



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- May 13-14
Saturday/
Sunday Morongo Valley - Great desert and oasis birding: see Vermillion Flycatchers, possibly even a Long-eared Owl. Call the leaders if you plan to go.
Leaders: Jim Hodgson, 967-3627
Ron Smith, 687-3963
- May 18
Thursday Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural History. All members are invited to attend.
- May 20
Saturday Refugio Canyon - Good canyon/streamside habitat in the Santa Ynez Valley. Especially good for migrants including Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Bluebirds. Meet at Thrifty Drug Store parking lot in 5-Points Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. for carpooling. Bring lunch, water.
Leader to be announced. For information call Jim Hodgson, 967-3627
- May 21
Sunday Carrizo Plains - Join the Central California Audubon Council on a trip to get acquainted with this unique area. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the California Valley Motel in California Valley. To reach California Valley take Hwy. 33 north from Ojai to Rte. 166; turn right on 166 for 5 miles to Soda Lake Rd.; left on Soda Lake Rd. for 42 miles. Or take U.S. 101 north 52 miles (near Santa Maria) to Rte. 166 east; travel 57 miles to Soda Lake Rd., turn left on Soda Lake Rd., then 42 miles to California Valley. Allow about 4 hours driving time, about 150 miles total.
Leader: Eban McMillan. For more information call Mary Lou Hand, 682-4044
- June 3
Saturday Annual Meeting and Picnic - Tucker's Grove County Park, Cathedral Oaks and Turnpike Roads. We have reserved Area 1 from 4 - 8 p.m. Dinner will be at approximately 5:30 p.m. The cost of \$1.50 per person will include a large charcoal fire, salad, ranch-style beans, French bread, relishes, wine, cider, and coffee. Bring your own meat, dessert, and table service (cup, plate, silverware, napkin, and wineglass). The 1978-79 Board of Directors will be elected, and we will hold the drawing for the Cohleach print of the Red-shafted Flicker. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, May 31. Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., and mail to: Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017. Come join us for a good old-fashioned summertime picnic.
- June 24
Saturday Santa Cruz Island - SPECIAL Acre-Saver Trip - The Nature Conservancy has invited members of SBAS to visit Santa Cruz Island!!! The "Estrella" will depart from Channel Islands Sports Fishing, 3825 Pelican Way in Oxnard at 8 a.m. sharp, and return at 6 p.m. Landing at Prisoners' Harbor on Santa Cruz, we will have several hours to explore the central valley. The trip is limited to 48. MEMBERS ONLY, please. Sorry, no guests. Bring a sack lunch to be

Continued on Page Two...

Calendar of Coming Events, continued

Santa Cruz Island, continued - enjoyed at picnic tables set up at Stanton Ranch, beverage will be provided. Walk to the ranch is 3 miles from Prisoners' Harbor. Gear, and those not wishing to hike, will be carried by truck. Wear head covering, walking shoes, and ample layers of clothing to accomodate changes in weather.

The boat fare is \$15 per person. Please list names of all members of your party, make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., and mail to: Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your check.
Leader: Joy Parkinson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you, all you good people who have helped put SBAS "over the top" in our drive to raise funds for the Santa Cruz Island Preserve. With the \$2,000 matching fund pledged by the Board of Directors and your donations we have now raised about \$5,000 for the project. That represents about 69 acres. At its last meeting the Board voted to add sufficient funds to make it \$5,000, but that doesn't mean that we will not accept further donations. Every little bit helps, and time is getting short. We will keep the account open until the middle of June. So, if you have not yet contributed but intend to do so, you still have time.

Once again, my thanks to you all. You are a G-000-D group!

More on the Santa Cruz Island Project

The Friends of Santa Cruz Island will hold a Family Sports and Camping Equipment Sale on Sunday, May 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. on the grounds of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. All proceeds will be donated to the Nature Conservancy for the Santa Cruz Island project.

Here is a chance to acquire, or to dispose of, camping, picnic, or sports equipment and, at the same time, aid this worthy cause. If you have any serviceable items you would like to donate call Sue Higman at 687-0687, or Roger Funk at 968-8760. Anything useable from bird books and magazines to swim fins and volleyballs will be happily accepted.

If you are looking for some good used equipment, mark the date on your calendar and be there early for the best selection.

More Thanks

The time has come, once again, for me to thank the Board of Directors, committee chairpersons, and members who have worked to make the past year a successful one for SBAS.
Thank you --

- Jim Hodgson, Ron Smith, and all leaders for another year of great field trips.
- Jim Tannahill for the interesting programs we have enjoyed each month.
- Sid Tarbox and the Education and Exhibits Committee for giving slide talks to thousands of school schildre, leading walks and providing exhibits. The annual report of this, our most active committee, will be published in next month's bulletin.

And, in alphabetical order --

- Cherie Bratt for coordinating our best ever Christmas Bird Count, and for originating and handling our Dial-a-Bird Service; Leila Eisberg, Publicity; Dorothea Fox for staffing the exhibit table at meetings; Donnis Goodwin, librarian; Michael Goodwin, Sespe Area Christmas Bird Count; Barbara Greene, Membership (Barbara resigned from 3 years service in January and her place was taken by Joan Lentz. Thank you, too, Joan); Mary Lou Hand, Editor and Hospitality; Gerrie Human, Rare Bird Alert and American Birds (the RBA is now Dial-a-Bird, and Brad Schram has taken over American Birds for Gerrie who resigned in February. Thanks to both); Dorothy Martone, Bird Refuge; Minna Smith, Treasurer who keeps all our special funds and records straight; Virginia Smith, Secretary, Hospitality, and Exhibits; Tomi Sollen, Golden Trout Camp Coordinator.

And thanks to all of you who have contributed in so many ways, from writing letters to running errands, I cannot list you all, but I do thank you, most sincerely.

Joy Parkinson

Dick Smith Scholarship Winner

The announcement of this year's Dick Smith Scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West again brought to our attention some excellent applicants, all engaged in interpreting our natural environment to young people. The choice was not an easy one, but after a careful study of each candidate, the Scholarship Committee selected Mary A. Gosselin, Assistant Curator of Education at the Museum of Natural History. She will be attending the fourth session of the camp.

Mrs. Gosselin received her A.B. degree from UCSB in Environmental Studies, with a concentration in Biology. After one and one-half years as a volunteer with the Education Department of the Museum, she became a full-time staff member in 1976. As such, she holds classes for children in such varied subjects as conservation, ecology, plants, bird and animal life, fire ecology, and the Chumash Indian life. She was largely responsible for the development of the Museum's nature trail and is presently completing a revision to the Guide to the Museum.

We know that she will find her two weeks at Trail Lake Ranch challenging and profitable and that she will share its benefits with her fellow staff members and the hundreds of students who yearly participate in Education Department activities. We wish her good camping.

Sidney E. Tarbox, Chairman Scholarship Committee

Field Trip Reports

Dunes Lakes, February 25th

On February 25th, 18 enjoyed a beautiful aunny warm day at Dunes Lakes. The ducks, mainly Canvasbacks, Mallards, Lesser Scaups, and Shovelers were not as numerous as I recalled on previous trips even though the lakes were filled with water.

The excessive water even flooded some of the paths. A bit of squishing through the mud aroused a Virginia Rail and a few American Bitterns. The Marsh Wrens were busy scolding us, enabling all of us excellent views. Allen's Hummingbirds greeted us at the edge of the grassy area in the morning and during our lunch break. In all, 60 species were sighted plus rabbits, squirrels, and a racoon.

I also noted the sand dunes are continuing to enroach on the lakes area as a result of the overuse and overrun of the Dunes Lakes property by off-road vehicles, especially dune buggies.

Tomi Sollen

Big Sycamore Canyon, April 2

Only 9 birders showed up to enjoy this trip. Birding started out poorly, but by the time we got to the stream ford, about a mile up, we found 21 species, illustrating that birds, like gold, are where you find them. Not being up to stream fording, we turned back, drove our cars to La Jolla Canyon, ate lunch, then walked to the falls, finding 5 additional species. Young Wade Graham was a big help in identifying the birds.

The numerous campers and hikers we encountered en route were enjoying a beautiful day. Where were the rest of you?

Frank and Jean Noel

Peregrine Falcon Raffle

To raise funds for the University of California at Santa Cruz's captive breeding project for the endangered Peregrine Falcon, we are raffling off a 16x20 inch print of Guy Cohleach's Red-Shafted Flicker. The print, valued at \$75, will be given away at our annual picnic on June 3rd, and you need not be present to win. Each chance is \$2. Make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., and send to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017. Contributions are tax-deductible. Use the handy form below to send your check.

NAME _____	PHONE # _____
NUMBER OF CHANCES @ \$2 PER CHANCE _____	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Golden Trout Camp

Golden Trout Camp is a "semi-primitive" backpack camp at 10,000 feet in the southern Sierra near Mount Whitney. The fragility and comparative simplicity of alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems allows a readily understood, leisurely, informally structured program, including daily hikes and evening campfire sessions. The cost for each session is \$90 per adult, and \$70 for children 11 and under. The session dates are: Sunday, July 16- Saturday July 22; Sunday July 23- Saturday, July 29; and Sunday July 30- Saturday, August 5. For more information, contact Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, CA 93103, 966-4836.

Needed: Beached Bird Censusers

This June will mark the completion of the seventh year of Point Reyes Bird Observatory's beached bird program. During this time, the project has grown to include over 60 beaches in California from the Mexican to the Oregon borders. Many interesting and important discoveries have been made regarding annual mortality patterns of the birds off the California coast and the role that spilled oil plays in these patterns. Bird watchers who have one free day a month, and would be interested in censusing a beach near their home for bird carcasses are urged to send their address and phone number to Lynne Stenzel, Beached Bird Project, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970. Janet Hamber has covered Arroyo Burro Beach for 3 years, but is unable to continue after June 15th. She will help you learn census techniques.

DIAL-A-BIRD - For up to the minute news of rare and unusual birds in the Santa Barbara area, call 964-8240 anytime, night or day. You will hear a 3-minute recording narrated by Cherie Bratt giving all the latest information.

ADDRESS CHANGES and El Tecolote mailing problems should be addressed to Joan Lentz, 433 Pimiento Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93108, 969-4397.

EL TECOLOTE DEADLINE - The deadline for the June issue is Friday, May 26, 1978. Send or bring your contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 1731 Robbins Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or call 682-4044.

El Tecolote
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