

# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

January, 1983  
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Robert Lindsay  
President and Editor  
P.O. Box 14005  
Santa Barbara, CA 93107  
968-8965

January 28 General Meeting - Tonight our speaker will be Wendy Bevier. Wendy, a doctoral student of Environmental Stress at UCSB and long-time member of SBAS, was last years' recipient of the Dick Smith Scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West. She will present a slide show documenting her experiences at the Wyoming camp last summer. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History and begin promptly at 8:00 pm.  
Friday

## IMPORTANT NEWS !

Perhaps the most biologically significant habitat area in the Santa Barbara area, the coastal plain known as More Mesa, is in danger of imminent development. This area is important for several reasons. It represents the only remaining large, undeveloped coastal tract in the Santa Barbara metropolitan area. Though grazing and some agricultural activity have occurred there in the past, the Mesa still supports a number of rare plants and birds of prey including White-tailed Kites, Merlin and Marsh Hawk as well as Burrowing and Short-eared Owls, these found nowhere else in our region. These last several bird species are current nominees for rare and endangered status due to their declining numbers and range.

More Mesa is owned by Columbia University of New York, but a local developer, Don Simonson, has a lease on the property and is working feverishly to get county approval to build high income housing there. Last year, as required by law, an environmental assessment of the area, conducted by a UCSB research team and funded by the developer, was completed. The entire Mesa was found to be a sensitive habitat area incompatible with

any development. Though currently zoned in the Local Coastal Plan for residential development, an overlay was put over More Mesa at the time the LCP was adopted until the environmental assessment could be completed. In our opinion, the results of the study demand downzoning of the area to prevent uses incompatible with the wildlife features found there. Whether this shall in fact happen will soon be decided by the County Board of Supervisors. Regardless of their decision, however, Mr. Simonson is sure to continue his efforts to develop this area.

It is our belief that More Mesa can and should be saved. So, to prevent any imminent or future development, we hereby announce our sponsorship of a fund-raiser to acquire funds for the eventual purchase of More Mesa for the purpose of creating a natural preserve there. We will be looking for funds from a variety of sources but hope a substantial amount can be donated by local residents and SBAS members. To help encourage such donations and to acquire seed money for this project, Santa Barbara Audubon pledges to offer matching funds for the first \$2,000.00 donated to this fund. With a project of this magnitude (please see pg. 3)

## Calendar of Coming Events !!

- January 28 General Meeting - Our previously scheduled speaker, Ekkehard Glode, will  
Friday not be able to be with us this meeting. See page one for new meeting details.
- February 6 Field Trip - Camino Cielo to La Cumbre Peak. If nothing else, we may have  
Sunday spectacular views of the local area from the San Raphael Wilderness to the Channel Islands. Resident chaparral birds are easily found on this trip, including Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrow. Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 8:00 am. Leader: Louis Bevier  
964-1030
- February 8 Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend. Meetings are held in the SBAS office in the Goleta Depot, 300 N. Los Carneros  
Tuesday in Goleta. This meeting is the deadline for all February Tecolote articles.
- February 10 Habitat Walk - Deveraux Slough. Habitat walks are held on the 2nd and 4th  
Thursday Thursday of each month. This is a good way to get familiar with the many diverse areas in the Santa Barbara Area. Meet at the Kiosk at the entrance to Deveraux Slough at 9:00 am. Leader: Joy Parkinson
- February 13 Beginners Bird Walk - Bird Refuge, Santa Barbara Harbor, and Shoreline  
Sunday Park. Bring yourself and maybe a friend to enjoy some local waterbirds. Meet at the Bird Refuge parking lot at 8:00 am.  
Leader: Robb Hamilton  
967-0060
- February 20 Field Trip - Ventura County Parks and McGrath State Beach. We will look  
Sunday for some of the more interesting wintering birds known from these spots like Orchard Oriole. Meet at the Bird Refuge parking lot at 8:00 am.  
Leader: Louis Bevier  
964-1030
- February 24 Habitat Walk - U.C.S.B. Lagoon. Meet at the west end of the Goleta Beach  
Thursday parking lot at 9:00 am. Both the beach and lagoon habitats will be explored.  
Leader: Virginia Puddicombe
- February 25 General Meeting - Tonight our speaker will be our Conservation Committee  
Friday chairman Jim Greaves. He will present a talk and slide show on the 'Conservation of Water-resources for Wildlife'. Jim works for the S.B. Museum of Natural History and has been studying the Bell's Vireo at the Mono Debris Basin. This shall be the premiere presentation of this show which shall become part of the numerous SBAS Education Committee slide shows available to the community. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History beginning promptly at 8:00 pm.
- February 26 Beginners Bird Walk - Goleta Beach and Atascadero Creek. This is an  
Saturday excellent chance to see many of our water and shorebirds before they head north for the summer. Meet in the parking lot at the east end of Goleta Beach Park at 8:00 am  
Leader: Robert Lindsay  
968-8965



(More Mesa cont.)

tude, that is a small sum, but it is a start and we hope the beginning of much more.

So here begins our call for help to save More Mesa. If you can help us save this valuable area, please make checks payable to SBAS Land Preservation Fund and mail them to Nancy Crawford - Treasurer

c/o Santa Barbara Audubon

P.O. Box 2067

Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Remember, all such donations are tax deductible as contributions to a non-profit organization. All funds will be held in trust until the land is purchased. Should this not come to be, all donations will be returned in full.

As the project continues, help of many kinds will be needed. I hope that many of you will be able to help in some way to save this important land. Please watch for further announcements concerning this project in future issues of El Tecolote. No project ever undertaken by SBAS has been more important or had such a worthwhile goal as this has. Together, we can save More Mesa. Without your help, we shall surely lose it forever.

Robert Lindsay

President

Santa Barbara Audubon

## SBAS Office Opening

Despite the numerous and serious problems we have had at our new office (see following article), we are pleased to announce that our official office opening has finally been set for Saturday, the 19th of February, from 9 am until 3 pm. Refreshments should be on hand and at least two of your officers will be there at all times. So do plan to come down and see what Santa Barbara Audubon has to offer.

A few items are still badly needed to complete our preparations. Among them are an electric typewriter (preferably with elite size type but any would be welcome), a bulletin board not larger than 3 by 4 feet, wall decorations appropriate for the office, a wall clock, and a calculator. Remember, all donations are tax deductible.

Service Council Members, if you have not been in touch with the office coordinator lately, you should call for new schedules and other information.

I hope to see you all at the opening.

Robert Lindsay

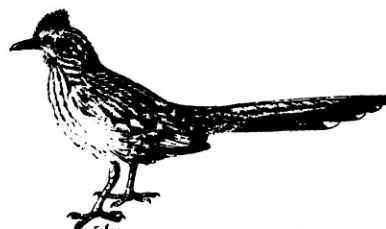
## Office Disasters

I regret to say that both of the office coordinators, Sid Tarbox and Eileen Gray, have been rendered inactive for the time being.

Eileen Gray, last year's president, suffered a badly broken wrist while leaving the office one wet and slippery December day. Fortunately, her recovery has been fast.

Even worse, Sid Tarbox, long an active and much admired member, suffered a stroke last month. This is a tragedy in its own right as well as a serious blow to SBAS. He is now in rehabilitation and the prognosis is good. His energy, ideas and humor will be sorely missed until he is able to return.

On behalf of everyone, I wish them both a speedy and full recovery and look forward to your return.



## Gull Workshop - Feb. 26

Local experts John Dunn and Paul Lehman shall conduct a half-day field trip to local habitats to study the various gull species found in our area. Included in this trip shall be a printed handout summarizing gull information as well as a slide show and discussion with refreshments that evening. The cost is \$9.00 and reservations must be made by February 19. The field trip will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26th beginning at the Andree Clark Bird Refuge. For reservations and more information, send checks or questions to:

Joan Lentz

433 Pimiento Ln.

Santa Barbara, CA 93108

969-4397

## Dial-A-Bird

For local rare bird information, call 964-8240 for recorded, recent reports.

## Field Trip Reports

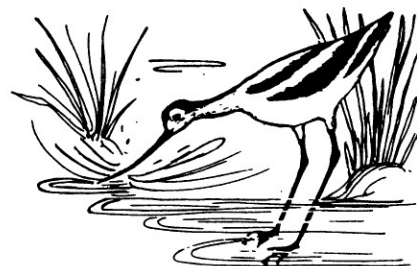


December 12 Beginners Bird Walk  
Bird Refuge and S.B. Harbor

A group of 12 beginning birders turned out this cold, clear morning at the Andree Clark Bird Refuge and were greeted by the huge flock of domestic geese that live there, regrettably degrading the value of the habitat for wild birds. None the less, a number of water birds were seen highlighted by Blue-winged Teal and Ring-necked Duck. Repeated views of many common species helped everyone sharpen their skills.

The Harbor abounded in sea and shore birds with more close looks at many common species and a few surprises as well such as Ruddy Turnstone. Even the gulls were cooperative with many easy-to-recognize adults present. All in all it was an ideal day and a good time was had by all.

Robert Lindsay



December 19 Field Trip  
Carpinteria Creek and Sandyland Slough

A moderately sized group of birders, including a small boy and a visitor from England, enjoyed a stroll along both sides of Carpinteria Creek. Warblers predominated led by the numerous, wintering Yellow-rumps and followed by less common to rare species such as Townsend's, Wilson's, Nashville, and Black-and-white. These species, along with an overwintering Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, were apparently taking advantage of the rich food supply afforded by the riparian habitat and blooming Blue Gum Eucalyptus grove.

Sandyland Slough proved to be equally enjoyable for a stroll. A fairly high tide caused a few of the more secretive species to appear on the trip; the first was an American Bittern sitting on the Salicornia. The tide also forced most of the shorebirds (a wide array, including some Avocets) to a sandspit near the mouth of the slough. Also seen at the mouth were some diving waterfowl (Bufflehead, Scoters, Mergansers). After most of the group left, the remaining were treated to excellent views of a Clapper Rail, Green Heron, and at least a half dozen Long-billed Curlews at the east end of the slough near the end of Apple Rd. It was a most enjoyable visit to two rich and sensitive habitats.

Dean Bazzi

January 9 Beginners Bird Walk  
Lake Cachuma

About 25 birders came to see Lake Cachuma and were well rewarded for their efforts. We were able to view the upper end of the lake, the dam area, and much of the Nichols-DeLampre Ranch which borders the lake. Waterfowl were numerous and cooperative and included Canada Geese, Common Merganser, and Common Goldeneye as well as the old standbys like Western Grebe, Great Blue Heron and Common Egret. At least five Osprey were easily seen during the day as well as many more common birds of prey. In addition many woodland birds were seen on the ranch property to delight us all.

Robert Lindsay





## Conservation Issues

The Endangered Species act is due for re-authorization during 1983. Forestry, mining, oil and other interests are actively submitting draft amendments to Congressmen in order to weaken or even abolish the ESA. Various government agencies, especially those under the Secretary of the Interior, are trying to weaken this important law by writing more confusing regulations and by claiming unlimited discretionary power. As a result, the protection and acquisition of endangered species habitat is at a virtual standstill.

Opponents of the ESA would eliminate "Critical Habitat" designation and portions of Section 7 of the act requiring Federal agencies (BLM, Forest Service, etc.) to insure that their actions neither harm a listed species nor destroy endangered species habitat. Opponents are also lobbying to make it more difficult to get new species listed, and are attempting to place limitations on citizen involvement in the review of new ESA regulations. We must fight for our right to be involved in the legislative process.

This can best be done by writing letters. On this issue letters should be sent to John B. Breaux, Chairman, Subcommittee, U S House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515, and send a copy to Representative Glenn M Anderson at the same address, and another to Senator Alan Cranston. The following items should be included in your letters.

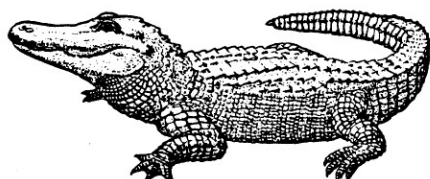
Section 7 of the ESA must remain strong and must state that all Federal agencies be required to insure their actions and programs do not destroy endangered species habitat or harm a listed species. Section 7 must also state each Federal agency be required to publicly disclose the status of any endangered species living on public lands. In other words, Federal agencies concerned must tell the public how much habitat remains for a given species, what projects have been proposed affecting an endangered species, and why any habitat is being lost. We have a right to know how an agency is managing or mis-managing our endangered wildlife. This right must be reflected in the law.

Section 7 of the ESA must also include a new provision stating when a given habitat on federally managed land supports more than one endangered species the habitat in question will automatically be designated "Critical Habitat" and the managing agency cannot permit any activity degrading that habitat.

On the question of foreign endangered species, it seems that from the vast resources provided by our tax dollars, certainly several million could be spared to help save the last 25 Black Rhinos, the last 75 Woolley Spider Monkeys, and the last few Bengal Tigers.

Very important, we should also ask our congressman to retain provisions in Section 11g(1) (A,B) of the ESA which states "Any person may commence a civil suit on his own behalf -- to enjoin any person, including the United States, who is alleged to be in violation of any provision of this Act or regulation issued under the authority thereof."

Please try and get your letters off before April 15. Remember, extinction is forever.



Bruce Bowen  
Kern Audubon Society

## CHRISTMAS COUNT REPORT

The 1982 Christmas count was a great success with 219 bird species seen, seven more than last year. The following is a list of birds seen in our area that day along with the number of individuals seen.

1. Common Loon (19)
2. Arctic Loon (13)
3. Red-throated Loon (89)
4. Horned Grebe (11)
5. Eared Grebe (212)
6. Western Grebe (231)
7. Pied-billed Grebe (124)
8. Northern Fulmar (3)
9. Brown Pelican (179)
10. Double-crested Cormorant (414)
11. Brandt's Cormorant (691)
12. Pelagic Cormorant (23)
13. Great Blue Heron (55)
14. Green Heron (15)
15. Great Egret (28)
16. Snowy Egret (36)
17. Cattle Egret (19)
18. Black-crowned Night Heron (141)
19. American Bittern (5)
20. Canada Goose (13)
21. "Black" Brant (1)
22. Mallard (190)
23. Gadwall (36)
24. Pintail (108)
25. Green-winged Teal (155)
26. Blue-winged Teal (8)
27. Cinnamon Teal (34)
28. Eurasian Wigeon (1)
29. American Wigeon (259)
30. Northern Shoveler (223)
31. Redhead (47)
32. Ring-necked Duck (54)
33. Canvasback (15)
34. Lesser Scaup (72)
35. Common Goldeneye (12)
36. Bufflehead (49)
37. White-winged Scoter (27)
38. Surf Scoter (103)
39. Ruddy Duck (387)
40. Hooded Merganser (2)
41. Common Merganser (6)
42. Red-breasted Merganser (21)
43. Turkey Vulture (31)
44. White-tailed Kite (45)
45. Sharp-shinned Hawk (32)
46. Cooper's Hawk (30)
47. Red-tailed Hawk (107)
48. Red-shouldered Hawk (59)
49. Marsh Hawk (9)
50. Prairie Falcon (1)
51. Merlin (5)
52. American Kestrel (173)
53. California Quail (354)

54. Mountain Quail (10)
55. Virginia Rail (17)
56. Sora (17)
57. Common Gallinule (3)
58. American Coot (1088)
59. Snowy Plover (93)
60. Semipalmated Plover (6)
61. Killdeer (275)
62. Black-bellied Plover (167)
63. Ruddy Turnstone (3)
64. Black Turnstone (19)
65. Common Snipe (8)
66. Long-billed Curlew (1)
67. Whimbrel (79)
68. Spotted Sandpiper (11)
69. Willet (145)
70. Greater Yellowlegs (16)
71. Lesser Yellowlegs (2)
72. Least Sandpiper (96)
73. Dunlin (7)
74. Long-billed Dowitcher (138)
75. Western Sandpiper (38)
76. Marbled Godwit (143)
77. Sanderling (389)
78. American Avocet (12)
79. Black-necked Stilt (6)
80. Red Phalarope (1)
81. Pomarine Jaeger (2)
82. Parasitic Jaeger (1)
83. Glaucous-winged Gull (56)
84. Western Gull (883)
85. Herring Gull (19)
86. Thayer's Gull (8)
87. California Gull (462)
88. Ring-billed Gull (714)
89. Mew Gull (930)
90. Bonaparte's Gull (258)
91. Heerman's Gull (181)
92. Forster's Tern (43)
93. Royal Tern (34)
94. Common Murre (4)
95. Cassin's Auklet (3)
96. Rhinoceros Auklet (1)
97. Band-tailed Pigeon (638)
98. Rock Dove (1244)
99. Mourning Dove (1393)
100. Spotted Dove (29)
101. Roadrunner (4)
102. Barn Owl (5)
103. Screech Owl (5)
104. Great Horned Owl (27)
105. Pygmy Owl (1)
106. Short-eared Owl (1)
107. White-throated Swift (107)
108. Costa's Hummingbird (5)
109. Anna's Hummingbird (1135)
110. Allen's Hummingbird (1)
111. Belted Kingfisher (30)
112. Common Flicker (Red-shafted) (394)
113. Acorn Woodpecker (608)
114. Lewis' Woodpecker (1)

115. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1)
116. Red-breasted Sapsucker (14)
117. Hairy Woodpecker (22)
118. Downy Woodpecker (52)
119. Nuttall's Woodpecker (49)
120. Tropical Kingbird (2)
121. Cassin's Kingbird (2)
122. Ash-throated Flycatcher (1)
123. Black Phoebe (239)
124. Say's Phoebe (102)
125. Western Flycatcher (1)
126. Horned Lark (80)
127. Stellar's Jay (1)
128. Scrub Jay (1185)
129. Common Raven (3)
130. Common Crow (1610)
131. Mountain Chickadee (14)
132. Plain Titmouse (452)
133. Common Bushtit (2229)
134. White-breasted Nuthatch (30)
135. Red-breasted Nuthatch (2)
136. Brown Creeper (8)
137. Wrentit (449)
138. House Wren (100)
139. Winter Wren (10)
140. Bewick's Wren (295)
141. Long-billed Marsh Wren (41)
142. Canyon Wren (16)
143. Rock Wren (2)
144. Mockingbird (447)
145. California Thrasher (198)
146. American Robin (290)
147. Varied Thrush (1)
148. Hermit Thrush (136)
149. Western Bluebird (137)
150. Townsend's Solitaire (3)
151. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (71)
152. Golden-crowned Kinglet (8)
153. Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1067)
154. Water Pipit (288)
155. Cedar Waxwing (217)
156. Phainopepla (4)
157. Loggerhead Shrike (61)
158. Starling (2162)
159. Hutton's Vireo (206)
160. Black-and-white Warbler (2)
161. Tennessee Warbler (7)
162. Orange-crowned Warbler (297)
163. Nashville Warbler (9)
164. Yellow Warbler (3)
165. Yellow-rumped Warbler (5876)
166. Black-throated Gray Warbler (11)
167. Townsend's Warbler (245)
168. Hermit Warbler (4)
169. Palm Warbler (1)
170. Common Yellowthroat (256)
171. Wilson's Warbler (3)
172. American Redstart (2)
173. House Sparrow (571)
174. Western Meadowlark (583)
175. Red-winged Blackbird (353)
176. Tricolored Blackbird (50)
177. Orchard Oriole (1)
178. Hooded Oriole (2)
179. Scott's Oriole (1)
180. Northern Oriole (13)
181. Brewer's Blackbird (1379)
182. Brown-headed Cowbird (123)
183. Western Tanager (12)
184. Summer Tanager (2)
185. Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1)
186. Purple Finch (56)
187. House Finch (3413)
188. Pine Siskin (3)
189. American Goldfinch (666)
190. Lesser Goldfinch (1051)
191. Lawrence's Goldfinch (2)
192. Rufous-sided Towhee (484)
193. Brown Towhee (949)
194. Savannah Sparrow (179)
195. Lark Sparrow (19)
196. Rufous-crowned Sparrow (55)
197. Dark-eyed Junco (1249)
198. Chipping Sparrow (3)
199. White-crowned Sparrow (3494)
200. Golden-crowned Sparrow (761)
201. White-throated Sparrow (2)
202. Fox Sparrow (94)
203. Lincoln's Sparrow (77)
204. Swamp Sparrow (2)
205. Song Sparrow (337)
206. Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater (1)
207. Least Bittern (1)
208. Ross' Goose (1)
209. Bald Eagle (1)
210. Franklin's Gull (1)
211. Long-eared Owl (1)
212. Least Flycatcher (1)
213. Warbling Vireo (1)
214. Virginia's Warbler (1)
215. Grace's Warbler (1)
216. Painted Redstart (1)
217. Great-tailed Grackle (1)
218. Hepatic Tanager (1)
219. Indigo Bunting (1)

Our very great thanks to Paul Lehman for organizing the event and compiling all the results. His is no small task and we are fortunate to have someone so able to lead us. Thanks as well to the many who participated in the count and to those who made the tabulation dinner a great success. Though we lost our #1 status for this year, we are still a birding hot spot. Good luck and good birding to all in the year ahead.

## MEMBERSHIP

A number of complaints have been received from members who have recently joined but not yet been put on our mailing list. Please accept our apologies. National Audubon is still working the bugs out of their new computer system and as a result, we have not received any new membership information for the last five months!

If you or someone you know is not receiving this newsletter and is a member, write or call:

Minna Smith    Membership Secretary  
1600 Garden Street #35  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
966-7971

or

Robert Lindsay    Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 14005  
Santa Barbara, CA 93107  
968-8965

New memberships made through Minna Smith will immediately be put on our mailing list. Those made with National Audubon directly must wait.

EL TECOLOTE

Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 2067  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

## New Board Member Named

At the December 14th meeting of the SBAS Board of Directors, Dean Bazzi was selected by unanimous decision to serve as a voting member of the board for the remainder of the year.

Dean is known as a capable and informative field trip leader and, as our publicity chairman, is responsible for a noticeable increase in meeting and field trip attendance. He has been an active and valuable member for some time and well deserves the position he has accepted.

Congratulations Dean and thanks to you and to all those who give their time and energies to Santa Barbara Audubon.



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