

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Hrs: M-F, 10am - 2pm

March 25 General Meeting - Tonight our speaker will be Glen Olson, the western regional representative of the National Audubon Society. He will be giving a talk and slide show on 'American Wetlands'. This should be a most interesting show about this crucial and vanishing type of habitat, especially important in view of the problems of water availability in our region. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History and begin promptly at 8:00 P.M. Hope to see you there.

SBAS Annual Meeting and Banquet

In celebration of our 20th anniversary as an Audubon chapter, this years annual meeting will be in the form of a banquet. The meeting and banquet will be held in the San Miguel Room at the Holliday Inn in Goleta the evening of June 3rd. Plans include a 'no host' cocktail hour from 6 to 7 pm with dinner beginning at 7 o'clock. Though final arrangements have not been made, we expect to have several speakers to reminisce about the history of our chapter. Next years Board of Directors will be elected at this event.

Reservations cost \$10.00 and can be had by contacting Minna Smith at 1600 Garden St. #35, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or by calling her at 966-7971. Dinner will be served buffet style with selections for all tastes and preferences. Please make reservations as soon as possible so that those in charge can make all the necessary arrangements.

Watch for further announcements in coming issues of El Tecolote. Hope to see you there.

Antelope Valley Field Trip Slated

Join us this May 7th and 8th for what should prove to be a spectacular field trip to the Antelope Valley and Vasquez Rocks. This trip will have leaders for not only birds but for the geology and plants of the region as well. This is a very interesting and diverse part of our state and should provide abundant items of interest for study.

This trip will probably include some fine birding en route to our destination as well as an evening social and discussion of the days sightings at whatever campground is chosen by the group. Hotel accommodations can also be had in the area for those who prefer not to camp out.

There will be no limit to attendance on this trip but it would be nice to know how many intend to join this trip so that those in charge can make appropriate plans. If you plan to go, please call the SBAS Office (964-1468), Robert Lindsay (968-8965) or Louis Bevier (964-1030). Don't miss this one if you can make it.

Birds in Santa Barbara

by Paul Lehman

The late winter season this year added only a few unusual species that had not been seen earlier. Certainly the most exciting were two eastern warblers: a Black-throated Green along San Jose Creek in Goleta represents the second winter record for the Santa Barbara coast, and a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Montecito is the first ever for this season here, and one of only several for the state in winter. An individual of the pale, Great Plains race of the Merlin in Carpinteria was the first ever for this subspecies in the county. A Lewis' Woodpecker was in Carpinteria in early March; this species occurs irregularly in small numbers in the Santa Ynez Valley but is much rarer along the coast.

Otherwise, the longer-term celebrities in town, Least Flycatcher, Grace's Warbler, Painted Redstart, and Hepatic Tanager, were still present in early March.



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 or exciting sightings, please call Nancy Crawford at 964-7508. Good Birding!

Audubon Golden Trout Camp Scholarships

---NOMINATIONS REQUESTED---

For the last several years, the Santa Barbara Audubon Society has offered the Dick Smith Scholarship to some worthy individual in our community. In the past, this scholarship was used to send our recipient to the Audubon Camp of the West in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. This year, however, the board of directors has chosen to award two scholarships to the Golden Trout Camp instead.

The Golden Trout Camp consists of three one-week workshops in the Sierra Nevada Mountains between July 24 and August 13, 1983. An informal field natural history program, consisting of naturalist led hikes by resident naturalists, will be offered, with visiting naturalists at some sessions. The camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, in the southern portion of the Sierras, on the eastern watershed, at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

Nominations for scholarships to this camp can be made through any board member, or by contacting the SBAS office at 964-1468. Nominees should be individuals who stand to gain from the experience and be in a position to use the experience for the benefit of the community. Nominees need not be members of Audubon. The scholarship will cover all expenses associated with the camp. The recipient(s) need only provide their own transportation.

For more details on the Golden Trout Camp (all Audubon members are invited to attend), write or call:

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

Bird-A-Thon

Yet another reminder that the annual Bird-A-Thon is scheduled for the 23-24 of April. See the February Tecolote for full details. Forms and more information can be had by calling Robert Lindsay at the SBAS office, 964-1468. If you don't plan to participate but would like to sponsor someone who does, please call and let us know.

Calendar of Coming Events !!

- March 25 General Meeting - Tonight our speaker will be National Audubon Western Regional Representative Glenn Olson. See page one of this El Tecolote for details.
Friday
- March 26 Field Trip - Camino Cielo and La Cumbre Peak. If nothing else, we should have spectacular views from the San Raphael Wilderness to the Channel Islands. Resident chaparral birds to be found include Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Sage Sparrows. Meet at the Museum at 8:00 am. Leader: Louis Bevier
Saturday 964-1030
- April 10 Beginner's Birdwalk - Lake Cachuma. We expect some spring arrival landbirds and the last of the wintering waterbirds. Meet at the 5-Points shopping center by Thrifty's at 7:30 am or at the east end of the lake on Hwy. 154 at 8:00 am. Leader: Dean Bazzi
Sunday 967-5200
- April 12 Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend. This meeting is the deadline for all April 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 April for meeting place information.
Tuesday
- April 17 Beginner's Birdwalk - San Ysidro Creek. American Dipper is a possibility on this trip as well as many migrant spring landbirds. Meet at the Andree Clark Bird Refuge parking lot area at 7:30 am. Leader: Joan Lentz
Sunday 969-4397
- April 22 General Meeting - This night our speaker will be Louis Bevier who will give a talk on Least Terns, a rare species he has been studying for some years. Included in this talk and slide show will be discussion of the birds historical status, reasons for decline, present threats and county policies concerning this bird. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History and begin promptly at 8:00 pm.
Friday
- April 24 Field Trip - Refugio Road. Riparian songbirds, wildflowers and beautiful country will all be seen on this trip. We begin on the coastal slope of the Santa Ynez Mtns. and end at the Santa Ynez River near Solvang. Meet at Storke Rd. and Hollister Ave. in the parking lot near Jack-In-The-Box by 7:00 am. Leader: Robb Hamilton
Sunday 967-0600
- May 7-8 Field Trip - Vasquez Rocks and Antelope Valley. A super field trip covering Sat. & Sun. the birds, wildflowers and geology of this diverse region of California. See Pg. one for details.



More Mesa News

I am delighted to say that this month the news is all good. For those who may not have heard, the Sojourner Cafe will be hosting a benefit brunch for More Mesa on Sunday, March 27th from 11 to 2. Tickets to the brunch cost \$25.00 per person or \$90.00 for a four-seat table. All proceeds go to the SBAS Land Preservation Fund to help save More Mesa from development. In addition, a raffle will be held for a \$250 stain-glass piece created by a local artist. Raffle tickets cost only \$1.00. Reservations to the brunch and raffle tickets may be purchased at the SBAS office or at the Sojourner Cafe at 134 E. Canon Perdido in Santa Barbara. Our thanks to the Sojourner for hosting this event and very special thanks to Terri Church for setting up this event.

Donations to the SBAS Land Preservation Fund continue to be received and are being matched by SBAS funds as approved by the board of directors. Our deep thanks to all those who have contributed to this fund. Contributions are still badly needed. Remember, a contribution now is doubly valuable in that all contributions will be met with matching funds from SBAS. Keep in mind that all contributions are tax deductible. Though we are far from our fund-raising goal, we are but one of several groups, both local and regional, working to preserve More Mesa. Don't be discouraged by the enormity of our task. The situation may be more hopeful than you think.

The Biological Evaluation of More Mesa, the document responsible for our fund-raising drive, is still being considered by the S.B. County Planning Commission. At their last meeting on this issue, the bulk of the study (the environmental assesment) was accepted and endorsed by the commission. The Planning Commission Staff, at the request of the commission, is reviewing the document to provide recommendations which may or may not agree with those in the Biological Evaluation. A public meeting will be scheduled when this review is complete but no date has yet been set. Public comment at these meetings has improved both quantitatively and qualitatively and does seem to be having an impact on the review process. So, there is good reason to believe the Planning Commission will endorse the study, as did the Coastal Commission and California Department of Fish and Game.

Watch for further updates in future El Tecolotes. Hope to see you at the brunch.

Robert Lindsay

SBAS Office News

The office is shaping up nicely these days and is fast becoming the valuable resource we had hoped. Nearly all the material resources of our chapter are now centrally located which is proving very convenient to the various committees and officers. As time goes by, more and more advantages are being discovered.

Visitation to our office has been rather low so far but that should change as the office becomes better known and the services provided increase. In the meantime, we have a little breathing space during which we can build a full staff for the office. Volunteers to our office are asked to commit just one day per month in our office, from 10am to 2pm. No office experience is necessary. If you can volunteer, please call Violet Greaves at 962-7317 or call the SBAS office at 964-1468. Thanks to both Violet Greaves and the ever-valuable Minna Smith for their great help in managing the office these last few months.

A few items are still needed to complete our furnishings. Of paramount importance is a reasonably good quality electric typewriter, preferably with elite sized type. Please stop and think if you know where one might be found. This is the only remaining important item we need but a very important one. We could also use a nice wall clock, a portable radio, appropriate wall decorations, a good-sized throw rug or any items you think might be useful. Our thanks again to the many who contributed to our furnishings.

I hope everyone will have a chance to stop by and see the office. The location is very nice (in our least developed county park) with good birding at nearby Lake Los Carneros. Once again, we are upstairs in the Goleta Depot Building by the Stow House at 300 N. Los Carneros in Goleta. See you there.



President's Message

My apologies for having taken so long to address you in this manner. The duties and obligations of this office are many and there is seldom time to do all that should be done.

I would like to begin with an assessment of the state of our chapter. Santa Barbara Audubon is a long-standing and integral part of our community because the chapter was well-run by the founders of the organization, most of whom have remained active to guide our development. Through their efforts and foresight, we have grown to substantial numbers, carry on a great number of community services, and are in a healthy financial state. But, in our twentieth year, many of the most active past leaders are taking a well-deserved rest from the committees and offices they guided so well for so long. This has put SBAS in something of a transition period with a need for new people to step forward and take a truly active role in the chapter. Unfortunately, the ranks have not filled as fast as they have thinned, so a disproportionate load has been placed, especially this year, on those willing to do the work. But this situation at last seems to be changing, and I have growing optimism that all will be well in the years ahead.

This year has had its share of problems. By far the worst was the loss of both office coordinators, Sid Tarbox and Eileen Gray, due to grievous misfortune (see Jan. '83 Tecolote). Fortunately, both will be able to rejoin our active ranks in the future. I wish them a speedy end to their recovery and look forward to their return. Minna Smith and Violet Greaves, in addition to their normal duties, somehow found the time to hold the office together in the meantime, for which I give them my deep gratitude.

The membership fiasco of National Audubon continues, causing no end of headaches for our membership secretary and many members besides. Let us hope these problems are rectified soon. We are very lucky that so much fiscal responsibility has been shown in past years as we would be in dire straits otherwise.

Another great problem facing both SBAS and the community as a whole is the growing pressure for growth on the south coast. The resources of our region are already strained to the limit, yet the forces of development continue to bombard us with myopic dreams of large scale growth which threaten to injure both the quality of our lives and of our environment. Only strong and widespread opposition can prevent this. Santa Barbara Audubon must play a strong role concerning this issue.

On the positive side, this has been a great growth year for SBAS. We have managed to carry on all of the traditional functions of our chapter, expanded some, and added others. We have established our office with slow but great success. The SBAS Land Preservation Fund has been established, furthering our role as a conservation voice in the community.

The direction of the future has been well established with growing member participation, certain expansion of the uses of the office, continuation of our current activities, and greater involvement in community issues. Plans for a SBAS Nature Center at Lake Los Carneros by our office are being discussed and may begin next year. All in all, the future looks very bright.

There are many who deserve mention here but I would like to give special thanks to Minna Smith, Violet Greaves, and Nancy Crawford. These three women have been willing to help in every way whenever requested and without them, this would have been a sorry year. My thanks to Joe Gartland for his help in preparing the office. (What a chore that turned out to be!) I also must mention Paul Lehman, Sid Tarbox, Lila Eisberg, Louis Bevier and Dean Bazzi who all have made significant contributions. I wish I had room to thank all who have made this year a success. We have a good chapter here and I am proud to be a part of it.

Robert B. Lindsay
President
Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Board of Directors

At the March 8th meeting of the Board of Directors, two proposals were adopted that should be made known to the membership. They were as follows:

- 1.) All members of the board, be they elected or appointed, shall be permitted to serve one year terms, renewable with the approval of the Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors. (Article IV, section 4, SBAS By-laws)

This represents a change from the previous three-year limit to board terms. It is hoped that this change will prevent the loss of valuable members who wish to continue service after three years while at the same time providing safeguards against domination by any individual or groups of individuals.

- 2.) The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen (15) members until changed by amendment to these By-laws... (Article IV, section 1, SBAS By-laws)

This represents a change from the previous limit of 11 members to our Board of Directors and would allow inclusion of all officers and current standing committee chairs in the Board of Directors. Such a change, however, must be approved by the general membership as stipulated in the By-laws. This proposal, endorsed by the current board, will be voted upon by the general membership at this years annual meeting (see pg. 1).

Condor Program Announced

A slide illustrated talk on the 'California Condor in the Santa Barbara Backcountry, Historical Perspective and Present Research' will be given April 12 at 7:30 pm in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History. The program will be given by Jan Hamber, Associate Curator of the Vertebrate Zoology Lab at the museum. Jan, with her husband, Hank, has been conducting research on California Condors in Santa Barbara County for many years. This should be a most informative and interesting talk on this magnificent and highly endangered bird. (Current population estimates amount to a mere 25 individuals.)

Funding for such research is almost as difficult to find as the birds themselves. A donation of one dollar or more at the door would be welcomed.



Bird Seed For Sale

Thanks to the efforts of SBAS member Esther Greene, a very high quality bird seed (of which the birds eat every kernel) is now available for sale at the SBAS office or at our meetings. 3 lb. bags of Consolidated Wild Bird Seed Gold Diet and 1½ lb. bags of Consolidated large gray sunflower seeds can be purchased for only \$1.00. The mixture has been thoroughly tested by Esther Greene and Eileen Gray with tremendous results.

Our thanks to Esther for all the time and effort she spent putting this service together including acquiring the necessary permits, buying the seeds in bulk, packaging the seeds and yet still keeping the price so reasonable. It is this kind of member initiative that allows our organization to grow and improve.

Other items which can be purchased at our office include SBAS patches, Santa Barbara area bird checklists, guides to birding in Santa Barbara, and a few more SBAS T-shirts.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

Hunting in National Parks

Senator Ted Stevens (R) of Alaska has introduced his Alaska National Hunting Bill -Senate Bill 49- which would open to sport hunting 12 million acres of our new Alaskan National Parks, including Gates of the Arctic, Denali (Mt. McKinley), Katmai, Wrangell-St. Ellis and others. This action is being taken despite the fact that 320 of Alaska's total 375 million acres are already open to hunting. The bill has the support of commercial hunting guides, the arms and ammunition industry, various gun groups, and, not surprizingly, Interior Secretary James Watt. Should this bill pass, it would be the first time sport hunting was allowed in our National Parks and would set a dangerous precedent.

A companion bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 1492 has been introduced by Alaska's lone representative, Don Young. I am distressed to say that our own congressman, Robert Lagomarsino is a cosponsor of that bill! Letters protesting these bills should be sent to the Honorable Robert Lagomarsino, House office Building, Washington D.C. 20515 and to the Honorable Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson, Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510.

Our thanks to Anne Van Tyne of the Sierra Club for bringing this to our attention.



"If life does exist out there, I hope it's not life as we know it."

California Sea Otter: status in question

The status of the California Sea Otter will be reviewed this year to determine if it should remain on the "threatened" list, be given an "endangered listing", or delisted altogether. The otter was given "threatened" status in 1977 because of severe range reductions, small population estimates (1,789 in 1976) and vulnerability to oil spills. Unlike other marine mammals, sea otters have no insulating layer of blubber and are dependant on their thick fur to keep warm. Oil-contaminated fur looses its insulating ability and the Fish and Wildlife Service predicts 100% mortality in cases of such contamination. This fact is especially important in light of the prospect of offshore oil development within the otter's range.

A 1982 census of the otter population counted only 1,194 animals. Thus, there has been no increase in population since 1973 and may even have been a decline. In addition, alarming mortality increases (from 60 dead otters per year from 1970-1979 to 143 in 1980 and 153 in 1981!) have been recorded.

Even though listings in the Endangered Species Act are to be based solely on biological data, the oil industry and shellfish industry are exerting pressure to have the otter delisted, and the local group called Save Our Shellfish have petitioned to have the otter removed from the threatened list. If you oppose these changes in the otter's status, please write the Regional Director (FA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 N.E. Multnomah St., Portland, OR 97232. Letters must be received by April 25.



Friends of the Sea Otter
Meeting Planned

A public meeting will be held on April 12th at 7:30 pm in the Louise Lawry Davis Center in Santa Barbara. The meeting is being hosted by Carol Fulton of the Carmel, California based group Friends of the Sea Otter. The meeting will include discussion of the current status of the sea otter in light of the proposed changes in the otter's legal designation (see article, pg. 7). A film titled 'Saga of the Sea Otter' will also be shown. Come and learn about this interesting member of California's wildlife and join in the fight to protect this animal from further destruction of its greatly diminished habitat.



Name That Tune!

In celebration of our twentieth year, preparations have begun to select an anthem for our chapter (to be played should we win any Olympic birding events). The entries thus far:

1. Loon River
2. Thank Heaven for little Gulls
3. Climb Every Mountain Chickadee
4. Kiskadee-do-da-Kiskadee-Jay
5. Old Blackpoll
6. Be Brave Young Plovers...
7. Oh Dem Golden Eagles
8. The Yellow Rails of Texas
9. When Goldeneyes are Smiling
10. Pack up your Trogons in your old Kite Bag
11. Teal we Meet Again
12. Happy Trail's to You
13. Now You're Mynah
14. Becard There's You
15. Shrike up the Brant
16. 'Till We Ptamigan

Thanks to the Grays and Greaves for their for their useful contributions.

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