

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

March, 1981
Volume 18 Number 12



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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

**March 12
Thursday**

Lake Los Carneros Habitat Walk—This walk, sponsored by the Education Committee, affords excellent observation of wintering land and water birds. Meet in the parking lot behind the fire station on Los Carneros Road at 9:00 A.M. Leaders: Nancy Crawford and Karen Bridges.

SBAS Board of Directors meets in the Junior Library of the Museum of Natural History at 7:30 P.M. Members are always welcome to attend.

**March 15
Sunday**

MacGrath State Park and Santa Clara River Estuary—A hot spot for many species. Meet at the Museum of Natural History for car pooling at 8 A.M. or at the parking area at the west end of the bridge at 9 A.M. Do not cross bridge to MacGrath Park. Bring lunch. Leader: Sidney Tarbox, 687-2067.

**March 26
Thursday**

Monthly Meeting—This meeting is one that should be attended by every member. Dr. Richard Martyr, the western regional director of National Audubon, will speak to us on the Mono Lake legal suit against Los Angeles water agencies. The California chapters have been asked to contribute as much as possible, at this time, to continue the fight. A goal of \$100,000 has been set and figures out to \$2.00 per California members. The SBAS Board moved to match funds generated by the membership up to an amount of \$1,000. If more than \$1,000 is raised, the board will probably act to match it.

We are planning a "treasures" auction after Dr. Martyr's talk, to kick off the fundraising drive. In order to have a good auction, we need all our members to rustle around and donate good, usable, clean "treasures" during this month. Spring cleaning time is here anyway. Call Eileen at 967-0698 if you have something to donate. Pick up and storage will be arranged.

**March 28
Saturday**

Atascadero Creek Habitat Walk—This walk, again sponsored by the Education Committee, provides an opportunity to see a large variety of shore and land birds. Meet at the south Patterson Bridge where it crosses the creek at 9:00 A.M. Leader: Eileen Gray

**May 17
Sunday**

Atascadero Creek—Meet at East end of Goleta Beach Co. Park parking lot at 8:30 A.M. for a half day of birding. Leader: Joy Parkinson 976-9371

Mono Lake Day—at the Community Environmental Council's Mesa Garden Project will be held from 12 to 3 P.M. Wendy Bevier and Tomi Sollen request members to join a committee to plan for this important event. Call Tomi at 966-4836 if you are interested in helping.

BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

By Paul Lehman

It has been a good winter, bird-wise, in the Santa Barbara area. There were no invasions of northern or montane species this season, but this was compensated for by a good assortment of "half-hardy" overwintering species.

Groves of blooming eucalyptus and other ornamental plantings in the area hosted a total of 8 **Yellow Warblers**, 28 **Bullock's Orioles**, and 15 **Western Tanagers**, plus an unheard-of total of 7 **Baltimore Orioles**. A total of 13 **Tennessee Warblers** this season is unprecedented; this eastern species has been detected wintering here only in the past few years. Prior to this year there were only three winter records of **Western Flycatchers** in our region; this season produced on amazing five between Goleta and Carpinteria. There had only been two previous winter records for **Solitary Vireo**: three were seen this year, with one in Goleta being of the expected, west coast race "cassinii", the one in Montecito being of the gray "plumbeous" race of the Great Basin (second record in the region), and a bird in Santa Barbara likely of the bright, eastern "Blue-headed" race (only one previous fall record). Other significant records include the **Tropical Kingbird** in Goleta, **Black and White Warbler** at El Capitan, **Franklin's Gull**, **Scott's Oriole**, 2 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, and 2 **Swamp Sparrows** in Santa Barbara, the continuing **Grace's Warbler** and 3 **Scott's Orioles** in Montecito, and a **Summer Tanager** in Carpinteria.

Last winter we learned that even with "saturation" coverage of a small area (the **Grace's Warbler** street in Montecito) new species continue to be found throughout the season. This years example of this phenomenon took place on Camino Rio Verde in north Goleta. Birders first started visiting this street following the discovery there of a wintering **Costa's Hummingbird**, a **Tennessee Warbler**, and two **Western Tanagers**. Over the next month the following were also found there: **Bell's Vireo** (our first winter record and the first ever away from a breeding locale), **MacGillivray's Warbler** (fourth winter record), **Solitary Vireo**, and **Swamp Sparrow**.

Farther afield, highlights at Point Mugu this winter included an immature **Black-headed Gull** for the third southern California record, a **Tufted Duck** in February, and a wintering **Eastern Phoebe**. The McGrath area hosted 2 **European Wigeon** and 2 **Vermillion Flycatchers** all winter. To the north, The Santa Ynez River mouth hosted 28 **White-fronted Geese**, and the Santa Maria Christmas Count on January 4 was graced by one of the wintering **Ruffs** and an amazing spectacle of just over 200 **Sandhill Cranes**.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I became your president, it was my hope that it wouldn't be necessary to address myself to you very often in the **Tecolote**, and only when it seemed really important.

But it has become a real concern to me and has been discussed at several board meetings that the general membership is not participating in chapter activities in the numbers that our very large membership should generate. We have no apparent environmental crises like the oil spill and everyone seems to be under the mistaken opinion that "everything is OK". We all have priorities and busy schedules, but we need to know what you are members for and we need to see and talk to you to get any meaningful business done at our monthly meetings. Please take a look at the dates in this **Tecolote** and write down the ones you want to attend on your calendar. There is an awful lot of work to be done and we need an active membership to get it done. Eileen Gray

CONSERVATION

Conservation Coalition Formation

The Board of Directors has approved the Conservation Committees request to attempt to form a local coalition with other Conservation groups for the purpose of environmental review of activities of private and public development or alteration projects. This group will serve primarily as an informational steering committee from which conservation organizations may draw data for possible use in formal resolution of their boards of directors. It will have no formal voting rights nor will any group be obligated to its various findings. If anyone has expertise in the various aspects of environmental review or would like to join in the on-going battle to protect our environment, please contact the Conservation Committee at PO Box 2067, Santa Barbara, CA 93120.

Department of Environmental Resources may be in for its final "need" hearing. March 3, 1981, in the Supervisors Hearing room is the day to keep in mind. On the agenda, the possible consolidation of the Planning and Resources departments may become a reality. This is NOT in our best interests. Planning issues pertain primarily to matters dealing with adequacy of the mechanics of development processing. Resources issues pertain primarily to review of adequate protection of natural resources and obedience of environmentally protective guidelines. The issues of mechanics of filing and review of mechanics are best served by separate departments—it was for that very reason that they were created separately in the first place. Write or call you Supervisor (and the other four) and request their support of separation of the departments. **Supervisors:** David Yager, Robert Kallman, William Wallace, DeWayne Holmdahl, Harrell Fletcher. County Administration Building, 105 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, or call 966-1611.

Community Coalition Stops Development

A coalition of homeowners, businessmen, and conservationists prevailed on an appeal to the Supervisors to overturn County Planning Commission approval of commercial development in rural open space adjacent to Los Carneros Park.

Supervisors Holmdahl, Kallman, and Wallace overturned the decision citing the lack of need and inappropriateness of the location. However, on Monday, Feb. 23 the BOS spelled out conditions specifying appropriate uses for the commercially zoned site, including among the more acceptable alternatives, professional office spaces or other low impact uses compatible with the site's location near a county park and agricultural lands. These three men should be commended for responding to community concern.

Watt confirmed as Interior Secretary

If you wish to express yourselves on this apparently deplorable appointment, write to thank the twelve Senators who cast their votes opposing his appointment: Dale . Bumpers, Howard M. Metzenbaum, Joseph R. Biden, Alan D. Cranston, Christopher J. Dodd, Edward M. Kennedy, Patrick J. Leahy, Carl M. Levin, Daniel P. Moynihan, William Proxmire, Donald W. Riegle, Paul S. Sarbanes, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

WHITE-TAILED KITE RESEARCH

Birders who watch the south coast area, alert! If you see White-tailed Kites on your birding expeditions, please take note of the time, date and place and any observed activities. The conservation committee wishes to collect as much data as possible on the distribution of this fully protected species as possible. Please contact Violet Gray (967-0698) with any information.

BIRDING POINT REYES

Of course the instant I decided to bird Point Reyes and environs, several murders occurred and women were warned **not** to bird this wonderful area. So I joined Rich Stallcup for a marvelous, but rather **wet** five days. We managed to view over 180 species despite the storms. Some of the territory covered included Yuba City, Oroville Dam, Feather River, Chico Pennington Road, Graylodge Wildlife Management, the Buttes, Solano County Park, Shield Marsh, Inverness, Bodega Bay and Point Reyes.

The highlights for me were good views of Whistling Swans, hundreds of ducks, Three Eurasian Widgeons, Sandhill Cranes, at least 6 Yellow-billed loons, 3 Oldsquaws, and a hoard of geese, among them the Blue Ross's Goose, which may get to be recognized as a new species of Goose. Other firsts for me were Barrow's Goldeneye, Surfbird, Greater Scaup and Black Scoter. There were also mixed flocks of Ruby and Yellow crowned Kinglets, a Phaenopepla, a Palm Warbler and a Winter Wren singing—a song that compares with the house wren in melodic line.

The company was good and the instruction was excellent and I would recommend these weekends as a valuable aid in investigating an unfamiliar territory.

Minna Smith



MORRO BAY TRIP

Nineteen people, including three from Ventura Audubon, enjoyed two beautiful days of birding at Morro Bay and Montana de Oro on January 31 and February 1. After a rainy week, the week-end provided clear, sunny weather—quite a contrast to the year before. As a result we found over 100 species, including 18 waterfowl and 10 members of the hawk family—but no Peregrine.

While our main interest was in water birds, we also sighted some beautiful land dwellers such as the Allen's Hummingbird, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and several species of warblers. In addition we had the pleasure of watching migrant whales, a pod of Harbor seals and a feeding Sea Otter.

Once again Morro Bay sustained its reputation as a really choice birding spot

Mary and Sid Tarbox

TUCKERS GROVE TRIP

A delightful time was had on a gorgeous, warm winter day by about 12 members. We saw 48 species of birds, including Downy and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks, Allens and Annas Hummingbirds, Blue-grey Gnatcatchers, Townsends and Myrtle Warblers, Hermit Thrushes, and numerous scolding, singing, and courting Hutton's Vireos, several of which darted about our heads when we scolded and imitated their scold-songs: so close we could almost touch them! Thanks to all who came on this relaxed outing.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Jim Hodgson resigned from the SBAS Board of Directors last month and Helen Matelson was elected by the board at its February meeting to fill the vacancy. Elections will be held at our annual meeting in June. If you are interested in serving as a committee chairman or on the governing board, please let the president know. A nominating committee will consider all interested applicants.

POPULATION CONFERENCE

Violet and I had a spectacular flight on the morning of January 21 across clear skies over most the U.S.A. We neared the city at dusk and passed the floodlit monuments of our capital with lumps in our throats, it was so beautiful.

The conference started out at a run and never slowed down. Even though I went from one workshop to another, much of it was missed because of the concurrency of meetings. Violet went to the alternate workshops and we took a lot of notes.

The sad news is that we are on the brink of major problems mainly because of over-population. Time and again, when resources, pollution and the environment were discussed, the basic problem was just too many people. Here, in America, we have been encouraged to use everything because it was good for business and because everything was plentiful. The era of plenty is gone and sad though it is, we must face the facts of scarcity, fragility and permanent loss of things we value—if we don't immediately take certain steps in our individual lives and in the governmental lives of our communities.

I will write a small segment in following **Tecolotes** giving a close look at the speakers and workshops I attended.

I was very proud of Mr. Peterson and hope you all are able to meet him personally, too, someday. He deserves a great deal of credit from the members of Audubon, as well as the members of all the other conservation-business-population organizations that made up the conference attendance. Now it is our job to try to set things in motion to counter the destructive waste of our world. Its the only one we have.

Eileen Gray

MEMBERSHIP

Santa Barbara Audubon Society is happy to welcome the following new members:

Mrs. O.A. Anderson, Mrs. Martha C. Audeev, Mr. Paul Binding, S. Faulstich and S. Burleigh, Sheila Galbraith, Mrs. Hugh Garvin, Mr. Daniel Gira, Cary B. Goldman, Mr. Edward F. Johnson, Dr. and Mrs. A.D. Kantz, Mrs. John Dean, C. Kunkle and family, Pierce and Kristine Michael, Bertha Nelson, Joan Renehan, Keyo Russell, Kathy Schelby, Mr. H. Schwartz, Dennis and Gail Shaughnessy, Mr. Warren Simandle and family, Barbara Tanner, E. Weingand and Mrs. Thompson West. We hope to meet all of you at our next meeting.

Again we have lost 68 members because of lapsing memberships. If every member would enlist one friend we might compensate for our shrinking numbers. We started in September with 1,267 and we are now at 1180. My committee and I are working hard to contact those people who have been loyal supporters for many years. May I enlist your cooperation.

Minna E. Smith

Membership Chairman

GOLDEN TROUT

Audubon members are reminded that the Golden Trout Workshops, held at the beautiful Golden Trout Camp in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains at 10,000 feet has two sessions reserved for Auduboners:

Session I—July 26 to August 1

Session II—August 2 to August 8

The cost is \$125 per session for adults and \$90 for children under 12. This is an excellent place to spend a relaxing week where the whole family can be included in exciting and educational activities.

For a brochure on the Golden Trout Camp, write to Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, Ca 93103.

LIBRARY ADDITION

Our newest acquisition is an autobiography by Margaret Morris Nice, **Research is a Passion With Me**. Known as the "Song Sparrow Lady", Nice did landmark research in the 1920's and '30's which revolutionized ornithological research. She spoke seven languages, received two honorary PhD's for her contributions in addition to raising a family. Her life story is fascinating, and should interest and inspire many readers.

BAJA BOAT TRIP

On May 30 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is sponsoring an event of special interest to birders: a week-long boat trip to the Midriff Region of the Baja Gulf with the Baja Expeditions.

They will explore Isla Angel de la Guarda, Isla Mejia, and Granite, the homes of the Blue-footed Booby, Elegant and Royal Terns and Heerman's and Western Gulls. See the Museum's February Bulletin or call for details.

TECOLOTE DEADLINE

The deadline for the April issue is Thursday, March 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.

EL TECOLOTE
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NONGAME CONSERVATION FUND

In the past, money from hunting and rifle organizations contributed to the preservation of habitat for game birds and wildlife, so the members would have something to hunt. The Dept. of Fish and Game understood the importance of preserving and acquiring habitat for non-game wildlife. A few years ago, the non-game wildlife conservation was originated and moneys solicited from conservation organizations, individuals, and the California general fund to acquire new habitat and preserve existing lands for all wildlife.

The Dept. now informs that there will be a loss of approximately \$50,000.00 from the California general fund for this program this year. The surplus is being used for bail-out money for cities and counties due to economic slow-downs.

With the new Washington administration, it is necessary to pull harder than ever to protect, and increase, our diminishing wildlife habitat. There's no better way than to contribute \$5.00 a year to the Dept. of Fish and Game's NONGAME WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND.

Please send contributions to me at Box 4755, Santa Barbara, California 93103 or give them to me in person at the next S.B. Audubon meeting.
Helen Matelson

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.

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