

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

November-
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President and Editor
P.O. Box 14005
Santa Barbara, CA 93107
968-8965

January 28 General Meeting - This night it will be our pleasure to welcome
Friday Ekkehard Glöde, a European ornithologist and photographer who will
present a slide show on bird migration in Europe. The forests of
Scandinavia, the wetlands of Germany, and the coasts of Spain,
Ireland, and the Baltic Sea shall be explored. Meetings begin
promptly at 8:00 pm in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Santa
Barbara Museum of Natural History.

SBAS Office News

Office Coordinators

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Sid Tarbox and Eileen Gray have accepted the position of office coordinators. Sid Tarbox, current Board member and member of the Education Committee, is a long-standing active member of our chapter bringing a wealth of ideas and energy to this endeavor. Eileen Gray, past President of SBAS, is perhaps most responsible for our acquiring the office in the first place and we are delighted with her continued involvement. If you have any questions or want information about our office, these are the people to contact. Sid Tarbox can be reached at 687-2067. Eileen Gray can be reached at 967-0698. Theirs is not an easy job, especially in this hectic period of moving in and organizing. Let's give them all the support and help we can.

Office Opening

By the time you receive this newsletter we should just about be completing the tasks of preparing and moving into our new office. So, although our official grand opening shall not be until January, if you wish to stop by and take a look, please do. My deep thanks to the many generous members who contributed our furnishings and thanks in advance to those who have volunteered to work in our office. I would also like to thank Joe Gartland and Dean Bazzi for their help in preparing the room for occupancy and wrestling the furnishings up that rather narrow flight of stairs. Much work remains to be done in organizing all the resources of SBAS in the office but at last the bulk of our task is over. More information will be forthcoming at the Dec. 3 meeting. I hope to see you all there.

Robert Lindsay

Birds in Santa Barbara
by Paul Lehman

Certainly the most exciting birds seen in our area during October and early November were a Whip-poor-will and Golden-winged Warbler. The warbler was a beautiful male present in the Botanic Gardens, October 22-23, and was the second record of this eastern species in our area. The Whip-poor-will was seen roosting in a back yard in Goleta, November 2; it is not known whether this individual wandered from the East or from the Arizona population. This represents the first record for our area.

Other highlights during this period included a Broad-billed Hummingbird (probably from west Mexico) in Mission Canyon, single Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks (both casual in our area), Least Flycatcher, and Red-throated Pipit (from Siberia) in Goleta, a Ruff near Santa Maria, and Blackburnian Warbler and an Ovenbird at Carpinteria Creek.

As winter approaches, several rare wintering individuals have returned for another year in our area. The Grace's Warbler is back in Montecito for winter #4; the other Grace's Warbler is also back for its forth year along Padaro Lane near Carpinteria! A Black-and-white Warbler is back for its forth winter in Carpinteria and a Swamp Sparrow for its third in Hope Ranch. This is quite unusual for individuals well out of their normal range.

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!



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

We are fast approaching one of our biggest events of the year, the annual SBAS Christmas Bird Count. This year's count will be held Sunday, January 2nd. That is only a little more than a month away so final preparations must be made very soon. This is a most enjoyable event and people at all levels of expertise are needed, from back-yard birders to the truly expert. Nation-wide, there were 34,863 participants in the 1981-82 count, and they tallied more than 66 million birds in 1,418 count areas. Our own area produced the greatest diversity of species in the entire U.S. with 212 species sighted. Help us be #1 again.

If you wish to join the fun, fill out the form on the back page of this Tecolote and send it to Paul Lehman at the address given on the form. Paul has consented once again to be our count compiler and deserves our thanks and support. Final assignments for this count will be made in mid-December so it is important that forms be sent to Paul NOW!

As in past years, this years count will end with a festive dinner in the Habitat Hall at the Museum of Natural History at which time the sightings of the day will be compiled. If you wish to attend and learn of our success, check the dinner box on the form on the back page of this Tecolote.

And for those with the true Christmas Count spirit, set aside December 27th (Monday) for the Sespe Christmas Bird Count in Ventura County. Some areas in this count will require some strenuous hiking for our vigorous members; other areas in this count will not. If you plan to attend this count, please indicate the level of hiking desired on the form on the back page of this Tecolote.

In any case, do join us for the fun and fascination of the Christmas Bird Counts. If there are any questions or if you need more information, call Paul Lehman at 967-2450. Remember, we're counting on all of you to help Santa Barbara stay the #1 birding spot in the United States. Hope to see you then.

Calendar of Coming Events !!

December 3 General Meeting - See October Tecolote for details.
Friday

December 4 Beginner's Bird Walk - Andree Clark Bird Refuge and vicinity. Domestic ducks aside, the bird refuge does offer good viewing of our local waterfowl, gulls, etc. We may also visit the Harbor area, also good for water birds. Meet at the bird refuge parking lot at 8:30 am.
Saturday
Leader: Jim Greaves
962-7317

December 12 Field Trip - Vandenburg A.F.B. This is the same trip previously scheduled for Nov. 21. That trip was cancelled due to unforeseen activities at the base. Call the leader for reservations (limit of 25) and details.
Sunday
Leader: Paul Lehman
967-2450

December 14 Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend.
Tuesday
Meetings are held in the Audubon Office located in the Goleta Depot by the Stow House at Lake Los Carneros.

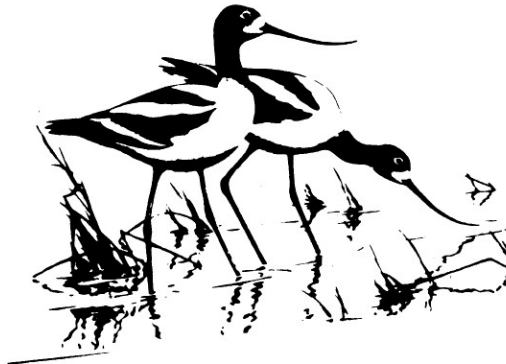
December 19 Field Trip - Sandyland Slough and Carpinteria Creek. The marsh is the only known location in our county to have resident Clapper Rails and one of only a few healthy enough to support numbers of waterbirds. The creek is very attractive stretch of riparian woodland and Eucalyptus. The trip will last about 5 hours. Meet at the Andree Clark Bird Refuge parking lot at 8:00 am.
Sunday
Leader: Dean Bazzi
967-5200

January 9 Beginner's Bird Walk - Lake Cachuma. Possible birds include Osprey, Bald Eagle, Wood Duck and geese. This is a half day trip near Santa Barbara. Meet at the 5-points shopping center by Thrifty's at 8:00 am or at the east end of Lake Cachuma on Hwy. 154 at 8:30 am.
Sunday
Leader: Robert Lindsay
968-8965

January 11 Board of Directors Meeting - The same as 12/14
Tuesday

January 23 Field Trip - Santa Barbara and Montecito. We will look for some of the good finds from the Christmas Count. This is a good trip for those who wish to see some of the less common birds of our area. Meet at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History at 8:00 am.
Sunday
Leader: Paul Lehman
967-2450

January 28 General Meeting - See page one of this Tecolote for details.
Friday

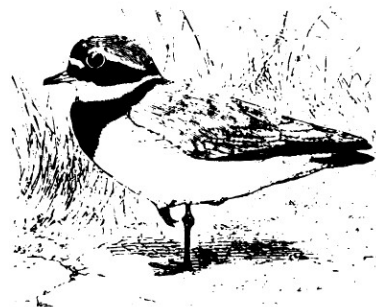


Field Trip Reports

Gaviota - El Capitan 10/17

About 35 people spent a beautiful morning at the two State Parks. We saw Wandering Tattler, Marbled Godwit, and Pelagic Cormorants, Palm and Yellow Warblers at Gaviota, and many had their first clear looks at Downy Woodpeckers, Townsend's Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat at El Capitan. In all, over 40 species of birds were seen at what was a relatively "slow" day for fall migration. We were joined by several out-of-town birders who thoroughly enjoyed our parks. El Capitan is especially worth visiting with its ancient Sycamores and dense riparian (creekside) woodlands of Poison Oak, willows, Mugwort, and blackberries. The weather was fine and clear, but breezes kept birds from sight among canopies and low shrubs. For future reference, when birding in the fall, calm, foggy days are more likely to "produce" numbers and diversity of bird species. Thanks to all who came and enjoyed this trip - this was my largest turnout! El Capitan should be good in May, 1983 for any who want another lush birding area for the springtime.

Jim Greaves



Lake Los Carneros 10/24

Early that morning, ten beginning birders braved the rainy-looking outdoors for a walk around Lake Los Carneros. Luck ran with us for birds rather than rain were the focus of the day. Perhaps most interesting were the several duck species encountered only recently returned from their northern breeding grounds. The lake held Mallards, Ruddy Ducks and, much to my surprise, a flock of 12 Ring-necked Ducks. In addition, a good sized flock of American Wigeon were seen and heard flying overhead. Raptors were also in attendance providing excellent views of Kestrel, White-tailed Kite and Red-shouldered Hawk. Among the other interesting birds found were an immature Gallinule, Robin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and several species of Woodpecker. We were fortunate to have good looks at many of the common birds of the area and everyone had a chance to sharpen their skills as well as enjoy the congenial company of the group. All in all, it was a most successful morning.

Robert Lindsay



Elderhostel

This program offers an opportunity for those over age 60 to visit colleges and universities all over the United States. Not only is it a chance to see our many states, including Hawaii, but last year a Scandinavian program was introduced as well as an extensive program throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. I was privileged to study "British Birds" with a knowledgeable instructor as well as to visit three Wildlife Sanctuaries along the western coast of Great Britain including Martin Mere. There are a variety of courses offered to suit all interests. There is no homework or attendance taken and one meets stimulating contemporaries from all over our country. If you are interested in obtaining the new schedule which should be available in December for the Spring of 1983, write to Elderhostel, 100 Boylston Street, Suite 200, Boston, Mass. 02116 and request to be put on their mailing list.

Minna E. Smith



Santa Barbara Audubon Society Board of Directors

At the present time, the Santa Barbara Audubon Society is a member of the Central California Coordinating Council, one of several such councils under the direction of the Western Regional Branch of the National Audubon Society. At the November 9th meeting of the Board of Directors, it was pointed out by Jim Greaves, Board member and Conservation Committee Chairman, that although we share a geographic affinity with other central California chapters, the types of conservation issues prevalent in our area (wetlands preservation, Riparian habitat destruction) are shared to a greater degree with the Southern California Coordinating Council. In light of this situation, the following resolution was approved at the Nov. 9th meeting;

Resolved: The chairman of the Conservation Committee shall request of the National Audubon Society Western Regional office that the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Audubon Society be transferred from the Central California Coordinating Council to the Southern California Coordinating Council due to our affinity of interests.

It is hoped that such a move will allow us to coordinate our conservation efforts with other Audubon chapters working towards the same goals. Such a move should increase our effectiveness and enhance the efforts of the Southern California Coordinating Council and the Audubon Cause in general.

Robert Lindsay
Chairman
SBAS Board of Directors

What's in a Name?

The American Ornithologists' Union has been lumping and splitting again, changing the classification -- and therefore the names -- of a number of species. In some cases that means two species merged into one, in other cases vice versa. For the ordinary birder who wants to know what he saw, this means new names to learn and old ones to forget. The new nomenclature will be effective with the 6th Edition of the AOU Checklist, due out next year.

The Green Heron will become the Green-backed Heron, lumped with the South American species of the same name. The Common Gallinule is to take the European name for the same species, Common Moorhen, and the Marsh Hawk is to be the Northern Harrier. The Black Duck and the Swallow-tailed Kite will have "American" added to their names, but the American Flamingo will replace its "American" with "Greater".

And a couple of tongue-twister names have been simplified. The Northern Three-toed Woodpecker is to be the Three-toed Woodpecker, and the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker becomes the Black-backed Woodpecker.

For those of you who wish a complete account of all the changes that are taking place in the naming of birds, a copy of the new AOU checklist will be available from the SBAS library in our new office as soon as it becomes available.

Pelican Problems

Certainly everyone is aware of the cruel and malicious injuries inflicted on a number of Brown Pelicans off our coast in recent weeks in which some vicious individual cut off their bills, condemning them to slow starvation. But few people are aware of the many unintended injuries these birds receive when caught in the lines and hooks of the many fishermen along our coast. We in no way wish to discourage fishermen from engaging in their recreation but we would like to offer the following advise in order to reduce the number of these injuries suffered by these birds.

1.) Stop chumming (throwing out live bait to attract game fish) close to pelican colonies as this activity will draw them to the waters where you are fishing.

2.) Try to keep pelicans away from your boat by squirting them with water from a hose.

3.) If you accidentally hook a pelican, reel him in slowly and scoop him aboard with a net bag. Grab the beak, fold in the wings and stroke the bird's breast to calm him. Using pliers, carefully remove protruding hooks, being careful to avoid tearing the delicate pouch. Check inside the mouth for hooks, too. If the bird has swallowed the hook or if it is deeply embedded, snip the line as close to the beak as possible; the hook will eventually disintegrate. Still holding the bird by the beak, lower him back into the water.

With a little common sense and respect for these birds, we can enjoy them without the threat of damage.

Hawaiian Islands Excursion 12/26 - 1/5 '83

On the world's most isolated archipelago, each island is a living laboratory in which to study evolution. Here we find endangered birds and plants.

'I'iwi, 'apapane, palila, nene, 'io and 'oma'o are just a few of the native bird species to be seen. Activities include snorkeling within hearing distance of humpback whales, volcanology of Haleakala and Kilauea, and the challenge of Alakai Swamp. Leaders in Audubon's conservation effort will meet with us.

Instructors: Roger Harris & Meryl Sundove. For further details call (415) 868-1221 or write for an itinerary c/o Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Natural Excursions, 4990 Shoreline HWY., Stinson Beach, CA 94970.



Sierra Club Invitation

The Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club would like to extend an invitation to all Audubon members to join us at our annual Chapter banquet, Saturday, February 5, 1983.

Our speaker will be Brock Evans, whom you know as Audubon Vice-President for Federal Affairs. We know Brock as a member of our national Board of Directors and former head of the Sierra Club Washington office for ten years. All of us know him as a most dynamic speaker.

The banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn in Goleta, with a no-host social hour at 6 pm. Dinner will be buffet style, so vegetarians need have no worries. The price is \$9.00 per person. Reservations should be sent, with a check made out to the Sierra Club, to Alvin Plack, 2965 Arriba Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

We hope many of you will be able to join us.

Anne Van Tyne
President
Sierra Club
Los Padres Chapter

NAS Annual Dinner

Ten local Audubon members were able to attend the 77th Annual Audubon Society Dinner last November 4th at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. This was the first such dinner ever held on the west coast and we were fortunate to be able to attend.

All in all it was an enjoyable and worthwhile event. We were able to meet and talk with a number of our national officers and staff people as well as representatives from many of the other Audubon chapters in our area.

The highlights of the evening included a moving speech by Dr. Russell Peterson, NAS President, and a stirring slide show on Mono Lake by David Gaines. We can all be proud of the fine work that our national organization is doing in the conservation of our resources and in helping to instigate sound use of our limited natural resources.

Robert Lindsay

Secretary Watt's Attacks on the Environment

- ✓ Gutted the Council on Environmental Quality—leaving it a mere shadow, with a staff of a half-dozen or so
- ✓ Rescinded Carter's order restricting the export of hazardous materials
- ✓ Stated his intent to allow oil and gas production on wildlife refuges and wilderness areas
- ✓ Advocated turning urban national recreation areas over to the states
- ✓ Applauded the administration's decision to virtually abolish the Land and Water Conservation Fund which is used to acquire park lands—Mr. Watt also opposes new national parks and wants Congress to redirect this fund into park management
- ✓ Approved directives to the Park Service to allow snowmobiles in Sequoia National Park, in violation of its own regulations
- ✓ Opened offshore areas to oil and gas leasing that had been excluded by the Carter Administration after lengthy public hearings
- ✓ Gathered around him in the Administration a group of top level appointees who exemplify his reckless disregard for the environment
- ✓ Told a group of park concessioners that if they had problems, he would get rid of the problem or the personality, which ever is quicker
- ✓ Ordered the Office of Endangered Species to suspend some proposed endangered species listings
- ✓ Advocated bypassing the legitimate law-making process, instead using the budget process. ("We will use the budget system to be the excuse to make major policy decisions," he said)
- ✓ Urged the Administration to sabotage the Law of the Sea treaty
- ✓ Abolished the Heritage Recreation and Conservation Service
- ✓ Dropped negotiations with Canada over a treaty on migratory caribou
- ✓ Said he would change National Park Service policy regarding management of boating in the Grand Canyon and in virtually the same breath said, "There is no way you could get me on a oar-powered raft."
- ✓ Interfered with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) efforts to control overgrazing on the public lands
- ✓ Tried to take the congressional prerogative of deciding which of the BLM areas under consideration for wilderness should not be protected
- ✓ Weakened policy on protecting BLM areas under study for wilderness
- ✓ Postponed action on environmental provisions of the Alaska Lands Act while emphasizing accelerated development of oil and gas production provisions
- ✓ Said, "The Department of the Interior . . . must be . . . the Amicus for the minerals industry in the court of Federal policy making"
- ✓ Fired about 30 Interior Department attorneys who were doing essential work on protecting federal lands and resources
- ✓ Pushed for funding cuts for the Fish and Wildlife Service, which will cripple its programs
- ✓ Suspended efforts to enforce the acreage limits on federal water project recipients
- ✓ Supported the acceleration of new water project construction in the West
- ✓ Abolished the Tahoe Federal Coordinating Council

Santa Barbara Christmas Bird Count
Sunday, January 2, 1983

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

Sespe Christmas Bird Count
Monday, December 27, 1982

Please fill out this form and return to:

Paul Lehman
P.O. Box 1061
Goleta, CA 93116

Level of
hiking desired:

Name(s) _____
Phone _____
Address _____
Would like to work with _____
Other conditions requested _____

____ Strenuous
____ Medium
____ Easy

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Santa Barbara, CA 93102

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