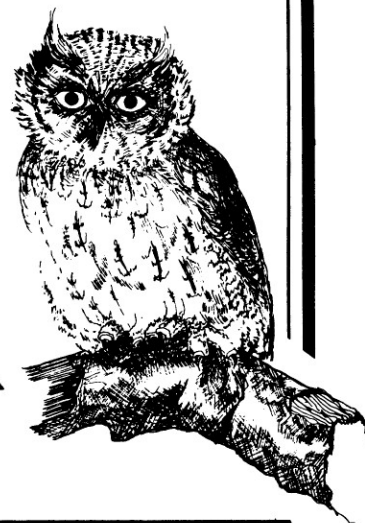


El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

January, 1980
Volume 18, Number 1



MONTHLY MEETING—JANUARY 25, 1980

"Southern California: Home of Endangered Wetlands"

As residents in this important birding area, we should be concerned with the increasing prospect of encroachment into these valuable habitats. Our speaker for this evening, Charles Schneeback, has been actively involved in working to save coastal wetlands for the past eleven years. He is Associate Professor of Biology at Fullerton College and has been an instructor at the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West. He is also President of the Friends of Newport Bay. This group recently defeated a proposed waste management plan that would have further eroded this important habitat. Please join with us to share an evening of new information on our immediate area. Fellowship and refreshments will follow. Please remember to bring your own cup.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

**January 12-13
Saturday
& Sunday**

Morro Bay—Meet at the Morro Bay State Park Museum of Natural History on Saturday at 9:00 A.M. Leaders: Mary and Sid Tarbox, 687-2067.

**January 26
Saturday**

Point Mugu—TRIP FILLED! If you signed up and are unable to attend, please call Minna Smith at 966-7971 before January 19 in order to accomodate those on the waiting list. A written list of visitors' names and addresses must be submitted by that date. Meet either at the Museum of Natural History at 7:30 A.M. (Driver donation—\$3.50) or at the Visitors Entrance, Gate 2 at 8:30 A.M.—Take 101 South from Santa Barbara to Route 1 exit at Oxnard. Follow Route 1 to Pacific Missile Center.

**February 9
Saturday**

Lake Cachuma—Due to the huge success of the December trip, a Repeat Performance! Limit of 30 other people. Meet at Thrifty 5 Points Lot at 7:00 A.M. for car pooling. Driver donation \$2.50 Bring scopes, lunch and water. Leaders: Jim Hodgson and Ron Smith. For Reservations call Jim at 967-3627.

**February 16
Saturday**

Botanic Garden—Meet at the Kiosk under the oak tree at 8:00 A.M. for a morning get-together.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

March 5

Lake Piru—Jim Hodgson and Ron Smith

March 16

Sandyland Slough

March 22

Hope Ranch—Louis Bevier

March 21-23

Catalina Island—Weekend at CIMI Institute. A new location two miles from Avalon of 90 acres surrounded by Catalina wilderness. Limit: 25 Adults. \$38.50 per person (includes room in dormitory and 5 meals) Plus \$12 round trip boat fare from Long Beach to Avalon. Car Pool Donation: \$5.00. Boat leaves Long Beach Friday evening at 7:30 P.M. and returns at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday. For reservations call Minna Smith at 966-7971.

March 1/2

Dunes Lakes—Leader: Judy Tartaglia of Morro Coast Audubon.

April 12

A New Ranch—Charis Bratt.

April 19

San Roque Canyon—Dean Bazzi

April 26-27

Figueroa Campout—Bill Gielow and Joe Gartland

May 10

Hibbits Ranch—John Bullock

May 24

Goleta Point—Brad Schram.

Boat Trip

Possibly May 31 or June 1.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On reflection, the 1970's show significant gains made by the "conservation movement" (to use a broad term) in the United States. The past decade saw the formulation and implementation of various laws and government agencies responsible for the maintenance of a clean environment. We have had some gains and losses regarding specific issues, but the '70's were the decade in which environmental concerns became legitimized as a rational concern of government and industry.

The government agencies, although chronologically relatively young, already show signs of bureaucratic arteriosclerosis. Within the agencies, however, genuinely concerned biologists, technicians and, yes, bureaucrats take their mandate for preservation of a healthy environment seriously. These persons deserve the support of responsible groups like the National Audubon Society.

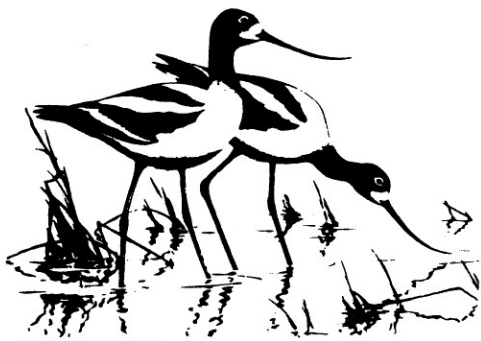
The conservation movement itself is faction-ridden, as all social political, and/or ideological movements become when numbering larger than a few persons. Some of the factions are elitist—striking poses, histrionically condemning opponents, and generally pontificating—they pose a threat to the credibility of the movement as a whole. If we espouse preservation of, say, a Furbish Lousewort, the argument must be carefully thought through relative to our philosophical *raison d'être* and formulated on a solid data base. We as an institution cannot afford to value the existence of (what to the public must be) a bizarrely named botanical curiosity over human need, where such need demonstrably exists.

The National Audubon Society, while containing its own factions, has arisen as possibly the most influential (in terms of receiving a thoughtful hearing) representative of the movement on Capitol Hill. Our representatives there have built a reputation of knowledgeability and integrity of action second to no other conservation organization. The work of organizations like Audubon in the private sector serve as a needed check and stimulus vis a vis the state and federal government bureaucracies.

The challenges facing us in the 1980's are more complex and wide-ranging, and will affect each of us more intimately, than perhaps any we have yet faced. The rapid destruction of the neotropical rainforests has the potential for causing the extinction of one million tropical species according to the estimates of some scientists. The destruction of the forests of the Amazon basin will negatively affect global rainfall. Water and energy are two over-riding issues which will have a tremendous impact on our society, its economy and environment. We in California, predictably, have numerous reminders of the truth of this statement: the threat to Mono Lake, our nuclear power industry, proposed plans for an LNG plant at Point Conception, some of the longest commuting distances in the world, and the demand for more and bigger and faster.

To meet these challenges responsibly, with an eye to the best interests of future generations and not merely short-term gains, is our task in the 1980's. It promises to be a difficult, demanding time. I believe, however, that we in Audubon can perform a needed advocate role by our mutual effort and by supporting our national leadership regarding those issues affecting us all.

Brad Schram



CONSERVATION

LNG AT POINT CONCEPTION

At its monthly meeting of November 8, 1979 the following resolution was unanimously passed and a copy sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society wishes to place itself on record in opposition to the placement of the proposed LNG terminal at Point Conception, Santa Barbara County, California. Although opposition has been voiced on a variety of grounds, our concerns as a conservation organization are focused on habitat and wildlife preservation, and the far-reaching consequences of environmental pollution.

Construction of an LNG plant at this site will endanger a large area of rapidly diminishing habitat, vital to the welfare of wildlife, and ultimately to our Southland community.

STANISLAUS RIVER

The long battle over the Sierra's famous Stanislaus River Canyon is at a crucial point, and South Coast citizens are in a unique position to help. HR 4223, currently before the House National Parks and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, would allow partial filling of New Melones Dam, but would protect the river canyon above Parrotts Ferry in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The bill has over a dozen California co-sponsors, and State Resources Secretary Huey Johnson has taken a similar position. Local Congressman Bob Lagomarsino has a crucial vote on the Subcommittee, and needs to hear from his constituents immediately.

At stake are some of the last un-inundated riparian habitat in the central Sierra foothills, numerous limestone caverns with threatened and endangered species, and the West's most popular and loved whitewater recreation river. On the other side are very minimal amounts of water and power whose distribution would cost taxpayers millions in federal subsidies.

Please write letter of support for HR 4223 to:

Rep Robert Lagomarsino—District Office
814 State St. Studio 121
Santa Barbara 93101

Subcommittee Chairman
Rep. Phil Burton
House Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20515

Senator Alan Cranston
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20510

INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY

The tenth annual Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology will be held May 16-20, 1980 at the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum west of Superior, Arizona. The Institute involves sixty participants in field studies of the Sonoran Desert. Under the leadership of six professional staff members, participants explore and study the interrelationships of earth and life forms.

Registration for the four days is \$143 or \$168 for the extended five days. University credit is available at the graduate or undergraduate level for an additional fee. The Institute is open to all adults 18 and over who need not be members of the Audubon Society to attend. For brochure write Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology, 1642 N. Westridge Ave, Tucson, AZ 85705.

MEMBERSHIP

Fellow Auduboners:

I wish it were possible to write a personal letter to each new member of or transfer into our Santa Barbara Chapter, to welcome you into our midst and hope that you will become an active member in any number of ways—attending our interesting monthly meetings, participating in field trips, volunteering for the numerous jobs to be done at our local level. But, alas, lack of time prevents. Welcome all!

A word to our old-timers: Have you made a New Year's Resolution not to become a "collapsed" member? Remember you save Audubon (national and local) time and money when you renew your subscription promptly when it is due. Did you know that National Audubon sends as many as four reminders to "Lapsing Member"? Figure it out—that costs money, which Audubon could better use in other ways. Besides, it is **your** money being wasted!

We have already mentioned that Audubon needs to increase its membership in order to perform all of its important functions. But there is another way of helping. If you can possibly **increase** your category of membership, i.e. from an individual or family membership to a Sustaining Membership—\$30 per year, or a Supporting Membership—\$50 per year, or a Contributing—\$100 per year—or on up, that would help make possible more of the important jobs Audubon does in behalf of all of us who are interested in conserving some of the wonders of our world.

Jean Johnson, Membership Secretary

CARRIZO PLAINS FIELD TRIP

Early Saturday morning, Dec. 8, the old Melni bus rolled away from the Museum of Natural History bound for the distant Carrizo Plains with no less than 30 well-equipped and heavily provisioned birders. After a stop in Ojai to take on more souls, we climbed up over the pass and down into the Cuyama Valley. Ron Smith reported seeing a Dipper in the canyon on the way up and when we arrived at the junction of Hwy. 166 a Golden Eagle was spotted.

Our appetites whetted, we continued on to the Soda Lake turnoff and after traveling a few miles north, we stopped for lunch at a corral where Mountain Bluebirds, Tricolored Blackbirds, Lark Sparrows, and a covey of Chukar were viewed. It was warm! For the remainder of the day we drifted slowing northward, stopping frequently to view Eagles, Ferruginous, Rough-legged, Marsh and Red-tailed hawks, Burrowing Owls, Prairie Falcons, Roadrunner, and Horned Larks. When we reached California Valley at dusk, our main objective had failed to show—the Sandhill Cranes.

After a scrumptious (?) meal in the local restaurant, most were content to retire leaving a few hardy youngsters to entertain the local inhabitants around the pool table. Early the next morning several birders struck out on foot to watch a Prairie Falcon steal a kill from a Marsh Hawk as the warm sun came up.

The return trip to Santa Barbara was fruitless in its search for Sandhill Cranes. The weather had been warm and dry—so the Cranes were elsewhere. A good time was had by all, however, and as usual, the raptors made the trip very worthwhile.

John Bullock

WHO LOST A TRIPOD?????

Will the person who left a tripod behind on the Carrizo Plains trip please call Joy Parkinson at 967-9371.

THE BIRDS OF MEXICO

Their ecology and conservation—a symposium presented by National Audubon Society in Morrison Auditorium, California Academy of the Sierra, San Francisco on Saturday, February 23, 1980, 9:30-5:00. Tickets by reservation only from: National Audubon Society, Western Educational Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd. Tiburon, CA 94920.

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONVENTION

This birders' convention is to be held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History February 16-17, 1980. Various speakers from the western states will be featured and there will be planned field trips. Contact Paul Lehman, 35 Sonoma, Goleta 93017, for registration information.



EDITORIAL GREETINGS

If you have read this far without noticing a slight change in the **Tecolote** format, turn back to page one and note the charming drawing of a Screech Owl graciously rendered by Ilene Gray. My editorial thanks to her for cooperating so readily in providing a needed change.

There are additional ways that **El Tecolote** can be improved this year. One is the submission, by the leader, of a brief report on each field trip. Obviously not everyone in SBAS is able to attend all of our field trips, yet vicariously they can through a small effort on the part of field trip leaders. I know that these reports are widely read and enjoyed by all, and I, as editor would certainly rather print local news than "filler" material. **Please**, when you lead a trip, take time to write a short report and submit it to me.

Another section that I would like to add to **El Tecolote** and one I'm sure would be read eagerly by all is a "Bird Sightings" column. Some among us bird more avidly than others. These birders are usually aware of rare species in our area that others never hear about unless they call **Dail-A-Bird** daily. Also all of us have experiences birding that would amuse or interest any **Tecolote** reader. I encourage everyone to contribute to this effort; especially those of you who are really on top of things.

If you have other suggestions for improving your newsletter, please don't hesitate to convey them to me.

John Bullock, Editor

EL TECOLOTE DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions to the February issue is Friday, January 25 (monthly meeting). Bring your contributions to the meeting or send them early that week to John Bullock, 217 South Third Street, Lompoc, CA 93436.

ADDRESS CHANGES and Mailing Problems

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

DIAL-A-BIRD

For current news of rare and unusual birds in the Santa Barbara area call 964-8240 anytime, night nor day. You will hear a 3-minute recording giving all the latest information.

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 January 10. Members are welcome to attend.

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

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

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

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