

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Robert Lindsay
President and Editor

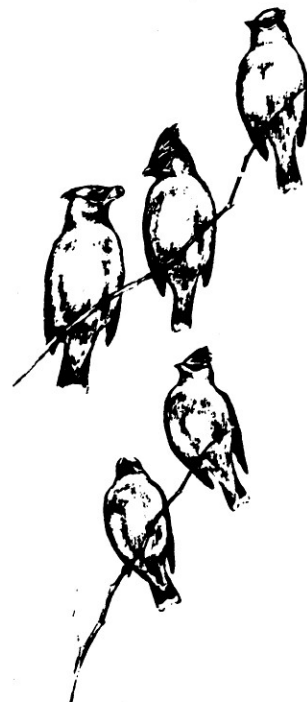
Dec. 2 General Meeting - "Vagrant Landbirds on the Farallones -- still mag-
Friday ical after all these years" will be the topic for our November/ Dec-
ember meeting. Dave DeSante, the landbird biologist for the Point
Reyes Bird Observatory, will discuss the biological uniqueness of the
Farallone Islands, including the breeding seabird and marine mammal
populations. The effects of the El Nino current will also be discussed.
This should be an interesting meeting both for its content and because
it has been several years since we have been able to host a represen-
tative of the Observatory. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Audi-
torium at the Museum of Natural History and begin promptly at 8:00 pm.

SBAS OFFICE

Volunteers are needed at once to staff our office. No experience is needed, no typing required, no skills or special knowledge necessary - the only requirement is a willingness to keep our office open by donating four hours once a week or four hours twice a month or even once a month.

Also, it would be very helpful to have a list of people willing to substitute once in a while to cover those unexpected emergencies. The office, with its wonderful view, can be a nice place to spend time.

Some of our original volunteers, who have given generously of their time, have had to drop out for various reasons. We are therefore not open every week day as before. Only you can change that. Pick up the phone now and call Marge Cappiello at 967-9569. Do it for the birds, and the people who care about them.



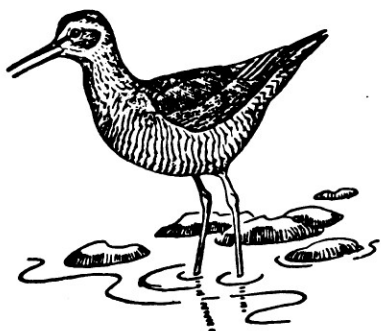
Birds in Santa Barbara
by Paul Lehman

The highlight of late September and early October was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo present for several days along Atascadero Creek in Goleta. This is one of only several sightings of this species in the region in the past 25 years, and the species is exceedingly rare anywhere in California as a migrant. A Painted Bunting near Dev-ereux Slough is not only the second this fall, but the second ever for the Santa Barbara area. A Ground Dove in Goleta in early October represents the fourth record for Santa Barbara County.

A Ruff (a casual visitor from Siberia) was in Goleta Slough for over a week. The other shorebird highlights were up to four Stilt Sandpipers in Goleta Slough.

Other highlights included a Dickcissel in Goleta, Chestnut-sided Warbler in Carpinteria, and a very late Purple Martin in Goleta in early October.

Lastly, the now-infamous Grace's Warbler returned for a fifth winter to Montecito at the end of September!



Dial-A-Bird

For current news of rare and unusual sightings 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, call Nancy Crawford a 964-7508. Good Birding!



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Once again it is time to start planning for one of our biggest events, the annual SBAS Christmas Bird Count. This years count will be held on Saturday, December 31st. That sounds like a long way off but it isn't so start planning now. This is a most enjoyable event and people at all levels of expertise are needed, from back-yard birders to the truly expert.

If you wish to join in the fun, just 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.

As in past years, this years count will end with an early festive dinner at which time the days totals will be compiled. If you wish to attend, check the dinner box on the form on the back page of this Tecolote.

Though all the details are not yet set, there will also be a Sespe Christmas count in late December. Watch for further announcements. If you have questions or need further information, call Paul Lehman at 967-2450.



Calendar of Coming Events !!

- October 28 General Meeting - The birds of Australia presented by John and Judy
Friday Whitaker. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History at 8:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend.
- November 1 Botanic Garden Walk - Meet at 9:00 am at the entrance to the garden.
Tuesday Leader: Tomi Sollen
966-4836
- November 12 Field Trip - Goleta Beach and Atascadero Creek. We will look at the
Saturday beach park, and the willows and fields along Atascadero Creek near South Patterson Avenue. This is expected to be a half-day trip and should be over about noon. Meet at the beach parking lot just east of Goleta Pier at 8:00 am. Leader: Rob Lindsay
968-8965
- November 8 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 printed in the November/December El Tecolote.
- November 15 Botanic Garden Walk - Meet at the entrance to the garden at 9:00 am.
Tuesday Leader: Tomi Sollen
966-4836
- November 16 Habitat Walk - Lake Los Carneros. This walk will leave the Stow House
Wednesday parking lot behind the fire station on Los Carneros Road. Meet at 8:30 am to explore this fresh water lake and stream habitat. Leader: To be announced
Information: 964-1468 (one week before field trip)
- November 20 Field Trip - Vandenberg Air Force Base and Santa Ynez River Mouth.
Sunday Some rocky shores where Black Oystercatchers and other shorebirds which like rocks and surf can be found. This is an isolated but significant section of our county that can rarely be visited. You must call in advance to sign up. Limit of 25. Meet in the parking lot near Jack-In-The-Box at Storke Rd. and Hollister Ave. at 8:00 am. Leader: Louis Bevier
964-1030
- December 3 General Meeting - Birds of the Farallone Islands. See page 1 for
Friday details.
- Dec. 10/11 Carrizo Plains Overnight Field Trip. See article on page 4 for
Sat. & Sun. details.
- December 13 Board of Directors Meeting - The same as Nov. 8.
- December 31 SBAS Christmas Bird Count - See article on page 2 for details.
Saturday



Carrizo Plains Overnight Field Trip

This is a chance for those who do not care to camp, or make a very long day-trip, to enjoy this interesting area rich in raptors. We have reserved rooms at the California Valley Lodge, and have chartered a comfortable bus with restrooms for the 380+ mile trip. Highlights of the trip should include Sandhill Crane, Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, and Mountain Plovers.

We will leave the Museum of Natural History at 8:00 am Saturday. The drive to Reyes Station takes about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours. From there we will bird our way, with frequent stops, along Soda Creek Road to California Valley, arriving at the lodge about 4:00 pm. On Sunday we will explore the upper Soda Lake area before returning to Santa Barbara. We should get back to the Museum by 5:00 pm. NOTE: There is little walking on this trip. Almost all the area is private property and most of the birding is done from the road side. The plains are treeless, so there is no problem. Spotting Scopes are useful.

The cost for the bus fare and room is \$40.00 per person. In order to keep costs down it is necessary to put 2, 3, or 4 persons in a room. If someone wishes a single room there will be an extra charge of \$22.00. There is a restaurant across the road from the lodge. They have offered us a buffet dinner for about \$7.00 and a breakfast buffet for \$3.85 in a private dining room. This is, by far, the least expensive way to go as dinner prices range from \$5.50 to \$18.50. Please indicate if you are interested in the buffets.

To keep costs this low we need 32 passengers. Otherwise, the trip will be cancelled.

Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., and mail to Joy Parkinson at 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, 93117.

Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, November 23rd. Passengers wishing to cancel their reservations after the deadline will receive a refund only if a replacement is found.

Bring warm clothing, lunch, and water for two days. If you have questions, call Joy Parkinson at 967-9371.



Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Plant Sale

Just a last minute reminder that the Botanic Gardens will be holding a plant sale on Saturday, October 22 at the gardens. Members will be admitted to the Garden Courtyard from 9 am to noon; non-members from 1 to 4 pm. Memberships will be available the morning of the sale. Select from the widest assortment of plants ever offered.

SBAS T-shirt Logo Contest

We are pleased to announce that the design submitted by Wendy Edwards has been chosen as the logo for our T-shirts. So now that we have a winner, it's just a matter of getting the shirts printed up. Thank you to all those who submitted designs. The choice was not an easy one. Congratulations Wendy.

California League of Conservation Voters Fund Raiser

The California League of Conservation Voters will be holding their First Annual International Beer Tasting Event November 26th, at the Metro Cafe, 734 State St., from 1 to 5 pm.

Participation in this event costs \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. A selection of beers from around the world will be ready to tantalize your palate.

Proceeds go to work on the local environmental outreach program. For tickets or information call Debbie Havlik at 966-9138, or see Debbie at the CLCV office at 331 Milpas, Rm. 8, Santa Barbara.

Address Correction

Louis Bevier, Activities Vice-President, can be reached by writing P.O. Box 3874, Santa Barbara, CA.

93130

Conservation News

More Mesa Hearing Rescheduled

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors has postponed the hearing on the Biological Evaluation of More Mesa until February 13, 1984.

A great deal of conflicting information is currently circulating around town. At the moment there is real confusion as to what the current plans of all parties involved are. We hope to have a full and accurate picture of the situation by the next issue of El Tecolote.

Safe Drinking Water Law Needs Strengthening

According to the National Audubon Society, evidence of contamination of the nation's drinking water supplies by industrial chemicals has been growing at an increasing rate, but neither the Environmental Protection Agency nor the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 has kept up with threat. Last month, National Audubon joined National Resources Defense Council and eight other national conservation organizations in a letter to all members of the House of Representatives urging support of H. R. 3200, a bill to update and strengthen the act.

Five years ago the National Organics Monitoring Survey found more than 700 synthetic organic chemicals in treated drinking water in U. S. cities. Some of these substances - such as benzene, vinyl chloride, trichloroethylene, and chloroform - are known or suspected cancer-causing agents.

EPA has issued standards for only about 20 contaminants, and those standards are based on outdated health information and outmoded water treatment technologies. Lack of compliance with even these inadequate standards is widespread.

H.R. 3200, introduced by Dennis Eckart of Ohio, would: require EPA to set standards for 14 of the most commonly found and harmful of these chemicals; protect aquifers from deep well injection of hazardous wastes and surface impoundments not regulated under

the law; and provide added funding for EPA - including funds for grants to states for technical assistance to help small community systems comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

You can help by writing to your congressman, Robert Lagomarsino at 814 State St. in Santa Barbara, or at the House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20515. The drinking water you clean may be your own.

Acid Rain Control

The Tennessee Valley Authority, one of the nation's largest energy producers and coal users, is taking the lead among utilities in calling for controls on acid rain-causing emissions. TVA Director S. David Freeman has said, "We stand squarely on the side of those who favor control legislation." Speaking before the Sierra Club International Assembly in July, Freeman said: "We believe that the investments required to make sizable reductions in SO₂ emissions are reasonable." TVA estimates that the controls called for in proposed legislation would increase operating costs by three to six percent.

Secretary of Interior Resigns

Just in case there are still one or two who have not heard, James Watt resigned from office earlier this month after a stormy and controversial tenure as the Secretary of the Interior. Let us hope that a successor can be found who will once again lead us on a course of stewardship over this great land. The quality of our lives; the future of our nation and of this earth depends on taking intelligent action now, always thinking in the long-term. Let us hope we are remembered well by those who come after us.



Santa Barbara Christmas Count
Saturday, December 31, 1983

Please fill out this form and return to: Paul Lehman
P.O. Box 1061
Goleta, CA 93106

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Area Preferred _____

Would like to work with _____

____ Leader
____ Recorder only
____ Feeder count
____ Dinner

EL TECOLOTE
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300 N. Los Carneros
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 964-1468

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