



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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MONTHLY MEETING—MARCH 23, 1979

"SANTA CRUZ PREDATORY BIRD RESEARCH GROUP: CAPTIVE BREEDING EFFORTS."

The subject concerns the wildlife management efforts to stabilize the Peregrine Falcon population and its captive breeding program. Brian Walton of the Santa Cruz campus, University of California is our guest speaker and at present is coordinator of the Group as part of the Environmental Field Program. Brian worked for six years with the California Fish and Game conducting surveys on the Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie and Harris hawks. This interesting slide presentation will be at the Fleishchmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History at 8:00 p.m.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- March 18 Sunday** **Lake Cachuma** Leader to be announced. Meet at Thrifty Five Points at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water and scopes. Driver Donation: \$1.50.
- March 23-25** **Catalina Trip** Filled.
- April 1 Sunday** **Hibbits Ranch—Lompoc** Leader John Bullock. 350 acre walnut ranch near La Purisima Mission. The Hibbits have been an environmentally concerned family in the Lompoc Valley for many generations. Art Hibbits is currently on the County Planning commission. The ranch contains roadrunners, raptors, some owls and many wildflowers. Meet at Thrifty 5 points for car pooling at 7:30. Driver donation: \$2.50, or parking lot at La Purisima Mission at 8:45. Maximum 30. Reservations required. Call Lila Eisberg at 963-4886.
- April 7-8** **Figueroa Mountain Campout** Leaders: Bill Gielow and Joe Gartland. Call Bill for details: 687-3466.
- April 21 Saturday** **Solvang and Refugio** Leader: Joy Parkinson. Call Joy for carpooling and meeting place details: 967-9371.
- April 28 Saturday** **Santa Cruz Island Boat Trip** Check in at 7:30 a.m. at the Island Packers Dock on Anchors Way Drive, Ventura. Take 101 to Seaford Avenue Exit, Ventura. Take Harbor Blvd. to Anchors Way and Island Packers Dock at 1695 Anchors Way Drive. Boat—"Sunfish"—holds 38. Bring lunch and snacks, warm clothing (layered). Channel unpredictable—take seasick pills in case! Members \$17, Non-members \$18. Leader: Richard Webster. Make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society and mail to Tomi Sollen, treasurer, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, 93103. 966.4836.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS Continued

May 5 McGrath and Mugu Rock—Ventura
Saturday
May 12 Goleta Point Brad Schram
June 2 Picnic Stow Grove Park

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RARE II

The initial results from RARE II are in. Although they are a mixed bag, including disappointment and hope, we have cause for the latter in Santa Barbara County. An area of prime SBAS concern, Madulce-Buckhorn, has been proposed for wilderness status by the Forest Service. This 64,000 acre parcel adjoins the existing San Rafael Wilderness area on the east and, if approved, would preserve the mountainous roadless area in the center of the county's section of Los Padres National Forest. We anxiously await the confirmation of this recommendation by congress and the President. Letters to this effect to our congressional representatives would be appropriate.

The Sespe-Frazier, Sawmill-Badlands, Cuyama, and Little Pine areas—all important to the Condor—are slated for "further planning". You may make your feelings known or request information concerning these areas by writing: California Region, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco 94111.

Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Act Proposal

SBAS testified at the State Coastal Commission hearings regarding this issue on 14 February in Santa Barbara. Given the dependence of the Channel Islands' ecosystem on seasonal upwellings and currents north, south, and west of the islands, we took the position that the entire channel should be considered for Marine Sanctuary status (realizing that the County's request was turned down). Contrary to a popular misconception such status would **not** prohibit certain commercial or recreational activities. Because the Marine Sanctuary Act intends to preserve unique habitat, continuing commercial activities would be subject to regulation so that their maintenance would not adversely affect the protected habitat area. This is a most reasonable concept, and we intend to continue to make our concern known regarding the preservation of the unique Santa Barbara Channel environment.

More Mesa

SBAS has written the local Coastal Commission and the Planning Commission, setting forth our desire regarding the preservation of More Mesa in Goleta. Essentially, our stated concern was that this unusual natural island in a suburban setting was worthy of preservation as a natural habitat area rather than a setting for 431 condominium units and a golf course. At its February meeting the SBAS board of Directors passed a resolution to this effect. This issue may well surface time and again for years to come, and we intend to be a constructive voice in the discussion of alternate plans for More Mesa's future.

Alaska

It is time to write Representative Lagomarsino and urge that H.R. 39 be passed **without** crippling amendments weakening its intent. H.R. 39 is essentially the bill passed overwhelmingly in the House last year, but it was scuttled in the Senate by the obstructionist tactics of Alaskan Senator Gravel. This year we will try again to preserve selected habitat areas for future generations. Write Representative Lagomarsino, House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515. **Soon.**

Mono Lake

David Gaines' excellent presentation to us in the January SBAS meeting was enthusiastically received. The SBAS board of directors subsequently voted to send a contribution to the Mono Lake Committee independent of that which we gave on the occasion of the meeting itself. If you would like to contribute to the Committee's efforts on behalf of Mono Lake write: Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 2764, Oakland, CA. 94602.

On February 17 I spoke with David Winkler, co-chairman of the Mono Lake Committee. Events are moving very fast, he said, and he was hopeful that the issue of excessive diversion of the water feeding the lake could be resolved happily for the lake. One hopes so, but until that event is accomplished, we must make our feelings known. You may help by writing: Edward L. Hastey, Sate Director, Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento 95825; and E. Charles Fullerton, Director, Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento 95814. Copies of these letters should be sent to the Secretary of Interior, the President, and Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles.

To continue to enjoy good birding, the birds' habitat must be protected.

Good birding,
Brad Schram

CONSERVATION REPORT

MORE MESA

The battle over development vs. preservation of **More Mesa** is being waged by the More Mesa Land Trust, Inc., a non-profit group seeking to prevent any development of More Mesa. For more information, write: PO Box 6787, Santa Barbara, CA 93111, or call 964-2904.

Riparian protection is an important aspect of current conservation measures in California. Locally, the **Mono Debris Basin** is being considered by the City of Santa Barbara for use as a spoils area for dredged material to be taken from **Gibraltar Reservoir** later this year. This area is part of the critical habitat of the largest known population of the **Least Bell's Vireo**, a bird currently being considered for inclusion on both California and Federal Endangered Species lists. For more information, call Jim Greaves, 968-9480.

State Audubon Convention

On the weekend of January 26, Minna Smith and Wendy Bevier traveled Sacramento for the California Audubon Convention. Friday evening, California State Senator Behr spoke on how conservationists must organize for better effectiveness, and John Borneman showed a film on the California Condor and gave an update on the Condor Recovery Plan. Saturday morning the convention heard from the State Audubon representatives, and in the afternoon federal agency representatives from the Forest Service, BLM, and Fish and Wildlife spoke. Mr. Ronald Robie of the Department of Water Resources related that water will be the issue of the 1980s. Steve Young from National Audubon rounded the convention out by admonishing local chapters to work more closely with other groups, our Audubon State representatives, and with the local media to attain a higher level of conservation effectiveness. Wendy and Minna both found the convention extremely well-run and informative.

BIRDING THE SOUTH TEXAS COAST

On a January birding trip to the South Texas Coast, we found that it can be rainy, windy and rather cold. We were assured that the latter part of February would have been much better.

Our time along the lower Rio Grande, especially at Santa Ana and below the Falcon Dam, was the most rewarding with new "lifers". At Santa Ana the birds literally hung around the headquarters. We were greeted by Green Jays, found the Gold-fronted Woodpecker and Olive Sparrow near the office, and saw the Pauroques in our headlights as we departed in the evening.

Fortunately most of our trip was focused on water birds, which aren't much disturbed by rain or wind. Near Brownsville we found the river estuary, South Padre Island and the Laguna Atascosa Refuge to be fine sites. Corpus Christi offered good birding near the airfield, along the islands and at Port Aransas. Here we saw the Whooping Cranes (34 of them from the boat out of Sea Gun, half the known wild population). And we added the Clapper Rail and White-tailed Hawk to our lists. But the best hawking was in the countryside. At times we counted several per mile as we drove, and in some places Marsh Hawks seemed as plentiful as the Red-tailed. In all we spotted nine species and probably missed about as many more.

An impressive aspect of the birdlife in Texas is the numbers, both of species (150 we listed) and the number of a given species. You count shore birds, waders and waterfowl by the scores or hundreds.

Sid and Mary Tarbox

EDITORIAL GREETINGS

El Tecolote has a new editor. My name is John Bullock and I live in Lompoc. I'm very much looking forward to putting our newsletter together each month. Because of the geographic distance between myself and "where its all happening", considerable thought was given to my selection as editor. With the assurance of those who regularly contribute to **El Tecolote** that deadlines would be religiously adhered to, the job was mine. If I receive all contributions either **before** or **on** the evening of the monthly meeting, I will have time to edit and compose the type and lay the newsletter out so that it will be possible to have it printed and in your mailbox the first part of the second week each month. If **El Tecolote** is to be timely, effective, and attractive, I will need everyone's cooperation with this deadline. I would like to thank Mary Lou Hand, our retiring editor for the fine and faithful job she has done for the past four years, and I hope that I can fill her shoes. My address is:

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Phone 736-8074

MUSEUM

The Museum of Natural History is looking for volunteer help in the mornings. If interested, call Minna Smith at 966-7971.

DAIL-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 and/or associates, 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 April issue is Friday, March 23 (the regular monthly meeting). Bring your contributions to the meeting or send them early that week to John Bullock, 217 South Third Street, Lompoc, CA 93436.

EL TECOLOTE

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