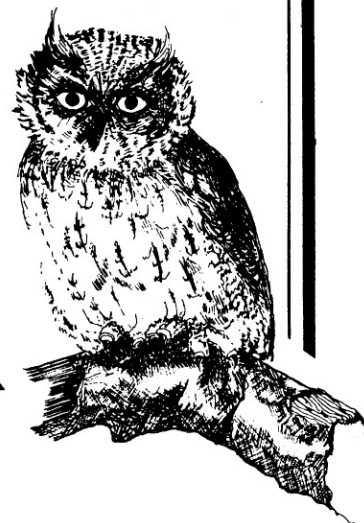


El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

May, 1981
Volume 18 Number 14



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

**May 16
Saturday**

San Ysidro Canyon—Meet at SB Museum of Natural History at 7:30 A.M. This will be a short hike along the creek by trail. Dippers might be seen. Leader to be announced. Call 964-1030 if you have questions.

**May 17
Sunday**

Mono Lake Day—The Community Environmental Council's Mesa Garden Project will be held from 12 to 3:00 p.m. More information is included on page 3.

**May 23
Saturday**

Mission Creek—Meet at the main entrance of the Botanic Gardens at 7:30 a.m. The morning will be spent birding here and down Mission Creek at both Rocky Nook Park and the SB Museum of Natural History grounds. Finding a rare spring vagrant is a possibility. Leader to be announced. Call 964-1030 if you have questions.

**May 28
Thursday**

Monthly Meeting—"Mountain Wildflowers" will be the topic of Clifton F. Smith, renowned botanist with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, who has spent several decades studying the vegetation of Santa Barbara. Author of **A Flora of the Santa Barbara Region**, he takes us on a tour of the back country in this delightful program. For those wishing to tackle the rigors of wilderness area hiking or driving, this show will whet your appetites further. Please come join us in the Fleischmann Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History at 7:30 p.m. for a bird identification session in the Bird Hall and the program at 8:00 p.m. to be followed by refreshments and fellowship. Please bring your own cup for coffee or tea.

**June 7
Sunday**

Annual Picnic—Join us as the large picnic area at Stowe Grove Park, 580 La patera Lane, Goleta at 11 a.m. for a barbeque lunch to be consumed at approximately 1:30 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, flatware and napkin). The cost is \$2.50 per person. Mail checks to Eileen Gray, 4866 Vieja Drive, SB 93110 by Saturday, May 30. Volunteers are needed and should call Eileen at 967-0698. A business meeting to elect new board members will be conducted amid jovial cuisine and fellowship.

**June 13-14
Sat.-Sun.**

Mono Campout—Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 7:15 a.m. or at Mono Campground at 9:00 a.m. Those joining for Saturday only may call 967-0698 or 964-1030 for possible carpooling plans. The camp is primitive so bring drinking water, food, toilet tissue, warm clothing, sturdy shoes and camping gear if needed. There is no firewood so bring wood if you want a camp fire. Call Louis Bevier at 964-1030 for information. Leaders: Jim Greaves and Violet Gray.

Birds in Santa Barbara

By Paul Lehman

The late winter and early spring this year in the Santa Barbara area did not produce many new unusual species. Most of the interest was generated by the rarities that remained from earlier in the winter and by the beginning of spring migration.

At Carpinteria Creek, the wintering **Black and White** and **Tennessee Warblers**, "**Baltimore**" **Oriole**, and **Summer Tanager** were still present at the end of March, as was the Montecito **Grace's Warbler** and a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in Santa Barbara. The **Bell's Vireo** that wintered in north Goleta (first winter record for our region) was last seen in early March, at which time it was singing. The **Tropical Kingbird** at Devereaux stayed longer than expected, into early April.

New rarities found include two "**Baltimore**" **Orioles** in Montecito and an immature **Glaucous Gull** in the Goleta area. This gull is a straggler from the north; like all the previous individuals recorded in the region (approximately 15) it is a first-year bird.

Spring migration is in full swing. Beginning already in early March, **Western Flycatchers**, **Warbling Vireos**, and **Hooded and Bullock's Orioles** began to arrive. They were soon followed by **Western** and **Cassin's Kingbirds** and **Wilson's Warblers**. At the end of the month **Black-throated Gray Warblers** and **Black-headed Grosbeaks** made their first appearance. April brings in the larger number of returnees. The first weeks of the month saw the arrival of **Black-chinned Hummingbirds**, **Ash-throated Flycatchers**, and **Nashville, Hermit** (early), and **MacGillivray's** (early) **Warblers**. Also seen at this time was a slightly early **Hammond's Flycatcher**; this species is an uncommon to rare spring transient (very few fall records) through our area.

Recent spring arrivals do not only involve landbirds, however. In the past weeks, large numbers of **Surfbirds**, **Short-billed Dowitchers**, and **Western Sandpipers** have been seen moving through the area, and the northward movement of thousand of coastal seabirds (loons, brant, scoters, gulls, and terns) past our coast is in peak form.

During the remainder of the spring, check the wooded canyon areas and along the well-vegetated creeks that flow out onto the coastal plain. These areas will likely produce the largest numbers of landbird migrants, while some of the coastal promontories (e.g. Goleta Point) are best for observing the movement of seabirds.

Conservation

WATER DEPLETION

1980-81 was a mixed year. We had the largest group assembled in recent memory for membership on the Committee: Wendy Bevier, Jim Crisp, Joe Gartland, Eileen Gray, Violet Gray, Helen Matelson, Joy Parkinson, Judie Tartaglia, and myself. Subjects covered in meetings, and letters sent ranged from Vernal Pools in San Diego County to oil development in the Nipomo (Guadalupe) Dunes, and to national issues beyond our county and state lines, including Bureau of Land Management policies on the deserts, the now-defunct Energy Mobilization Board of the past Administration in Washington, LNG importation at Point Conception (still pending and possible), poisoning of wildlife on Federal lands throughout the West, and various evolving policies of the myriad state and federal agencies (Forestry, Parks, Wildlife, etc.).

In spite of our meagre efforts (when compared to the list of things to do), we have much work to do, and few people doing it. I received one reply from my request in February for volunteers. There is more work on the horizon, now, locally, than at any time in the past in the Santa Barbara area. Reasons for this are many, but boil down to one central theme: **WATER**, and the lack of a sufficient supply to turn the Goleta Valley into a mini-Los Angeles.

On April 1, Eileen Gray and I attended the first in a series of meetings being called by the Citizens Planning Association, for the purpose of organizing home-owner (and other interested) groups to plan, concertedly, the development of the Goleta Valley, slowly. Still, at the bottom of the issue is **WATER**. Across the nation, the shortage of good healthful water is at issue, and the 1980's could prove a turning point in our national understanding of limitations, and our part in the realm of life.

I wish to thank all those who participated in the conservation issues this past year, and remind you all, those who would seek to destroy or alter our natural heritage do not take summer vacations, nor do they work only during the 40-hour week we have become mesmerized with! If you wish to share the load and contribute so your grandchildren's grandchildren will know what the Great Egret was all about (that is, the Audubon cause), and even know what one looks like in life, I strongly urge getting involved **NOW**. The next two to three years are crucial to the conservation movement and the attainment of its goals, the preservation of its meaning.

Jim Greaves
Conservation Chairman

CONSERVATION HOTLINE IN WASHINGTON D.C.:
202-547-9017

SBAS CONSERVATION CONTACT:
JIM GREAVES
PO BOX 2067

National Population Policy

Global Tomorrow, a coalition of national organizations, has been formed to foster support for a national population policy. It was formed during the Leadership Conference on Population, Resources, and Environment held in Washington D.C. late in January. Audubon President Russell Peterson called for a common effort in support of a national population policy that "consciously and deliberately favors quality of life over quantity of life."

Tom Stael of the Natural Resources Defense Council is the interim chairperson of this newly formed coalition. National Audubon's population program manager, Frances Breed, is coordinating the society's work with the Coalition. To be kept informed of coalition developments and population news, write her at National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New York, 10022 and ask to have your name added to the mailing list. Eileen Gray, SBAS President, attended this conference. For more information on local population news or if you would like to help, contact her at 967-0698.

Membership

It was most gratifying to have 148 renewals in the NAS February report. We are out of SYN(ronization)!!! The report arrives a month late, never in time to get the new member entries, name changes, address changes and other corrections to reach our mailing service. Some day we may be in harmony, my fervent hope!

Welcome to the following new members (although at this printing you may be three months new!)—Debra Bitney, Mary Ellen Brams, Mr. and Mrs. Vandyk Buchanan, Debra Callahan, F.H. Clayson, Mr. Arthur J. Cussin, Carolyn Cutler, Mr. James P. Dixon, Barbara A. Dunham, Mary Karen Eising, Forham-Vilkas Family, Mr. Brian Fuller, Mr. Mel Garbar, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Goehr, Sherry Hagopian, D. Jacobson and Family, Mrs. Roy A. Lambert, Mr. John L. Milligan, Mary Ann Morter, Wendy Naritaji, Rosalie M. Perez, Rev. P. Skillstad and Family, Jean Swatt, Mr. James C. Thorp, Mr. Ricardo Vilansenor, Jr., Roma R. Walsh, Steve White, and Mr. Cecil Woolsey.

If anyone has been overlooked, or any other difficulty connected with membership is encountered, please contact the membership secretary. Continue to pay your dues on time and simplify the bookwork. Thanks so much for your cooperation and support.

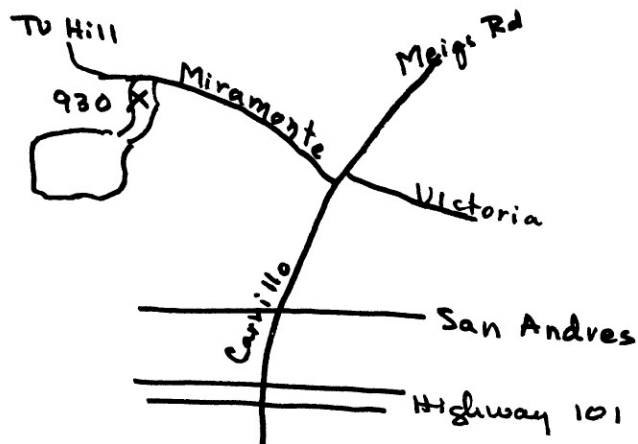
Minna E. Smith
Membership Secretary

**Mono Lake Fundraiser—Sunday, May 17,
12 to 3 p.m., 930 Miramonte Drive**

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society's Board of Directors agreed to match donations and monies raised for the National Audubon Society's Mono Lake Fund. As Dick Martyr, our Western Regional representative said at our March regular meeting, the National Audubon Society's case against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is on-going and expensive. The lawsuit seems extreme. However, it is the only means available to restore the normal flow of water from the Sierra Nevada mountains into Mono Lake. At present only one small stream flows into the lake. The others are diverted into the LADWP aqueduct system.

A Mono Lake Committee proposal to declare a Mono Lake Tufa National Monument and a State Reserve, is good. However, these moves do not bring additional water into the lake.

Come join us at the **Community Environmental Council's** innovative **Mesa Project**. Donations at the door. Items for sale: gingerbread, apple juice, tea, potted plants, seedlings, Mono Lake posters, T-shirts, post cards, coloring books, and donated goods.



Atascadero Creek Trip

On March 28, a group of 11 birders enjoyed a sunny 3-hour stroll along Atascadero Creek from Patterson Avenue to Goleta Beach Park.

The morning was full of song, as **Mockingbirds**, **House Finches**, **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **White-crowned and Song Sparrows** competed. My vote goes to the **Yellowthroats** who were literally shouting their "witchety-witchety-witchety".

A most spectacular display was that of a male **Anna's Hummingbird** performing a nuptial flight—repeatedly mounting upward, almost out of sight, then diving straight down at tremendous speed.

Altogether, 49 species were recorded, including 7 of duck and 4 of heron. A very pleasant morning. Joy Parkinson

McGrath Park Trip

On Sunday, March 15, a score of members gathered at the Santa Clara River bridge. We worked the Santa Cruz River estuary and the settling basins of the disposal plant for water birds. Then before lunch at McGrath Park, we looked for the **Vermillion Flycatcher** that was at the Olivas Park golf course. In this we were unsuccessful although it had been seen early that morning.

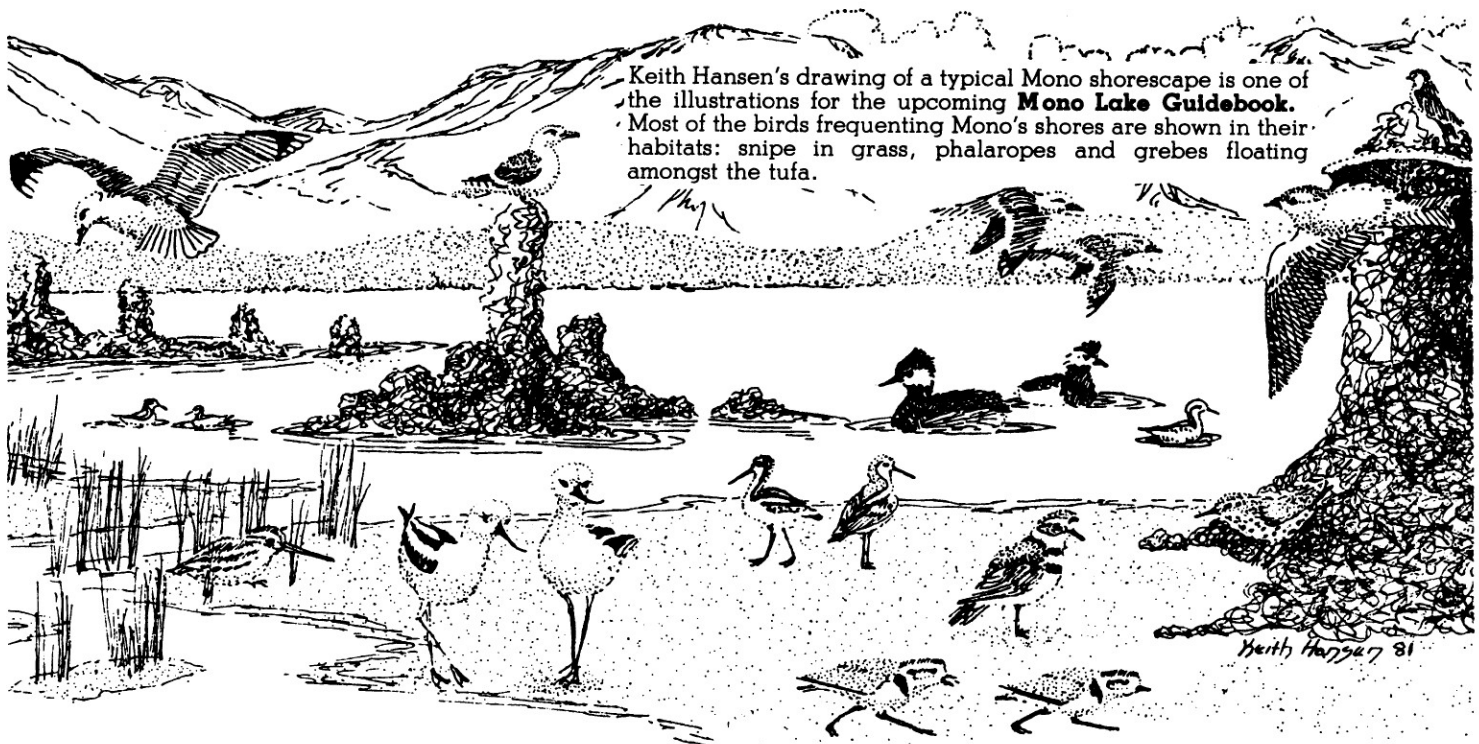
After lunch those who wished went to Sandyland Slough for a further look at shore birds and waders.

While no rare birds were seen, we did enjoy sightings of a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at the Museum and a **Rufous Hummingbird** at the park. In addition to sighting a **Snipe**, we got the call of a **Sora** at the estuary and spotted all four grebes and three species of teal. At the slough the group enjoyed flights of both **Surf and White-winged Scoters**, and the sight of a **Long-billed Curlew** and two **Whimbrels** strolling down the road.

It was an enjoyable trip on a beautiful day.

Mary and Sid Tarbox

This drawing illustrates what you see on a walk to the shores of the lake. When one drives by Mono Lake, this distant view is not visible. Next time, stop and scan the shores and the lake. The lake is an important food source for birds in migration—the brine shrimp, brine fly larvae and algae. With the salinity of the water increasing each year, this food source will either change or disappear.



Keith Hansen's drawing of a typical Mono shorescape is one of the illustrations for the upcoming **Mono Lake Guidebook**. Most of the birds frequenting Mono's shores are shown in their habitats: snipe in grass, phalaropes and grebes floating amongst the tufa.

Nominating Committee Report

With the expiration of SBAS Board of Director terms for Tomi Sollen and Wendy Bevier, the Nominating Committee has chosen two people to fill these positions.

Considered for positions were:

Judy Tartaglia; willing to serve

Sydney Tarbox; willing to serve

Minna Smith; willing to serve

Bob Sollen; unable to serve

Paul Lehman; unable to serve

Nominations: Sid Tarbox and Minna Smith.

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 openings in two sessions—July 26-August 1, and August 2 to August 8. The cost is \$125 per session for adults and \$90 for children under 12. For more information contact Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara 93103.

Cookie Donations

The following people are thanked for their generous contributions of cookies at the monthly meetings of January, February, March, April, and May: Dorothy Wilson, Aurora Miller, Nancy Crawford, Maureen Jarrell, Mary Tarbox, Barbara Hawley, Loraine Myers, and Minna Smith. Our gracious host and hostess at refreshment time have been Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Miller.

Lake Los Carneros Survey

The Santa Barbara Audubon Board has invited Allen Rupert of the Tiburon Audubon Nature Center to come to Santa Barbara to survey Lake Los Carneros for possible Nature Center and Trails siting. He will be here May 21-22.

SBAS 1981-82 Brochure

A brochure listing June 1981 through June 1982 field trips and monthly programs is being prepared for mailing with the June **El Tecolote**. The field trip and meeting information will continue to be published in the monthly bulletin. Suggestions for interesting field trips and programs are needed from members. Call Eileen at 967-0698 or mail them to SBAS, PO Box 2067, Santa Barbara, 93120.

Tecolote Deadline

The deadline for the June issue is Thursday, May 14 (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

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

Treasures

Donations for the "Treasures Auction" were all really treasures and the Board wishes to thank each and every individual donor for his or her contribution to the Mono Lake Fund. Several checks were sent in lieu of saleable items and we gratefully thank those contributors as well.

We have some treasures left from our Mono Lake meeting and auction. We are going to offer them for sealed bids to the membership. We will auction any unsold items at the Annual Picnic Meeting/Election to be held Sunday, June 7 at Stowe Grove Park. A suggested price is listed here with each item:

5-Leg Ethan Allen table desk—\$50-\$80.

Silverplate on brass meat server, large size—\$50-70.

Purple glass vase, morning glory shape—\$25-\$30.

400mm Vivitar lens, can be adapted to most cameras—\$100-200.

Owl needlepoint pillow by Minna Smith, bright colors—\$20-\$30

Turkey vulture, matted photo, signed by Dick Smith—\$30-\$40.

Guy Coheleach Red Shafted Flicker print, signed—\$30-\$40

14" Mexican Pottery vase, earth tones—\$15-\$20.

Bronze and Verdigris covered bowl, grape design on handle—\$20-\$30.

Very heavy clear art glass piece—\$20-\$30.

Black silk scarf, 15" square—\$10-\$15.

Wine caddy with 4 glasses and bottle of Ficklin's Port—\$25-\$30.

Pink hostess gown, tailored, with belt, size 10—\$20-\$25.

Many books that can be examined at the next meeting and at the Picnic.

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 giving all the latest information. If you have any unusual sightings please call Nancy Crawford at 964-7508.

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

Dated
Material
Please Carry
Promptly

THE BOTANIC GARDEN
1212 Mission Cyn Rd
Santa Barbara CA 93105

MAY 5 1981