

# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

April, 1980  
Volume 18, Number 4



## MONTHLY MEETING—APRIL 25, 1980

### "Birds of the Santa Barbara Region"

Jim Greaves, a member of SBAS will present his slides of local birds. Jim Graduated from Grinnell College, Iowa in Philosophy. His interests include wildlife photography, and field research with an emphasis on preservation of rare wild habitats. Jim's past work includes a floristic survey of Gloucester County, Virginia, from 1973-77, and, beginning in 1978, research of the largest population of Least Bell's Vireo in the United States. Bring binoculars to enjoy more fully this slide presentation. Refreshments and fellowship will follow. Please remember to bring your own cup.

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

**April 12  
Saturday**

**San Roque Canyon**—Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 7:30 A.M. for car pooling, or at the entrance to the Canyon off Foothill and San Roque Road at 8:00 a.m. for a morning walk down the canyon. Driver donation: .50. Leader: Dean Bazzi.

**April 19  
Saturday**

**Arroyo Hondo Ranch**—Meet at Thrifty Five Points for car pooling for a full day of birding. Bring Lunch and water. Driver donation: \$1.00. The property extends from the seashore to the foothills and there are both difficult and easy walks. Habitats are varied containing shore birds and the birds of the chaparral. Leader: Charis Bratt, 967-7043.

**April 26-27  
Sat./Sun.**

**Figueroa Campout** Meet at Thrifty's Five Points parking lot at 7:30 a.m. or at Figueroa Mountain Campground near the summit at 9 a.m. Those joining the group for Saturday only may have some luck carpooling at Thrifty's or phone in advance for possible help. Pack lunches, light jacket, comfortable shoes and camping gear, if needed. We will leave the mountain area around lunchtime Sunday. Leaders: Bill Gielow, 687-3466, and Joe Gartland, 968-3307.

**May 10  
Saturday**

**Hibbits Ranch**—Meet at La Purisima Mission east of Lompoc at 8:00 a.m. where we will carpool a short distance to a 400-acre walnut ranch operated by the Lompoc Valley's foremost conservation-minded agricultural family. Bring a lunch and dress for wind. A choice of two walks; moderate orchard, or difficult hills will both produce pleasant birding and delightful habitat. Call Charis Bratt at 967-7043 for carpooling information from Santa Barbara. Leader: John Bullock, 736-8074, Lompoc.

**June 10  
Tuesday**

**Save This Date** for our annual picnic at Stow Grove. Minna Smith is in charge with a committee of Joan Lentz, Marge Cappietto, Ada Babine, Sema English and any other helpers.

**Looking  
Ahead**

**Another week-end** at Catalina! If interested and desirous of getting on our list, call Minna Smith, 966-7971. The location is superb and the price is right. Swimming, boating, scuba diving & snorkling, tide pools, hiking and last of all the Fall migration.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

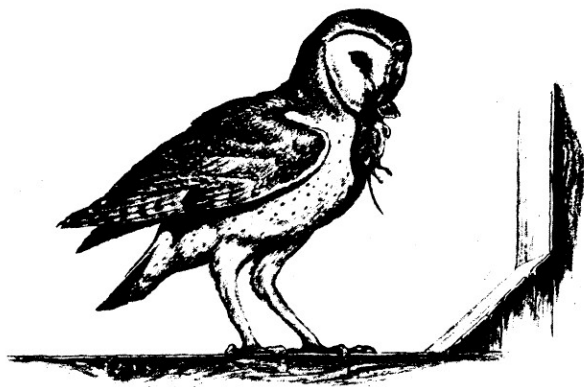
Having lived in Santa Barbara since 1966, it is with considerable difficulty that my family and I plan to leave the area. Having accepted a position in Orange County, we hope to relocate in San Juan Capistrano. At least it is a town associated with birds.

Santa Barbara Audubon has been a significant part of my life; friendships have been formed, it has been a source of education and a provider of activities that fill the role of fond memories. The last two years as president have been instructive and, for the most part, enjoyable. The board of directors contains remarkable people—the work and overall interaction with this group will definitely become one of the fond memories noted above. I will miss them and the many others in our membership whom I have come to know and respect.

I believe in the Audubon Society. It is a clear voice of conservation, treading difficult issues with care rather than rhetoric. Santa Barbarans are fortuitously located in one of the choice spots on earth. Santa Barbara Audubon Society will continue to work to maintain that which has been gained and protect that which could be irretrievably lost.

Cherie Bratt will assume the role of president, completing the final two months that remain on what would have, in any case, been my final term as president. I am proud to have been associated with Santa Barbara Audubon Society.

We will be back in town on occasion—most predictably during fall migration. The combination of friends, the regular occurrence of rare birds, and the gorgeous locale will prove irresistible. Until then, Brad Schram



## DICK SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

At its March meeting the Board approved the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee that the annual Dick Smith Scholarship be awarded to Mrs. Ann Carlyle, a fifth and sixth grade teacher at Brandon School in Goleta.

In addition to participating in Outdoor Education at the Goleta Schools Outdoor Camp for many years, she has taken many school groups on nature outings such as beach hikes and campouts. During the past three years she has had her students studying the Channel Islands and has led trips to Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands. Last year she also taught a one-week on-site course on the different habitats around Montana de Oro, near Morro Bay.

During the summer she lead Sierra Club trips. These have included camping trips for families to Tweedmuir Provincial Park in British Columbia and, this summer, to Canyon de Chelly in Arizona.

To further prepare herself for such work, Mrs. Carlyle has taken intensive courses at the Botanic Garden, the Museum of Natural History, U.C. Extension, and the Orange County Floating Marine Science Lab. She is an active member of the Audubon Society, Sierra Club and the Santa Barbara Underseas Foundation.

## BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

By Paul Lehman

The now famous Grace's Warbler found in Montecito in early January (9th state record, first winter record for the U.S.) was still present in late March. Countless birders from around the state came to see this individual and by so doing provided regular coverage of a single one-block area for a three-month period. As a result, an even greater appreciation for the number of unusual species hiding out in the "jungles" of Montecito during the winter was realized. Also seen at this location were a Sage Thrasher, Summer Tanager, Red Crossbill, 3 Black-headed Grosbeaks, "Baltimore" Oriole, and several "Bullock's" Orioles, Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Western Tanagers.

Truly amazing was the discovery of a second Grace's Warbler in late February near Carpinteria. It, too, was still present in late March. Considering the rarity of the species here, having two different individuals present simultaneously only five miles apart is remarkable.

A recent goldmine of a discovery is the lower portions of Carpinteria Creek near Carpinteria State Beach. This small area hosted (January-March) a Western Flycatcher, Black and White, Tennessee, and Nashville Warblers, a male Orchard, 2 Hooded, a Baltimore, and 6 Bullock's Orioles, Rusty Blackbird, and White-throated Sparrow.

Other notable rarities during the winter included: an immature Little Blue Heron, Ross' Goose, female European Wigeon, Brown Thrasher, American Redstart, and Harris' Sparrow in Goleta and another Harris' Sparrow in Santa Barbara. A Solitary Vireo on the UCSB campus was the first, and long overdue, wintering record for the Santa Barbara area. The bird was present only one tree away from the wintering Cape May Warbler (still present in late March) who defended its favorite eucalyptus tree from all visiting hummingbirds! A MacGillivray's Warbler all winter in Goleta provides us with only our third winter record; the bird had a slightly injured wing which may have prevented it from migrating farther south. Three Pygmy Nuthatches in Hope Ranch all winter were very unusual; though it is a common resident on our higher, conifer-covered mountains, it is only a casual visitor along the coast.

March does not normally produce many new rarities. This year was no exception (!) with the only notable records being a Red-throated Loon on Lake Cachuma (first inland record for the county), Scott's Oriole in Montecito, and three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Santa Barbara. However, a difficult-to-find immature Little Gull and a Glaucous Gull at McGrath at the beginning of the month provided some excitement. The Little Gull was the second ever for our area and a first for Ventura county.

Every year, from the end of February through the beginning of June, the northward migration of Pacific seabirds occurs. During this period spectacular numbers of loons (Arctic most abundant), Cormorants, Brant, Scoters, Gulls, and Terns may be observed from certain coastal promontories as they head north toward their breeding grounds in Canada and Alaska. Locally, peak movement occurs in April and early May. The best locations from which to observe are Pt. Mugu, Shoreline Park, and, especially, Goleta Point. Afternoons are usually the best. While at Goleta Point also check the rocks for migrant surfbirds, turnstones, and Wandering Tattlers.

## BREATH OF THE SUN

A new Museum of Natural History publication will be available late this month at the Museum shop. This is a unique tale of early California Indian life, the missions, early ranches, towns and settler. It should be of interest to all students of California history.

## CONSERVATION

President Carter, in his 1977 Environmental Message to Congress, called for the creation of a National Heritage Program in response to the critical need to preserve special places of natural, historic, cultural and scientific value which give this nation a sense of history and continuity.

The National Heritage Policy Act of 1979 was developed by the Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS) within the Department of the Interior.

The goals of the Act, in part, are to: establish a national policy and central source of direction for public and private efforts in natural area conservation and historic preservation; protect heritage resources from adverse federal actions; emphasize the partnership between the states and the federal government; and guarantee citizen involvement in the resources identification and protection process.

There is a great deal more to this Act than can be described in this column. If you are interested in more information, we have a copy of the Act, an overview of the project and a list of questions and answers. To borrow it, call Joy Parkinson at 967-9371.

**Mono Lake** The battle continues to save Mono Lake. Two bills are before the Assembly—AB 2235 would implement the Task Force Plan immediately and is supported by Audubon and the Mono Lake Committee. An opposition bill—AB 2182 would delay action for five years while more "investigation" is done and diversions of water continue. Please contact State Assemblyman Gary Hart and State Senator Omar Rains urging their support of AB 2235 and opposition to AB 2182.

**The Environmental Bill of Rights** would add to the State Constitution the inalienable right of California's residents to a "healthful and productive environment". 553,000 signature are needed by May 1 for the measure to qualify for the November ballot. It will not create a new government program nor is it a code of laws. Much like the Constitutional Bill of Rights it will be "a focus for the ongoing legislative and judicial processes....that will guarantee health and productive resources for the State of California".

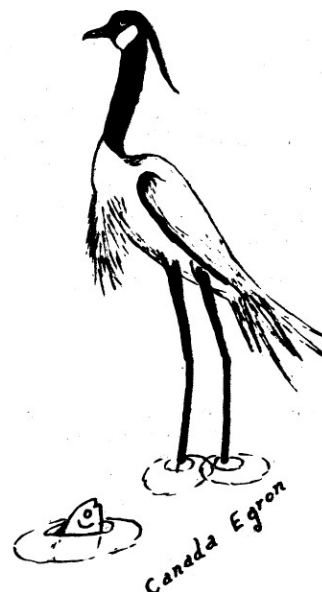
Several states in the U.S. already have similar Environmental Bill of Rights. Petitions are now being circulated and National Audubon is urging support.

## SANDYLAND SLOUGH

Even though the 29 people who turned out began the walk at high tide, we saw and identified at least 70 species, starting with two Townsend Warblers and an American Goldfinch. The more unusual sightings were a Clapper Rail, Long-billed Curlews, Greater Yellowlegs, Avocets, Dunlin and several Green Herons. Among the ducks sighted were Blue-winged Teal, one Cinnamon, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Surf and White-winged Scoter, and a Red-breasted Merganser. There were quite a few dead Western Grebes in the marsh.

We did not see the usual array of raptors, only a female Marsh Hawk, Kestrel and Coopers Hawk. There were substantial groups of Wimbrel, Godwits, Terns and Gulls including several Glaucous Winged. We watched a Kingfisher hovering and diving. In among the Sanderlings, Western and Least Sandpipers were a few Water Pippets. The Swallows were out in force—Violet Green, Rough-winged and barn—also both the light and dark race of the Savannah Sparrow. On arriving home, one of the birders called me to identify two large birds in a tree. They were a pair of Blue Grouse, the first I've seen in this area!

It was a pleasant warm and sunny walk and a good day for birding  
Robert H. Hough



In June of 1963 the Santa Barbara Audubon Society was founded and among the 72 charter members were Norman and Velma Stevens, and their daughter Marilyn. Although poor health prevents the Stevens from attending many SBAS functions, they are still members.

Marilyn has married and resides at the Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge where her husband is a research biologist. This fine line of naturalists has produced a son named Clinton who, at the inquisitive age of three, has discovered a new bird species—The Canada Eggon (pictured here).

Clinton and his six-year-old sister accompany their father on bird banding expeditions (using a banding kit that was carried by their great-grandfather) and hold birds while daddy gently attaches bands. Clinton, of course, had trouble sorting out all of the waterfowl, so taking the "Canada" from Canada Goose, "egr" from Egret, and "ron" from Heron, he came up with the Canada Eggon, his official name for everything from Swans, Geese, Waders, Shorebirds, and ducks. Using vivid field descriptions from Clinton, his mother was able to produce this excellent rendition of the bird, which she herself has yet to add to her Life List.

## CATALINA WEEKEND

Catalina Weekend was a variety of activities: adventure, birding, climbing, tidepool delving, and rough and fine weather. The ship pitched and rolled in the white-capped sea. Crew members passed out paper bags to anyone who wanted one. Many did and were glad they had them. Ashore in Avalon, we piled our luggage on a truck and then boarded an open launch for the half-hour run to Toyon Cove. It was a chilly, spray-splashed, choppy one, though smoother than the channel crossing.

Twenty-two birders and two guides saw 50 bird species, most notably four turkeys—a magnificent Tom displaying for three hens. White-throated swifts were there and Annas, Allens, and Rufous Hummingbirds flashed their brilliance. Ravens seemed to be everywhere, diving on Red Tails or being harried by Kestrels. We also saw a herd of bison and many of the large island ground squirrels.

Catalina Weekend was thoroughly enjoyable in a beautiful area and with fine weather after the rough crossing. Thank yous to Minna Smith for her capable management.

Alice Kladnik

## DUNE LAKES

On the 2nd day of March, Santa Barbarans met with Audubon members from Lompoc and Morro Bay for a morning of birdwatching in this beautifully managed ecologically rich area. We had more than our share of rain to contend with but finding 30 species of birds and just being able to walk across this privately-owned land made the whole trip worthwhile. One Bobcat was seen. There were also good display of hummingbirds, flickers, a Marsh Hawk, and Violet-green swallows. Thanks go out to Judy Tartaglia for her leadership and to Mr. Peter Churchwarden, the manager of the Due Lakes.

## MEMBERSHIP

Again it is time here to welcome recent new members and transfers into our Santa Barbara Chapter. We wish there were time to greet each one of you personally. Happy Birding!

**Some facts of life.** The Monthly Chapter Report of February 29 from National Audubon provides the following information:

New Members—33  
Transferred in—7  
Renewals—41  
Transferred out—2  
LAPSING—87

Jean Johnson

## ADDRESS CHANGES and Mailing Problems

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

## EL TECOLOTE

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## REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

A refreshment committee chairperson is needed for hospitality next year. This job is **not** difficult or extremely demanding and sharing the duties with another person makes it easier and more fun. It involves attendance at every monthly meeting (unless the job is shared), brewing coffee and heating water for tea, setting-up and clean-up of the refreshment table, organizing cookie donators and purchasing supplies.

for the past 17 years only one man has helped with refreshments on a regular basis—I would encourage **all** Audubon members to volunteer. After-meeting refreshments is a much-enjoyed and pleasant activity. Please—if no one volunteers, we will discontinue refreshments. Contact Wendy Bevier, 962-0483 or Tomi Sollen, 966-4836. Thank you.

## EL TECOLOTE DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions to the May issue is Friday, April 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.

## 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 with 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 April 10. Members are welcome.

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