

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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968-8965

COMING EVENTS!

Beginner's Bird Walk

- October 7 Field Trip - San Jose Creek, Goleta. Meet at 8:30 am by the bridge over
Thursday San Jose Creek on Paterson Ave. just north of Cathedral Oaks Rd. Emphasis
on the resident species in one of the better local woodland riparian areas.
This trip will involve easy walking. Leader: Karen Bridgers
964-1316
- October 17 Field Trip - Gaviota State Beach, etc. Meet in the parking lot near Jack-
Sunday in-the-Box at Hollister Ave. and Storke Rd. at 9:00 am. Several stops be-
tween Goleta and Gaviota will we hope produce some vagrant bird species
for Santa Barbara County. Easy walking only. Leader: Jim Greaves
962-7317 (before 10 pm)
- October 22 General Meeting - 'Family Night'. This night we will be presenting the
Friday film 'Gifts of an Eagle' by Santa Barbara's own Ken Durden. This film
chronicles the events surrounding the rearing of a captive young eagle
and it's reintroduction to the wild. This is an excellent film for the
whole family so bring the kids along. If you have no children handy,
bring the neighbors and their kids. Meetings begin promptly at 8:00 pm.
in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History.
- October 24 Field Trip - Lake Los Carneros, Stow House. Meet at 8:30 am in the Stow
Sunday House parking lot behind the fire station on Los Carneros Rd. This trip
is ideal for the beginning study of birds, is easy walking, and of short
duration. Leader: Steve Beebee
965-3529
Questions: Louis Bevier
964-1030
- October 11 Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend.
Tuesday Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium annex at the Museum
of Natural History. This meeting is the deadline for all articles to
be submitted for the October El Tecolote.

Edit. note: The Patton Escarpment boat trip previously scheduled for Oct. 9 will not be held this year. The cost would be \$125 per person; a bit steep for most. This trip is now planned for Oct. 21-23, 1983 through Shearwater Journeys for the above price (plus a possible surcharge). For more information, call Louis Bevier (964-1030) or write Debra Love Shearwater, 362 Lee Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Birds in Santa Barbara

by Paul Lehman

Avian highlights of the summer season were many. During June the last of the spring vagrants continued to pass through the area. These included an Eastern Kingbird along the upper Santa Ynez River (our first spring record), two Northern Parulas along the Santa Ynez River, a Prothonotary Warbler in Goleta, a Hooded Warbler for over two weeks along Mono Creek (the first mid-summer record for Southern California), and two Summer Tanagers in Goleta. Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen; one in Goleta and one at Barka Slough bordering Vandenburg AFB where appropriate nesting habitat exists. This species was formerly more numerous in riparian areas in California, but is now casual in our region. Two Swainson's Hawks summering near Santa Maria, and Greater Scaup seen near Santa Maria and at the Santa Ynez River mouth were both summer firsts, at least in many a year. Like the cuckoo, the Swainson's Hawk was formerly more numerous but is now casual here.

Two brief surveys of the breeding birds of the San Raphael Mountains and Sierra Madre were made in June and July. They added much to our knowledge of the avifauna of Santa Barbara County. Such locally nesting montane species as White-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Fox Sparrow were found in the San Raphaels. Also seen were first county summer (and probably breeding) records for Colliope Hummingbird, Mountain Bluebird, Nashville Warbler, and Red Crossbill.

As fall approached the first of the fall vagrants appeared. In addition to the regularly occurring vagrants (e.g. Eastern Kingbird, Black and White Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, Bobolink, Indigo Bunting, and Clay-colored Sparrow), several much rarer species were found. These included single Worm-eating, Bay-breasted, and Canada Warblers in Goleta. And, in addition, the White-eyed Vireo which was found in Goleta in mid-May and still present (!) in early September, establishing the first summer record for California.

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. 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. Thanks for your support and Good Birding !

Nancy Crawford.



Tecolote Subscriptions

Several requests have been received lately from people wishing to receive El Tecolote without joining National Audubon or the local chapter. This can be done by sending \$5.00 dollars to Minna Smith, our Membership Secretary, with a note explaining that subscription to El Tecolote is wanted. Minna's address is listed with that of all other officers in this newsletter. Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society.



Field Trip Report

Two popular Beginner's Bird Walks were held during the summer. The first was at the Bird Refuge and the Spit on July 28. The second walk, on August 30th, was also very well attended and consisted of a walk into the private property of the Sandyland Slough and the University of California property behind the Slough. Many returning shore birds were spotted including Marbled Godwits, Least and Western Sandpipers, Elegant Terns, Dowitchers, and a Parasitic Jaeger. Two bird watchers sighted a Virginia Rail, and we saw Savannah Sparrows, a Loggerhead Shrike as well as many Snowy Egrets, Belted Kingfisher, Whimbrels, and Long-billed Curlew. A total of some 48 species were viewed. Special thanks to Bob Hough for getting the permission to enter the Sloughs and conducting the walks so successfully and ably.



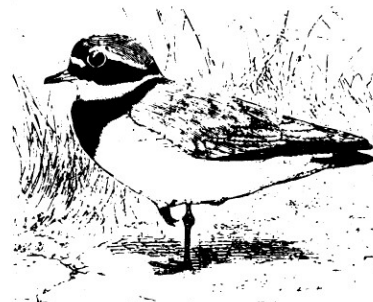
Minna E. Smith Co-leader

Beginner's Bird Walks

As you may have noticed, we have begun offering Beginner's Bird Walks in addition to our regular field trips. So there is no confusion, all members and guests are welcome on all SBAS sponsored walks and field trips regardless of level of experience or skill. However, since many members are new to birding, the beginner's walks are designed to teach birding skills and etiquette and to concentrate on the more common and easily identifiable birds of our region. So far these walks have been well attended and successful. More are planned for the near future so watch for announcements.

As for our regular bird walks and field trips, because some of our members are unable to engage in vigorous activity, some mention of the strenuousness of each trip will be given when the trip is advertised. Some field trips are easy strolls whereas others do involve some exertion. We hope this information will be useful.

In any case, do plan to attend some of the coming year's trips. They are a great deal of fun and a good way to get familiar with the birds of Santa Barbara and with fellow Auduboners.



Summer Pot-Luck

My thanks to all those who attended the summer pot-luck picnic at Rocky Nook Co. Park last August. I'm sorry more members could not attend but I was very glad to meet those that did. All in all it was a successful gathering and a good time was had by everyone. I would also like to thank those who volunteered time or supplies to the Audubon Office at the pot-luck. We need more of your kind.

Robert Lindsay

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Christmas Count Compiler:

Paul Lehman 967-2450

Golden Trout Camp:

Tomi Sollen 966-4836



Help Needed

The preceding page lists all current officers and committee chairmen for the coming year. Fortunately, we have someone to lead each committee but having a chairman does not guarantee a useful committee. We need more help. Here, then, is a sampling of the volunteer opportunities within SBAS.

1. Education Speakers

The Education Committee has put together several good slide shows to present at local schools and community organizations but more people are needed to give these shows. If you are interested, the current committee members will teach you all you need to know to give these shows. This can be a very rewarding and educational experience and a good way to get constructively involved in your community. Please contact the Education Committee Chairwoman if you are interested or want to know more.

2. Field Trip Leaders

To his credit, Field Trip Committee Chairman Louis Bevier has done a wonderful job leading nearly every SBAS field trip for the last year, but as with us all, there are limits to his free time. If you have been a field trip leader in the past or are interested in becoming one, please contact Louis soon. Without the support of competent members on this committee, there will be an unfortunate reduction in the number of field trips that SBAS will sponsor. This has always been one of our best committees. Please help us keep it that way.

3. Conservation Committee Volunteers

As with the Field Trip Committee, the Conservation Committee consists only of its two leaders. This committee is wide open with unlimited potential. A number of projects have been planned but can not be carried through without sufficient support from member volunteers. If you are interested in conservation issues, have conservation projects you would like to see addressed by SBAS, or simply want to see our organization become a viable conservation force within the community, please get in touch with either of the committee co-chairmen. If you are involved in a conservation issue with some

other organization that could use the help and resources of SBAS, get in touch. If we pull together, we can make a difference.

4. Office Staff

As you know from reading past issues of this newsletter, the Audubon Office is scheduled to open October 1. Several members have volunteered to help us staff the office but many more are badly needed. Without the support and involvement of more members, the office will serve as little more than a dispository for SBAS supplies and a meeting place for officers. Let's not waste the potential of this office to serve the community and the Audubon cause. All volunteers will be thoroughly trained to staff the office. No great time commitments are required. If there is any interest in helping or a need for more information, please contact Robert Lindsay or come to any of the coming board or general meetings. Special thanks to those who have already volunteered. I hope we have the chance to use you.

5. Office Coordinator

On the off chance that we have a highly motivated member out there, someone is needed to oversee the operations of the office and to coordinate the volunteers who will staff it. If you have experience in an office and would like to run the show, please contact Robert Lindsay or any board member and let us know.

If none of these positions appeal to you but you still want to get involved with SBAS, let those in power know of your interests and ideas. We need all the input we can get. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those few who are currently holding the organization together. We have a good chapter here in Santa Barbara; with your help, it can be much more.

Robert Lindsay



CODE OF ETHICS

It is important that we, as birders and Audubon members, learn to be thoughtful and ethical in the pursuit of our interest. Here, then, is a reprint of the birding code of ethics.

Ethic I: Thoughtfulness of Birds

Be stealthy, quiet. Try to observe birds so they are unaware of your presence, this providing an opportunity to learn their normal habits. Avoid quick movements, discordant noises, running, continuous chasing of the same birds, throwing things, and "thrashing about". The quiet observer sees more.

Approaching a nest too closely or repeated flushing may cause abandonment of the eggs and young by the parents and expose the nest to predation. Do not handle eggs or young.

When photographing a nest or parents at the nest, don't keep it unduly exposed to sun, cold or rain, causing destruction of eggs or young or desertion by parents. Instead of cutting branches or grass near the nest, tie them back. Leave the habitat as you found it.

Use tape recorders with discretion to prevent driving birds from their territories. Never play recorders in heavily birded areas.

Divide larger groups of people; individuals or small groups cause less disturbance.

Avoid "tree-whacking" to arouse cavity dwellers. Undue disturbance may lead to abandonment.

Ethic II: Thoughtfulness of Habitat

Avoid trampling fragile habitats, especially marshes, grasslands, wild flowers and tangles. Stay on established pathways. Damage to a habitat affects all species in the ecosystem.

When practical, pool transportation to birding areas to save energy and reduce environmental impact.

Keep motor vehicles on established roads and parking areas. One set of tracks invites others. In fragile ecosystems, a track may last for decades and severely degrade the habitat value.

Obtain permission for entry to private lands and when necessary on government lands. Respect the occupants pri-

vacancy and property. Don't block rights-of-way; leave gates as you found them.

Walk single file in fragile areas. Small groups reduce adverse impact on the habitat and require narrower paths and roads, and smaller parking areas.

Leave no litter.

Plan restroom stops to avoid pollution of the habitat.

Be extremely careful with fire. Avoid smoking while walking; press out cigarettes on rocks or mineral soil. Carry butts with you.

Use discretion in divulging information on nests and rare and endangered birds especially in fragile habitats.

Ethic III: Thoughtfulness of Birders

Dispense with unnecessary talk, noise and disturbance so that all birders in a group have the opportunity to exercise their full facilities of sight and hearing.

Put the interests of the group before your own. Keep the birding group together so that interesting and rare or unusual sightings can be shared until all interests are addressed.

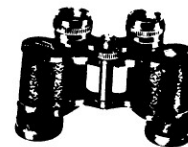
When with a group of mixed birding abilities the leader or better birders should assist others in identification and should point out field marks, habits and ecological relationships.

Avoid excessive use of squeakers and "pishing"; it may reduce their effectiveness and may annoy other birders.

Be sensitive to the efforts and energies of fellow birders. In identifying and reporting the rare and unusual, always err on the side of "over-identification" so there is less chance of wrong identity. Be prepared to justify identifications adequately with good descriptions or photographs to minimize perpetuation of errors in the literature.

When possible, prior to reporting a rare or unusual sighting, have another birder of equal or greater ability locate and verify your identification.

When birding at a private home or ranch, be considerate of your host's time and property.



November Elections

As you all know, the coming State Elections are less than two months away. There are two propositions in that election that deserve our attention.

It is not our purpose to tell you how to vote. But we hope all will study the following issues and vote in a way that will enhance the environment and lead to sound use of our limited resources.

The first issue is Proposition 11, the can and bottle recycling bill. This bill requires deposits on cans and bottles as an incentive to recycle rather than throw away these items. Similar bills have been passed in three other states and have resulted in a reduction in litter there. The California proposition has the support of most conservation organizations and is opposed by the bottle and can industry. Proponents of this bill can get more information by contacting 'Californians against Waste' at 4025 Sepulveda Blvd. Culver City, CA 90230. They can let you know who the local representatives of this initiative are.

The second issue is Proposition 13, the Water Conservation and Efficiency Act. The intent of this bill is to reform state policy concerning our most precious resource: water. It is hoped that this bill will lead to a balancing of the water use of Californians with the water requirements of a healthy environment. More information can be received by calling Bendy White, Santa Barbara Co. Coordinator for Prop. 13 at 962-5260. A drawing to benefit the Water Initiative and the Mono Lake Committee will be held this October 9th. Tickets for this drawing can be obtained at the coming general meeting or by contacting Robert Lindsay. A \$2.00 donation per ticket is requested.

Whatever your position on these issues, please exercise your right and responsibility to vote. These issues are far to important not to be addressed by us all.

Robert Lindsay

Call for Conservation Articles

If there is a certain conservation issue that you would like to see addressed in this newsletter, the Editor encourages you to submit articles to him either in person at any SBAS meeting or by mailing to the address given on page 1. All articles are subject to review by the Board of Directors and Conservation Chairmen. Here's your chance to get your name in print and to address issues that are important to you and to the conservation movement. I look forward to hearing from you.

Robert Lindsay
Editor



National Audubon Society
Annual Meeting

Thursday evening, November 4th, at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles will be the 77th Annual Dinner of the National Audubon Society. We are very fortunate to have this meeting so close; all previous such meetings have been held in New York. Speakers will include NAS President Russell Peterson and David Gaine's all-new slide show on Mono Lake. If you are interested in attending this event with other representatives of SBAS, application forms can be found at all our general meetings or by contacting board members. The cost is \$30.00 per person. All members of the Audubon Society are welcome.

Membership - Summer 1982

Santa Barbara Audubon is happy to welcome to its ranks the following new members: Vonna Breeze, Charly Burgett, Carole Confar, Fran Dickey, Mrs. Richard Hammond, Mr. & Mrs. King Harris, Mr. Grant D. Johnson, Marian E. Skaffki, Kathy McMurray, A. Schreiber, J. A. Vesty, Mrs. J. W. Watling Jr., and Dr. Eric Westhimer.

Joining us in August were Joan Bailey, Nancy F. Basham, Bryan Boone, J. Boreta, Mrs. Thorne Chamberlain, Ms. Carole Daneri, Marcela F. Fenton, Mrs. George W. Gunterman, G. Gustavson, Connie Hannah, Elizabeth A. Horwath, Alden M Johnson, Eva Jones, Phillip Ostrand, Beurrell V. Randall, R. V. Saker, Kirk Shults, Janet Stich, Dawn Willianson, Mr. & Mrs. H. Clair Wills and Timothy K. Zimmerman.

Joining us in July were P. K. Anderson, M. Armstrong, B. R. Atwater, J. Berard, Lisa Besset, Alan B. Connel Jr., Robert Drake, Rita Falls, Bernice Gillon, Doris Gornon, K. Greene, Miss Emily Mary Hagel, Laurel Hall, G. Handly, Stanley M. Hill, Berry Holmes, Mr. Kip Isbell, Gwen M. Jenkins, Mr. Scott Lee, Otis Logan, Judith Mathewson, Patrick McIntyre, William D. Murray, B. A. Ogle, Ms. Pamela Owens Croteau, Diane Porter, Gwen Robertson, Margaret Jean Rocha, Judy Rodriguez, Elliot Schulman, Mrs. Angelo R. Secco, A. Sesonki, Laurel Slater, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Steuart, Mrs. Fred Sutphen, Stanley M. Taylor, W. H. Thornburgh, Mr. Ernesto Torres & Family, G. A. Van Veen, Mrs. M. Vonbozoky, T. Dion Warren, Mr. Joseph M. Webb, Karla Wideman, A. E. Wideman, A. E. Wiederecht, W. P. Woodring, Gisela Wright, Linda Yen, Diane Zimmerman and Tom Bolton who transferred into our chapter.

Greetings to all and I hope to see you in person at one of our forthcoming meetings.

Minna E. Smith
Membership Secretary

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