

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Santa Barbara, CA 93107
968-8965

April 23 General Meeting - A Birdwatchers Guide to the Santa Barbara Plant Communities. Steve Timbrook, botanist and Coordinator of Education at the Botanic Garden, will take us on a photographic tour of the local plant communities. Whether you are a birder, a botanizer or a general nature lover, this talk is for you. Steve has spent years exploring and photographing the various ecosystems of our area. He has taught both plant communities and field vertebrate zoology at UCSB, and is a long-time Audubon member. Come to the Fleischmann Auditorium, Friday night, April 23rd, at 8:00 P.M. and expand your acquaintance with the plants and birds of our Santa Barbara "front yard" and "back yard". Bring a friend and share this adventure.

The following letter was sent to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors concerning possible litigation to prevent spraying Santa Barbara with Sevin in the Gypsy Moth Eradication Project (82-EIR-1).

March 7, 1982

In a telephone poll of our Board of Directors, we decided to support efforts to prevent spraying of chemical poisons in the Montecito/South Coast area of the county. In accordance with that decision, we urge the following action by our Board of Supervisors.

1. To prepare immediately a brief for an injunction against the California Agriculture commissions should it decide to opt for a program that would use any chemical pesticides (Carbaryl or others, such as Malathion, etc.);
2. To file for the injunction immediately upon the decision to spray; and,
3. Call for an independent study of the Gypsy Moth "problem" in Santa Barbara, which study will include the concerns raised during the past several week by concerned citizens and government agencies, and will follow appropriate format for the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports as required by CEQA.

Thank you for seriously considering our request.

Sincerely,

Eileen J. Gray

Eileen J. Gray
President

James M. Greaves

James M. Greaves
Conservation Chairman

(Edit. note: As most of you are probably aware, at this date chemical pesticides are being used in Montecito in areas of Gypsy Moth "infestation". If you do not support this action, please let your supervisor know.)

BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

by Paul Lehman

Certainly the most exciting find of the late winter season this year has been the Yellow-billed Loon present since February 23rd at Goleta Beach Park. This is the first record for Santa Barbara and only the second ever for Southern California.

The wintering Black-throated Blue Warbler along Arroyo Burro Creek in Santa Barbara was still present in March and establishes the first winter record here for this eastern vagrant. Also in Santa Barbara, a wintering Indigo Bunting is only the second ever for winter in our area. A repeat of the 1979-80 winter has occurred with the discovery of a second Grace's Warbler, and as in two years ago the second bird is along Padaro Lane near Carpenteria (same individual). These are the only winter records for North America.

Other sightings of major interest include a new Brown Thrasher in Montecito, a Long-eared Owl for a month in the Goleta Slough (only a handful of records for this bird in recent years), 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the Museum of Natural History grounds (the most consistent winter spot for this species in this region), and a new Harris' Sparrow at UCSB.

In Ventura County, the recent highlights have included a Marbled Murrelet at Point Mugu in late February (far south for this species), the two continuing McGowen's Longspurs at Point Mugu (first county record), and a wintering Eastern Phoebe and two Orchard Orioles in Ventura.



Peregrine Falcon News



The Santa Barbara Ranger District in cooperation with the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Group and the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team is planning to reintroduce peregrines to a historic nest site in the Los Padres this spring. There are further plans for repeating the procedure in 1983 and, possibly, 1984, if successful.

Two or three juveniles will be released using a method known as "hacking" which allows for physical conditioning of young birds. The young are released at a suitable historic eyrie site and fed until they are able to hunt on their own. The objective is to release birds over a period of years to re-establish an active nesting territory. This site has a high-priority for reintroduction by the recovery effort.

Costs for hacking peregrines are high. The approximate total for hacking two juvenile peregrines is \$7,500.00. This amount includes wages for observers (2-3 months), materials for the hacking box, food birds, and the actual falcons. The cost of each falcon is about \$1,500. The recovery effort is presently seeking funds for this reintroduction. Donations would be gratefully accepted. Please send any donation to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2067, Santa Barbara CA 93102 labeled Peregrine. There may also be some opportunities for volunteers to participate in the observations.

There is every indication that this reintroduction will be successful and contribute to the overall recovery effort of the Peregrine Falcon.

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.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS !!!

- April 11 Field Trip - San Antonio Creek & Santa Ynez River. We will start the day west of Los Alamos along a section of San Antonio Creek where a good stand of riparian habitat holds many nesting songbirds including Yellow-breasted Chat, Wilson's Warblers and Blue Grosbeak. This area is protected by Vandenburg AFB, and the distinction between the protected riparian and a cattle ranch at its upper end is very clear. Take a lunch along and expect to drive an hour to get there in the morning. Meet at Storke Rd. and Hollister Ave. in the Fedmart parking lot (NW corner) by 6:30 A.M. Leader: Louis Bevier
Sunday 964-1030
- April 13 Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 P.M. Members are welcome to attend. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium annex, Museum of Natural History. This meeting is the deadline for all May El Tecolote articles.
Tuesday
- April 18 Field Trip - San Ysidro Creek. There will be a short hike (approx. 2 miles) along the creek. Meet at the end of Park Lane near the creek at 7:00 A.M. Take San Ysidro Rd. north from U.S. 101 to East Valley Rd., turn right and follow to Park Lane, turn left and go to the end near the stables. Leader: Dean Bazzi
Sunday 967-5200
- April 23 General Meeting - Meetings begin at 8:00 P.M. in the Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. See page 1 for details of this meeting.
Friday
- April 24 Field Trip - Figueroa Mountain. Mountain birds, wildflowers, and beautiful scenery make this a most enjoyable trip. Take a lunch and plan on driving about one hour to reach the first stop. Very little walking will be done. Meet at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History at 6:30 A.M. Leader: Violet Gray
Saturday 962-7317
-

Field Trip Report - Point Mugu.

Ron Dow, wildlife biologist for Point Mugu Naval Base, led a group of 25 on one of the finest days of birding I have had in this area. A total of 89 species was recorded on the base that day. The highlight was Nancy Crawford's find of a Marbled Murrelet, an extremely rare visitor from the north. With only the ocean before us,

that bird played an excellent game of hide and seek. Two McGowan's Lonspurs, also quite rare, were seen. These birds have been present there since late November. Other birds of interest were four White-fronted Geese, an adult Whistling Swan, adult male Black Scoter, and an Osprey.

Nice day, thanks Ron.

Louis Bevier



"... and what we haven't seen in the way of birds, I'm sure you will agree, has been amply compensated for by just being out in the fresh air."

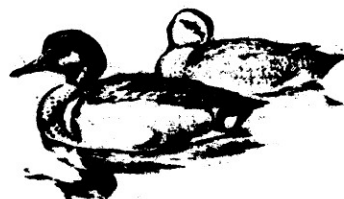
POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

At a close distance you can see the eye-ring of a flycatcher, hear a bird's heartbeat, and feel the stiff tail feathers of a woodpecker. Learn about research on resident and migratory land birds. Banding and long-term research take place daily in the Spring, Summer and Fall at the Point Reyes Birds Observatory's Landbird Research Station. Every Saturday at 11:00 A.M. Bob Yutzy, Education Director, presents an activity about aspects of bird behavior. You are invited to visit us and observe banding from sunrise to noon. For more information contact PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970, or phone Education Coordinator at (415) 8681221.

Field Trip Report

Cachuma Lake, February 20th

Eleven birders assembled at the east-end overlook armed with three scopes, and succeeded in picking out several waterbirds and ducks including Canvasback and Bufflehead. Several raptors were also seen including 5 perched Osprey, a beachcombing Turkey Vulture and a White-tailed Kite pair. Those possibly frustrated by long-distance bird identification, turned their attention to nearby Violet-green Swallows, Bluebirds, and a host of chaparral passerines including a Rufous-sided Towhee singing in plain view from the top of a nearby oak. About 200 Canadian Geese surprised us just as we were leaving.



Despite pleasant weather, we faced the uncertainty of being able to get closer to the lake due to the difficulties in contacting the new owners of the former Powers ranch for entry permission. A scouting party, sent into what is now the Nichols-DeLampre ranch, was met with a warm invitation from one of the co-owners to look over the area. Despite no-shows of Lewis' Woodpecker and Wood Ducks, we re-encountered the geese both in the pasture land and in flight and listened to their calls and the sound of their wings. Highlights included a group of five synchronously diving Common Mergansers (one male), overhead views of an immature Bald Eagle (one of two seen) being harassed by a slimmer, smaller Osprey, and more close views of Osprey.



Among the passerine highlights from the lake shore walk was a mysterious, melodic yet simple song issuing from a still naked Sycamore. Likely perching spots were scanned before the singer was located crawling down a branch, a White-breasted Nuthatch.

At the east-end overlook, after taking to the shade of some oaks, we found ourselves looking directly down on Lesser Scaups. Further out were two Common Loon, a few Horned Grebes among the many Westerns, and a group of seven Common Goldeneye (two males), distinctive though close to the far shore.

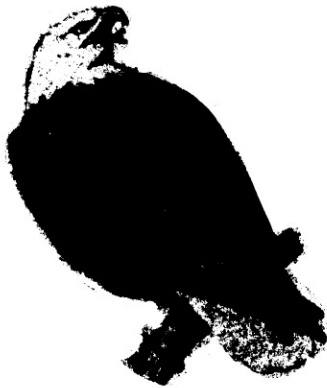
A lieisurely lunch concluded a truely satisfying day.

Dean Bazzi

Audubon Society Slide Shows

BIRDS IN THE SPRING

Audubon is proud to present its new spring slide show for your information and enjoyment. Trained members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society will be happy to give this presentation to your class or group. The show covers all aspects of the spring behavior of birds, including migration, courtship, nesting and raising of young. The program is adaptable to children or adults, and takes from one half to one hour to present. Audubon will provide the program, a projector and extension cord. All you need is a screen and an interest in the spring activities of birds!



THE YEAR OF THE EAGLE

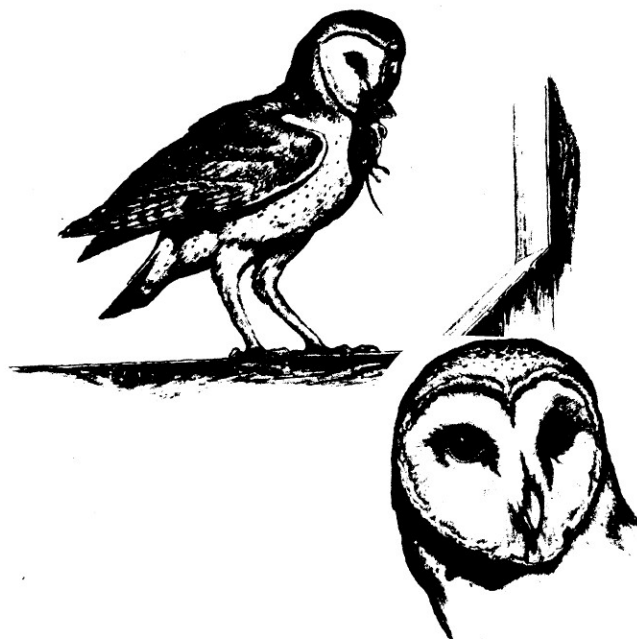
1982 is the 200th anniversary of the bald eagle as our national bird. In honor of this, the National Wildlife Federation has made available a beautiful slide presentation, "We Care About Eagles", which looks at all aspects of these wild and beautiful birds. Starting with a historical perspective, the program traces the use of eagles as symbols of courage, power and freedom. Their physical adaptations and life cycles are examined and their behavior, habitat and prey are highlighted. This show is accompanied by a tape.

To arrange for a speaker or to secure further information, teachers in Montecito and Santa Barbara should call Mr. Sidney Tarbox (687-2067). Those in the Goleta area should call Mrs. Nancy Crawford at 964-7508. It is requested that arrangements be made at least two weeks in advance whenever possible.



by Phil Pryde

5. ACE BIRDER:
Has birded 2-3 foreign countries, owns spotter scope, organizes Christmas bird counts
Infuriates friends by identifying LBBJ's by call
Has a bookcase full of birding books, subscribes to American Birds
Knows lots of impressive scientific names besides Turdus migratorius
Defends A.O.U. in the case of Yellow-rumped Warblers vs. The People
Has talked with Roger Tory Peterson; idolizes the A.O.U.
6. SUPERSTAR BIRDER:
Flies 500 miles to see strays, doesn't need a spotter scope, criticizes accuracy of Christmas bird counts



Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Board of Directors

March Actions

1. The Finance Committee (ad hoc) was directed to meet to formulate a recommendation to the full board concerning the purchase of a Peregrine Falcon for local reintroduction (see story pg. 2).
2. A motion was passed restricting Board meetings to SBAS business only.
3. The printing costs for a Santa Barbara area bird checklist (\$1,000) were approved. These checklists shall be sold by your chapter upon their completion.

Local Membership

Just a reminder that our local membership status is still available 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 the National Audubon Society. 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	Santa Barbara Audubon Society
950 Third Ave,	Minna E. Smith
New York, N.Y. 10022	1600 Garden St. #35
	Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Audubon Ark

The Audubon Ark is coming to Santa Barbara to the Museum of Natural History April 8th to the 11th. The Audubon Ark is an Endangered Species Mobile Education project of the National Audubon Society and the Celanese Corporation designed to inform the public of extinct and vanishing species. We will need volunteers to man the display and pass out flyers while the Ark is here. If you wish to help let us know at the next meeting or by calling any board member. But, in any case, do plan to see this enlightening and informative display.

Oops!

I am very sorry to say that NAS still has not sent us final word on the Bird-A-Thon which is tentatively scheduled for April 24th or 25th. If you still hope to participate, please call either Robert Lindsay (Editor) or Eileen Gray (President). We will call those of you who contact us if and when we get final word from National Audubon.

Sorry about that.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are very happy to welcome the following new members: Lucy Bartz, Lee Bronson, Terry Church, Sharon L. Clark, Tommy A. Conner, Fran Curtis, D.S. Dwelley, Kathy Goner, Marian Guntermann, Kenneth S. Hughes, Virginia B. Kenley, Mrs. Riley Millard, Richmond P. Miller Jr., Mrs. Mary E. Moffat, Mr. Carter G. Montgomery, Connie OShaughnessy and family, A. Page, Enid L. Pike, Richard Priestaff, Leva L. Rassmann, Alberta Schneider, Michael Simpson, Joanne St John, Vivian Stanton, Rosemary Stefani, Alberta Stevens, James J. Stretch, Peter Susi, Mary Turtle, Mrs. T. F. Van Natta, and Pat Hotharm. These names were finally received from the NAS computer March 2, 1982 although some joined in October, 1981! We are also very happy to greet Gary Gilder and Mrs. Ruth M. Saadi who have transferred into our chapter.

During December 108 members renewed their subscriptions and we had thirty new members. Fern Kastler and Rose Ann Babcock also became local members as did Jonathon V. Hays. There are still over 100 members who failed to rejoin our ranks. Perhaps you were remiss and neglected to send your dues on time. You will continue to receive this newsletter for four months before your name is removed from our computer. If you are one of those lapsing members please reconsider and again be a member of Santa Barbara Audubon Society. Remember our dues are the only source of income to do all the many tasks of education, conservation, communication and to finance our meetings. It was most gratifying to see the large attendance at our February meeting. We hope the interest and enthusiasm will continue.

Minna E. Smith
Membership Chairperson



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Santa Barbara Audubon Society
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