

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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ANNUAL PICNIC AND MEETING—SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1980

Stow Grove Park, 580 La Patera Lane, Goleta

Join us at the large picnic grounds at 3:30 P.M. until dark. Dinner will be consumed at approximately 5:30 P.M. We will provide a charcoal fire, relish tray, salad, ranch-style beans, French bread, wine, cider, cake and coffee. Bring your own meat and table service (cup, plate, silverware and napkin). The cost is \$2.00 per person. Please make checks payable to **Santa Barbara Audubon** and mail to Minna Smith, 1600 Garden Street, #35, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. The deadline for reservations is Saturday, May 31. We will need a few extra barbeque tongs, as well as help in covering tables, mixing salads, etc. Question and Volunteers call Minna Smith at 966-7971. We hope to greet you at our last "Field Trip" for the 1979-80 season.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

**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.

**September
19-21**

Catalina Weekend at the CIMI 75 acre estate. We have no summer **El Tecolote** and unless we sign up at least 20 people, we will have to cancel. Call Minna Smith for reservations at 966-7971.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with mixed emotions that I take over the job as president of Santa Barbara Audubon for the remainder of this year—sorrow that Brad is not able to finish his term, trepidation when I consider my own anxieties, but most grateful for the strong support of the Board and of the members who have been in contact with me.

Audubon is made up of so many people, each unique, each with different interests, each a member for different reasons. Some are avid birders, some copious listers, some backyard birders, some environmentalists, some interested only in Audubon magazine, some interested in the social contacts. Some love field trips, some always attend meetings, some are loners. But through it all we have the common interest of birds and interest in the environment and in working together to foster a greater knowledge and appreciation.

It is not surprising that with the diversity of interests that we are not always in agreement with everything Audubon does. Boards of Directors on both national and local levels try their best to act in the best interests of the majority of the members. When we find ourselves in disagreement on a specific issue, we should keep in mind how much we do agree on. The world would be a sadder, poorer place without Audubon.

Cheri Bratt

ARROYO HONDO CANYON

On Saturday, April 19th, 21 Auduboners enjoyed the hospitality of J.J. Hollister and his foreman, Ron Loomis, at the Arroyo Hondo Ranch. 54 species were sighted including Phainopepla, and Canyon Wrens. Nests of house finches, Nuttalls Woodpeckers, Great-horned Owls were seen but the Turkey Vulture's nest eluded detection. The streams flowing through the canyon provided a skinny-dipping pool for the younger, more brave members and the canyon provided spectacular views—a most enjoyable outing.

Cheri Bratt

GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOPS

Tomi Sollen informs us that while the second session of Audubon's Golden Trout Camp Workshop has several openings, (Aug. 3-Aug.9) the first session (July 27-Aug. 2) is nearly full.

The cost for each session is \$125 per adult, and \$90 for children age 11 and under. The deadline for sign up and full payment is July 5. Write or call Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, CA. 93103 (805) 966-4836.

BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

By Paul Lehman

The big news in April was the discovery of an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron at the Ventura Marina on the 20th. This is the first record for the Santa Barbara/Ventura area and most likely represents a spring migrant overshoot from western Mexico. The bird was still present at the time of this writing on the 24th. Also present in the Ventura Marina is the continuing Red-necked Grebe that wintered at this location. While we typically get one or two per year between November and March, this individual has remained much later than normal for southern California.

In the Santa Barbara area, an Arctic Loon on Lake Cachuma, April 10, was the second inland record for the county. A Solitary Sandpiper was near the Santa Maria Rivermouth, April 20; while this species is a rare but regular fall migrant along the coast, this is only the fourth spring record for our area. Also present at nearby Guadalupe on the 20th was a Palm Warbler in full song. This eastern vagrant occurs in small numbers every fall and early winter but is very rare in the spring.

Several days of cool and/or wet weather in late April was probably responsible for the appearance of at least two Black Swifts in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area. This species is a rare migrant in the region and is most often seen during inclement weather when they are forced to fly at a lower altitude and thus can be seen by observers. These two birds were quite early as the species does not normally occur until the beginning of May.

May and June are good months in which to search for nesting species. Some of the rarer and more local species are discussed here. Recent fieldwork in the Ballinger and Quatal Canyon areas of the Cuyama Valley have discovered the northwestern-most breeding populations of Scott's Oriole (fairly common) and Black-throated Sparrow (uncommon). The same area supports Roadrunners, Costa's Hummingbirds, a few Brewer's Sparrows, and a large number of Sage Sparrows.

To see some of the rarer chaparral species try the LaCumbre Peak area on East Camino Cielo. This is the best spot locally for Black-chinned Sparrow. Also present are Mountain Quail, Roadrunner, Costa's Hummingbird, Canyon Wren, and Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrows.

The best remaining spot for Purple Martins in our area is Nojoqui Falls Park. Here, check the open area with scattered sycamores near the ranger's house.

Yellow-breasted Chat, now reduced locally as a nesting species, may be found in riparian habitat along Refugio Road and in the vicinity of Gaviota State Beach.

There are still large sections of the two counties of which we know little, and much can still be learned about the breeding distribution of birds in our region through their exploration. Prime examples of these are the riparian areas near Lompoc and Santa Maria, the Cuyama and Lockwood Valley areas, and much of the inland, mountainous sections of both Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

BOARD ELECTION, 1980

The election of the 1980-81 Board of Directors will take place at the Annual Meeting and Picnic at Stow Grove Park on June 7.

Retiring from the board will be Ada Babine, Joan Lentz, Brad Schram, Minna Smith, Russ Spowart and Jim Tannahill. Ada, Joan and Jim have completed the allowed maximum of three consecutive years. Brad, Minna and Russ will not be able to serve next year for various reasons. Our sincere thanks to them all.

The members of the 1979-80 Board who will be candidates for re-election are: Wendy Bevier, Cherie Bratt, John Bullock, Tomi Sollen and David Vincent.

The nominating committee has asked the following members to fill the six other openings on the Board:

Waldo Abbott the retired Assistant Director of the Museum of Natural History. Member of the first board of directors of SBAS. Waldo repainted the legs, bills and eyelids and cleaned the feathers of all 800 birds in the Museum Bird Hall when it was remodeled.

Nancy Crawford whose voice you hear when you dial our recorded message on current bird news. Nancy has taken over this chore from Cherie Bratt. Nancy has been a member of the SBAS Education Committee for the past two years and handles the Goleta school area.

Joe Gartland who has led a number of field trips for SBAS, and has a good knowledge of native plants. Joe is self-employed in collecting native seeds which he sells to be used for the control of soil erosion, and similar projects.

Eileen Gray whose drawing of a Screech Owl graces **El Tecolote's** masthead. A native Santa Barbaran, Eileen was one of the first pupils of Mrs. Irma Cooke who founded the Junior Nature Center at the Museum, now the Education Center.

Jim Greaves A member of SBAS Conservation Committee for the past two years, Jim is currently conducting research on the Least Bell's Vireo sponsored, in part, by SBAS. He is a talented bird photographer.

Jim Hodgson who served on the Board of Directors from 1975 to 1978. Jim has also served SBAS as Field Trip Chairman and Alaska Coalition Liaison, and has led several excellent field trips for us each year.

All candidates are interested in serving SBAS and furthering the Audubon cause. Any other nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Joy Parkinson
Nominating Committee

EL TECOLOTE

El Tecolote will not be published during the summer months except for a notice of a Pelagic Trip and the Fall Catalina Trip should these materialize. Your next full **Tecolote** will arrive in early September. Good summer birding to all!

John Bullock, Editor

EL TECOLOTE

Santa Barbara Audubon Society
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