

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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January 22 Friday General Meeting - This night we have a very special speaker, Mark Dubois. One of the founders and leaders of Friends of the River, Mr. Dubois gained national recognition for chaining himself to a rock in the Stanislaus River to prevent the filling of the New Melones Dam. His efforts in the field of conservation have twice been recorded in National Audubon Magazine, including the most recent issue. The topic of discussion shall be water reform issues. Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Fleischmann Auditorium, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The general public is always welcome.

A tragedy has befallen the Los Angeles Audubon Society. The following is a letter we recieved from their president. We hope some of you can respond.

Dear Friends and Members,

Fire - set by arsonists - gutted our headquarters, Audubon House, Saturday evening, November 21st. The bookstore, storeroom and kitchen were badly burned, the library and files were water soaked and the museum displays were charred and covered with soot. Everything electric - typewriters, copying machine, tape machine, adding machines - was shorted out and melted. The audio equipment, projectors, and screens were damaged.

In spite of the devastation, the Board is moving fast to get operations back to normal as soon as possible. The County has given us temporary office space in Plummer Park (same address) and we should be partially back in business by the time you receive this letter. We will retain the same phone numbers - 876-0202 and 874-1318.

We are going to need your help now as never before. For the first time, we are faced with having to leave Plummer Park and seek commercial office space. Because of this, we need good, solid, reliable contacts in commercial real estate to assist in finding suitable quarters. If you have any direct contact in this field, please call me at 468-0808. An answering service will take your message, and I will return your calls soon.

Next, we need donations - material, financial, and physical. The cost of this letter alone has been about \$1,000.00. The Chapter's fire insurance will help but remember, display cases and library shelving will have to be built, office equipment purchased and valuable books and periodicals replaced. Much of this can be donated. (Remember - LAAS is a non-profit organization; all donations are tax deductible). Wholesale contacts would be appreciated.

Volunteers will be needed to do the heavy work. Lifting, moving, sorting, building, arranging, wiring are all jobs beyond the capacity of our regular volunteers. Work days will be arranged soon and we will need help.

(cont.)

LAAS has a big task ahead, but with your support, the Society can emerge from this disaster a stronger, better and more active member of the community. We are the only local Chapter of National Audubon to have a permanent headquarters and we have a world-renowned bookstore. We expect to continue having both. If you can help us in any way, please contact me direct or call the office. Please send your donations to LAAS at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046
Fire Assistance Phone: (213) 468-0808

Thank you,

Jean Brandt
Jean Brandt
President



What is NAS

The National Audubon Society, one of America's largest and most distinguished conservation organizations, was founded in 1905. Through the study of birdlife, the Society has become increasingly aware of the interconnectedness of life and the major cumulative impact of mankind's activities on the health of the life-support systems - the air, water and land. Its prime objective is the long-term protection of all life and to preserve our natural resources.

The goals of the Society are to:

1. Conserve wildlife and the life-support systems of the natural environment.
2. Promote rational strategies for energy development and use, stressing conservation and renewable energy sources.
3. Protect life from pollution, radiation, and toxic substances.
4. Promote wise land and water use.
5. Speak for the public interest in public lands and waters.
6. Promote awareness of and actions to solve global environmental problems.
7. Work for stabilization of world population.

To carry out its work, the Society has developed a coordinated effort in three interdependent fields - research, education, and action. The research provides a rational underpinning for the Society's effort. The educational effort disseminates, through publications, meetings, nature centers, ecology camps, and the news media, the solidly grounded information needed for effective action. The action programs involve the members, chapters, regional offices, sanctuaries and Washington office using such tools as self-action, persuasion, litigation, and the democratic process.

How to Help

The NAS National Capital Office has prepared papers of five issues: clean air, water resources, energy, wildlife, and public land. To work on a particular issue, contact:

Jeanne Gart
National Audubon Society
645 Pennsylvania Avenue S.E.
Washington D.C. 20003

Ask that your name be put on the Audubon Action Alert mailing list for that issue. The Alert is free to members. For \$10.00 you can also subscribe to the Audubon Leader, a biweekly newsletter giving periodic updates on subjects of interest to NAS. Contact:
Robert Boardman
National Audubon Society
950 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

In addition, The Guide for Citizen Action is now available. This guide was written for citizen activists and for people who train and organize other activists. It provides extensive information on the federal legislative process as well as how-to details on such activities as working with the news media and communicating effectively with members of Congress. The guide sells for \$2.50 per copy. If you wish to order, please make checks payable to the National Audubon Society and send to:

Andrew Bihun, Jr.
Director of Information Services
950 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022



Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Board of Directors

December Actions

1. The Board voted to provide each board member and committee chairperson with a copy of the revised bylaws and policies.
2. SBAS will send a letter of support to Congressman Lagomarsino for his Wetlands Conservation Bill H.R. 4680. The letter will contain a resolution approving the bill.
3. The Chapter will sponsor an open contest for a new design for our tee-shirts. The design must be submitted by Jan. 31, 1982. The prize will be a free tee-shirt and a copy of "Birds of Santa Barbara".
4. SBAS will sponsor a locally focused Citizen Mobilization Campaign. This idea was based on participation by some of our Board members in a workshop on that subject held in Los Angeles by National Audubon.
5. A personal response will be made to each new member as a welcome to SBAS. The Membership chairperson will make these contacts.
6. The Board voted to approve the concept of a SBAS bird checklist. A discussion of the cost and format will be forthcoming.

Santa Barbara Audubon Society - Membership

NAS again launches their annual membership campaign and we try to cooperate. The best way we can help is to try and interest a new active member in joining our ranks. Also, unless we initiate a new member we get no dues split from NAS. So please pay your dues on time and perhaps give someone a Gift Membership.

We are pleased to welcome belatedly Fran and Iris Rigoli. The following have joined our LOCAL chapter: Donald Chittenden, Aileen Dalton, Cecile A. Forbes, Jim Mills, Jean Dale, James L. Williams, David M. Caldwell, M.D. We also are pleased to welcome through National Audubon Society as of October 31, 1981: Rebecca J. Allina, Jeff Angwin, Mrs. Kathrine M. Backus, Gary Banks, C. L. Bastug, Robert Bowler, Roland F. Bryan, L. Daniel family, Frans J. Janson, Ms. Neysa Turner and Vivian Stanton. The following people have transferred into our chapter: Robert N. W. Balleisen, Sybil Carrere, David Kelly, Anna M. Lagios, Josefina B. Seiler, and Sam Sklar. We hope you will all join us at our monthly meetings and become actively engaged in Audubon work.

Minna E. Smith

Membership Secretary

President's Message

Dear fellow members,

Season's greetings to you all.

I would like to use this January edition to address my thanks to all of the board members of the chapter for the terrific co-operation and work they have provided me and the chapter all through this past year. The committee chairmen and members should all have our thanks and support.

The general membership will be contacted individually this year at various times to be asked for help in support of the Audubon Cause. Please join in actively when you are asked by a telephone committee member. If we all contribute a little, a great deal can be accomplished, and our lives may depend on it.

I hope you all have been following Karen Bridger's excellent column in the Santa Barbara News-Press. She is to be thanked and congratulated too.

There are several projects we will be working on this year. There will be opportunity for all the membership to work on them. At our January board meeting our local, regional, and national priorities will be set. If you have any suggestions, please write or come to the board meeting (Tuesday, January 12, 1982 - 7:30 p.m. in the Fleischmann Hall Annex) with your ideas. See you there.

Eileen Gray
President

Calendar of Coming Events !!!

- January 2 Annual SBAS Christmas Count. All sign-ups should have been arranged now. If
Saturday you have any problems or questions, call Paul Lehman, 967-2450. Let's all
hope for a productive and enjoyable count.
- January 12 Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Members are welcome to attend. Meet-
Tuesday ings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium annex at the Museum of Natural
History.
- January 16 Field Trip - Montecito and "rare birds". Unusual and interesting birds often
Saturday turn up on the Christmas Count. We will spend a half day checking the Monte-
cito, Santa Barbara and Goleta areas to look for these birds. Meet at the
Adree Clark Bird Refuge at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Paul Lehman
967-2450
- January 22 General Meeting - Tonights speaker: Mark Dubois. See the announcement on pg 1.
Friday Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural
History.
- Jan. 30-31 Field Trip - Morro Bay and Montana De Oro. One of the most spectacular and
Sat. & Sun. varied stretches of California coastline is found at Morro Bay and Montana De
Oro. In consequence it is an outstanding area in which to study shorebirds,
waterfowl, and pelagics. A visit also offers such possible sightings as the
Peregrine Falcon and the amusing Sea Otter. Meet at the Museum at Morro Bay
State Park at 9:00 a.m., Saturday; allow at least 2 hrs driving time from
Santa Barbara (driver donation: \$5.00). Good camping is available at the park,
or make reservations at one of the many motels. Take lunch for two days and
clothing for windy weather. Please call the leaders by not later than Wednes-
day, January 27, if you plan to go, or if you have any questions, need a ride
or can take extra passengers. Leaders: Mary & Sid Tarbox
687-2067
- February 9 Board of Directors' Meeting - The same as January 12.
Tuesday

Field Trip Report

Early one recent November morning, eight local Auduboners gathered at Goleta Beach Park for what proved to be a most productive day birding the beach and nearby Atascadero Creek. It was one of those beautiful Santa Barbara mornings where everything seems to go right.

The beach had a good assortment of shorebirds including Royal Tern and 5 species of gulls.

The Goleta Slough outlet had a good assortment of herons and ducks including Surf Scoters, 3 female Red-breasted Mergansers, and a good number of Bufflehead.

Atascadero Creek had even more good surprises in store. In the marshy area

near the Patterson Avenue bridge, we were able to get a quick glimpse of a Sora and saw several Lincoln's Sparrow as well. Farther downstream we spotted American Goldfinch and a Green Heron. In the fields next to the creek as many as five White-tailed Kites could be seen at one time.

A total of 49 species were seen this morning. How blessed we are to have so much fine wildlife around us.

Robert Lindsay



BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

by Paul Lehman

The most unusual species seen during the second half of November was a Scarlet Tanager present in Goleta for two days; this is our fifth record of this eastern species.

The early winter period this year has already produced a good number of unusual sightings. A Bay-breasted Warbler in Santa Barbara during December was both far out of range and extremely late. In Montecito, two Summer Tanagers and a Black and White Warbler were noteworthy, as were a Western Flycatcher (back for its third winter) and Hooded Oriole, species that are extremely rare in winter. An Ash-throated Flycatcher and Warbling Vireo along Arroyo Burro Creek in Santa Barbara during December were also both exceptionally rare for the winter (even though they are common here in migration). A Costa's Hummingbird had returned for its second winter to Goleta, as had a MacGillivray's and Black-throated Gray Warblers at the same location. In Hope Ranch, a Swamp Sparrow was back for winter #2, and three Hermit Warblers there in December is additional evidence that this area supports a very small but regular wintering population of this species.

An elusive Brown Thrasher continued to be seen in the Devereux area of Goleta. The large number of birders visiting the area to see this individual then began to turn up other goodies, including Cassin's Kingbird, Black and White, Tennessee, and Wilson's Warblers, American Redstart, and Baltimore Oriole. This is a good example of what "semi-saturation" coverage can do.

Farther afield, a Ruff was seen again at the Santa Maria River Mouth, and, down in Ventura, a single park had two Orchard Orioles, 10 Bullock's Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, plumbeus Solitary Vireo, Tennessee, Nashville, and Yellow Warblers, and several Western Tanagers!

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.



Tecolote Deadline

All articles to be used in the February issue of El Tecolote must be submitted to the editor by Monday, January 18.

SBAS Tee-shirts

Local SBAS Tee-shirts are still being sold by Ada Babine at the general meetings. However, our stock is running low so we would like to sponsor a contest for a new design to be used as the SBAS logo on new tee-shirts. The winner with the best design (voted by the Board of Directors) will receive a free tee-shirt with their emblem, as soon as we get them, and an autographed copy of 'The Birds of Santa Barbara.' Submit your entry(s) to any board member at any SBAS meeting.

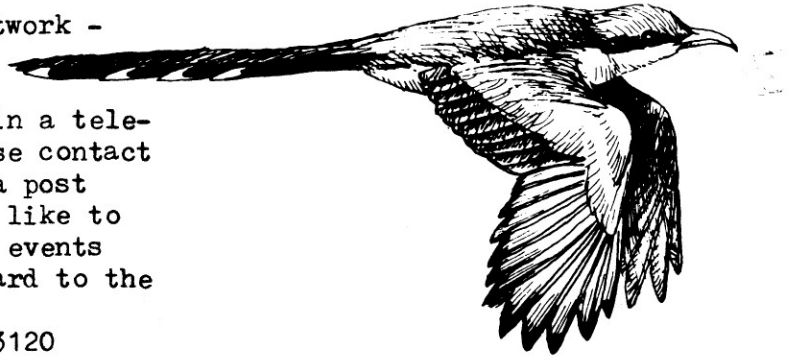
Latest Harris Poll

Eighty percent of the American public is opposed to any weakening of the Clean Air Act, "even given the costs involved in cleaning up the environment," according to the most recent Harris public opinion poll. This view was held by 75% of the respondents who voted for Reagan last fall, 76% of those who call themselves conservatives, 75% of Republicans, and 82% of union workers. Pollster Lou Harris called the results "one of the clearest and most overwhelming we have recorded in 25 years of surveying public opinion."

Telephone Committee

All members - Telephone Hotline Network - please contact Violet Gray.

Any member wishing to participate in a telephone hotline (issues and events), please contact Violet Gray at 962-7317. If anyone has a post office box or unlisted number who would like to be contacted by telephone about chapter events and activities, please call or drop a card to the Telephone Committee at P.O. Box 2067,
Santa Barbara 93120
or call 962-7317. Thank you.



Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act is now an endangered species itself !! A recent bulletin from National Audubon states: "Numerous threats to the act have already surfaced. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the agency charged with protecting wildlife in all its forms!) is considering dropping plants and invertebrates from the protection of the act despite their critical value to human life. The forest products industry is circulating a bill that would virtually repeal the act. The Western Water Resources Council has sent major weakening amendments to Congress. The oil, gas, and other industries are expected to join the attack" (while at the same time media-blotzing on the wonderfull achievements they have brought to bear on selected species of wildlife!).

Perhaps the most crucial aspect of the Endangered Species Act was its provision for habitat protection. By protecting the habitats of endangered species, other species would benefit from the use of niches within those habitats. We here in Santa Barbara, surrounded by lush plantings of non-native shrubs and trees, perhaps do not realize the dreadful state that many of our native ecosystems are in! In order to water the lush lawns and golf courses of southern California, many hundreds of miles of native creeks have been permanently altered or destroyed, their waters shunted away to the south, their former inhabitants forced to crowd into unfamiliar, often unusable, habitats of lesser value. The wildlife that are "riperian obligates" cannot move into surrounding degraded chaparral or oak-grassland parks. Without water, dense cover and high humidity, many species of bird cannot rear healthy eggs, let alone raise a single replacement chick. This fact has been known for centuries by poultry raisers, and ought to be known to anyone who provides his home with humidified air in the winter as many of us do.

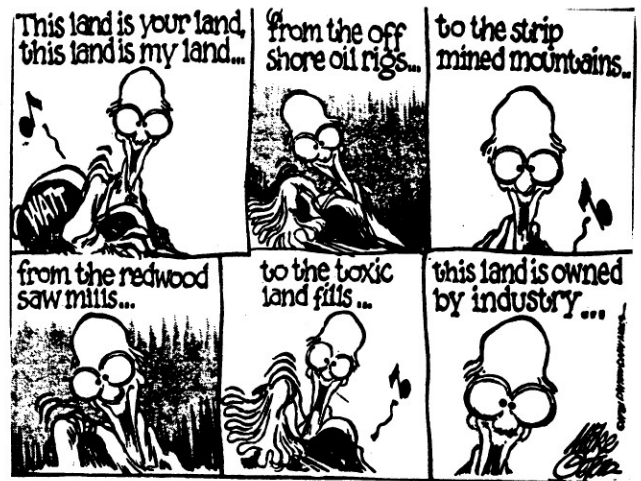
We need to bring pressure to bear NOW: write youe Congressman, Senators, State Legislators, Governor and President. We do not support weakening of the Endangered Species Act, and prefer rather that it be strengthened for the benefit of all wildlife which cannot defend itself against our thoughtless, mechanized assaults! Thank You

Jim Greaves
Conservation Committee Chairman



Birth of a Tradition?

The National Wildlife Federation Raptor Information Center would like all you eagle lovers out there to know that there are bills now pending in Congress to make 1982 the Bicentennial Year of the Bald Eagle (commemorating its 200th year as our national symbol) and June 20, 1982 as "National Bald Eagle Day". The NWF would like you to urge your Congressman to co-sponsor House Joint Resolution 353 and your Senator to co-sponsor Senate J.R. 121, the bills that would make Bald Eagle Year and Bald Eagle Day a reality. At present, no California Representative or Senator is a co-sponsor of these bills. These bills will die without sufficient numbers of co-sponsors. If you support this action, please let your representative know.



Battles on the Conservation Front

The following are several conservation issues that are currently being considered by Congress. Your actions on these issues can help to resolve them in a wise and constructive manner. Together, we can win the battle.

1. Mono Lake

This lake is dying due to water diversions to Los Angeles. This lake is the only remaining resting place for the hundreds of thousands of migrating birds on the Pacific Flyway. A former resting stop, Owens Lake, has already dried up due to water use by Los Angeles. In 1979, the receding shoreline created a land bridge to the island where 95% of all California Gulls breed exposing the hatch to mainland predators and disastrous losses. Last year, increased salinity due to diversion is believed to have caused a sharp decline in the native shrimp population of the lake causing a second disastrous year for the gull hatch.

Two congressional bills address the issue. H.R. 4056 would prevent the Secretary of the Interior from selling federal land around the lake to Los Angeles. H.R. 4057 would make Mono Lake a National Monument and mandate a study of alternate water sources. Both bills were Authored by conservative Republican Norman Shumway.

We ask that you urge Rep. Lagomarsino to co-sponsor these bills. Ask Senators Cranston and Hayakawa to introduce com-

panion bills in the Senate. Let Rep. Shumway know of your support of his efforts. Express your concern to L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley. As a possible gubernatorial candidate, he should know people will be evaluating his record on water conservation.

2. Clean Air Act

Congress is in the process of working out adjustments to the Clean Air Act which is up for renewal this year. Two bills now pending would have major impacts. H.R. 4400 (Bob Traxler, D-MI) would significantly weaken the auto sections of the Clean Air Act to allow increases in CO, NO, and hydrocarbon emissions of 40 to 100%, allow higher permissible air pollution levels, weaken standards for diesels and trucks, allow auto companies to average emissions rather than meeting ceiling requirements, and weaken enforcement mechanisms. The second bill, S. 1706 (George Mitchell, D-ME) is the first comprehensive legislation to deal with acid rain. Acid rain occurs when nitrogen and sulphur oxides combine with water vapor to form nitric and sulphuric acids. Acid rain has caused extensive damage world-wide to crops, forests, lakes and wildlife. The auto,

coal and utility industries say there is too little evidence their emissions cause acid rain but the National Academy of Sciences finds the circumstantial evidence "overwhelming," and urges quick action. The Mitchell bill mandates an 18 million ton reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide in 31 states by 1990. Current emissions are 23 million tons annually.

Please urge Rep. Lagomarsino to oppose the Traxler bill and ask Senator Cranston to sign on as a co-sponsor to the Mitchell bill.

3. Senate Population Policy Bill

Senator Mark Hatfield has introduced the "Global Resources, Environment and Population Act," S. 1771. Co-sponsors include California Senator Alan Cranston. Hatfield's bill would implement some of the recommendations made in the Global 2000 Report. It declares that "population growth directly affects the availability of natural resources, the environment, economic development and national security." S. 1771 would establish population stabilization as a national goal, create an interagency Coun-

cil on Global Resources, Environment and Population to develop a national population policy and encourage programs which will encourage global population stabilization at a level which allows the highest possible living standard yet does not deplete our natural resources nor degrade the environment, and require an annual National Population Change and Planning Report to evaluate the adequacy of available natural resources to fill the human and economic requirements of the United States and the world.

To encourage those who promote sound environmental policy, we urge that you thank Senator Hatfield for introducing the bill and Senator Cranston for co-sponsoring it. Please also urge Senator Hayakawa to join his fellow Republican Mark Hatfield and sign on as a co-sponsor. Constituent support is essential to our representatives in getting legislation through Congress.



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