

# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

November, 1981  
Volume 18, Number 18



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

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE; EDITORIAL RELEASE  
Santa Barbara Audubon Society Oct. 14, 1981

Today a new breed of "men" has declared war on our conservative lives. Under the pretense of eliminating government waste and ending inflation, using its point-man Interior Secretary James Watt, breathing old-time religion, brimming with fire, armed with stones and clubs, rattling armaments of war around the globe, and jingling like changers in the temples, the Reagan Administration is attempting to reverse two decades of progress in protecting our wildlife, our air, our land, our forests and our water resources, on which all our lives depend.

To counter this attack, the National Audubon Society has launched an emergency Citizens Mobilization Campaign. The threats we seek to end are legion.

Most Administration appointees to high environmental protection posts have been leaders in the fight to undermine environmental laws. At the Environmental Protection Agency most top jobs have been filled by lawyers who formerly represented polluting corporations against the EPA.

The Administration has tried to stop authorized land acquisitions needed to complete our national parks and wildlife refuges, and protect endangered and other species. The budget of the endangered species program has been cut 40%, and its essential research function has been virtually eliminated.

Over-riding the advice of the U.S. Forest Service's professional staff, the Administration plans to double and could triple the timber cut in our national forests, many of which are already over-harvested. The Administration has tried to open sensitive marine sanctuaries in California to oil and gas drilling - a move which would produce little fuel while creating hazards for migrating whales, sea otters, and a variety of shore and sea birds, as well as threatening our relatively clean coastlines.

The Administration wants to open federally protected wilderness to mining and oil drilling, a move that would directly alter the state of wilderness landscapes and ecosystems.

In collaboration with polluting industries, the Administration seeks to lower air quality standards and reduce enforcement of clean air regulations. While Japanese and European auto manufacturers have far surpassed our emissions standards, the dinosaurs of progress in the United States claim they do not have the technology to meet our 1981 standards!

Acid rain is sterilizing many lakes in Canada and the United States, destroying aquatic life, and harming birds and other creatures throughout the food webs (including HUMANS). Yet the Reagan Administration proposes to permit more sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions, the principal contributors to acid rain, smog, air pollution.

The Administration proposes chopping 70% from the meager budget for solar energy and conservation while seeking to increase subsidies to the nuclear industry by 35% - at a time when the market continues to reject nuclear power as an investment! Strip-

(cont.)

mining inspection and enforcement staffs of the Office of Surface Mining have been cut almost 70%, and all 5 OSM regional offices have been closed.

The EPA is attempting to lift the ban on Compound 1080 for use against a few coyotes on public lands, reviving the discredited practice that indiscriminately kills eagles, hawks, foxes, badgers, martens, dogs, and a host of other non-target animals.

In this time of great moral resurgence, the return to traditional thoughts, what has become of the pastoral heritage passed to the Sons of Abraham? If the "moral majority" supports such traditions, then why have they remained mute on the above issues. It is not anathema to our Judeo-Christian heritage to care for all life - even of those that only God notices the fall. The roots of conservatism are those of conservation. Those who seek to destroy the one will surely kill the other. This is OUR land, and those who mow down trees and trample life for money are NOT of us.

Sincerely, Jim Greaves, Chairman and Vice-President  
P.O. Box 2067 Santa Barbara, CA 93120

---

---

Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
Board of Directors

October Actions

1. The monthly treasurers report was received and approved. A plan to invest \$3,000 in a short term certificate is still being researched.
2. The Mono Lake matching fund drive was ended with a total of \$1,435.18 having been raised and forwarded. Donations will still be gratefully accepted but will not be matched by SBAS.
3. The annual budget (June 1, 1981 to May 30, 1982) was approved and passed.
4. A donation of \$100 will be sent to the Nature Conservancy for their drive to preserve rare California habitats.
5. \$250 were allocated to Jim Greaves and Violet Gray for their research project on Bells Vireo. Other donating Audubon chapters were Morro Bay (\$25), Los Angeles (\$100), and Alta Cal (\$100) for a total of \$475.00.

ALARM!!

We have been receiving distressing news from the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Chapter and others. The use of gill nets in and around Monterey Bay has been resulting in the deaths of many thousands of diving birds by drowning, tangled beneath the surface. Monterey Audubon is pushing for the enactment of Emergency Legislation in Jan. 1982 to resolve the problem before another summer kill. You can help by contacting you State Legislator to express you concern on this important issue. Please help. Nothing will change if we don't make our feelings known.

ANNOUNCEMENT

National Audubon has scheduled 20 day-long workshops in cities around the country for those who want to become more involved and effective in the society's Citizen Mobilization Campaign. The nearest workshop will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 21. If you are interested and/or want more details, please see Jim Greaves at any board or general meeting.



Calendar of Coming Events!!!

-November-

- November 7 Field Trip - Sandyland Slough-Carpinteria Creek. The marsh is the only known location in our county to have resident Clapper Rails and one of only a few healthy enough to support numbers of waterbirds. The creek is a very attractive stretch of riparian woodland and Eucalyptus. The trip will last about 5 hours. A scope, if you have one, will be useful. Meet at the Andee Clark Bird Refuge at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Paul Lehman  
Saturday 967-2450
- November 10 Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Members are welcome to attend. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium annex at the Museum of Natural History.  
Tuesday
- November 22 Field Trip - Goleta Beach-Atascadero Creek. We will look at waterbirds at the beach park, and the willows and fields along Atascadero Creek near south Patterson Avenue. This is expected to be a half day trip, until about noon. Meet at the beach parking lot just east of the pier at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Robert Lindsay  
Sunday 968-8965
- No General Meeting this month.

-December-

- December 4 General Meeting - At UCSB. The topic of this meeting is 'Plants of California', a spectacular collage of slides on three screens. This show produced by Dr. J. R. Haller of the University of California, Santa Barbara biology department gives a dramatic and touching depiction of California's dominant plant species and vegetative types. Set to music, this show will completely engage the senses. Because of the technical requirements of this show (three screen, six projectors, and sound equipment) it will be presented on the UCSB campus in Breida Hall 1610. There is a fee for parking (75¢), a map of the campus is available at the gate. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m.  
Friday
- December 5 Field Trip - Vandenburg A.F.B., including the Santa Ynez River-mouth. Some rocky shores where Black Oystercatchers and other shorebirds which like rocks in the surf can be found. This is an isolated but significant section of our county that can rarely be visited. You must call to sign up in advance. Limit of 25. Leader: Louis Bevier  
Saturday 964-1030
- December 8 Board of Directors' Meeting - The same as November 10.  
Tuesday
- December 12 Field Trip - Carrizo Plains. Look for details in the December Tecolote. This may be an overnight trip.  
Saturday
- January 2 Annual SBAS Christmas Count - As the count compiler this year I am very eager to receive input from participants with suggestions for improvement and discussion of any problems from past counts. Please feel free to call me at 967-2450. Final assignments are made in late December but please register early. This year's count will end with a festive dinner after which the count will be compiled. If you wish to attend, check the "dinner box" on the form inside this Tecolote. Paul Lehman  
Saturday

## BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

by Paul Lehman

Fall is typically the most exciting period during the year for birds. Large numbers of unusual species appear at this time and there is a regular turnover of individuals from day to day.

A good assortment and number of eastern warblers showed up in September and early October. The highlights were a Mourning Warbler at Refugio State Beach, September 17, the second for the season for the county, a Lucy's Warbler at Gaviota, two Northern Parulas in north Goleta, six (!) Magnolia Warblers between Santa Maria and Carpinteria, two Black-throated Blue Warblers (at Refugio and Santa Barbara), five (!) Blackburnian Warblers between Santa Maria and Goleta, and three Chestnut-sided Warblers (at Goleta and Santa Barbara). Good numbers of the more regular vagrant warblers, including Black and White, Tennessee, Virginia's, Blackpoll, Palm, and American Redstart, were also found. In early October the Grace's Warbler was found to have returned to Montecito for the third year! This same individual provided the first winter record for North America when first found in January, 1980.

The Santa Barbara Bird Refuge is likely the most consistent location in California in the fall for the Eastern Kingbird. This fall one was found there in mid-September. The Santa Barbara area (most notably Goleta) is also excellent in fall for Bobolinks; this year approximately 100 were seen.

Four Tropical Kingbirds, mis-oriented migrants from western Mexico, turned up along the South Coast in mid-September. A Lapland Longspur at the Santa Maria River mouth, October 9, was early. Also present there was a Ruff, a very rare shorebird visitor from Eurasia.

One of the most surprising sightings of the season was the flock of 30 Piñon Jays seen flying over Goleta on September 19. This species is typically found in the more arid mountains of eastern California and there were only three or four previous records for the county.

---

---

---

## COLOR-BANDED SANDERLINGS!

The Bodega Marine Laboratory has managed to color-band some 20% of the sanderlings wintering at Bodega Bay. They have asked for our help determining the wanderings of these birds. They are marked by two or three color bands on each leg. If you see any banded birds, please note the color and location (top-bottom, left-right) and contact:

Pete Myers or Cecilia Maizels  
(707) 875-2211

Bodega Marine Laboratory  
P.O. Box 247

Bodega Bay, CA 94923

---

---

## Dial-a-Bird

For current news of rare and unusual birds in the Santa Barbara area call 964-8240 night or day. You will hear a three minute recording giving all the latest information. If you have any unusual or exciting sightings, please call Nancy Crawford at 964-7508. Good Birding.



## Birdathon Reminder

Don't panic, the Birdathon will not take place until April. But now is a good time to start thinking about potential sponsors. It's a good way to raise much needed funds and have a great time besides. More announcements and details will be given in coming editions of El Tecolote so keep your eyes open.

---

---

## Tecolote Deadline

All articles must be submitted to the editor by the Monday following each board meeting to be used in next month's El Tecolote.

---

---

---

## Field Trip Reports

### -Catalina Island-

Our September weekend on Catalina Island in a sheltered cove at Sea Camp included birding, hiking, tennis, scuba diving and kayaking. Some did it all.

It was not exactly a camp as we were housed in a grouping of red roofed Spanish style buildings ablaze with Bouganvillea and yellow Cassia.

Hikers conquered steep goat trails encountering the goats who made them. We discovered a grove of Catalina Ironwood with its stringy bark and ferny leaves; endemic to this island only. There was evidence of much root damage caused by the wild boar which inhabit the more remote parts of the island. Wild turkeys, red-tailed hawks, white-throated swifts, and many raven were seen. The shiny leafed Catalina Cherry was much in evidence as were immense Toyon. We were made aware of both a limited water supply and the necessary strict fire precautions.

Lab sessions on marine biology and algae gave us new knowledge of the activity and interaction in the sea. Gentle waves, clear water, rocks and sea-weedy places encouraged snorkling.

At night slides were shown of many areas of the island in all seasons. After

which we enjoyed a campfire at the waters edge under a full moon.

Pelicans escorted our boat back to the mainland while acrobatic gulls caught bread tossed high in the sky.

Dorothy Martone

### -Mount Pinos-

Forty eager, eagle-eyed Auduboners met at the Museum of Natural History at 6:00 a.m. to embark on our yearly Condor watch. Birding around the lower parking lot unearthed green-tailed towhee, white-headed woodpecker, mountain chickadees, pygmy, white and red breasted nuthatch, and a stellar jay.

12 brave souls hiked to the over 8,000 ft. peak. A yellow warbler, Townsend solitaire, both mountain and western bluebirds greeted us on the way up. At the lookout, a hummingbird feeder brought a female black-chinned and Anna's hummingbirds. Two red-tailed hawks and three Clark's nutcrackers were also on hand.

About 1:30 when Dean Bazzi and Alan Eisner spied a prairie falcon, an adult Condor appeared and soared magnificently in all its splendor giving up the long awaited thrill of his flight. A total of 36 species were seen. Minna E. Smith

---

### Santa Barbara Audubon Society - Membership

Santa Barbara Audubon Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Bryan Crockett, Connie J. Davis, Dr. M J German, Norman and Pauline Harris, Donna J Horn, Mr. John Kavara and family, Mr. John Lien, Alyson Nethery, Mrs. Lester E. Niles and family, Mr. Dennis Perry, Heloise B Power, R. C. Richmond, H. Dennis & S. W. Sheldon, Linda Gielow, Michael Goodwin, Darlene A. Satawake & family, Nini Stevens, Margaret Wells, Mrs. B. M. Steele, Mrs. Emma S. Stone & family, Lloyd & Andrea Wilkerson, Mrs. Ken Todd, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Urton, Ginny Widders & family, Mr. Owen Woollis & family, Mr. Martin Yolken, Dr. Richard K. Young. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and hope you will want to participate in our many rewarding activities.

The membership secretary needs volunteers to help telephone lapsing members as well as a permanent yearly committee to check the Annual Membership List and reconcile all names, membership numbers and addresses. Please call if interested. Thanks.

Minna E. Smith - 966-7971

Membership Secretary

### New Local Membership

We are pleased to announce a new local membership status at a reduced rate. So, if you prefer, you can now join SBAS without joining National Audubon (so you won't receive the national magazine). For this status, please make checks payable to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society. For any other membership status, make checks payable to National Audubon Society (see form on back page). But whatever you decide, mail your membership form to Minna E. Smith, SBAS Membership Secretary, so that some of the dues go straight to the SBAS treasury. Thank you for your support.

Santa Barbara Audubon Society - Membership Application

Membership	Local	\$8.00	Supporting	\$100.00
	Individual	\$25.00	Student	\$15.00
	Family	\$32.00	Senior Cit.	\$17.00
	Sustaining	\$50.00	Senior Cit. Family	\$19.00

National Audubon Society  
950 Third Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10022

Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
Minna E. Smith  
1600 Garden St. #35  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Santa Barbara Christmas Count  
Saturday, January 2, 1982

Please fill out this form and return to: Paul Lehman, P.O.Box 1061  
Goleta, CA 93116

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Area Preferred \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to work with \_\_\_\_\_

Leader     Recorder only     Feeder Count     Dinner

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

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

**Dated**  
**Material**  
**Please Carry**  
**Promptly**