



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Brad Schram, President	Mary Lou Hand, Editor
460 Amherst Drive	1731 Robbins Street
Goleta, CA 93017	Santa Barbara, CA 93101
964-9534	682-4044

MONTHLY MEETING - JANUARY 26, 1979

"MONO LAKE AND ITS BIRDLIFE: AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE"

We are most fortunate to have, for our initial program in 1979, Mr. David Gaines, who will present "Mono Lake and its Birdlife: an Uncertain Future." He will guide us on a slide illustrated journey to this beautiful region and bring us up to date on the threats to the future of this irreplaceable scenic and wildlife resource. David Gaines is the author of a number of natural history articles including the fine book, The Birds of the Yosemite Sierra. Be sure to attend this special program. The meeting is in the Fleischmann Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History, and begins at 8 p.m.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

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| January 11
Thursday | <u>Board of Directors' Meeting</u> - 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural History. All members are welcome to attend. |
| January 22
Monday | <u>Mid-week Bird Walk</u> - Call Joan Lentz for meeting place. Begins at 8:30 a.m.
Leaders: Joan Lentz, 969-4397, and Jean O'Kuye |
| January 20
Saturday | <u>Sandyland Slough</u> - Assemble at 8 a.m. at Santa Claus Lane for group admission. Bring scopes for better views of shore birds.
Leader: Ann Terry |
| January 26
Friday | <u>Regular Monthly Meeting</u> - 8 p.m. in Fleischmann Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History. Bring a cup for refreshments. |
| January 26-28
Friday-Sunday | <u>Statewide Audubon Meeting</u> - The theme is "Audubon: Opportunity for Action." The meeting will be in Sacramento, at the Senator Hotel. Call Minna Smith at 966-7971 for details. |
| February 7
Wednesday | <u>El Capitan</u> - Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Kiosk at El Capitan Beach Park. Bring lunch and spotting scopes.
Leader: Dave Vincent |
| February 10
Saturday | <u>Lake Los Carneros</u> - Meet at La Patera entrance to the lake at 8 a.m. For information call Cherie Bratt at 967-7043.
Leaders: Dean Bazzi and Dave Vincent |
| February 11
Sunday | <u>Bird Refuge</u> - Meet at the Refuge parking lot at 8 a.m. for Sunday walk.
Leader: Minna Smith, 966-7971 |
| February 17
Saturday | <u>Tucker's Grove</u> - Meet at 8 a.m. in the Tucker's Grove parking lot (at Patterson Ave. and Cathedral Oaks).
Leader: Jim Hodgson, 967-3627 |

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS, Continued

February 24-25 Morro Bay and Montana D'Oro - Weekend trip. You may either camp at the
Saturday- State Park or stay in a motel. Call the leader for details.
Sunday Leader: Sid Tarbox, 687-2067

Tentative Trips Planned

March 4 Dune Lakes - leader Joe Gartland
A weekend trip to Los Banos - Call the leader, Jim Hodgson, 967-3627, if interested
March 18 Lake Cachuma - leader to be announced
A weekend trip in March to Catalina Island. Leave from Long Beach. The fare is \$12.00 per
person, round trip. Weekend at Guided Tours at Banning House, dorm style,
in Avalon, \$25.00 for room and board (5 meals). If interested call Minna
Smith, 966-7971, for reservation and further details.
April 1 Hibbitts Ranch in Lompoc - leader John Bullock
April 7-8 Figueroa Mountain - leader Bill Gielow
April 21 Refugio via Solvang - leader Joy Parkinson
May 5 McGrath State Park - leaders Linda O'Neill and Ruth Parker
May 12 Goleta Point - leader Brad Schram (time is 2-5 p.m.)
June 2 Santa Barbara Audubon Picnic at Stow Grove Park

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this the 1978 Christmas Count will be history. One suspects that we will not have the number of wintering insectivores (warblers, flycatchers) of recent years due to the number of nights at or below freezing this month (December). It will be interesting to see if the count bears this out. The annual Christmas Count is an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of birding, the beauty of the field, and the glorious objects of the quest within a larger framework of national censusing and analysis. Beauty, sport, companionship, and science meet each year at this time - I hope you have been able to take part, and that your experience has been memorable.

A statewide Audubon mini-convention is being held in Sacramento January 26-28. We will, of course, have representatives in attendance. A report of the proceedings will be printed in February's El Tecolote.

The December's Board of Directors' meeting produced the following items concerning which you will be interested:

- A new stationery for SBAS is in print, utilizing a picture of Spotted Owls taken by our friend the late Dick Smith.
- SBAS will have an exhibit at the 1969 Oil Spill commemoration, January 28-29, sponsored by GOO and the Community Environmental Council.
- SBAS donated \$100 to San Diego Audubon's Silverwood Sanctuary Fund.
- We will once again provide a scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West. A committee is at work selecting this year's recipient.
- The annual SBAS picnic will be held in Stow Grove on June 2. Details will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

Mary Lou Hand is resigning as editor of El Tecolote after 3½ years of diligent work at this critical task. A replacement is sorely needed. Those interested in the editorship should contact me at 964-9534 for further information.

In the coming year we can look forward to the development of the Nature Conservancy's stewardship of Santa Cruz Island - possibly including a Bald Eagle restoration program. Also on the horizon in 1979 will be further discussion concerning the desperate status of the California Condor.

For 1979 one wishes, of course, for peace. One also hopes for an expanding public awareness of that which is at stake in the seemingly interminable environmental issues assailing us in the media. Our children and their grandchildren will be the beneficiaries or victims of our actions. Let us resolve again to move responsibly, with such wisdom as we can muster, to preserve that which is irreplaceable.

Good birding...
Brad Schram

Owls of the West Symposium

The third annual symposium to be presented by the National Audubon Society's Western Education Center will be entitled "Owls of the West; their Ecology and Conservation." This year's day-long program will be held in the Morrison Auditorium of the California Academy of Science in San Francisco on Saturday, January 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Included in the program will be presentations on the Spotted Owl's distribution along the Pacific Coast, owls of the riparian forest communities of the southwest, Barred Owls in the Columbia River Basin, and the status of the Great Gray Owl in California's Sierra Nevada. Much discussion will center on the special problems, particularly habitat loss, that concern the future of these unique animals.

Admission is by advance registration only. For tickets mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope and your check, payable to National Audubon Society, for \$3.50 per person, to OWLS, Western Education Center, National Audubon Society, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, California 94920.

Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology

The ninth annual Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology will be held May 3-6, 1979 at the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum west of Superior, Arizona. The Institute involves 60 participants in field studies of the Sonoran Desert. Under the leadership of 6 professional staff members, participants explore and study the interrelationships of earth and life forms. The Arboretum is located at the base of Picket Post Mountain, and situated along intermittent Queen Creek, which allows for ideal desert and riparian study. All meals during the Institute are catered, and participants have a choice of dormitory-style sleeping accommodations or camping facilities. Registration is \$150 for campers, \$160 for dormitory residents. University credit (graduate or undergraduate) is available for an additional fee. The Institute is available to all adults over 18. You need not be an Audubon member. For registration or brochure, write Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology, 1642 N. Westridge Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705.

Field Trip Reports

Big Sycamore Canyon, September 30

A pleasant morning greeted about 10 birders at Sycamore Canyon. Most of us saw a Brewer's Sparrow, an adult Merlin, as well as an incredible display of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks and Kestrels all diving at one another at the tops of the rolling hills above our heads. As we were leaving several of us stayed out at Mugu Rock to witness a feeding display of Brown Pelicans, all the local cormorants (Brandt's, Double-crested, and Pelagic), and both Jaegers (Parasitic and Pomeraine), as well as numerous other species.

Joe Gartland

McGrath State Park, October 14

The park was closed due to road surfacing, so 14 birders birded in the Santa Clara River bottom, along the west bank, and later the sanitation ponds. At least 54 species were sighted. Many Long-billed Marsh Wrens scolded us at close range from the cattails around the ponds. Among a flock of American Wigeon were 2 with very yellow crowns instead of white. The heads, however, lacked the ruffous of the European Wigeon. Could they be half breeds? A Common Gallinule and a Soara Rail ended the day's search as the fog began to move in. 'Twas indeed a satisfying bird walk.

Ruth Parker

Bird Refuge and Harbor, October 15

Early morning fog kept the attendance to 10 birders on this trip. Forty species were sighted, but the lack of wild ducks is discouraging. It's great to have the Snowy and Great Egrets returning and find so many Black-crowned Night Herons around the Refuge.

Virginia Puddicombe

Point Mugu, November 19

On a crisp, sunny day 19 members of SBAS met Mr. Ron Dow, Ecology assistant at the Pacific Missile Test Center at Pt. Mugu for a day of birding. We saw no unusual species, but had excellent viewing of the many individuals in each of the 76 species tallied. 6 Cattle Egrets and 5 varieties of hawks were the highlights for many.

Bill & June Gardner

FLASH! EARLY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS IN! NIGHT 2024

Preliminary results are in and Santa Barbara again seems to be at or near the top! We tallied 213 species, plus or minus a couple. These included among many other unusual species Swamp Sparrow, Prothonotary Warbler, Manx Shearwater, Black-headed Gull, and Vesper Sparrow.

Maxim Smith Needlepoint Rug Exhibit

There will be an exhibit of the needlepoint rugs of Maxim Smith at the Gallery at the Museum of Natural History from February 14-28. All friends of Maxim and Minna Smith are welcome to the opening reception in the Habitat Room - February 14, 1979, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Color-banded Snowy Plovers

During the breeding season at Mono Lake and Monterey Bay several hundred Snowy Plovers were color-banded. Birds were marked with aluminum bands wrapped with colored tape. Each bird has 1 or 2 color bands on either the upper or lower leg and each band has 2 colors. The number and position of the band(s) on the leg and the position of the colors on each band identify the banding location, the bird's age, and its specific identity.

Please report all sightings to Gary W. Page, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970. Please specify which colors are on the top and bottom of each band, on which leg a pair of colors occurs, and the date and location of sighting.

DIAL-A-BIRD - For current news of rare and unusual birds in the Santa Barbara area call 964-8240 any time, 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. Let Joan know, also, if you are having problems receiving El Tecolote.

El Tecolote Deadline - The deadline for the February issue is Friday, January 26, 1979. You will receive your copy during the week of February 12-16. Send or bring all contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 1731 Robbins Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or call 682-4044.

El Tecolote
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2067
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

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