



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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MONTHLY MEETING - OCTOBER 27, 1978

"THE SEARCH FOR GAMBEL'S SPARROW DIALECTS"

Dr. Barbara B. De Wolfe, recently retired professor of Zoology at the University of California at Santa Barbara, will present a slide lecture "The Search for Gambel's Sparrow Dialects." Dr. De Wolfe has presented papers on her research specialty, annual cycles in migrating birds, at Zoological Congresses in Paris, Copenhagen, and London. In the 1930's she spent three months in an Eskimo fur trading post in the lower Yukon studying sparrows. The evening's presentation will be concerned with the dialects in Alaska and the Yukon territories. She is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Union and has served on the Board of Governors, Cooper Ornithological Society. A most interesting evening!

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- October 15
Sunday Bird Refuge and Harbor - Meet at the Bird Refuge at 8:30 a.m. Lunch is optional; spotting scopes are helpful.
Leader: Virginia Puddicombe, 969-1702
- October 21
Saturday Hope Ranch and Beach - Meet at Thrifty parking lot at 5-Points Shopping Center at 8:30 a.m. for car-pooling (driver donation 50¢). See shore birds, migrants, residents, and whatever is here! Permission granted to bird Hope Ranch Beach. Bring lunch and spotting scopes.
Leader: Bill Gielow, 687-3466 (evenings)
- October 22
Sunday More Mesa and Atascadero Creek - Meet at Museum of Natural History at 7 a.m. for car-pooling (driver donation 50¢) or meet at bridge at end of Patterson Avenue to explore the wonders of the fall season.
Leader: Lewis Bevier
For information: Minna Smith, 966-7971
(before 8 a.m., or between 5-7 p.m.)
- October 28
Saturday Devereux Slough - Meet at Natural History Museum at 8 a.m. for car-pooling (driver donation 75¢) or meet at kiosk at Storke Road entrance. See shore birds and returning ducks. Spotting scopes welcome. An easy, flat bird walk.
Leader: Bill Greaves
Co-leader: Dean Bazzi, 967-5200
- October 29
Sunday Hollister Ranch - A priveleged trip, limited to the first 25 Audubon members in a maximum of 6 vehicles. Meet at Thrifty parking lot at 5-Points Shopping Center for car-pooling (driver donation \$1.50). Must call for advance reservations: call Minna Smith, 966-7971. Bring lunch. N.B. If unable to attend after making reservation, please call to cancel and accommodate waiting list.
Leader: Brooks Allen

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS, continued

- November 4 Bird Refuge, Harbor, and Santa Barbara Cemetary - Meet at the Bird Refuge at
Saturday 8:30 a.m. or meet at Museum of Natural History at 8 a.m. for car-pooling (driver donation 50¢). Lunch optional, spotting scopes useful.
Leaders: Bill & June Gardner
For information: Gerrie Human, 969-4015 (evenings)
- November 5 Refugio Beach and Canyon - Meet at Thrifty parking lot at 5-Points Shopping
Sunday Center at 8:15 a.m. (driver donation \$1.50) or at Two Guys Department Store parking lot at Hollister Ave. and Glen Annie Rd. at 8:30 a.m. (driver donation 75¢) for car-pooling. Or meet at the entrance to the State Park at 9 a.m. Bring lunch and spotting scope.
Leader: Joy Parkinson
For information: Minna Smith, 966-7971

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Condor has been much in the news recently. The Los Angeles Zoo's Condor exhibit opened, featuring eleven year old Topa-Topa, and causing a surge of publicity complete with the now-familiar depressing total population estimate. The last issue of Audubon has an article detailing an American Ornithological Union panel's recommendations for a Condor captive breeding program. You should read this and consider it, if you have not yet done so, as this promises to be an issue fraught with controversy.

The U.S. Forest Service is presently busy analyzing the results of the RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, Phase II) 90-day public comments forum. Our hopes that concerned organizations and individuals have done a good job of making their concerns known regarding the future of unspoiled natural areas. The Board of Directors of SBAS passed a resolution favoring declaration of the Madulce-Buckhorn roadless area as the Dick Smith Wilderness Area, and a resolution placing us on record favoring the maintenance of the South Fork Kern River watershed as a roadless area. We have written forest supervisors and the California region RARE II Coordinator regarding other roadless areas with which we are acquainted. We will be watching the Forest Service's responses closely.

It is time to start thinking about the Santa Barbara Christmas Bird Count. We have a great deal to live up to, having been first in the nation last year, and perennially in the top five. Early responses to Cherie Bratt are sought eagerly, as this makes her incredible organization task easier. With Cherie in mind, please call her (967-7043) with information from your birding in the field, as the Dial-A-Bird tape depends on your participation.

Good birding.

Brad Schram

From the 1978 Recipient of the SBAS Scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West

"This summer, with your help, I was able to attend the Audubon Camp in Wyoming, which consisted of an intensive ecology workshop.

"The Camp was very well organized, and the instructors well-qualified, having experience, expertise, and exceptional teaching abilities, all of which combine to give the student a clear, accurate view of the concepts being related. The Camp also provided me with a unique opportunity to interact with other professionals in my own field of work. The exchange of ideas and the sharing of experiences was invaluable.

"I hope to teach a U.C. Extension class in teaching strategies in environmental education. It seems that the most efficient way to promote environmental education is through instructors in the everyday classroom situation.

"I appreciate, so much, your sending me to the Camp. My experience there has somewhat changed my perspective of life and has influenced the direction I will take in my own career. I will do my best to share my new-found knowledge with the community."

Mary Gosselin, Assistant Curator,
Education, S.B. Museum of Natural History

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY AIR QUALITY ATTAINMENT PLAN

More compact land development and yearly inspection of auto smog devices are only two of the strategies being proposed in the Santa Barbara County Air Quality Attainment Plan, Santa Barbara's response to the Clean Air Amendments of 1977. Hearing dates on the Plan have been moved ahead to give the public adequate time in which to review and respond to these and the other strategies being proposed. The public hearing schedule is as follows:

In Santa Barbara --	Wednesday, October 25	Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
	& Wednesday, November 8	County Administration Building
		4th Floor, 105 E. Anapamu St.
In Lompoc	-- Thursday, October 26	Lompoc Veteran's Memorial Bldg. Dining Room
	& Thursday, November 9	104 East Locust ('H' and Locust)
		Lompoc, CA
In Santa Maria	-- Friday, October 27	Health Services Facility Multipurpose Room
	& Friday, November 10	500 West Foster Road
		Santa Maria, CA

For additional information call 965-7040 or 966-1611, ext. 377.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Botanic Garden, September 9

On our Botanic Garden walk 22 people observed 24 species and visa versa. However, in view of the early date this was not a bad showing for either birds or birders. In addition to the usual Garden residents we saw Phainopepla, a Hairy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Lesser Goldfinches feasting on thistle seeds, and Wilson's Warblers bathing in the creek. In all, a pleasant walk in a charming habitat on a fine September morning.

Sid Tarbox

Sandyland Slough, August 19

Saturday began with thick fog and poor visibility. Twenty-three participants watched the birds come in as the sun gradually emerged. Flocks of Willets, many Elegant Terns, Western Sandpipers, Dowitchers, at least a dozen Great Blue Herons, and three Green Herons were among the 38 species viewed. Thank you, Ann Terry. A good beginning to the season!

Minna E. Smith

San Miguel Pelagic Trip, September 16

Our cruise to San Miguel Island waters was greeted by relatively calm seas; this combined with overcast skies produced a comfortable voyage. Birding was quite good, the mid-channel producing Storm Petrels in abundance about whose identification we could argue. Three species of Storm Petrel were seen with regularity: Black, Ashy, and Least. The Least Storm Petrels are in an invasion year off the Southern California Coast, those seen on the trip (approximately 100) being the first observed in Santa Barbara County waters, to my knowledge, although reports to the north of us in years past suggest that they have been here occasionally.

Four Craveri's Murrelets off San Miguel were bonuses as they are very rare this far north. A lone Manx Shearwater on the return trip was unexpected at this early date. Most exciting of all, perhaps, were two striking encounters with non-birds. A herd of Dall's Porpoise playing off the bow, and a herd of rarer Risso's Dolphin lazing apparently unconcerned beside the boat were highlights of the trip, delighting us all.

Brad Schram

Botanic Garden Annual Plant Sale

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden announces its annual plant sale will be held on Saturday, October 21, 1978.

Drought tolerant, hard-to-find California native plants will be featured; but a limited selection of bulbs, succulents, container plants, and material suitable for bonsai culture will also be available. The sale is open to Garden members only from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; the general public is invited from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

From the Librarian's Corner

Consider consulting with me about your upcoming fall jaunts and serious trip planning. I can direct you to field information that we have in our files, books in our library, and give you an idea of what is available for purchase from the Los Angeles chapter that has a healthy collection of international bird guides in the Audubon House there. We also do always appreciate your adding to our field files: MAPS, GUIDES, AND FIELD LISTS & NOTES you collect. Others can use these in their trip planning. We encourage your participation. Far from being complete, these materials are new and growing...your CONTRIBUTIONS ARE EAGERLY SOUGHT! But to whet your imagination...remember that we have Birding in Sweden, Birds of Tikal (a rather rare publication in English of the exotics in the Mayan jungle ruins deep in Guatemala), and even a pamphlet entitled Birding Locations in and around Los Angeles... with special articles about the South Coast Botanic Gardens, Little Rock Dam, and introduced birds of L.A. Do check out our new library cart full of books and resource materials.

Donnis Goodwin

THANK YOU

At the June 3 picnic at Tucker's Grove, the Board of Directors presented me with a male Zebra Finch whom I immediately named John J. Audubon. I introduced John J. to my aviary of 1 male and 5 female Zebra Finches. I am pleased to announce that he selected a mate, built a nest, shared the incubating, and is now the proud papa of two fine youngsters. He is also busy building another nest. I don't know yet if I am a grandma or grandpa, as both kids look exactly alike at this stage. Incidentally, the original male (Alexander W.), whom I had from the beginning hasn't yet figured out the combination. I hope he will learn from John J. Thank you all.

Joy Parkinson

DIAL-A-BIRD - For current 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 - Send address changes to Joan Lentz, 433 Pimiento Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93108, or call Joan at 969-4397. Let her know also if you are having problems receiving El Tecolote.

El Tecolote Deadline - The deadline for the November-December issue is Friday, November 3, 1978. Send or bring your contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 1731 Robbins Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or call 682-4044.

El Tecolote
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
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