



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

**June 2  
Saturday**

**Annual Meeting and Picnic** Stow Grove Park, 580 La Patera Lane, Goleta. We have reserved the large group picnic area from 3:30 p.m. until dusk. Dinner will be served at approximately 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$1.75 per person. As we did last year, we will provide a charcoal fire, relish tray, salad, ranch-style beans, French bread, wine, cider and coffee. Bring your own meat and table service (cup, plate, silverware, napkin). Please make checks payable to SBAS and mail to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017. **Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, May 30.** We could use a few extra barbecue tongs. We could also use some help in covering tables, mixing salad, etc. Questions???? Call Joy Parkinson at 967-9317. Do join us for our last get-together of the current Audubon Year.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By now virtually all of us interested in the preservation of the California Condor are aware of recent proposals concerning its future well-being. National Audubon Society has championed the cause of captive breeding, while the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth have taken stands opposing any captive breeding plan.

Briefly, under the joint sponsorship of the American Ornithologists' Union and the National Audubon Society, an independent panel of respected biologists met in January and March of 1978 to review condor preservation and contingency plans as of that date. They were to recommend a course of action based on their study. The resultant **Report of the Advisory Panel on the California Condor** outlines the captive breeding program recently endorsed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. I quote below a brief introductory statement of the advisory panel's rationale for the necessity of captive breeding:

"Having reviewed the current status and prognosis for survival of the California Condor population, the Panel believes that the only hope for the species lies in a long-term, large-scale program involving greatly increased research effort, immediate steps to identify and conserve vast areas of suitable condor habitat, and captive propagation. The needs for research and habitat preservation are obvious. Opponents of captive propagation have argued that if these goals were met, the condor population would increase on its own, but for several reasons this point of view is vacuous."

National Audubon has pledged a large sum of money to assist in the implementation of the proposed captive breeding program and associated condor research. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the plan and endorsed it. John Borneman, the National Audubon Society's Condor Naturalist, testified before a congressional committee earlier this month on its behalf.

Speaking personally, I despise the idea of capturing wild condors for captive breeding— but I despise the idea of their extinction far more. The arithmetic is dishearteningly simple: unless something drastic happens to reverse the situation, the bird becomes extinct. Probably within my lifetime. Captive propagation and reintroduction into the wild seems to be the only hope for the continuance of the species.

For this reason, and the numerous others lending credence to the concept as a viable alternative, I believe that SBAS should support a captive breeding effort under conditions agreed to by National Audubon, The Condor Advisory Panel, The Condor Recovery Team, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In "the best of all possible worlds" such action would, mercifully, not be necessary. In our world I must conclude, with regret, that it is.

Brad Schram

### **FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN CAMPOUT**

A dozen birders enjoyed one or both beautiful days of this weekend outing. After meeting at Figueroa Campground on Saturday morning, we drove to Ranger Peak at the top of the mountain for a walk in the pines and fir. After an unproductive beginning, a great variety of birds came close, curious about our calls. Chattering around us were white-and red-breasted nuthatches, brown creepers, mountain chickadees, ruby-crowned kinglet, and Townsend's warblers. White-throated swifts zipped by as we enjoyed the view of the Santa Ynez Valley and Lake Cachuma. We lunched nearby overlooking the San Raphael Wilderness and then drove to Sunset Valley to see Western bluebirds and house wrens in the meadows above Davey Brown. At Nira we forded Manzanita Creek to hike into the wilderness 1 1/2 miles upstream. Although the birds were elsewhere (siesta?), the profusion and variety of wildflowers (owl's clover, chia, peony, lupines, goldfields, poppies, etc.) made our walk in this digger-pine valley most enjoyable.

Saturday evening Ken Kunert from the Los Padres National Forest Lucia Ranger District office in Santa Maria came to discuss aspects of forest management with those members camping overnight. We roasted marshmallows to make "S'mores" and retired early as the temperature dropped rapidly on the mountain. Several black-throated grey warblers, a chipping sparrow, and a variety of woodpeckers were seen around the camps in the morning; in fact birding was better here than most places. After breakfast we drove to near the Midland School boundary within the forest to find the chocolate lily and also had good looks at meadowlarks, lark sparrows, horned larks, water pipits, a rock wren, and a Western kingbird. Finally, birding along the rural road on the way to Los Olivos yielded sightings of yellow-billed magpies, violet-green swallows, California quail, and many brilliant Western bluebirds.

Bill Gielow, Joe Garland

### **HIBBITS RANCH TRIP**

The promised roadrunners and Golden Eagles were of course absent from the Hibbits Ranch on the first day of April in spite of the fact that over 30 Audubon members weren't "fooling" in their vigilance. The weather in the Lompoc Valley was very pleasant and the walnut orchards were just beginning to awaken to spring's warmth. The migrants were sparse but the resident raptors easily made up for their absence. Good views of red-shouldered, cooper's sharp-shinned, and marsh hawks were had as well as an excellent view of a female red-tailed hawk incubating. Horned larks, Western bluebirds and Western kingbirds were numerous and a warbling vireo was seen by all in the orchard. A total of 41 species were sighted. The Hibbits family is hereby sincerely thanked for hosting a pleasant outing.

John Bullock

### **BIRD SIGHTINGS**

All sightings of rare, unusual, or out-of-season birds should be sent to Paul Lehman, 35 Sonoma, Goleta 93017. Paul compiles all records for the Santa Barbara area and sends them in for inclusion in **American Birds**.

### **BELL'S VIREO**

At a special meeting on March 23 the board of directors voted to grant financial aid to Jim Greaves, a SBAS member, to assist his study of the Mono Creek Bell's Vireo population. This is a most timely study as the Bell's Vireo population in California is rapidly declining. This is thought to be due to a combination of habitat destruction (riparian woodlands) and Cowbird parasitism. Jim will be working under the guidance of Sandy Wilbur of the U.S. Forest Service and Don Schroeder of UCSB.

### **NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SOLON**

The Santa Barbara International Salon of Nature Photography will show color slides selected for Awards on Friday, July 20 at 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday, July 22 at 3:00 p.m. in the Fleischmann Auditorium, 2559 Puesta del Sol Road, Santa Barbara. An Award Plaque for the best slide depicting birds in a family group will be awarded by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society. The public is invited to view the color slides selected from entries submitted by the finest nature photographers throughout the world. Admission is free.

### **COLOR-MARKED SHOREBIRDS**

This summer the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be continuing a study of fall migration routes and strategies of shorebirds from the Yukon Delta and Alaska Peninsula, Alaska. Large numbers of Dunlin and Western Sandpipers and lesser numbers of Rock Sandpipers and black turnstones will be color-banded and/or color dyed. We would appreciate a report of any sighting. Please note: Species, Age, Location, Date, and Time; Color Bands—Color(s), left or right leg, above or below "knee"; Color Dyes—Color, Part(s) of bird dyed; Metal Bands—Left or right leg, above or below "knee". Please report sightings to:

Robert Gill, Jr.

c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1011 E. Tudor Road

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

All reports will be acknowledged

### **MONO LAKE FIELD TRIPS**

Spend a Day exploring the geology, botany, zoology and human history of the Mono Lake Region. Learn first-hand how water diversions are affecting this irreplaceable natural treasure.

Half-day (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) field trips are scheduled for every Saturday or Sunday from June 9 through September 9. Field trips are free, but are limited to 40 people. To sign up, select a preferred and an alternate date, enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope, and send to:

MONO LAKE FIELD TRIP

PO Box 29

Lee Vining, CA 93541

We'll let you know where to meet and what to bring.

### **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 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.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The SBAS Board of Directors meets in the Junior Library at the Museum of Natural History at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be May 10. Members are welcome to attend.

**EL TECOLOTE**  
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