

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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

Robert Lindsay, Editor
P.O. Box 14005
Santa Barbara, CA 93107
968-8965

Calendar of Coming Events!!!

- October 10 Field Trip - Santa Maria River Valley. Meet at 7:00 a.m. near the Jack-in-the-Box (Fed Mart) parking lot at Hollister and Storke Rds. Round trip is 150 to 200 miles. A lunch is advisable, however stores and fast food restaurants abound and a stop could be arranged. We should return to Santa Barbara no later than 5:00 p.m. This area can be very windy. Leader: Louis Bevier
964-1034
- October 13 Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Members are welcome to attend. Meetings are held at Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History. This meeting is the deadline for all materials to be submitted for the November Tecolote.
- October 17 Field Trip - Gaviota-Refugio-El Capitan. These State Parks are good migrant traps and quite often produce rare vagrants at this time of year. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the same location described for the October 10 field trip. We must reduce the number of vehicles to a minimum by sharing space. This will be a half day trip. Leader: Louis Bevier
964-1034
- October 23 General Meeting - Reminiscing with Waldo. This night our own Waldo Abbott will share with us some of his many experiences in the Santa Barbara area. Meetings are held at the Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History.

Pot-Lucks

The summertime pot-luck dinner meetings in the city public parks were well received and we plan on continuing them next summer. They served the very welcome purpose of allowing members to socialize informally and voice concerns, ask questions and give suggestions. More field trips will probably be scheduled next summer, too.

BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA
by Paul Lehman

The period from early August to mid September produced a good number of unusual species in the Santa Barbara area this year. August was particularly good for waterbirds. A total of 11 Semipalmated Sandpipers was seen; this eastern species was unrecorded in our area prior to 1977. A juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper near Santa Maria August 4-16 was exceptionally early for that age a bird (juvenile shorebirds typically arrive later than the adults in the fall). Also very early were two Common Snipe near Santa Maria on August 9. Common Gallinules were found nesting near Santa Maria for the first definite breeding record for the county. A big surprise was the reappearance of Marbled Murrelets (up to 8) at Point Sal; last summer several birds at this location provided one of the few area records for this northern alcid. A Magnificent Frigatebird was seen at the Santa Barbara Harbor August 14, and the Least Bitterns were found to have nested at the Santa Barbara Bird Refuge when a young bird was discovered there in early September (this is the first nesting record for the county).

By the end of August vagrant landbirds began to appear. The first individuals found included a Virginia's Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Bobolink, and Indigo Bunting. A Black-throated Sparrow at the Bird Refuge for three weeks is the first coastal record for the county. The Yellow-throated Warbler that summered in Santa Barbara was still present in early September. The first real "wave" of vagrants arrived September 6-7, with Carpinteria Creek hosting a Mourning Warbler (only the second county record), Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, 2 Northern Waterthrushes and Orchard Oriole. Several days later (September 11-13) another batch of goodies hit Carpinteria Creek with a Summer Tanager, another Red-eyed Vireo, two Tennessee Warblers, Blackpoll Warbler, and two Northern Waterthrushes seen. Meanwhile, an American Redstart, two Tennessee Warblers, White-winged Dove, four Solitary Sandpipers, Golden Plover, and a White-faced Ibis were in Goleta. The biggest surprise, however, was the adult Red-throated Pipit present September 9-11. This casual fall visitor from Siberia has only been recorded on several occasions in the past. The previous local records involved immatures, and this sighting is the earliest for California by two weeks.

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



Dial-A-Bird-Plea

The Bird Alert is for you. It can only be as good as the contributions it gets. We need input in order to get the most current birding information on tape, especially in this migration period. Please call if you see anything unusual. Thank you for your support and Good Birding!

Nancy Crawford

Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Board of Directors

A resolution to publish all board actions in "El Tecolote" was passed at the August 18, 1981 board meeting. This will keep the membership apprised of money spent, committee activities and actions taken on behalf of our organization by your officers. The following is a summary of board actions taken August 18, and September 8, 1981.

August Actions

1. Nancy Crawford was appointed Treasurer to replace Tomi Sollen.
2. \$3,000 will be invested in a high interest savings certificate.
3. The Education Committee is putting together a new slide show for autumn with a total conservation emphasis.
4. SBAS will sponsor the "Best Mammal" award for the Annual Channel Cities Camera Club Photo Salon.
5. A \$100 donation was given to the Community Environmental Council.
6. A list of all organizations in which SBAS is a member will be published in "El Tecolote" once per year.
7. The board approved a \$100 donation to the Goleta Depot Committee.

September Actions

1. This year's budget was presented to the board, discussed and tabled until a full meeting of the board.
2. Revised Chapter By-Laws were submitted by Chrmn. Sid Tarbox, amended and approved.
3. The finance committee was appointed to investigate investment of part of our savings funds in high interest savings and report back in October.
4. Policy formulation by the board and committees is going forward with Chrmn. Sid Tarbox and his committee, to be presented at the October board meeting.
5. Membership Chrmn. Minna Smith was asked to investigate the possibility of a "local membership" status. She had recieved information about it from another California chapter and suggested the lower dues would be attractive.

Publicity Committee

A Chairperson or persons is still needed for this committee. Notice of field trips, habitat walks, scholarship information and monthly meeting write-ups would be the main articles to be placed in newspapers. Obtaining radio and television spots would be another form of publicity that we have not used to potential. Please let us know if you are interested in leading or working with this committee.

Mono Lake

A limited edition of Dick Smiths Condor Feather Poster donated by Capra Press to benefit the Mono Lake Fund are still available. The posters are for sale at \$15.00 each. Call Terri Wright at 962-6964 to purchase one.



Conservation News

We have not reached our "Mono Lake" fund-raising goal to date but we have some posters, coloring books, T-shirts and several "Treasures" for sale to benefit the fund. Unhappily, 90% of the California Gull chicks died this spring and summer.

In our own backyard, we have a bird refuge that is no refuge for wild birds due to the increasing numbers of domestic ducks and geese. The Goleta Slough outlet has been plugged at the ocean for so long that it is a dirty, stagnant disgrace. Reports of ducks dying there have come from alarmed citizens asking help from Audubon to contact the proper government agencies for action to restore the slough and outlet to a better condition.

Lastly, if you feel some state or federal action is being taken that is against the best interests of our wildlife and environment, please don't wait for someone else to do something. Write, phone, make your concern known! Contact our Conservation Chairman and use the voice of our chapter to add weight to your effort. From the newspapers, magazines and Audubon Leader we are getting a very depressing message, "the environment and wildlife are expendable". Citizen input does count. But citizens must write and protest poor judgements or, through apathy, irreparable damage can be done to what remains of our wilderness and wetlands.

EL TECOLOTE
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2067
Santa Barbara CA 93102

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