

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Nov. - Dec., 1983
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SBAS Office
300 N. Los Carneros
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 964-1468

Robert Lindsay
President and Editor

Jan. 27
Friday

General Meeting - Member Slide Night. In the past this has been a special opportunity for fellow members, in an informal setting, to relive and share their natural history experiences, and become better acquainted with one another. New members are especially urged to attend and participate. However, to make this possible we need the help of those of you with slides of wild birds, animals, scenery, and a desire to share them with others. Please contact Dean Bazzi, Programs Chairman, at 967-5200 if you would like to be part of this fun event. In order for us to serve you better, we will also be circulating a brief questionnaire to find out what the chapter offers that you like, don't like, or would like to see more of in SBAS. Most of our chapter officers and committee chairs will be available at this meeting so now is your chance to voice your opinions and desires concerning Santa Barbara Audubon. We hope to see you there.

Carrizo Plains Field Trip

Spaces still remain so this is your last chance to make a reservation on this very special trip. We will meet at the Museum of Natural History at 8:00 am. Saturday, Dec. 10 and take a charter bus (with restrooms) for a 3½ hour trip to Reyes Station. From there we will bird our way, with frequent stops, along Soda Creek Road to California Valley where reservation have been made for the nights accommodations. A cost of \$50.85 includes the room at the lodge and bus fare, as well as a banquet dinner and breakfast (a private room costs an extra \$22.00). Sunday, we will continue to explore this area so rich in bird life, and will return to the museum by 5:00 pm. The Carrizo Plains offer some of

the best birding in California this time of year including the wintering flock of Sandhill Cranes that often number in the thousands. This area is also exceptional for raptors including owls, numerous hawks and eagles, harriers, and falcons. Horned Larks, Mountain Plovers, and many other interesting landbirds are also to be found there.

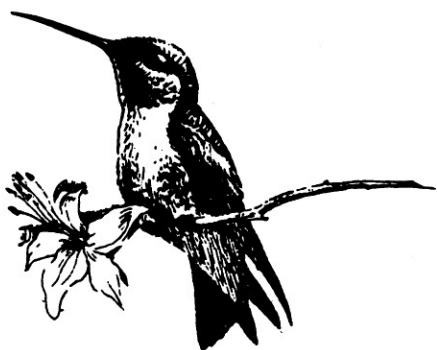
Trips of this type are rarely offered by SBAS so don't miss this chance. And hurry. Reservations must be received by November 23rd. Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society and mail them to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93117. If you have questions or need more information, call Joy at 967-9371.

Birds in Santa Barbara

by Paul Lehman

October was "quieter" than normal. Several of the highlights included single Magnolia and Black-throated Blue Warblers in Carpinteria, a Sage Thrasher and Least Flycatcher in Goleta, and the return of both the Montecito and Carpinteria Grace's Warblers for their fifth winters! Additional evidence that some of our wintering, out-of-range vagrants survive to return for another winter can be seen in a Tropical Kingbird present for its third winter at Coal Oil Point in Goleta, and a Black-and-white Warbler and Baltimore Oriole at Carpinteria Creek for their fifth and fourth winters respectively.

In early November a Harris' Sparrow was found at Coal Oil Point and an Ovenbird was at Carpinteria Creek. Two boat trips were taken during this period to the waters well west of Point Concepcion, an area very rarely visited by birders. Despite relatively low numbers of birds and rough seas, some interesting sightings were made, including small numbers of Black-footed Albatrosses, Flesh-footed, Short-tailed, and Buller's (New Zealand) Shearwaters, Long-tailed Jaegers, and South Polar Skuas.



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



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Last call for people to join in our biggest event of the year, the annual SBAS Christmas Bird Count. This years count will be held on Saturday, December 31st. It's coming soon so start planning now. This is a most enjoyable event and people at all levels of expertise are needed, from backyard 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 years past, this years count will end with a festive dinner at which time the days totals will be tabulated. If you wish to attend, check the dinner box on the form on the back page of this Tecolote. Bring your own cup and table service. As in the past, this will be a pot-luck affair so if your last name begins with A-F, bring a salad; if it begins with G-Q, bring a main dish; if it begins with R-Z, bring a dessert. Sylvie Robillard and Carol Rae have generously consented to help coordinate the dinner. If you have questions or problems, please call Sylvie at 967-8860.

There will also be a Sespe Christmas Count Tuesday, December 27. If you wish to attend this count as well, fill out the form on the back of this Tecolote.

If you have questions or need more information, call Paul Lehman at 967-2450.

Calendar of Coming Events !!

- December 2 General Meeting - Tonight our guest will be Dave Desante of the Point
Friday Reyes Bird Observatory who will present a slide show on the birds of
the Farralon Islands. Meetings begin at 8:00 pm. in the Fleischmann
Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History.
- Dec. 10 - 11 Field Trip - Carrizo Plains. This is our Fall season extravaganza.
Sat. & Sun. See article page 1 for details.
- December 13 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.
- December 31 Cristmas Bird Count - See the article on page 2 for details. Don't
Saturday miss your chance to join in this event. We intend to reclaim our
title as the number one birding spot in the USA. Won't you help?
- January 7 Field Trip - Devereux Slough. The slough offers excellent habitat for
Saturday large numbers of shorebirds and ducks while the vegetation bordering
the slough holds numerous songbirds. Exciting sightings are common on
these trips. Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 8:00 am. for
carpooling, or at the entrance to Devereaux at 8:30 am.
Leader: Chris Benesh
968-0572
- January 10 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. All articles for the January Tecolote must be submit-
ed by this meeting.
- Jan. 21 - 22 Field Trip - Morro Bay and Motana de Oro. Meet at the Museum of Nat-
Sat. & Sun. ural History in Morro Bay at 9:00 am. on Saturday. Our leaders will be
Don Klopher and Joan Carter who know the area well. Camping is avail-
able at Montana de Oro and there are good motels in the area. Saturday
will be spent around Morro Bay and Sunday at Montana de Oro. This re-
gion abounds in shore and waterbirds including many rocky shore species
not often seen here in Santa Barbara. To coordinate transportation and
for more information, Call Ada Babine at 962-2042
- January 27 General Meeting - Member Slide Night. See page 1 for details. Meetings
Friday are held in the Fleischmann Audutoium at the Museum of Natural His-
tory and begin promptly at 8:00 pm.

We are sorry to announce that our
Habitat Walks and Botanic Garden Walks
have been temporarliy cancelled. See
story page 4 for details.

Edit.



Field Trip Report - Figueroa Mtn.

Calm and clear weather provided excellent conditions for birdwatching along Figueroa Mountain Road between Los Olivos and the top of the mountain. In the lowlands, Yellow-billed Magpies, Savannah Sparrows and Western Bluebirds were spotted along with blackbirds and cowbirds. Several short walks were enjoyed as we proceeded to higher elevations. We first spotted Pygmy Nuthatches in Figueroa Campground. After a lunch at the Picnic grounds of Pino Alto, we followed the nature trail (facilities and trails for the handicapped) and were rewarded by finding Golden-crowned Kinglets, a Townsend's Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch and Ravens. Stellar's Jays, Hermit Thrushes, and juncos were active all around us. Our last stop provided a panoramic view of the San Raphael Wilderness framed in the pines.

Bill Gielow



Field Trips Cancelled

With deep regret, we announce the resignation of our Field Trip Chairwoman Ada Babine. She has served us well in the last several months but personal considerations prevent her from continuing to carry out the responsibilities of that position.

Due to this temporary gap in our personnel, we find it necessary to cancel both the regularly scheduled Botanic Garden Walks and Habitat Walks for the months of December and January until a suitable replacement can be found. Fortunately, our weekend field trips will continue as announced on page 3 of this Tecolote. We are sorry for this inconvenience but do have every intention of continuing these popular trips by February. Please watch for further announcements in the January issue of El Tecolote.

Field Trip Leaders Needed

In addition to the problems of this committee mentioned in the previous article, we are having continual difficulty in finding leaders for nearly all our field trips. Help is badly needed if we are to continue to provide the number and quality of trips that have been offered in the past. The need is especially great for our Habitat and Botanic Garden Walks. Ideally, we would like to find a few individuals who would be willing to lead these trips on a regular basis, but any help will be gratefully accepted.

If you have any interest in becoming involved with our field trips, please contact our office at 964-1468. Extraordinary skill is certainly not required, just an interest in sharing your favorite birding spots with fellow Auduboners and a willingness to organize an occasional trip. This is one of the primary contributions SBAS makes to our community. Please help if you can.

Membership

We would like to welcome the following new members to our chapter:

Betty Barnard, Nancy A Cota, Jim W Hitchman, Mrs. Ernest F Menzies, Julia Karp, Naomi Meyer, Ward Beebe, Bob Canaday, Elizabeth Downing, Dune Systems, Mrs. Howard E Kambach, Lois Waldref, Gary M Rauvola, Mrs. F C Schillinger, Julliette P Clark, Mrs. P C De Beixedon Sr., David Jones Jr., Paul D Kolyn, Mrs. Paul Palmer, E C Petty, P Plamondon Esq., Theresa Bauhaus, Mark Curry, Mary An May, Mr. James P O Hare, Timothy J Plog, R E Welt, and Michael Tanguay.

Again this month, I want to thank you all for your patience. At long last the corrections and national current information has been posted in our local mailer's computer. Please check your mailing label to be sure it is correct. If there are any corrections, please mail them to our office with the old label.

Thank you

Nancy S. Crawford
Membership Chairwoman

Education Committee Speakers Needed

Our Education Committee continues to need more speakers to present our varied slide shows to the numerous schools and civic groups which request them. Last year, the demands on this committee increased greatly, a trend we expect to continue this year. Education speakers perform an important function enhancing the public interest in and knowledge of the natural world, furthering the cause of conservation. Activities in this committee have begun but there is still time to prepare new volunteers for this important work. No previous experience is necessary.

If you have any interest in helping with this committee, please call Lila Eisberg at 963-4886, or the SBAS Office at 964-1468. Volunteers will find it a rewarding experience and will provide a valuable service to the community. Please, help if you can.

SBAS Office Volunteers

A very special thanks to all those who responded to our plea for help in the last Tecolote. Thanks to several generous members, we are now back up to full force and open every weekday from 10 am. to 2 pm. It is reassuring to see our members working to make Santa Barbara Audubon all it can be.

Rob Lindsay

"Creating a Dynamic Audubon Team"

Two of our members recently attended the Leadership Training Session for chapter officers sponsored by the Western Regional Office of NAS. On Nov. 5th, Sylvie Robillard and Carol Rae travelled to the Eaton Nature Center in Pasadena to participate in the workshop, the goal of which was to help chapter leaders become better equipped to efficiently run their chapters. Topics such as communication, goal setting, and motivation were discussed.

Included in the days work was a presentation by the Western Regional officers on the structure and function of National Audubon, an update on the focus of the education center, the formation of youth clubs, and a screening of the new Audubon slide program "Our National Wildlife Refuges... A Design for the Future."

As a result of SBAS participation in the workshop, a questionnaire will be written for the general membership in order to solicit your views on how the chapter is run, what issues and activities you would like to pursue, and your impressions of the monthly meetings. The survey will be given at the January general meeting (1/27).

All members are encouraged to offer their comments and ideas to the Board of Directors and to attend our general meetings.

SBAS Library

Thanks to the efforts of our new librarian, Audrey VonBieberstien, our library is finally being reorganized and our books made available to our members. Though we have a fine selection of books covering a wide variety of natural history subjects, a good many of our books lent out over the years have never been returned. What follows is a list of those books we know are missing from our library. We are printing this list in the hopes of stimulating the memories of those who checked them out and to encourage their return to our office or at any general meeting. No penalties will be assessed, we just want our books back.

1. Hawaiian Birdlife (Berger)
2. Birds of the West Indies (Bond)
3. Birds of Prey (Brown)
4. The Birds of California (Small)
5. How Birds Fly (Terres)
6. Field Guide to Birds' Nests (Harrison)
7. Birds Come Flocking (Matelson)
8. Everyman's Guide to Ecological Living (Cailliet)
9. Audubon (Chancellor)
10. Gifts of an Eagle (Durden)
11. The Silent Sky (Eckert)
12. Seven Days to Lomaland (Warner)
13. The Man Who Walked Through Time (Fletcher)
14. Birds of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks (Follett)
15. Owls by Day and Night (Tyler)
16. Seabirds (Saunders)
17. Hawaii's Birds (Hawaii Audubon Society)
18. The Birds and the Beasts were There (Millar)
19. Olympic Seashore (Kirk)
20. A Sand County Almanac (leopold)
21. Shorebirds of North America (Matthiesen)
22. Never Cry Wolf (Mowat)
23. Hawaiian Birds (Munro)
24. Introduction to Bird Life for Bird Watchers (Saunders)
25. Owl (Service)
26. Man in the Landsacape (Shepard)
27. World of Nature (Stanek)
28. Birds of Yosemite (Stebbins)
29. Gathering of Shorebirds (Hall)
30. Day Hikes of the Santa Barbara Foothills (Ford)
31. Condor Journal (Smith)
32. Book of Bird Life (Allen)
33. American Birds (magazines - Christmas Count Issues '73, '74, '75)
34. Last of the Curlews (Bodsworth)
35. A Field Guide to Western Bird Songs (Two phonograph albums)
36. Backyard Wild Birds of California and the Pacific Northwest (Brown)
36. Exploring our National Wildlife Refuges (Butcher)
37. A Birder's Guide to Southern California (Lane)
38. A New Handbook of Attracting Birds (McElroy)
39. Birds of the Santa Barbara Region (Metcalf)
40. A Field Guide to Eastern Birds (Peterson)
41. The Birdwatchers America (Pettingill)
42. Birds of Southern California (Pyle)
43. A Guide to Everglades National Park and the nearby Florida Keys (Zim)
44. A Plan (?) of the Santa Barbara Region (Clidton Smith - S.B. Museum of Natural History)

CONSERVATION

Mono Lake Photograph Album

An 80 page collection of photographs recently exhibited in San Francisco has been made available by the Mono Lake Committee. Entitled At Mono Lake, and published by Friends of the Earth, this book contains works from such renowned photographers as Ansel Adams, Galen Rowell, and Brett Weston. The book is a softbound, 8½ X 11 collection of 56 photographs, 17 in color. The cover price is \$12.95 but Audubon members receive a 10% discount.

To order this book, make checks payable to F.E.F./Mono Lake Fund and mail to the Mono Lake Committee, 1355 Westwood Blvd., #212, Los Angeles, California, 90024, or call Stephen Osgood of the committee at (213) 477-8229. The total price, including shipping and tax, is \$13.79.

Proceed go to the education programs of the Mono Lake Committee. These books make fine Christmas gifts for those concerned with the plight of Mono Lake and who appreciate the fine work of the contributing photographers.

Cactus Rustler Convicted

From the Audubon Leader, we have learned that a Brownsville, Texas man earned the dubious distinction of being the first person ever convicted of trafficking in endangered plants. Joseph Anthony Jr. was handed a \$5,000 fine, one year suspended prison sentence, and five years probation after federal agents disclosed that he had sold more than 100,000 illegally gathered plants to private collectors. There is a booming business in rare plants, and many species, especially rare cacti, are threatened by unscrupulous dealers, like Anthony, who are willing to sell to them.

Bald Eagles on the Rebound

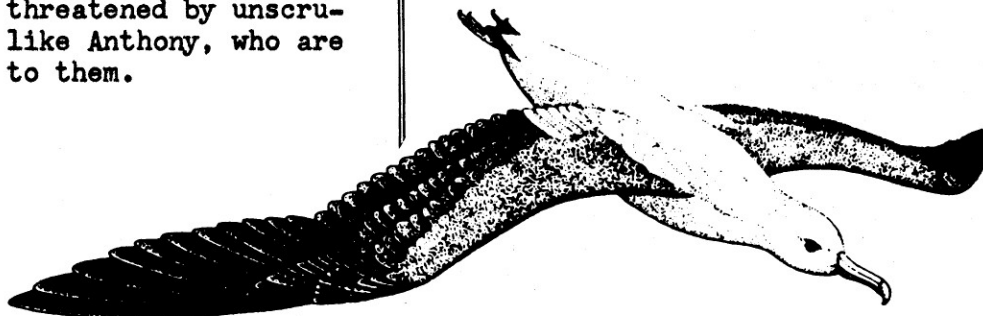
The National Wildlife Federation's annual Bald Eagle survey, taken in January, indicates that the national symbol is still on the rebound after years of decline due to pesticides, habitat loss, and shooting. Bald Eagles are officially endangered in 43 states and plentiful only in Alaska. A 1983 survey of 46 states (excluding Alaska) found 12,098 eagles; fewer than last year, but significantly more than in 1979, when NWF began counting. Missouri, Utah, and Washington had the most eagles.

Environmental Conference Announced

The January 28th committee, a coalition of many local environmental organizations, has announced a conference of national importance will be held here in Santa Barbara in January, 1984. It will on the 15th anniversary of the Santa Barbara Oil Spill and modeled after a similar event in 1970, immediately following the catastrophic spill.

The conference will be entitled "January 28, 1969 - 1984, A Santa Barbara Conference on Energy - Environment - Economics --- Progress Toward a Sustainable Future." Speakers of national prominence, including many environmental leaders and political figures, will be speaking to us all concerning progress we have made, where we are today, and where we need to go from here.

Mark the date on your calendar. This should be a landmark gathering with important implications for the future of our environment and is especially timely with the flurry of offshore development currently threatening our coastline. We hope to see you there.



Santa Barbara Christmas Count
Saturday, December 31, 1983

Please fill out this form and return to: Paul Lehman
P.O. Box 1061
Goleta, CA 93116
967-2450

Name(s) _____

Phone _____
Address _____

Area preferred _____
Would like to work with _____

____ Leader
____ Recorder only
____ Feeder count
____ Dinner

Sespe Christmas Count
Tuesday, December 27, 1983

Please fill out this form and return to: Paul Lehman
P.O. Box 1061
Goleta, CA 93116
967-2450

Name(s) _____

Phone _____
Address _____

EL TECOLOTE
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
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(805) 964-1468

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