978 (it's early because the February meeting is earlier than most months). Send or bring your contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 1731 Robbins Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or call 682-4044. All contributions (and all promptness) are greatly appreciated. Have a happy new year, and keep those cards and letters coming in!

El Tecolote
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