



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

CHRISTMAS COUNT MEETING

There will not be a normal monthly program this month. December is **Christmas Count** time and those who are planning to participate will meet in Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History, at 7:30 P.M. on December 28 for a briefing session.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

January 12 & 13 Morro Bay and Montana de Oro—A great area for shore birds, waterfowl and pelagics. **Saturday & Sunday** Meet at the Museum at Morro Bay State Park at 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Allow at least two hours driving time from Santa Barbara. Driver donation: \$5.00. There is good camping at the park, or make reservations at any of the many motels. Take lunch for two days. Call the leader by not later than Wednesday, January 9, if you plan to go, have any questions, or if you need a ride or your car can take one or more passengers. Leaders: Mary and Sid Tarbox, 687-2067.

January 26 Saturday **Point Mugu**—Only twenty-five Audubon people permitted on this tour. Meet at Museum of Natural History for car pooling at 7:30 a.m., or meet at Gate H2 at Point Mugu at 8:25. Driver donation \$2.50. **No Cameras Allowed!** Bring lunch, binoculars and scopes. Call Minna Smith for reservation at 966-7971. Leader: Ron Dow, Ecology Assistant.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last chance to remind our membership before Christmas that Audubon memberships, accompanied by **Audubon** magazine, make wonderful presents. The giving of this gift serves the dual purpose of contributing to the Audubon "Cause" while the recipient enjoys the beauty and information in the magazine throughout the year. One hopes that persons so enrolled become interested in our society and its aims as a result, continuing their membership into the future. It can be an ideal gift to purchase late in your Christmas shopping as well—send the appropriate information and dues to New York, and send your friend or relative notification of the gift they will be receiving throughout the year.

I trust you are making plans now to participate in our annual Christmas Bird Count(s)! As you know, our Santa Barbara Christmas Count is attracting wider attention each year due to our recurring ranking among the top five counts in North America (1st in 1977, 2nd in 1978). Please note the date of our Santa Barbara Count and the Sespe Count (December 20, not 16 as noted here last issue) on the attached forms and respond early to the respective coordinators.

Good birding—Brad Schram

CHRISTMAS COUNT

It's time for **Christmas Count** once again. This year we would like to encourage as many people as possible to participate. Our past success has been due to the fact that lots of people are willing to participate even though they feel less than expert at birding. It is crucial that each area leader have people with them who are willing to hold that clipboard and do an efficient job of recording and note-taking. There are two specific ways that we feel our Count can be improved: 1) Yard Feeder Counts, and 2) Block Counts (counting birds on the block where you live). If you have a yard feeder or are willing to bird on your block **please** fill out a form, check the appropriate box, and send the form in right away in order to have a Feeder Count form sent to you in the mail. The Santa Barbara **Christmas Count** has a place for everyone. Please mark your calendars and send in your forms today. Let's make the 1979 Count the best ever.

Cherie Bratt

CHRISTMAS COUNT PARTICIPATION FORMS

PLEASE FILL OUT THE APPROPRIATE FORM AND MAIL IT TODAY!

SESPE COUNT Wednesday, December 19

Send to: David Vincent, El Capitan State Beach, Goleta, CA 93017

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

☐ Leader

☐ Spotter

☐ Recorder

LOS PADRES COUNT Sunday, December 23

Send to John Deacon, PO Box 1424, Santa Maria 93456

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

☐ Leader

☐ Spotter

☐ Recorder

SANTA BARBARA COUNT Saturday, December 29

Send to Cherie Bratt, 6505 Camino Venturoso, Goleta 93017

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

☐ Leader

☐ Spotter

☐ Recorder

☐ Hiking

☐ Moderate

☐ Sitting

☐ Yes, I'll watch my feeder

☐ Yes, I'll count birds on my block

CONSERVATION

ALASKA LANDS BILL

After three weeks of mark-up sessions the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Senator Henry Jackson (D-Wash), reported out its version on the bill on October 30th. Because it is a totally unacceptable bill, Committee member Senator Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) introduced a substitute bill on November 15 to provide a strong conservation alternative for the full Senate to consider. The National Audubon Society fully supports this Tsongas-Roth (William V. Roth, R.-Del.) Substitute.

The Committee Bill will, among other things:

Permit mining, mining roads and mining towns inside major portions of Gates of the Arctic and Wrangell-St. Elias national monuments, and open 80 per cent of the Dall Sheep population of the Wrangell-St. Elias area to hunting.

Leave half of Admiralty Island open to possible clear-cutting against the recommendation of the U.S. Forest Service.

In contrast, the Tsongas-Roth Substitute Bill will:

Provide vital wilderness designation for all of the Arctic National Wildlife Range.

Protect the Gates of the Arctic and Wrangell-St. Elias National monuments from the detrimental impacts of possible mining activity.

Provide wilderness protection for key areas in Southeast Alaska and maintain the full boundaries for the Admiralty Island National Monument.

Senator Alan Cranston has joined several other senators in co-sponsoring the Tsongas-Roth Alaska bill. He, and of course Senator Paul Tsongas deserve our thanks. It would be a nice gesture to write them: United State Senate, Washington D.C. 20510.



GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOP

Two workshops are scheduled for 1980:

Session I—Sunday July 27 to Sat. August 2

Session II—Sunday August 3 to Sat. August 9

Sunday begins with dinner and Saturday ends after breakfast. For further information Write:

Golden Trout Workshop
c/o Tomi Sollen
825 N. Soledad Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
805-966-4836



MEMBERSHIP

Fellow Auduboners:

Brad Schram turned over to me a very important Memorandum from Russ Peterson, President of National Audubon, dated September 28, and addressed to all Chapter Presidents, some of the main points of which we would like to share with you.

Because membership growth had greatly fallen off, the National Board decided to hire a direct response firm in addition to its normal promotion. During the 12 months ending August 31, 1979 membership decreased 777 in spite of 28,863 new members through direct mail effort. The latter was not as successful as anticipated and costs a lot. Russ Peterson points out that local chapters no longer do as much as they used to do in promoting membership growth.

Did you know that Audubon has almost 400,000 members, of which 70 per cent belong to local chapters? There are now 436 of the latter. However, only 10-20 per cent of members actively participate in local chapter activities. I didn't know, until I read this. And it is interesting, though sad, to learn that 75,000 memberships are not renewed each year.

Russ Peterson is fully aware of the importance of our dual relationship. Audubon has a thrust at the national level, especially in over-all approaches to problems of the environment, conservation, etc., most particularly in effective impact on Congress and the Executive Branch. But he is equally aware that local environmental problems must be coped with at the local level. We need to pool all of our strength to get the nation-wide jobs done.

And we cannot afford to decrease our educational efforts—centers, camps, radio-television, Audubon Wildlife Films, and various publications. We must also continue to build on our heritage of protecting birdlife and saving endangered species. The significant Sanctuaries system is growing—there are now 73 of these Islands of Life standing as testimony to our concern.

All this costs money, and it is hard to come by, these days. National Audubon has reluctantly, as of October 1, raised membership dues, pointing out that over the last few years inflation has well-exceeded National Audubon's dues increases. Due to this pressure an effort is being made to raise a higher percentage of funds from non-dues sources as well as from increased membership.

For your information, here are most categories of membership now in effect: Individual—\$20, Family—\$25, Sustaining—\$30, Supporting—\$50, Student—\$13.50, Senior Citizen (Individual)—\$13.50, Senior Citizen (Family)—\$15. Naturally, membership subscription in any amounts above those mentioned are greatly welcomed. Jean Johnson
Membership Secretary

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

SANDYLAND SLOUGH—Sunday, October 28,

Thirty people were able to observe the Slough from both the Sandyland private road and the University of California Santa Barbara Salt Marsh Reserve road up through the center of the Slough. Visibility was good and we identified at least 67 species. Outstanding sightings were an Osprey, American Bitterns, Green Herons, Three Cattle Egrets, a female Marsh Hawk, Long-billed Curlews, American Avocets and a Black Necked Stilt. There were also light and dark Savannah Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrikes and numerous shorebirds including Long and Short billed Dowitchers, Dunlin and Greater Yellowlegs. There were four varieties each of terns, gulls and plovers, and many others too numerous to mention.

We did not, however see the Virginia and Clapper Rails that were at the slough last week, nor the pair of White-tailed Kites that usually patrol the area.

Robert Hough

HOLLISTER RANCH—Saturday, October 13

Our select group, (alphabetized and registered in advance) were greeted by the gateman who proceeded to check up on our credentials and give each car a pass for the day. A tame Roadrunner entertained us by running along the fence during our waiting period. We birded the roads, canyons and beaches, all the areas open to the public and managed to sight more than eighty species. The most thrilling sight was not a bird, but a freely-running wildcat. On the way home we also added to our list by stopping at the tamarisk trees in Gaviota State Beach and seeing a Canada Warbler (a very rare sight indeed), many Palm warblers, a Tennessee Warbling and Huttons vireos. We are grateful to Mr. Allen and Owner's Association of Hollister Ranch for their permission and hospitality in allowing our chapter to visit their property and we hope that we can continue to avail ourselves of this privilege.

Minna E. Smith

LAKE PIRU-FILLMORE—October 27

A small group enjoyed a beautiful day of birdwatching in the Fillmore area. At the fish hatchery, and ecstatic Kingfisher watched while the trout were being fed. There were many snipe in the watercress fields and a Say's Phoebe in the *Opuntia* gardens. In the brush were Savannah sparrows, Bewick's and House wrens, and ruby-crowned kinglets. Marsh wrens and a Yellowthroat were seen along the river. We had lunch in Warring Park in Piru, then spotted a roadrunner below the dam at Lake Piru. Along the Lake Road and on the lake and shores were Green Herons, Ruddy Ducks, Pied-billed and Western Grebes, and Red-shouldered and Sharpshinned hawks, and a raven. The road to Blue Point Campground will open next spring.

Bill Gielow

GIBRALTER LAKE—November 10

On a beautiful November day twelve of us walked about Lake Gibraltar, looking at the scenery. Among the feathered friends sighted were an Osprey, an Eared Grebe, Buffleheads, a Merlin, and a Coopers and Sharp-shinned hawk.

Joe Gartland

A CALL FOR KODACHROME SLIDES

The Education Committee will shortly be revising its spring slide show, "Nesting Neighbors". We can materially improve it if we can add more action pictures such as these: territorial activities, courtship displays, nest building, care of nestlings, learning to fly, adults teaching young to fend for themselves, etc. The fact is that additional action pictures would also be useful in other areas such as flight, landings, feeding and bathing. We welcome either original slides or permission to duplicate your originals. Please call Sid Tarbox at 687-2067 if you can help us.

WANTED TO BUY: used spotting scope
Call Vivian Mets, 964-2152

**NONGAME WILDLIFE [Formerly DECAL]
A CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTION**

Since 1975 the California Department of Fish and Game has accepted contributions for the preservation of non-game wildlife. Santa Barbara Audubon members have been strong supporters of the program from the beginning. Every donation is acknowledged and donors receive a decal and periodic newsletter. This year the decal is a handsome design by an 18-year-old of a California Condor.

The first project funded with contributions from caring people was the protection of the peregrine falcons at Morro Rock, which continues. Another was the improvement of desert water springs for desert bighorn and other wildlife. Both of these projects were successful. Present projects include moving a number of California bighorn from the Lava Beds National Monument to some historic range in the Warner mountains.

You can donate to the California Nongame Wildlife Conservation Program and have the decal and newsletter sent to someone else. How about that for a Christmas gift to a conservationists? Or to someone you would like to have become a conservationists? It's very easy. Make your check payable to **WILDLIFE**, and mail to: Box DFG, Sacramento, CA 95801. Be sure to tell them if you want the decal and newsletter sent to someone else.
Joy Parkinson



MONO LAKE T-SHIRTS

Attractive T-shirts with the Mono Lake message on the multi-colored front may be purchased from Louis Bevier. Call Louis at 962-1037 to arrange for your T-shirt. All proceeds, of course, go toward the effort to save Mono Lake from becoming a dead mineral broth.

EL TECOLOTE DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions to the January issue is Friday, January 4. Please mail your contributions to John Bullock, 217 South Third Street, Lompoc, CA 93436 well before that date.

DIAL-A-BIRD

For current news of rare birds call 964-8240 anytime, night or day. You will hear an up-to-date 3-minute recording.

EL TECOLOTE

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

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Promptly**