



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

November-December, 1978
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MONTHLY MEETING - DECEMBER 1, 1978

MEMBERS' SLIDES NIGHT

As you know this is one of our most popular evenings, so collect your slides of birds, animals, or whatever. The past meetings have proved so popular we must limit the slides to 10 per person. If you would care to share your favorite ones call Jim Tannahill at 969-5193. The meeting is at 8 p.m., Friday, December 1, 1978, in the Fleischmann Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

November 15
Wednesday

El Capitan - Meet at the gate to the park at 8 a.m., or at the Museum of Natural History for car-pooling at 7:20 a.m. Free admission to the park. Driver donation \$1.50. Bring lunch and warm clothing for the morning. For carpool information call Minna Smith, 966-7971.

Leader: David Vincent

November 18
Saturday

Rattlesnake Canyon - Moderate hike up the canyon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Museum of Natural History for sign-up. Bring lunch and water.

Leader: Tomi Sollen

November 19
Sunday

Point Mugu - Ron Dow, staff naturalist, will lead us on fabulous lagoons, seashore, and golf course duck ponds. Admittance by reservation only for current members - limit 25. Preference given to those who have not been to Mugu previously. Pack lunch, wear warm clothing, scopes useful. NO CAMERAS. Car-pool at All Saints by the Sea Church parking lot (San Ysidro Rd. exit off U.S. 101) on Eucalyptus Lane at 7:15 a.m. Driver donation \$2.50. Or meet at Gate 2 Visitors Entrance at Point Mugu at 8:30 a.m. Reserve immediately.

Leaders: June and Bill Gardner, 682-4802

December 9 & 10
Saturday &

Carrizo Plains - Special Deluxe Overnight - Limited to 35 people. Wintering ground of the Sandhill Cranes; excellent area for hawks, eagles, Mountain Plovers, etc. Over 120 species of birds have been seen on various trips; also coyote, bobcat, and badger. We have chartered a comfortable bus with reclining seats and restroom, and have reserved rooms at California Valley Lodge. Our driver will be member Hank Hamber, who will provide a place on the bus for scopes to be stored with tripods extended for immediate use.

The bus will leave from the Museum of Natural History at 8 a.m. SHARP, and the shopping center on Highway 33 in Ojai at 9 a.m., Saturday. We will bird our way along Soda Lake Road, arriving at the Lodge at approximately 4 p.m. There will be free time for birding and socializing.

Calendar of Coming Events, continued

Dinner will be served at the Lodge. On Sunday, breakfast will be provided and we will explore the upper end of Soda Lake before heading home.

The cost of the entire package--bus fare, room, dinner, and breakfast-- is ONLY \$29.00 perperson (tips excluded). Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. and mail promptly to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017. Phone: 967-9371. INclude a stamped, self-addressed envelope or postcard for confirmation of your reservation.

Bring lunch and beverage for two days. Also warm clothing (mornings get nippy in December).

NOTE: The Lodge is being opened especially for us. The price quoted by the owner is for double or triple occupancy of rooms, and two meals. We cannot make substitutions or special arrangements. There may be a couple of single rooms available, depending on how many people sign up, but we cannot guarantee this.

Leaders: Joy Parkinson & Jan Hamber

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Santa Barbara Audubon hosted the October 14 Central California Coordinating Council meeting at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Present at the meeting were representatives of Monterey, Morro Coast, North Cuesta, Kern, Tulare, and Fresno Audubon Societies, Audubon's Western Regional Office, Audubon's Condor Naturalist (John Borneman), The Nature Conservancy, and the U.C. Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Group. The morning was spent in discussion of local conservation efforts by each group, and in hearing the reports of the Western Regional Office and Condor Naturalist.

Dan Taylor of Western Regional gave us the unhappy news of the loss of the Alaska bill for the past session of Congress. The loss was due in large part to the unyielding position of Alaska's Senator Gravel who walked out of a conference, threatening to filibuster if the bill - preserving much of the central wilderness area of Alaska - was brought before the Senate for debate and vote. The critical battle to preserve Alaska's irreplaceable wilderness must therefore be fought again next year.

In the afternoon session Dr. Charles Woodhouse of the S.B. Museum of Natural History presented an informative discussion of the ecology of the Santa Barbara Channel. Barbara Hopper of the Nature Conservancy brought us up to date on the Desert Tortoise Preserve, and Brian Walker of U.C. Santa Cruz told us of encouraging progress being made in assisting the fledging of wild Peregrine Falcons in California.

The meeting reminded us that Santa Barbara Audubon is located alongside an incredibly complex and valuable natural resource, the Santa Barbara Channel and its islands. The variety and mass of life in this system is most impressive, and its beauty and value (recreational, ecological, and economic) is incalculable. We in SBAS must not assume that it will continue forever as it now exists, but rather must remain alert to opportunities whereby we may assist in assuring the preservation of this fragile ecosystem.

You may be interested in planning to attend either or both of two upcoming Audubon conventions. A California convention will be held in Sacramento, January 26-28. The National Audubon Society's biennial National Convention will be held in Colorado June 25-July 1. Both of these conventions are open to all interested Audubon members. Further details will be forthcoming in El Tecolote.

The Santa Barbara region was the center of California birding attention in October. Our list of rare vagrants was headed by the 2nd state record of Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and the 3rd of White Wagtail. The birds were within one quarter mile of each other at Devereux - the Arctic Circle met Mexico in Goleta. Other rarities included: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, the eastern race of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Vermillion Flycatcher, Red-throated Pipit, Magnolia, Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Canada Warblers, and the first county record of the Great-tailed Grackle. The forgoing is just a partial listing. I hope you have been able to get out, fall migration has been exciting - as always.

Our next meeting, Member Slides Night, December 1, is always great fun. I hope you will contribute to it and especially that you will attend.

Good birding, Brad Schram

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

SESPE COUNT - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1978

SANTA BARBARA COUNT - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1978

Last year - 214 species - Number 1 in the nation

This year - who knows? But let's give it a good try!

Cherie Bratt will be handling the paper work for both counts with Katherine Fairbanks as co-chairman of the Sespe Count and Rose O'Brien as chairman for feeder counts. Our goal this year is to have at least 50 feeder counts.

Area assignments will not be made until one week prior to the count. Please register early!

Mail to Cherie Bratt, 6505 Camino Venturoso, Goleta, CA 93017

SESPE COUNT - DECEMBER 19

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH _____

AREA PREFERRED _____

Mail to Cherie Bratt, 6505 Camino Venturoso, Goleta, CA 93017

SANTA BARBARA COUNT - DECEMBER 30

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH _____

AREA PREFERRED _____

ALL DAY HALF DAY FEEDER COUNT LEADER SPOTTER RECORDER

Mail to Rose O'Brien, 422 Caseta Way, Goleta, CA 93017

FEEDER COUNT

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS FROM THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

There is a large selection of gifts for the Christmas season available at the Museum. Choose from nature calendars, field guides, bird song recordings, fossil kits, books on American Indians, nature, handcrafts, flora, and fauna. For the collector: a limited edition of 100 personally silkscreened, signed and numbered prints of Painted Cave by Douglas Mazonowicz. Also consider the gift of a membership in the Museum for a family or individual on your list. From Museum Hands, a volunteer group of handcrafters, are nature printings on notepaper, gift tags, wrapping paper, and cards; also needlepoint kits with handpainted designs adapted from Chumash rock paintings. On December 1-3, during Museum hours, choose from fine quality crafts of Southwestern American Indians.

NEW SBAS BOARD MEMBERS

At the October 12 Board of Directors meeting Wendy Bevier and John Bullock, who is from Lompoc, were nominated to fill the vacancies on the Board created by Bill Drew and Ron Smith's resignations. They are both concerned individuals who will make excellent additions to an already fine Board.

SANDY WILBUR'S THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR 1966-1976, A LOOK AT ITS PAST AND FUTURE, North American Fauna Series, No. 72 is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$2.50. It may also be purchased at the Museum of Natural History Museum Shop.

INTERESTED IN BLUEBIRDS? The North American Bluebird Society is helping to restore these thrushes where they have been depleted by pesticides. Contributions and requests for membership information can be had by writing them at: Box 6295, Silver Spring, MD 20906.

TURKEY VULTURE INFORMATION SOUGHT - Jan Hamber of the Museum of Natural History is doing research on the Turkey Vulture and would like to receive reports of sightings, roosting sites, and nesting sites. Please report the date of sighting, number of birds seen, whether they are mature or immature (if known), time of day, where sighted, duration of sighting, direction of arrival and departure, and your name to Jan Hamber, Vertebrate Zoology Lab, Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara, 93105, or phone the lab at 687-4065. Your help will be appreciated.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND EL TECOLOTE MAILING PROBLEMS - Send to Joan Lentz, 433 Pimiento Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93108, or call 969-4397.

EL TECOLOTE DEADLINE - The deadline for the January issue is Friday, December 22, 1978. Please send or bring your contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 1731 Robbins Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or call 682-4044.

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Santa Barbara Audubon Society
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