June 5 Saturday
General Meeting - This year's June meeting and picnic will be held in area 3 of Tucker's Grove County Park at the intersection of Turnpike Rd. and Cathedral Oaks Rd. A charcoal fire, relish tray, salad, beans, french bread, wine, cider and coffee will be provided for $3.00. As in past years, you should bring your own meat, cutlery and silverware, plate and napkins. If the urge hits you, bring a desert along. The fire will be started at noon so we should eat at about 1:00. The meeting and the election of next year's Board of Directors shall follow right after by about 2:30. So we'll know how many to expect, please call Eileen Gray (967-0698) and make a reservation. Also, send your checks to Eileen at the address given at the top of the page made out to Santa Barbara Audubon before June 3rd. If you choose to pay at the picnic, please call anyway. These picnics are always fun and a good way to meet fellow members so do plan to be there.

Field Trip Report - Figueroa Mountain

On Friday night at last month's general meeting, Steve Timbrook remarked that we should plan a wildflower and migration trip to Figueroa Mountain. With perfect timing, our chairman had scheduled a trip for the following day. A dozen members carpooled over San Marcos Pass and arrived on top at 8:00 a.m., after birding for an hour along the mountain road. We were in for a rare treat at the top. A Pygmy Owl was calling. Dean Bassi picked it out sitting in a pine tree just off the road. We all had a good look at him. For such a tiny bird it makes a big sound. He continued to call so that we all learned his call thoroughly. Two hummingbirds, a Black-chinned and an Anna's were buzzing him, finally making him fly to another tree where we saw him in full sun.

It was a perfect day to be outdoors, sunny but not hot. The wildflowers were breathtaking, great splashes of purple and gold set against the green mountainsides. We stopped to examine the many species of wildflowers together at several spots. The yellow violets in bloom with flowering Miner's Lettuce was beautiful and unusual at the top of the mountain.

Some of the interesting birds sighted were Olive-sided and Western Flycatchers, White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Western Bluebirds and Tanagers, Solitary Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, a Chipping Sparrow building a nest in a pine tree bough, and many Lark Sparrows.

We had lunch on a tree shaded meadow high above the Santa Ynez Valley enjoying the quiet peace of the mountainside, as much as the food and company, and then went our separate ways home.
While the number of landbird migrants along the coast during late April and early May were not high, there was an ample supply of unusual sightings to keep observers happy. An immature Little Gull in Goleta May 10 is only the second record for the county of this visitor from Eurasia (or the Great Lakes where a small population has become established). Two very unusual shorebird sightings were a Semipalmated Sandpiper near Santa Maria May 9-10 (the third spring record of this eastern species) and a Pectoral Sandpiper there April 24 (the fifth spring record). The most exciting landbird during the period was a Grey Catbird near the Santa Maria River mouth, April 25. This eastern species had only been recorded in the Santa Barbara region on two previous occasions, both of them in the fall. Other interesting landbirds were an Orchard Oriole in Goleta April 18 (particularly unusual in spring), a "Baltimore" Oriole in Goleta during early May, and a very late Varied Thrush in Hope Ranch May 6.

Encouraging was the discovery of a small population of Grasshopper Sparrows near the base of San Marcos Pass in Santa Barbara. This species has been much reduced in numbers due to the loss of its grassland habitat; the only other locale known to presently support this species in the area is Point Sal.

A Least Bittern was recently seen at the Santa Barbara Bird Refuge. Last year’s least Bittern nest was the first breeding record for the county.

A female Pintail and 5 chicks seen in Goleta represent the third breeding record for this species.

Farther afield, a Louisiana Heron and Marbled Murrelet at Point Magu were, respectively, well north and south of their normal ranges. Also in Ventura County, two local populations of Ground Doves discovered near Saticoy and Camarillo are the only regular nesters north of Orange County.

Santa Barbara County Bird Checklists

With special thanks to Louis Bevier, SBAS Field Trip Chairman, we are pleased to announce that the new Santa Barbara County Bird Checklists have arrived and are now available. These can be a handy aid in the field and also show the great diversity of birds in our area. They will be available at any meeting for only 30¢ per copy. We hope they shall also be available soon at commercial outlets so keep an eye out for them.

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 984-7508. Good Birding!
COMING EVENTS FOR NEXT YEAR

Field Trips

September
Sat. & Sun., 4th & 5th - Reyes Peak and Mount Pinos
Saturday, 11th - Santa Clara River Estuary
Sunday, 26th - Devereaux Slough

October
Saturday, 9th - Patton Escarpment Boat trip
Sunday, 17th - Gaviota State Beach

November
Sunday, 7th - Santa Maria River Valley
Saturday, 21st - Vandenberg A.F.B.

December
Sat. & Sun., 4th & 5th - Monterey Peninsula
Sunday, 19th - Sandyland Slough and Carpinteria Creek

January 1983
Sat. & Sun., 8th & 9th - Carrizo Plains
Sunday, 23rd - Lake Cachuma

February
Saturday, 12th - Santa Barbara and Montecito
Sunday, 27th - Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station

March
Sunday, 13th - Bird Refuge and Santa Barbara Harbor
Sunday, 20th - Hollister Ranch

April
Sat. & Sun., 16th & 17th - Morro Bay
Sunday, 24th - Santa Barbara Foothills

May
Saturday, 8th - Refugio Road
Saturday, 28th - Los Alamos

Meetings

September 23rd
John Taft - NAS film and lecture

October 28th
Family Night - Slides from the members

December 2nd
Rod Nash - UCSB Ecology professor

January 28th
Echenhord Glöde - Flying between the Worlds - Migration in Europe

February 25th
Not yet scheduled

March 25th
Jeff Frokes - Fire Ecology

April 22nd
Hal Clayson - Bird photography

May 27th
Not yet scheduled

As with Field Trips, this list is tentative so keep an eye on the monthly announcements for changes. Meetings are held on the 4th Friday of each month (except December) at 8:00 p.m. in the Fleischmann Auditorium, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. As you can see, two meetings have yet to be scheduled. If you have ideas for speakers or topics, please call Joe Gartland, Programs Chairman at 965-2846. We hope to see you all at our coming meetings.

Keep watching for monthly news of coming events as more trips are likely to be added and some of the above dates changed. Do plan to go on at least two or three trips. They are fun, educational and a good way to meet fellow birders. People willing to lead field trips are most encouraged to do so. Contact Louis Bevier, Field Trip Chairman at 964-1030.

"We'll put an oil rig here, another over there, and, oh yeah, get rid of the seals, will ya?"
On The Conservation Front

Garrison Diversion Project

A federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., threw out restrictions that had halted work on the 250,000 acre Garrison Diversion Unit federal water project in North Dakota. The project, a giant flood control and water development plan for the Missouri River Basin, has been challenged by the National Audubon Society, which contends it would have devastating effects on wildlife and the environment. The three-judge panel unanimously overturned a lower court order holding the government to a 1977 agreement worked out between the Audubon Society and the Carter Administration that stipulated work would be delayed until environmental concerns were addressed.

Clean Air Act

As you know, the Clean Air Act is before the Congress for Reauthorization. Bills that would significantly weaken the act have been introduced in both houses. Passage of either without substantial amendments would reverse the progress that has been made in cleaning our polluted air and alleviating the health and environmental problems caused by this form of pollution.

It is known that the man-made pollutants in our atmosphere aggravate respiratory ailments, corrode many materials from tires to marble stone, and can lead to acid rain which kills fish, damages vegetation, and can endanger the purity of water.

The "environmental extremists" as Interior Secretary Watt describes them, who oppose such changes in the act include 80% of those polled by Lou Harris last September. The lobby seeking to weaken the act represent industries, power plants and other enterprises which have traditionally used the air as a free dumping ground.

Please write your representative and senator and let them know that you support a strong Clean Air Act. Letters from constituents are the most powerful influence on these decision makers. Your voice can make a difference.

Teddy Roosevelt on Natural Resources

"With the rise of peoples from savagery to civilization, and with the consequent growth in the extent and variety of the needs of the average man, there comes a steadily increasing growth of the amount demanded by this average man from the actual resources of the country. And yet, rather curiously, at the same time that there comes an increase in what the average man demands from the resources, he is apt to grow to lose the sense of his dependence upon nature. He lives in big cities. He deals in industries that do not bring him in close touch with nature. He does not realize the demands he is making upon nature...We have become great in a material sense because of the lavish use of our resources, and we have just reason to be proud of our growth. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, iron, the oil and the gas are exhausted, when the soils shall have been still further impoverished and washed into streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields, and obstructing navigation. These questions do not relate only to the next century or the next generation. One distinguishing character of really civilized men is foresight; we have to, as a nation, exercise foresight for this nation in the future; and if we do not exercise that foresight, dark will be the future!"

May, 1908

Mono Lake

Backers of the campaign to save Mono Lake have asked the Los Angeles city government for help in alleviating the damage being done by their water diversions. Because of the heavy snowpack this year and abundant water supplies throughout the state, the city could reduce diversions this year and prevent further environmental deterioration at the lake without impact on the city's water supply.

Though some have begun to tire of this issue, Mono Lake is a resource worthy of persistence and dedication. Please continue to write to those in power, especially gubernatorial candidate Mayor Tom Bradley. Mono Lake is worth saving.
"Protecting the Conservation Ethic" was the theme of the National Audubon Society's Western Regional Conference, April 3-6. More than 900 attended representing 61 chapters.

Among the speakers was Estella Leopold, daughter of Aldo Leopold. She spoke on the severe depletion of wildlife and habitats she observed on a recent visit to East China. This has been caused by extensive agricultural development.

Brock Evans, a National Audubon Society Vise-President, spoke of the need for grassroots support to counter the destructive actions of Interior Secretary James Watt and Agriculture Secretary and former Pacific Timber employee John Crow. What is needed, he says is "endless pressure, endlessly applied" if we are to save our wilderness and our Clean Air and Endangered Species Acts.

Scott Reed, an attorney, informed the conference that the Mono Lake lawsuit will go directly to the California Supreme Court in May, thus avoiding a delay of two or more years at the intermediate court level.

Chuck Schneebeck of Sea and Sage and instructor at the Western Audubon Camp spoke on the Endangered Species Act. Five of the eight endangered species he spoke of are associated with coastal wetlands, a habitat that is shrinking rapidly in California due to land fills for development and runoff containing toxic wastes.

Ken Berlin from the NAS Washington DC office spoke on the Endangered Species Act. If the current trends continued by the year 2000, a million species would be extinct and natural diversity would be lost. He also criticized the record of the Reagan Administration on this issue.

National Audubon President Russell Peterson spoke out against the Lukens/Dingell Dirty Air Bill, HR 5252 which has the support of Pres. Reagan. Rep. Waxman of Los Angeles has introduced a sound clean air bill, HR 5555 but, since Dingell is the Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the Waxman bill will have little chance unless enough constituents write their congressmen. This bill would retain current standards, strengthen some standards, grant extensions from standards deadlines when necessary and reasonable but prevent backsliding from present pollution control goals, address the problem of acid rain, and speed the program to identify and control cancer-causing air pollutants.

For the first time, chapters were asked to help form priorities for action.

Chapter delegates selected Water and Endangered Species as top priorities for the west.

John Ogden of the Condor Research Center reported a decline of two California Condors a year. He added the limited present program is inadequate, too slow. The researchers need to know the location of every nest site, feeding habitat, and roost sites. Survey techniques are crude, better census techniques are needed.

Throughout the conference, one message was pervasive, grass roots support for environmental issues is essential. We must let our elected representatives know our thoughts.

Many other speakers, workshops and activities made this a successful and worthwhile conference. With greater participation and involvement from Audubon members (all are welcome at the conferences), they can be made even better.
Membership - May, 1982

Santa Barbara Audubon Society is pleased to welcome the following: L.L. Bigotti, Vonna Breeze, Mary Bockover, Ms. Alberta Brown, Mr. Preston Cloud, Lil Green, Mr. King Harris, Sadie Hales Johnson, Mrs. P.J. Kelleher, Marian L. Kirkbride, Allana C. Koch, H. Teele Manning Jr. & family, Mrs. H.N. Matson, Mrs. Helen McKee, Mr. Stephen T.B. Miller, Gilbert and JeAnne Rochlin, Mrs. Mary Smith & family, Pearl M. Stahr, Henrietta Stiles, Mr. Steve Swartz, Mrs. Rachael Ullman, and Mr. Joe Warwick. Paul H. Nordin and Bruce Todd have transferred into our chapter.

The 1981-1982 season is fast drawing to a close and culminating in our Annual Election and Picnic on June 5th at Tucker's Grove County Park. Since I have been forced to miss this event I would like to thank all our members who have faithfully supported our efforts and paid their membership dues on time. The annual check of members will be undertaken in late August, or early September. If you will be available to help and serve on my Membership Committee, please send me your name, address and phone number. A standing Committee would be preferable. There is need for three willing workers. Thanks again.

Minna E. Smith 966-7971
Membership Secretary
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