

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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968-8965

February 25 General Meeting - Tonight our speaker will be our Conservation Committee Chair 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 will 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 and begin promptly at 8:00 pm.

More Mesa Update

I am delighted to announce that the SBAS Land Preservation Fund is underway. Already, numerous contributions have been received from local SBAS members and interested individuals and foundations. We are off to a good start but we still have a long way to go.

Among the plans to continue raising funds will be a benefit dinner or brunch currently being arranged with a local restaurant in Santa Barbara. Details were not set at the time of this printing so watch for announcements and details of this event in the local press. It is community interest such as this which will make or break this project.

Apparently there are some who hesitate to contribute because the project seems to monumental to succeed. Regrettably, we may not succeed without the help of everyone. But if we all pull together, we have a real chance of preserving More Mesa. Again, I wish to remind all con-

cerned that, should our efforts not be successful, all contributions will be returned.

Help of all kinds are needed on this project. Brock Evans, NAS Vice-President, recently visited More Mesa and was quite impressed. We can rely on the experience and expertise of National Audubon to guide our efforts. But local people who can give time to this project are needed to implement the many fund-raising ideas that have been formulated. A committee to oversee this project will soon be formed. If you have any interest in participating, or have ideas to be considered, please call Robert Lindsay at 968-8965.

At present, the S. B. County Planning Commission is considering the Biological Evaluation of More Mesa. This document was the impetus for the creation of the SBAS Land Preservation Fund and the justification for our efforts. A rather faulty critique of the study has been published

(cont. on pg. 6)

Calendar of Coming Events !!

February 25 General Meeting - tonight our speaker will be Conservation Committee
Friday Chair Jim Greaves. See page one of this El Tecolote for details.

March 8 Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend. This Tuesday meeting is the deadline for all March El Tecolote articles. Contributions from members are welcome. There has been difficulty in acquiring appropriate space for these meetings so the location for this meeting is as yet undetermined. If you wish to attend, please call Robert Lindsay (968-8965) in March for meeting place information.

March 10 Habitat Walk - Andree Clark Bird Refuge. Meet at the parking lot of the
Thursday Bird Refuge at 9:00 am. Leader: Virginia Puddicomb

March 12
Saturday

Field Trip - Point Magu Naval Air Station. Large numbers of birds winter around the naval base which encloses a healthy tidal estuary unaccessible to the general public. The trip will last about three quarters of a day. Round trip mileage to the base is about 120 miles from Santa Barbara. Limit of 25. Please call as soon as possible to reserve space (preferably by March 8). Meet at the Andee Clark Bird Refuge parking lot at 8:00 am or in the parking lot at the main gate to the base at 9:00am.

Leader: Louis Bevier
964-1030

March 20 **Beginners Bird Walk** - Lake Los Carneros. This is a fun area always providing good looks at many of our common local species. It is also a good chance to see our new office if you have not done so. Meet in the parking lot by the Stow House at 8:30 am. Leader: Robert Lindsay
Sunday

968-8965

March 24 Habitat Walk - Lake Los Carneros. For those who could not attend the
Thursday March 20 trip and who wish to see and hear about more than just birds,
meet in the parking lot by the Stow House at 9:00 am.
Information: call 968-8965

March 25 General Meeting - This night we hope to have National Audubon Society
Friday officer Glen Olson who will be speaking on 'American Wetlands'. This
should be a most interesting show about this crucial and vanishing type
of habitat. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the
Museum of Natural History and begin promptly at 8:00 pm. Look for fur-
ther information in the next El Tecolote.

March 26 Field Trip - Camino Cielo and La Cumbre Peak. If nothing else, we may
Saturday have spectacular views from the San Raphael Wilderness to the Channel
 Islands. Resident chaparral birds to be found include Rufous-crowned
 and Sage Sparrows. Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 8:00 am.
 (Last months trip was rained out.) Leader: Louis Bevier
 964-1030

Birds in Santa Barbara

by Paul Lehman

There has been a very good variety of unusual species in the Santa Barbara area this winter, which was partly reflected in the record-breaking Christmas Count total of 219 species. This season had somewhat of an Arizona/West Mexican flavor to it with the continuing presence of the Painted Redstart and Hepatic Tanager in the Rocky Nook Park area, a male Broad-billed Hummingbird on the Riviera, as many as three Grace's Warbler in the Montecito/Summerland area, and two Tropical Kingbirds in Santa Barbara and Goleta. Other notable sightings included our first winter records of the vagrant Least Flycatcher (singles in Goleta and Carpinteria), a late-lingering Franklin's Gull in Goleta, an Indigo Bunting back for its second winter on the Riviera, Lewis' Woodpecker in Montecito, two American Redstart and a Great-tailed Grackle in Santa Barbara. An adult Northern Goshawk seen near La Cumbre Peak in late December was probably the same individual which struck a window that day near San Marcos Pass and now exists as a specimen at the Museum of Natural History (forth county record). Very unusual for this time of year were single Western Flycatcher in Goleta and Carpinteria, Ash-throated Flycatcher in Goleta, Warbling Vireos in Goleta and Santa Barbara, Hooded Oriole in Santa Barbara, and Black-headed Grosbeak in Los Alamos. Several species formerly considered highly unusual in this region are now reported in small numbers every winter, including Black-and-White and Tennessee Warblers, Scott's, Orchard, and Baltimore Orioles, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A "mini-invasion" of Ross' Geese took place this winter with singles in Santa Barbara and near Lompoc, and two at both Lake Cachuma and McGrath. Also at McGrath in January was a near-adult Glaucous Gull, the first of this age ever recorded in the region.

Coverage of Lake Cachuma during January produced records of several species that occur only casually inland: Greater Scaup, Glaucous-winged Gull, Thayer's Gull, and Mew Gull. Also at Cachuma were a Whistling Swan and four White-fronted Geese.

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!



Birdathon

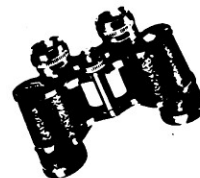
That's right, the Birdathon is coming up soon so now is the time to prepare. For those unfamiliar with the event, the annual Birdathon is a fundraising event sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Participants spend the day of the event birding as extensively as they desire after having arranged for sponsors who will pay the participant a certain pre-arranged amount (5¢, 50¢, \$1.00, or whatever) for each bird species seen. All proceeds from the event are sent to National Audubon part of which are kept there to finance national projects, and part returned to local chapters for their treasuries.

This years' event will be held on the 23rd and 24th of April; only two months away. So if you plan to participate, you should begin arranging sponsors soon. This is a most enjoyable and potentially lucrative event and is especially important this year to help fund the many new projects of SBAS. For those of you who cannot participate but wish to serve as sponsors, we will be designating our own super-birder for the event soon and hope for your support.

For forms and/or further information, come to our General Meeting or call Robert Lindsay at 968-8965. When arranging sponsors, provide good estimates of the number of species you expect to see. Watch for further information in the next issue of El Tecolote. Hope to see you all there.

"REAL BIRDERS"

We are all aware by now, thanks to the popular book, that "real" men do not eat quiche. The book presents guidelines for men who wish to be truly masculine. Since birding has become a rather confused topic in recent years, I am presenting some guidelines on how to be a "real" birder.



- 1.) Real Birders never wear tennis shoes.
- 2.) Real Birders use Leitz 10X40 Trinovid binoculars.
- 3.) Real Birders never go on birding tours, just lead them.
- 4.) Real Birders never list Rock Doves.
- 5.) Real Birders spend Christmas day at the garbage dump looking for a Thayer's Gull.
- 6.) Real Birders know the difference between superciliary and axillary.
- 7.) Real Birders never use a tape recorder to locate a bird (except when alone).
- 8.) Real Birders always have at least one thistle feeder in their yard.
- 9.) Real Birders never miss an ABA Convention.
- 10.) Real Birders keep accurate and complete field notes.
- 11.) Real Birders saw the Newburyport Ross' Gull.
- 12.) Real Birders participate in at least four Christmas Counts.
- 13.) Real Birders do not attend local Audubon chapter meetings.
- 14.) Real Birders always carry a camera to document rarities.
- 15.) Real Birders never publish their life-lists in Birding.
- 16.) Real Birders always start birding at least one-half hour before dawn.
- 17.) Real Birders listen to bird song tapes on their car's tape deck while driving.
- 18.) Real Birders cannot afford a tape deck for their cars.
- 19.) Real Birders identify at least one extralimital at their feeders every year.
- 20.) Real Birders never carry a field guide in the field.
- 21.) Real Birders subscribe to Birding, American Birds, and Massachusetts Audubon.
- 22.) Real Birders add up their year list every night.
- 23.) Real Birders always respect no trespassing signs.
- 24.) Real Birders identify everything they see first with binoculars, and then look through a scope to study plumage details.
- 25.) Real Birders dress for success (i.e., an L. L. Bean wardrobe).
- 26.) Real Birders cannot afford an L. L. Bean wardrobe.
- 27.) Real Birders have bird paintings, bird photographs, bird carvings, bird plates, bird glasses and bird bedspreads in their homes.
- 28.) Real Birders never bird from their cars, except when actually driving.
- 29.) Real Birders have a dent in their fenders from when they ran off the road while looking at a hawk on a utility pole.
- 30.) Real Birders live in Texas, Florida or California.
- 31.) Real Birders started birding when they were teenagers.
- 32.) Real Birders never get seasick on a pelagic trip.
- 33.) Real Birders think they can identify Empidonax on sight, but never admit it.
- 34.) Real Birders always have a Lane birding guide at their side while travelling.
- 35.) Real Birders know the proper pronunciation of Pileated.
- 36.) Real Birders always have the correct answer to the "PhotoQuiz", but never send in their answers.
- 37.) Real Birders attend at least one hawkwatch every fall.
- 38.) Real Birders never complain when their life lists are knocked from 600 to 597 by lumping.
- 39.) Real Birders have a life list of at least 600 species.

Contributed by John Kennington

SBAS Office News

During the time that both office coordinators are temporarily disposed, I am undertaking to staff our new office with Audubon volunteers. The office will be open from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. from Monday until Friday. Our new phone number is 964-1468 and our address is:

300 N. Los Carneros
Goleta, CA 93117

We are located in the Goleta Depot building on the second floor.

The following members have joined our growing volunteer list: Dorothy Cole, Virginia Puddicombe, Helen Matelson, Irene Conway, Carol Rae, Violet Greaves, Blanch Balzarette, P. J. Wener, Gladys Singletary, Doris Vishanoff and Kay Abbott. Also faithful standbys in an emergency we will call on Joy Parkinson, Nancy Crawford, Francis Bird and Minna Smith.

If you are able to contribute one morning a month please call Minna Smith at 966-7971 in the early mornings. As the list grows and we find more uses for the office, the four hour duty will become a pleasurable experience. Thank you for your cooperation in advance.

Minna E. Smith

ATTN: Past active members -

If you still have items which belong to SBAS that you have been storing for us, please arrange to bring them to the office soon. A great many things need to be sorted, filed, thrown away or brought up to date. It would be appreciated by the current office personnel if members with a good deal of background and experience with SBAS could spend a little time each helping us finish getting organized.

We still welcome wall decorations appropriate for our office, or any items that might be useful. Please contact Robert Lindsay at 968-8965 if you have something you would like to donate. My thanks once again to all those who have contributed to our furnishings and office equipment.

It took a little time, but thanks to you all, the SBAS office is finally in action.

Robert Lindsay

Golden Trout Workshop

The Audubon Golden Trout Workshop, located on the east side of the Sierra Nevada mountains at 10,000 feet, will be held for three weeks this summer.

Dates are:

July 24 - July 30;

July 31 - Aug. 6;

Aug. 7 - Aug. 13.

For more information, send for a brochure:

Mrs. Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane
Redlands CA 92373 (714) 793-7897



Feeling Adventurous ?

The University of California Research Expeditions Program is currently recruiting members for a field team slated to study the flamboyant mating dances of the Sierra Sage Grouse this spring. No previous experience is necessary for the expedition, which will be based near the old ghost town of Bodie, in the beautiful high desert of the Sierra's east side. The project will focus on observation and documentation of lek mating among the grouse. People interested in obtaining a free catalog describing this and other expedition offerings for the spring and summer of 1983, should contact:

University Research Expeditions
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720
(415) 642-6586

More Mesa cont.

by an employee of Don Simonson (the developer) to try to discredit the findings of the Biological Evaluation of More Mesa. Efforts are underway to point out the weaknesses and poor reasoning of the critique to the Planning Commission. It is hoped that they will support the findings of the original report (as did the California Coastal Commission and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife) and recommend its acceptance by the County Board of Supervisors. The Planning Commission will be holding a final public hearing on the issue the evening of March 23rd. I hope many of you can attend this and subsequent public meetings on this issue. Showings of public support for More Mesa are crucial to its chances of preservation and recovery from the damage being done by ORVs there now. Information on meetings can be obtained by calling the Santa Barbara County offices.

Again, thanks to all those who have contributed to this fund. Further contributions should be sent to:

Nancy Crawford - Treasurer
c/o Santa Barbara Audubon Society
300 N. Los Carneros
Goleta CA. 93117

Please make checks payable to the SBAS Land Preservation Fund. My apologies to those who have not received prompt acknowledgement of their contributions. Too few are carrying the load of this project.

Please keep More Mesa in mind. It is a rare and valuable resource worthy of our attention and efforts. I only hope our efforts are worthy of More Mesa.



Robert Lindsay
President
Santa Barbara Audubon

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