



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Brad Schram, President
460 Amherst Drive
Goleta, CA 93017
964-9534

John Bullock, Editor
217 South Third Street
Lompoc, CA 93436
736-8074

MONTHLY MEETING—NOVEMBER 30, 1979

Member's Slides Night

Once again we look forward to our annual evening where our members may share their slides of birds, animals, or whatever. These evenings have always been immensely enjoyable in the past, and very well-attended. Please call Jim Tanahill at 969-5193 to list your name and the number of slides you wish to present. The meeting is at 8:00 p.m., Friday, November 30, 1979 in the Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. Refreshments and fellowship following. Please remember to bring your own cup.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- November 10 Saturday** **Gibraltar Dam**—A moderate 5 mile hike along the shores of Lake Gibraltar viewing returning water birds and passerines. Meet at Thrifty Five Points for car pooling at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water and hiking shoes. Driver donation: \$2.00. For reservations call Joe Gartland, leader, at 968-3307.
- November 17 Saturday** **Santa Barbara Airport, Sewage Treatment Plant, and Goleta Slough**—Meet at Museum of Natural History at 7:30 a.m. for car pooling, or at Goleta Beach Parking lot in front of Pier at 8:00 a.m. for a half day trip. Leader: Lewis Bevier. For further information call Windy Bevier at 962-1037.
- December 2 Sunday** **Lake Cachuma**—Meet at Thrifty Five Points parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water and scopes. Limit: 30 people. Driver Donation: \$2.50. For reservations call Suzi Barrymore at 967-4439 between 8 & 9 a.m. or 5 & 6 p.m. Leaders: Jim Hodgson, Dave Vincent, and Ron Smith.
- December 8 & 9 Saturday & Sunday** **Carrizo Plains Overnight**—Wintering ground of the Sandhill Cranes. Excellent area for hawks, eagles and mountain plovers. Last year every species of hawk that could be expected was seen, as well as cranes, plovers, owls, roadrunners, bluebirds, etc. We have reserved rooms at California Valley Lodge and chartered a bus. We must have a minimum of 30 and our maximum will be 35. The combined cost of the bus fare and room is \$33 per person, double or triple occupancy of rooms. Participants will buy Saturday's dinner (\$3.50 to \$8.45) and Sunday's breakfast (\$1.25 to \$2.50) at the restaurant across the street from the motel. Bring lunch and water for two days. **Be sure to bring warm clothing.** The bus will leave PROMPTLY from the Museum of Natural History at 8:00 a.m., and the shopping center on Highway 33 in Ojai at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday. Return will be approximately 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. Please make checks payable to **Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.**, and mail to: Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017. Include a stamped self-addressed envelope or post card if you wish confirmation of your reservation. When the trip is filled, you will be put on the waiting list in order of receipt of check. There are usually several cancellations before the date of departure. Questions??? Call Joy Parkinson at 967-9371.

January 12 & 13 Morro Bay—Looking ahead! Leaders: Sid and Mary Tarbox.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While at the National Audubon Society's biennial convention at Estes Park in June, I spoke with Bob Beniewieiss, the Vice-president of National Audubon Society. We discussed my concern, and that of our board of directors, about the numerous "slick" solicitations for various items that we receive through the mail from the New York office. He responded candidly that he too thought it a bit excessive, but noted that the offerings produce significant income for Audubon's projects.

By happy circumstance I shared an elevator with Dr. Carey Stanton of Santa Cruz Island after the Board of Supervisor's hearing regarding More Mesa on October 6. Responding to my question regarding his arrangement with the Nature Conservancy, he said that he is "very pleased" with the Conservancy's approach and that "I'm very glad I did it" (i.e. offer to sell his holdings on the island to the Conservancy). He concluded our discussion by saying, "and you may quote me".

Fall is drawing toward its end, closing what is probably the most exciting birding season of the year in Santa Barbara County. This year has produced **thirty-two** species of warblers identified in the county, an unusually large representation of this beautiful family for a limited California area. Highlights from this group include Prothonotary, Yellow-throated, Pine (first county record), and Hooded warblers. Other headliners included: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Ruff, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Red-throated Pipit, and Yellow-green Vireo. The Leaf-hopper infested tamarisks at Gaviota State Beach have been this year's biggest producer of rarities. Santa Barbara County is one of the premier birding locales in North America, and will continue to be—unless we allow its habitat to be obliterated.

Please note that the SBAS Annual Christmas Count will be on Saturday, December 29. Plan to participate. The annual Sespe Count, under the leadership of David Vincent and Katherine Fairbanks, will be on December 16 this year. The Santa Maria Christmas Count will be initiated on December 23, a project of the budding Santa Maria Audubon Society immediately to our north. This is a most welcome event. We would be pleased to assist in the development of a Ventura Audubon Society. Is there interest in such a project?

Please note the **Birdathon** information in this **El Tecolote**. I hope that we will have broad participation in this most worthwhile project. Good birding....Brad Schram



CONDOR RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE

On Thursday, November 15, the Los Padres Interpretive Association has invited Sanford Wilbur, Condor biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to give a progress report on the implementation of the California Condor Recovery Plan. Sandy will show slides and movies and answer questions you may have about the Recovery Plan. All Auduboners are welcome and encouraged to attend. The update meeting will be held in Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History at 7:30 p.m.

GOLDEN TROUT

The Golden Trout Committee plans 2 weeks at the Golden Trout Camp next summer. Dates and detail will be forthcoming. Tomi Sollen

CONSERVATION REPORT

While legislation to establish a Channel Islands National Park (S.1104) languishes in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Western Oil and Gas Association and others are stepping up their efforts to weaken the bill.

The companion House measure, H.R. 3757, sponsored by Congressman Robert Lagomarsino, passed the House on May 7th. S. 1104, sponsored by Senator Alan Cranston, is identical. Both bills provide for a Channel Islands National Park that would include Anacapa, Santa Barbara, San Miguel, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. Anacapa and Santa Barbara are now a National Monument; San Miguel is owned by the Navy; the largest part of Santa Cruz belongs to the Nature Conservancy, with the remainder and all of Santa Rosa in private hands.

The longer the Senate committee delays in acting on the bill, the greater the likelihood that some committee members may succumb to arguments of its opponents, including the oil industry, which is believed to want to put an oil processing facility on Santa Rosa.

Concerned citizens should write to Senator Cranston urging him to push for immediate action on S. 1104 and for its passage without amendments.

ALASKA LANDS BILL

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at long last has begun consideration of the Alaska lands bill, but the committee is starting with the same weak measure it approved last year, a bill conservationists found totally unacceptable. And there already has been an attempt to weaken it even further. An amendment pushed by Sen. Mike Gravel of Alaska would have opened part of the Arctic National Wildlife Range to oil drilling. This proposal, which would threaten Alaska's largest and healthiest caribou herd, was defeated in committee by only a single vote, 4-3.

Committee Chairman Henry M. Jackson of Washington says he hopes to complete markup of the measure soon. When he does so, the **Leader** will report on how it differs from the strong Udall-Anderson bill the House passed in May. If, as it now appears, the Senate committee reports an unacceptable bill, there will be opportunities to strengthen it on the Senate floor and in joint conference.

LNG

Santa Barbara Audubon has recently drafted a resolution stating its opposition to the proposed LNG terminal at Pt. Conception. The Conservation Committee is unanimous in its feelings about LNG—the plans must be halted immediately. Western LNG Associates has ignored the dangers of importing volatile liquified natural gas to Pt. Conception, known for some of the worst marine hazards along the Pacific Coast. Also ignored have been seismic considerations, hazards of missiles from nearby Vandenberg AFB, religious rights of Chumash Indians, and the far-reaching consequences of environmental pollution. Imported LNG will cost consumers double the price of deregulated domestic gas and is not a reliable energy source. The price to pay for this "needed" energy is too great.

We urge you to write to Gov. Brown and your State representatives. Put an end to plans for LNG on the west coast especially at Point Conception. For more information, write to:

Network
P.O. Box 1346
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

MUSEUM

Audubon members are encouraged to view the variety of books, notepaper, and ideas for children's gifts for holiday giving stocked in our Santa Barbara Museum Shop. Especially noteworthy is the latest Audubon and Sierra Club Calendars.

BIRDATHON

The California Birdathon (Saturday, November 24) is fast approaching. By now you should have received through the mail a blue information sheet/registration form from the Western Regional Office which provides details of the venture's purpose, procedures, and prizes to be awarded. This is an excellent opportunity to provide tangible support to the above causes and we hope for heavy participation from our membership.

Our board of directors is offering a valuable Guy Coleleach print (Red-shafted Flickers) to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society member who raises the most money for the "cause" on November 24. Entries in our local contest can be made by forwarding to our post office box a photocopy of the completed form sent to the Western Regional Office. Please mark your envelope "Entry", and send it to us before December 25.

If you are unable to take part in the actual birding on November 24 you may still contribute by sponsoring one of us in SBAS who will be in the field. Brad Schram, 964-9534 will coordinate our involvement in the Birdathon. **Please call or write Brad and advise him that:**

- a) you are actively soliciting donors to support your day in the field November 24, or
- b) that you wish to support someone in the field that day.

He will take the appropriate information concerning the latter and, with the aid of the board of directors, see that such sponsorship is fairly distributed among participants. All questions and requests for forms should likewise be directed to him by November 20.

Results of our efforts will be published in *El Tecolote*. Santa Barbara County is one of the outstanding birding areas in California. It follows, then, that with good coverage and numbers of participants we can contribute significantly to these important projects. Please help make it happen; it depends on you.

MEMBERSHIP

Fellow Auduboners: Our watchword is **Conservation**. I want to speak about Conservation in a somewhat different, but very important sense, and one we can all **do something about**. If each of us would renew our subscriptions **on time** and would send address changes **promptly** it would save a lot of money (and time) for Audubon, both National and local; money which could much more usefully be spent on programs in which we are all interested. I would love to see Santa Barbara Chapter the first in the land to have no "lapsing members" (or collapsed?!). If we can be first in the annual bird count why can't we do this, too? Let's have at it!

Now with **CONSERVATION** we need also healthy **GROWTH**. Audubon memberships are falling off. We need to have them increase, more than ever, in order to achieve Audubon's many goals. Why not give an Audubon membership to a friend or relative for Christmas? What a thing of beauty **Audubon Magazine** is! Not to mention a great many others of its fine qualities. It would be a particularly wonderful gift for anyone, but wouldn't it be especially so for a shut-in, for example? We already know of one gift membership. Can't we have a great many more?

Notice to those who subscribe to *El Tecolote* only: Your new membership secretary has been sweeping about in the corners and finds that all but three or four of you are in arrears in paying your annual subscription to this fantastically informative and lively newsletter. Please send your \$2.50 promptly to Tomi Sollen, our treasurer (825 N. Soledad Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93103), or, unhappily, your name will be removed next month from our mailing list.

Jean Johnson, Membership Secretary

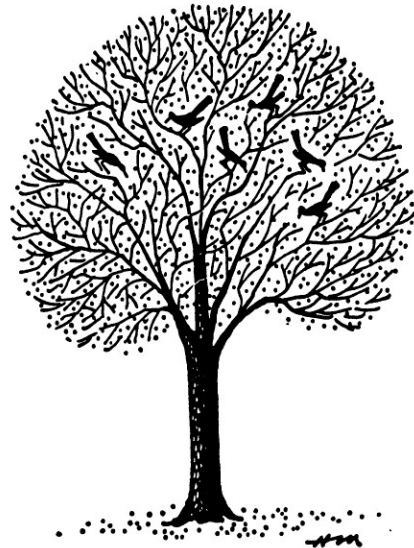
LOS PADRES CHRISTMAS COUNT

The newly-forming Los Padres Chapter of the National Audubon Society is planning on participating in the 1979 Christmas bird count. Our count will take place on Sunday, December 23. Our count area includes Guadalupe Beach, the entire Guadalupe Slough area, portions of San Antonio Creek and parts of VAFB.

Being a new chapter, we consequently are a small and inexperienced group. We would appreciate any help we can get from the Santa Barbara Chapter.

If you are interested in participating in our count, please contact:

John M. Deacon
P.O. Box 1424
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Work: 937-6365, Home: 925-6731



AMERICAN BIRDS

Santa Barbara Audubon Society subscribes to Audubon's birding journal, **American Birds**. It is available for use by our members in the library of the Museum of Natural History.

EL TECOLOTE DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions to the December issue of *El Tecolote* is Friday, November 30 (monthly meeting). Bring your contributions to the meeting or send them early that week to John Bullock, 217 South Third Street, Lompoc, CA 93436.

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 giving all the latest information.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Send address changes to Jean Johnson, 266 Canon Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 or call Jean at 687-1651.

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 December 13. Members are welcome to attend.

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

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