

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

February, 1980 1981
Volume 18, Number 11



Eileen Gray, President
4866 Vieja Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
967-0698

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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- February 7
Saturday** **Lake Cachuma—Powers Ranch** This is a hot spot for waterfowl, Bald Eagles, Osprey, etc., plus many other species of birds. A scope is very useful. Meet at 5 Points near Thrifty Drug Store at 7:30 A.M. for a half-day of good birding. Leader: Jim Hodgson.
- February 21
Saturday** **Lake Los Carneros** Meet at Stow House parking lot at 8:30 A.M. for a half day trip. Leaders: Nancy Crawford and Karen Bridger, 964-7508.
- February 26
Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** With Golden Trout Camp and the Audubon Ecology Camp of the West in Wyoming (for which SBAS is currently soliciting nominees) on our minds, we have asked two fine gentlemen to extoll the virtues of each for us at our monthly meeting. Luis Bevier, a local birding expert and concotor of delicious soups, is a graduate of the Audubon Camp of the West in Wyoming. Luis will describe in vivid detail his adventures in hopes of producing a flurry of nominations for the Dick Smith Scholarship to that Camp. Tim Thomas is a naturalist at the Golden Trout Camp in our Sierra Nevada Mountains. Tim has been a naturalist with the Santa Monica Recreation Area, was the Preserve Manager for the Nature Conservancy from 1976 to 1980 at Cold Creek Canyon and has been a very active member of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Chapter. He will show us slides and tell us all about the Golden Trout Camp. A much-missed feature of our monthly meetings is being reinstated: Bird Identification sessions. If you would like your skills in the area sharpened, meet in the Bird Hall of the Museum of Natural History at 7:30 P.M. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Please bring your own cup, come and join us at 8:00 P.M. for a full evening of entertainment, fellowship and education in the Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History.
- March 7
Saturday** **Bird Refuge—S.B. Cemetery—Harbor** Meet at the Bird Refuge parking lot at 8:00 A.M. for a half day of viewing winter visitors. Leader: Jim Greaves, 968-9480.

In addition to its public bird walks in the Botanic Gardens at 9:00 A.M. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, the Audubon Society will offer the following habitat walks this month:

- February 12
Thursday** **Devereux Slough** This is an excellent opportunity to view shorebirds, waders, and other waterfowl that are wintering in Santa Barbara. Meet at kiosk at 9:00 A.M. at the entrance to Devereux School. Bring Binoculars if you can; scopes are helpful. Leader: Joy Parkinson
- February 26
Thursday** **U.C. Santa Barbara Campus and Lagoon** The University campus offers a variety of habitats attractive to land and water birds, especially wintering waterfowl and occasional pelagic species. Meet at the west end of the Goleta Beach parking lot at 9:00 A.M. to carpool to the campus. Leader: Jim Greaves

Santa Barbara Audubon Christmas Count TOTAL = 200

This year's Santa Barbara Christmas Count was carried out under sunny skies on January 3. The count produced a total of 200 species.

Certainly the highlight of the count was the **Worm-eating Warbler** found near the Mission. This is the second record for our region, and the second winter record for the state. It was an excellent count for warblers in general with 14 species recorded. The Montecito **Grace's** was seen, as was a lingering **Lucy's** in Goleta. Species that are normally rare here in winter were seen in surprising numbers: 6 **Tennessees**, 5 **Yellows**, and 12 **Black-Throated Grays**.

Other notable sightings included a **European Wigeon** and **Tropical Kingbird** in Goleta, **Rufous Humminbird**, **Western Flycatcher**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Swamp Sparrows** in Santa Barbara, **Solitary** and **Warbling Vireos** in Montecito, and a **Gray-headed Junco** in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Thanks to all of you who helped make this year's count both enjoyable and a success.

Paul Lehman

<u>11</u>	Common Loon
<u>17</u>	Arctic Loon
<u>15</u>	Red-throated Loon
<u>10</u>	Horned Grebe
<u>11</u>	Eared Grebe
<u>644</u>	Western Grebe
<u>121</u>	Pied-billed Grebe
	Northern Fulmar
<u>125</u>	Brown Pelican
<u>1</u>	White Pelican
<u>648</u>	Double-crested Cormorant
<u>339</u>	Brandt's Cormorant
<u>5</u>	Pelagic Cormorant
<u>34</u>	Great Blue Heron
<u>11</u>	Green Heron
<u>32</u>	Great Egret
<u>26</u>	Snowy Egret
<u>1</u>	* Cattle Egret
<u>71</u>	Black-crowned Night Heron
<u>4</u>	American Bittern
	* White-faced Ibis
<u>11</u>	Canada Goose
<u>1</u>	* Black Brant
<u>2</u>	* White-fronted Goose
	* Snow Goose
<u>175</u>	Mallard
<u>38</u>	Gadwall
<u>109</u>	Pintail
<u>107</u>	Green-winged teal
<u>5</u>	* Blue-winged teal
<u>25</u>	Cinnamon Teal
<u>1</u>	* European Wigeon
<u>397</u>	American Wigeon
<u>222</u>	Northern Shoveler
<u>6</u>	* Wood Duck
<u>300</u>	Redhead
<u>41</u>	Ring-necked Duck
<u>64</u>	Canvasback
	* Greater Scaup
<u>143</u>	Lesser Scaup
	* Common Goldeneye
<u>91</u>	Bufflehead
<u>28</u>	White-winged Scoter
<u>51</u>	Surf Scoter
	* Common Scoter
<u>347</u>	Ruddy Duck
<u>2</u>	* Hooded Merganser
<u>10</u>	Common Merganser
<u>16</u>	Red-breasted Merganser
<u>27</u>	Turkey Vulture
<u>37</u>	White-tailed Kite
<u>16</u>	Sharp-shinned Hawk
<u>17</u>	Cooper's Hawk

<u>122</u>	Red-tailed Hawk
<u>46</u>	Red-shouldered Hawk
	* Rough-legged Hawk
<u>1</u>	Golden Eagle
<u>6</u>	Marsh Hawk
	Osprey
<u>1</u>	* Prairie Falcon
<u>4</u>	* Merlin
<u>150</u>	American Kestrel
<u>436</u>	California Quail
	Mountain Quail
<u>1</u>	Turkey
<u>7</u>	Virginia Rail
<u>9</u>	Sora
<u>1</u>	Common Gallinule
<u>1773</u>	American Coot
<u>65</u>	Snowy Plover
<u>2</u>	Semi-palmated Plover
<u>762</u>	Killdeer
	* American Golden Plover
<u>209</u>	Black-bellied Plover
	* Surfbird
<u>1</u>	Ruddy Turnstone
<u>40</u>	Black Turnstone
<u>21</u>	Common Snipe
<u>2</u>	* Long-billed Curlew
<u>86</u>	Whimbrel
<u>26</u>	Spotted Sandpiper
	* Wandering Tattler
<u>188</u>	Willet
<u>4</u>	Greater Yellowlegs
<u>1</u>	* Lesser Yellowlegs
<u>88</u>	Least Sandpiper
<u>25</u>	Dunlin
<u>102</u>	Long-billed Dowitcher
	* Short-billed Dowitcher
	Dowitcher (species?)
<u>2</u>	Western Sandpiper
<u>150</u>	Marbled Godwit
<u>890</u>	Sanderling
	American Avocet
	* Black-necked Stilt
<u>1</u>	* Red Phalarope
<u>1</u>	Parasitic Jaeger
<u>16</u>	Glaucous-winged Gull
<u>2471</u>	Western Gull
<u>14</u>	Herring Gull
<u>1</u>	* Thayer's Gull
<u>1531</u>	California Gull
<u>611</u>	Ring-billed Gull
<u>1712</u>	Mew Gull
<u>389</u>	Bonaparte's Gull
<u>487</u>	Heerman's Gull

8 Pomarine Jaeger

X = count period only

<u>40</u>	* Black-legged Kittiwake
	Forster's Tern
	* Common Tern
<u>7</u>	Royal Tern
	* Caspian Tern
	Common Murre
	* Pigeon Guillemot
	* Xantus' Murrelet
	* Ancient Murrelet
	* Cassin's Auklet
	* Rhinoceros Auklet
<u>226</u>	Band-tailed Pigeon
<u>991</u>	Rock Dove
	* White-winged Dove
<u>749</u>	Mourning Dove
<u>82</u>	Spotted Dove
<u>3</u>	Roadrunner
<u>8</u>	Barn Owl
<u>6</u>	Screech Owl
<u>17</u>	Great Horned Owl
<u>2</u>	Pygmy Owl
<u>1</u>	Burrowing Owl
<u>1</u>	Short-eared Owl
	White-throated Swift
<u>1</u>	* Costa's Hummingbird
<u>1305</u>	Anna's Hummingbird (male)
<u>3</u>	* Allen's Hummingbird (male)
<u>23</u>	Selasphorus (species?)
<u>30</u>	Belted Kingfisher
<u>383</u>	Common Flicker (Red-shafted)
<u>1</u>	Common Flicker (Yellow-shafted)
<u>647</u>	Acorn Woodpecker
	Lewis' Woodpecker
<u>15</u>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
<u>10</u>	Hairy Woodpecker
<u>49</u>	Downy Woodpecker
<u>59</u>	Nuttall's Woodpecker
<u>1</u>	* Tropical Kingbird
<u>3</u>	* Cassin's Kingbird
	* Ash-throated Flycatcher
<u>148</u>	Black Phoebe
<u>71</u>	Says's Phoebe
<u>15</u>	Horned Lark
<u>1</u>	* Violet-green Swallow
	* Tree Swallow
	* Barn Swallow
<u>4</u>	* Steller's Jay
<u>1318</u>	Scrub Jay
	Yellow-billed Magpie
<u>5</u>	Common Raven
<u>1227</u>	Common Crow
	* Clark's Nutcracker
<u>14</u>	Mountain Chickadee
<u>445</u>	Plain Titmouse
<u>3111</u>	Common Bushtit
<u>35</u>	White-breasted Nuthatch
<u>1</u>	Red-breasted Nuthatch
	Pygmy Nuthatch
<u>8</u>	Brown Creeper
<u>546</u>	Wrentit
<u>2</u>	Dipper
<u>55</u>	House Wren
<u>9</u>	Winter Wren
<u>244</u>	Bewick's Wren
<u>38</u>	Long-billed Marsh Wren
<u>18</u>	Canon Wren
<u>7</u>	Rock Wren
<u>367</u>	Mockingbird

<u>181</u>	California Thrasher
<u>756</u>	American Robin
<u>X</u>	Varied Thrush
<u>208</u>	Hermit Thrush
<u>235</u>	Western Bluebird
	Mountain Bluebird
	Townsend's Solitaire
<u>52</u>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
<u>28</u>	Golden-crowned Kinglet
<u>1543</u>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
<u>432</u>	Water Pipit
<u>622</u>	Cedar Waxwing
<u>3</u>	Phainopepla
<u>42</u>	Loggerhead Shrike
<u>3827</u>	Starling
<u>226</u>	Hutton's Vireo
<u>6</u>	* Tennessee Warbler
<u>319</u>	Orange-crowned Warbler
<u>2</u>	* Nashville Warbler
<u>6622</u>	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon)
<u>148</u>	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
<u>12</u>	* Black-throated Gray Warbler
<u>280</u>	Townsend's Warbler
<u>2</u>	Hermit Warbler
<u>1</u>	* Palm Warbler
<u>216</u>	Common Yellowthroat
<u>1</u>	* Wilson's Warbler
	* American Redstart
<u>326</u>	House Sparrow
<u>909</u>	Western Meadowlark
	* Yellow-headed Blackbird
<u>2421</u>	Red-winged Blackbird
<u>22</u>	Tricolored Blackbird
	* Orchard Oriole
	* Hooded Oriole
<u>9</u>	* Northern Oriole (Bullock's)
<u>3</u>	* Northern Oriole (Baltimore)
<u>938</u>	Brewer's Blackbird
<u>210</u>	Brown-headed Cowbird
<u>4</u>	* Western Tanager
	* Summer Tanager
<u>1</u>	* Rose-breasted Grosbeak
	* Black-headed Grosbeak
	* Evening Grosbeak
<u>62</u>	Purple Finch
<u>3089</u>	House Finch
<u>1</u>	Pine Siskin
<u>503</u>	American Goldfinch
<u>378</u>	Lesser Goldfinch
<u>8</u>	Lawrence's Goldfinch
	* Green-tailed Towhee
<u>289</u>	Rufous-sided Towhee
<u>997</u>	Brown Towhee
<u>383</u>	Savannah Sparrow
<u>60</u>	Lark Sparrow
<u>15</u>	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
	Sage Sparrow
<u>1078</u>	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
<u>3</u>	Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)
<u>1</u>	* Gray-headed Junco
<u>19</u>	Chipping Sparrow
	* Harris's Sparrow
<u>3080</u>	White-crowned Sparrow
<u>518</u>	Golden-crowned Sparrow
<u>1</u>	* White-throated Sparrow
<u>41</u>	Fox Sparrow
<u>92</u>	Lincoln's Sparrow
<u>445</u>	Song Sparrow

X- Scott's Oriole
 S- Yellow Warbler
 S- Grace's Warbler
 L- Worm-eating Warbler
 L- Lucy's Warbler
 L- Solitary Vireo
 L- Warbling Vireo
 L- Rufous Hummingbird
 L- Western Flycatcher

NATIONAL AUDUBON PHILOSOPHY

In conjunction with the discussion of SBAS Chapter goals and objectives, the following statement of the National Audubon Society's philosophy is presented for the edification of our membership:

We believe in the wisdom of nature's design.

We know that soil, water, plants, and wild creatures depend upon each other and are vital to human life.

We recognize that each living thing links to many others in the chain of nature.

We believe that persistent research into the intricate patterns of outdoor life will help to assure wise use of earth's abundance.

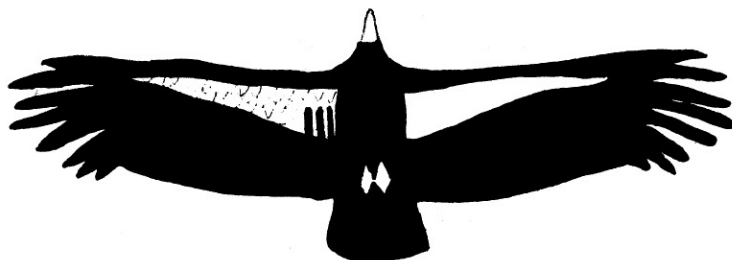
We condemn no wild creature and work to assure that no living species shall be lost.

We believe that every generation should be able to experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places where primitive nature is undisturbed.

So we will be vigilant to protect wilderness areas, refuges, and parks, and to encourage good use of nature's storehouse of resources.

We dedicate ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world and to share in conserving its wonders forever.

Faced with the impending political shift both on the national and local level, SBAS members have their work cut out for them if this philosophy is to bear fruit. Everyone is urged to read the letter written by NAS President Russell Peterson to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on page 103 of the January-February Audubon magazine.



DICK SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

It is again time to select the Society's recipient of the annual Dick Smith Scholarship to the Audubon Ecology Camp of the West. The Scholarship Committee urgently needs your help in securing top candidates for this \$475 award. Nominees need not be Audubon members.

In past years these scholarships have enabled teachers, rangers and writers to attend the camp, people who would not otherwise have been likely to go, yet were in good positions to promote the cause of conservation of our natural resources. The scholarship covers all costs for one of the four two-week sessions, except transportation to and from camp.

It is our aim to find candidates who have a strong interest in ecology and conservation, who have the background to gain much from the camp and who offer promise of using the training to advance the cause of conservation. Consequently it is requested that the following information be provided for each nominee: (1) evidence of interest and activity to date, (2) evidence of ability to profit significantly from the training, (3) ways in which the benefits would probably be "passed back" into the community and (4) financial need, if any.

A recent letter from the camp director stresses the need to make our reservation early to assure a place in the session of our winner's choice. For that reason we ask that you make your nominations by February 26, 1981. Please send them to S.E. Tarbox, chairman, Scholarship Committee, 616 Calle Palo Colorado, Santa Barbara 93105.

Don't forget—the quality of this year's winner depends on the quality and number of your nominees. Sid Tarbox

CODE OF ETHICS

ETHIC I: THOUGHTFULNESS OF BIRDS

Be stealthy, quiet. Try to observe birds so they are unaware of your presence, this providing an opportunity to learn their normal habits. Avoid quick movements, discordant noises, running, continuous chasing of the same birds, throwing things, and "thrashing about". The quiet observer sees more.

Approaching a nest too closely or repeated flushing may cause abandonment of the eggs and young by the parents and expose the nest to predation. Do not handle eggs or young.

When photographing a nest or parents at the nest, don't keep it unduly exposed to sun, cold or rain, causing destruction of eggs or young or desertion by parents. Instead of cutting branches or grass near the nest, tie them back. Leave the habitat as you found it.

Use tape recorders with discretion to prevent driving birds from their territories. Never play recorders in heavily birded areas.

Divide larger groups of people; individuals or small groups cause less disturbance.

Avoid "tree-whacking" to arouse cavity dwellers. Undue disturbance may lead to abandonment.

ETHIC II: THOUGHTFULNESS OF HABITAT

Avoid trampling fragile habitats, especially marshes, grasslands, wildflowers and tangles. Stay on established pathways. Damage to the habitat affects all species in the ecosystem.

When practical, pool transportation to birding areas to save energy and reduce environmental impact.

Keep motor vehicles on established roads and parking areas. One set of tracks invites others. In fragile ecosystems track may last for decades and severely degrade the habitat value.

Obtain permission for entry to private lands and when necessary on government lands. Respect the occupant's privacy and property. Don't block rights-of-way; leave gates as you found them.

Walk single file in fragile areas. Small groups reduce adverse impact on the habitat and require narrower paths and roads, and smaller parking areas.

Leave no litter.

Plan restroom stops to avoid pollution of the habitat.

Be extremely careful with fire. Avoid smoking while walking; press out cigarettes on rocks or mineral soil. Carry butts with you.

Use discretion in divulging information on nests and rare and endangered birds, especially in fragile habitats.

ETHIC III: THOUGHTFULNESS OF BIRDERS

Dispense with unnecessary talk, noise and disturbance so that all birders in a group have the opportunity to exercise their full facilities of sight and hearing.

Put the interests of the group before your own. Keep the birding group together so that interesting and rare or unusual sightings can be shared until all interests are addressed.

When with a group of mixed birding abilities the leader or better birders should assist others in identification and should point out field marks, habits and ecological relationships.

Avoid excessive use of squeakers and "pishing"; it may reduce their effectiveness and may annoy other birders.

Be sensitive to the efforts and energies of fellow birders. In identifying and reporting the rare and unusual, always err on the side of "over-identification" so there is less chance of wrong identity. Be prepared to justify identifications adequately with good descriptions or photographs to minimize perpetuation of errors in the literature.

When possible prior to reporting a rare or unusual sighting, have another birder of better or equal ability locate and verify your identification.

When birding at a private home or ranch be considerate of your host's time and property.

MEMBERSHIP

We are in the midst of a membership drive—now we receive money from National Audubon Society **only** for new members instigated by us, or on our own membership **renewals**. So far we average 8 new members, (that we find) and 30 that National sends us. Our renewal average is only 33 per cent, so please pay your dues for 1981.

Santa Barbara Audubon Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: (during October, 1980 when the contest began) Marsha A. Collins, Mrs. Michael Douglas, T.W. Foresman, Mrs. Margaret M Gunther, Mary Jane Hardy, Pat Kelly, Susan A. Kemp, Denise L. Laberteauz, Jacqueline Lunianski, Daniel Messina, Manual Ortiz & family, Mrs. Beatrice Owen, Carol M. Smith, and Donna Wright.

During November we added to our roster:

Lane Anderson, Jessica Ash, Ms. E. Aus, Shelley Bookspan & family, Elsie Bayer, Brian Burd, Mrs. Leonora Cook, Jane Gorsline, Janet Lyons, Kathleen Ryan Matthews, Bonnie O'Rork, Mrs. D. Patsch, Mindy Ronsenblaft, S.F. Petteway, Mrs. Homer Swander, Mr. H. Schwartz, Dan Goad, Mark Laver, Juanita Holter, Chi Irrivetti, Mr. & Mrs. Vincent L. Elliot, Anne K. Lincoln, Mr. John R Nickel, James B. North & family, and Richard Sheldon; also Jim Cript and Terri Matelson and Margi Mets, and Flora Kotlarsky. We also welcome Mrs. Haseltine R. Bunnelle who transferred into our Chapter from Golden Gate.

We hope to meet all of you at our montly meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month and hope that you participate in our chapter activities.

Minna E. Smith, Membership Secretary

J.P. WEBSTER MEMORIAL

The Channel City Camera Club has sent \$50.00 to the SBAS as a memorial to J.P. Webster. The SBAS board has voted to use the money for its Audubon Camp of the West Scholarship. Additional contributions in memory of Mr. Webster can be sent to our treasurer, Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad Ave. 93103, for this scholarship.

EL TECOLOTE

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

COOKIES

Thanks for **good** cookies and coffeeand tea served at the December 4 Member's Slide Night" to Jean Noel, Jane Murray, Beryl Scott and Tomi Sollen.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

As part of its ongoing program of classes, the Museum of Natural History Education Center is offering "Birding For Beginners" led by Waldo Abbott. The next session, open to both new and repeat students, begins Saturday, February 7. There is a fee for the class, which is limited to 20 students, and pre-registration is necessary. Call the Education Center, 682-4334, for further information.

EL TECOLOTE DEADLINE

The deadline for the March issue is Thursday, February 12 (Board of Directors meeting). Bring your contributions to that meeting or send them early that week to John Bullock, 217 South Third St., 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. If you have any unusual sightings please call Nancy Crawford at 964-7508.

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. Members are always welcome to attend.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Barbara, CA
Permit Number 125

SANTA BARBARA
FEB 06 1981
BOTANIC GARDEN

THE BOTANIC GARDEN
1212 Mission Cyn Rd
Santa Barbara CA 93105

Dated
Material
Please Carry
Promptly