

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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May 25 GENERAL MEETING- THE FOUR SEASONS OF THE SIERRA

Friday Ines Roberts is an award-winning local photographer and instructor who specializes in music-illustrated slide programs on various subjects (but primarily about nature). Tonight she will present an updated version of a program on the Sierra Nevada along with one or two other short presentations. This evening promises to be stimulating for the eye as well as the ear. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History and begin promptly at 8:00 pm.

DICK SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

At the last Board of Directors mtg. on April 12, Santa Barbara Audubon member Chris Benesh was chosen to be the recipient of the 1984 Dick Smith Scholarship. This \$575 award will enable Chris to attend the exceptional Audubon Ecology Camp in Wyoming. It was the intent of the Board to choose someone who would be willing to share the knowledge and experience gained at the camp with the community at large and to promote the cause of conservation of our natural resources.

Chris is not only an active Audubon member and participant, he is currently studying zoology and is a field guide for Audubon bird walks and outings. Those who have had the opportunity to spend time in the field with Chris have witnessed his lively enthusiasm and dedication.

Congratulations, Chris!

This scholarship year we were delighted to have received several well deserving nominees presented to the Board for consideration. Because of this it was decided to create another scholar-

ship to Audubon's Golden Trout Camp in the Sierra. This was awarded to James Blakeley of Santa Barbara. Jim is a former groundskeeper for the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens and is currently the Head-groundskeeper in the Goleta school district. He is a past president of the Los Padres Interpretive Society, is currently active in environmental education, and is a back-country activist and volunteer. His specialty is Botany. From his experience at Golden Trout, Jim hopes to gain a deeper understanding of how to help the children he teaches find their enthusiasm and appreciation for the natural world that is all around them and so much a part of them.

We hope that both of these individuals are able to benefit tremendously from their camp experiences.

-Edit.



BIRDATHON 1984

It's not too late! You can still participate. Contact Dean Bazzi, 967-5200, for forms and general information. Those who have forms already please fill them out and mail them to Dean, 580 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA, 93117, or to the Audubon office at 300 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA, 93117, by the end of May. If you do not wish to participate you may sponsor someone to help raise money for Audubon programs (same deadline applies). Sponsors may indicate all or part of their donation to go to the Mono Lake lawsuit fund or to the More Mesa fund. And remember, Rob Lindsay, SBAS president, is our Superbirder this year so call 964-1468 between 10:00 and 2:00 to make your pledge.

PROP 18: PARK BONDS ACT

Proposition 18 on the June 5 Calif. primary election ballot will provide \$370 million for local and state parks. (May include More Mesa). More than 80% of the bond funds are slated for development and improvement of existing parks, with acquisition of new parklands limited to land needed for operation of current parks.

With the demand for outdoor recreation facilities becoming greater - especially in urban areas - many people are being turned away from overcrowded and overused recreation facilities.

A YES vote on Proposition 18 will allow recreation agencies to meet this increasing demand with development of recreational facilities where they are most needed.

Proposition 18 also provides funds for protection of our coast, wildlife, rare and endangered species, acquisition of new parkland in the San Monica Mts., and protection of the San Francisco Bay.

PROP 19: WILDLIFE/WETLAND BONDS

Proposition 19, on the June ballot, is a critically important bond measure which provides \$85 million to acquire and restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitat. This measure addresses one of the most serious environmental issues and deserves your strong support.

Wetland areas provide essential food and shelter to many irreplaceable species of birds, fish, and other wildlife. During the past century, California has lost 90% of our wetland areas. If some

state action is not forthcoming, it will be catastrophic for California fish and wildlife.

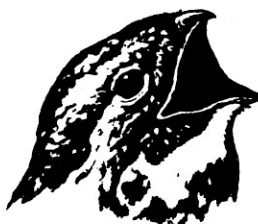
????????? QUESTIONNAIRE ??????????

In last month's Tecolote a questionnaire was printed encouraging members to voice their feelings, opinions, concerns and suggestions regarding the programs and functions of the SBAS. A BIG thanks to the many who filled out and returned their questionnaires to date. It will be of great help to your elected (remember?) Board of Directors in reevaluating and determining the role of SBAS as well as its activities.

If you have not yet done so, the Board strongly urges you to fill out the questionnaire and mail it in as soon as possible. In a volunteer organization such as this one, member participation is crucial if the wants and needs of the members themselves are to be met. Besides, as a reward you may be the lucky winner of a free dinner for two. See last month's Tecolote for more details.

Thank you!

Editor

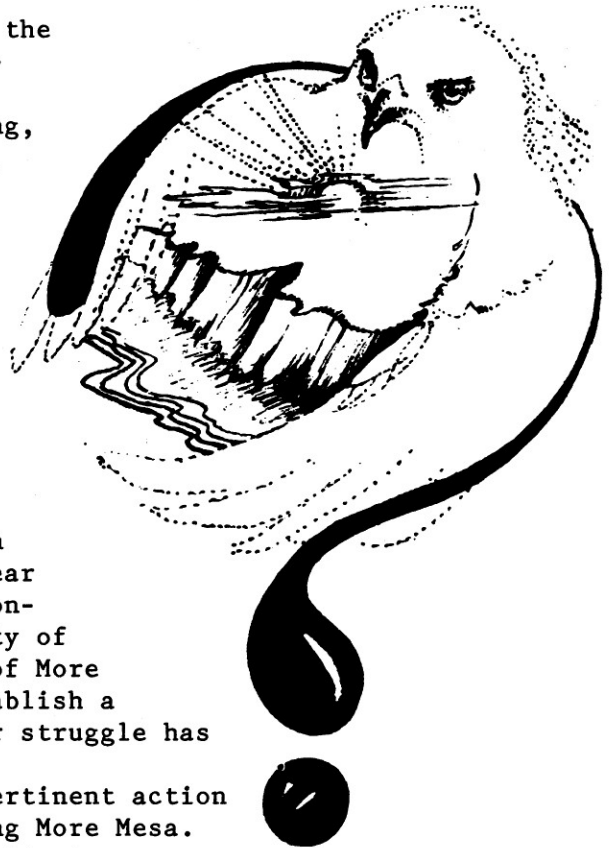


MORE MESA NEWS

For those who did not get a chance to read the News Press Thursday evening, April 12, it was announced that the University of Columbia has sold More Mesa to Earl Holding for \$4 million. Holding, owner and operator of Sun Valley resort in Idaho, is not a legal resident of Santa Barbara. Although there are no publically announced speculations on what Holding proposes to do with his 270-acre purchase, Santa Barbara Audubon expects that his intention is development. A Board of Supervisors hearing is still set for May 21 to determine the type of zoning that would be suitable for the site. According to the News Press, however, Holding is expected to request a postponement.

It has, from the beginning, been Audubon's position that no development should be allowed on More Mesa due to the fact (documented in a one year biological study) that the site remains an environmentally sensitive habitat area for a wide variety of rare plant and animal species. The recent sale of More Mesa does not mean that Audubon's efforts to establish a natural preserve there is finished, but means our struggle has just begun. Again.

Please watch for future announcements on pertinent action to be taken regarding Audubon's role in preserving More Mesa. Meanwhile, if you have not yet done so, please write to your Supervisor(s) stating your views on the future of this significant habitat area. **COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL!!!!!!** Your Supervisors are: David Yager, Robert Kallman, Bill Wallace, DeWayne Holmdahl, and Toru Miyoshi. Send your letters to: County Administration Bldg., 105 E. Anapamu, SB, CA 93101. Also, your continued tax deductible contributions to the SBAS Land Preservation Fund are greatly appreciated. To those who have made donations to the cause and/or have written or voiced support for this major undertaking, a special thanks.



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.

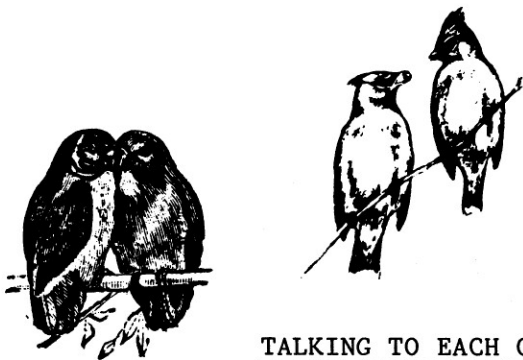
Good Birding!!

Terry Church
Editor

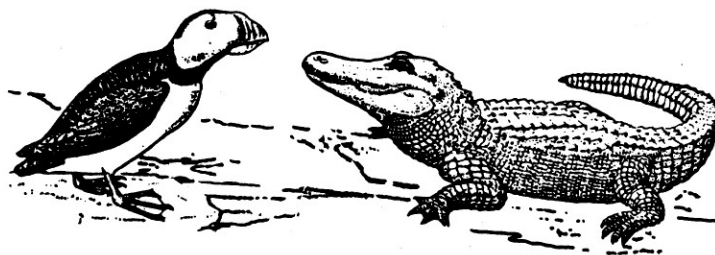
AUDUBON ON TV

National Audubon's two television pilots are in production and scheduled to go on the air within the next 12 months. "The World of Audubon", a one-hour "magazine", will have its debut in Oct., while "Owl Television", a program for children, will appear on PBS next February.

In addition, Audubon is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on an hour-long television special about the California Condor. A filmmaking team has been documenting the condor recovery efforts over the past 2 years and the producers hope to have the special ready for network television by 1986.



TALKING TO EACH OTHER



This is to let everyone know that any articles, announcements, ads, amusing comments, and/or suggestions that you would like to see printed in the Tecolote, please give or mail to the editor on or before the second Thursday of every month, or bring to the Board of Directors meeting that evening. I appreciate and encourage member participation.

The following article, written by a senior member of Santa Barbara Audubon, should be touching to young and old alike. -Ed.

NUMERO UNO
by Barbara Taylor

Santa Barbara Audubon is number one. But not just because their Christmas Count turns up so many species of birds, and not just because of their efforts to control environmental problems. There's a different reason for their being number one with me.

As a nurse, retired and disabled after a forty-five year career, my biological study was concerned with the species homo sapiens. It still is. And it seems to me that Santa Barbara Audubon is doing as much for humans as for any other fragile creatures.

Santa Barbara Audubon has a membership as diverse as the avian species of the area. As a retirement community, Santa Barbara has many "senior citizens". With the University here there are many college students. Then, of course, there is the usual community make-up of business and professional people. In our Audubon society this mix is represented in a way that one doesn't see in other groups where there is a tendency for people to be separated into corrals with invisible labels "young", "old", and "middle-aged" with maybe a little shouting back and forth but not much real communication.

For one like myself, living in a retirement complex, seeing only the other older friends and neighbors, it was unbelievably refreshing to be around the dynamic young people who do so much to make our club both entertaining and educational. The kindness and intelligence shown by these young leaders gives one great confidence in the future of our

country. They are, in effect, setting examples for us older generations to follow, reversing the usual order. It is with respect and admiration that we do acknowledge their leadership.

My personal experience with the Audubon Society could be touted in the tabloids as a cure for both arthritis and obesity. However euphoric as that may sound, there has been much satisfactory progress made on both counts in the past 18 months since I became a member. With a long history of rheumatic fever and rheumatoid arthritis, my activities were much curtailed which led to a weight gain, which led to an extra burden on the weight-bearing joints, which curtailed activity even more...the usual self-perpetuating cycle.

Walking is the exercise of choice for those in my age bracket, but if even walking is painful one must be quite masochistic to try it. Still, if one's attention may be diverted, pain tends to lose its edge and that's where birding comes in. Becoming interested in the birds, walking no longer was dull exercise. I could therefore walk farther and longer which in turn made walking easier and less painful, and a reverse cycle was established. Of course it was not really all that simple. There were ups and downs and setbacks but the overall achievement was a back-to-normal weight and the ability to walk two or three miles almost every day.

The real turning point for me was an Audubon field trip last May. The opportunity to go out into the country and stay

(Numero Uno continued...)

overnight without the vulnerability of being alone was a very real gift. When I got home after that trip I started keeping a food diary and recording the mileage on my pedometer each day. By September I had walked 300 miles and was losing weight. As of now, the end of March, I've walked 600 miles and reached the goal weight set by my doctor. I'm looking forward to another overnight field trip with Audubon soon.

These things do not mean that I'm cured but I've cut my arthritis medication (an expensive prescription) from 400 mg per day to a maintenance dosage of 50 mg augmented with simple aspirin. I figure Santa Barbara Audubon is saving me a bundle in medicals bills!

The stimulus of being with active, intelligent people (with no demands beyond my limitations; I could quit when it hurt, and frequently did) gave me impetus and the motivation necessary to get myself turned around.

Santa Barbara Audubon really is Number One.

DEVEREAUX SLOUGH BIRDWALK REPORT

The fifteen or so birders who showed up Saturday, April 7, were treated to a beautiful spring morning and an incredible array of birds. By the end of the walk, 87 species of birds had been tallied from all of the interesting micro habitats that Devereaux provides. Highlights included 16 species of sandpipers (including a near-breeding plumaged Dunlin), a Blue-winged Teal out in the slough, a Barn Owl perched in a pine, and an unexpected Osprey harassing waterfowl over the slough while the Osprey itself was harried by crows. An unusually unwary group of Soras allowed birders to get long, detailed looks at these normally elusive birds. Finally, those who wanted the thrill of rarities were generously provided with Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Black-and-White Warbler, and a secretive American Redstart.

I would like to thank Jon Dunn for coming out and leading the first half of the birdwalk. And thanks to those birders who showed up!! I hope to see you on future outings.

Chris Benesh

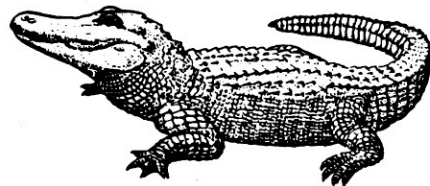


BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

Spring migration is now in full swing with large numbers of flycatchers, vireos, warblers, orioles, grosbeaks, and buntings along a number of coastal creeks and in several foothill canyons. Additionally, a very impressive movement of coastal seabirds (e.g. loons, brant, scoters, gulls, terns) passes our shores mid-March to mid-May. Best vantage points are Shoreline Park, Goleta Point (especially), and Coal Oil Point. This year such unusual species as Glaucous Gull, Black Scoter, and Parasitic Jaeger have been seen from Goleta Point.

Rare landbirds seen locally during the early spring include as many as 6 Calliope Hummingbirds along the coast, a solitary Vireo of the Great Basin/Rocky Mtn. subspecies in Goleta, and continuing Hooded Merganser, Harris' Sparrow and White-winged Dove in Goleta.

-Paul Lehman



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS!!

- April 27 General Meeting - AUDUBON SANCTUARIES
Friday Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History and begin promptly at 8:00 pm.
- April 28-29 Field Trip - OVERNIGHT TO ANTELOPE VALLEY AND VASQUEZ ROCK
Sat-Sun Check in last month's Tecolote for details or call Sylvie Robillard at 967-8860 for information and/or if you plan to attend.
- May 5 Seminar - A CELEBRATION OF BIRDS
Saturday The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is presenting an all-day seminar featuring slide illustrated lectures by authorities on birds and bird behavior. A wine and cheese reception and a tour of the Museum's Ornithology labs will follow the lectures. Please call 213/744-3427 for further information.
- May 6 Field Trip - REFUGIO ROAD
Sunday Riparian songbirds, wildflowers and beautiful country. The trip ends in Santa Ynez near Solvang. Meet at Storke Rd. and Hollister Ave. in the K-MART parking lot near Jack-in-the-Box at 8:00 am for carpooling.
Leader: Joy Parkinson 967-9371
- May 12-13 Field Trip - MOMO CAMP OVERNIGHT
Sat-Sun Check in last month's Tecolote for details or call Sylvie Robillard at 967-8860, or the Audubon office at 964-1468.
Leader: Eileen Gray
- May 20 Field Trip - BOATING AROUND SAN MIGUEL ISLAND
Sunday The price for each person is \$33. Send check (payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society) to Louis Bevier, Box 3874, SB 93130. Please include your address, phone number, and name(s) for reservations. Refunds due to cancellations can only be received if a replacement is found.
Leader: Louis Bevier 964-1030
- May 25 General Meeting - THE FOUR SEASONS OF THE SIERRA
Friday See front page for details. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Aud. at the Museum of Nat. Hist. and begin promptly at 8:00 pm.
- May 27 Field Trip - SAN ANTONIO CREEK, BARKA SLOUGH, AND SANTA INEZ RIVER-MOUTH
Sunday A great all-day trip covering three diverse habitats. The dense riparian vegetation along San Antonio Creek should be especially interesting due to its relatively pristine condition. Meet at Storke Rd. and Hollister Ave. in the parking lot near Jack-in-the-Box by 6:00 am. Bring lunch.
Leader: TBA
- June 2 Habitat Walk - RATTLESNAKE CANYON
Saturday We will explore both streamside woodland and chaparral to observe locally breeding birds (and hopefully avoid a close encounter with the canyon's namesake). This will be a moderate hike; boots are recommended. Also bring lunch and water. Meet at the Mus. of Nat. Hist. at 8:00 am to carpool, or at the trailhead just west of Scofield Park off Las Canoas Rd. at 8:30 am.
Leader: Dean Bazzi 967-5200
- June 9 Annual Meeting - POTLUCK
Saturday Don't miss this great Audubon gathering and the election of the new Board of Directors. Details of where, when and how announced in May Tecolote.

... AND MORE EVENTS...

- June 16-24 Nature Conservancy's Bird Tour - SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, MOJAVE DESERT, SOUTHERN SIERRA, CENTRAL COAST
This tour features the Nature Conservancy's 320 acre Kaweah Oaks Preserve, 3200 acre Creighton Ranch Preserve, and 1500 acre Kern River Preserve, with visits to the Tulare Lake Basin, Kern National Wildlife Refuge, Sequoia National Park, Sequoia National Forest, northwestern Mojave Desert, Carrizo Plain, and coastal Morro Bay. For further information write: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, P.O. Box 4049, Visalia, CA 93278.
- August 14-17 Audubon Family Institute - CAMP O'WOOD, ARIZONA
Tucson Audubon Society invites parents and children to come and learn together how different parts of our world relate to each other. The program will help to clarify the relationships between the land, plants and animals on the site. Professional staff. Accommodations and meals provided. Limited to 55. For further information contact: Mrs. Cheryl Lazaroff, Director, Audubon Family Institute, Tucson Audubon Society, 30-A N. Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716. Phone: 602/323-9673.
- August 5-11 Golden Trout Workshop - SIERRA MOUNTAINS
An informal field natural history program sponsored by several western
12-18 Audubon chapters including Santa Barbara. For details contact: Mrs.
19-25 Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane, Redlands, CA 92373. 714/793-7897.

May 10 Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 pm. All Audubon members are welcome
Thurs to attend. Meetings are held on the SECOND THURSDAY of every month at the Coast Federal Savings bank upstairs, 1330 State St. All articles for the May Tecolote MUST be submitted by this meeting.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

The last SBAS board meeting was held Thursday, April 12, 1984. Board members present were Dean Bazzi, Sid Tarbox, Paul Lehman, Terry Church, Nancy Crawford, Rob Lindsay, Carol Rae, Sylvie Robillard, Louis Bevier, and Marge Cappiello.

It was voted to award the 1984 Dick Smith Scholarship to Santa Barbara Audubon member Chris Benesh. Because of the number of well deserved nominees for this opportunity, a motion was adopted to create another scholarship to Audubon's Golden Trout Camp.

An announcement of the 1984-85 Board of Directors nominees was given. Names include Rob Lindsay, Carol Rae,

Paul Lehman, Dean Bazzi, Louis Bevier, Skye Bass, Nancy Crawford, Terry Church, Sylvie Robillard, Alan Bordofsky, Sid Tarbox, Marge Cappiello, Eileen Gray, and John Flavin. The deadline for submitting nominations to the board was Thursday, April 12.

There were several recommended revisions in the SBAS By-laws. It was decided to enlist the expertise of Audubon's lawyer to ensure correct legal wording and content. The revisions will be voted on at the next board meeting.

The date for the Annual meeting was set for Saturday, June 9.

Terry Church
Editor

MISSING TECOLOTES - It occasionally happens that members do not receive their issue of El Tecolote. If this happens to you, please call Nancy Crawford at 964-7508 so that she can notify our mailer. Sorry for the inconvenience!!!

MEMBERSHIP

A local membership (\$10 per year) in the Santa Barbara Audubon Society entitles you to attend field trips and monthly general meetings; to elect local board members and to receive the El Tecolote, chapter newsletter. Membership in the National Audubon Society (\$30 per individual, \$38 per family per year) entitles you to receive the nationally acclaimed Audubon magazine and automatically enrolls you as a local member. Local and national membership applications are available now. Just contact our office at 964-1468.

This month we would like to welcome the following new members: Beverly Sanders, Mike Kory, Mark Bitterman, Joyce Butler, John Eskelson, Mr. John W. Gainor, Mary Lee Swan Guilliland, Dr. and Mrs. W. N. Holms, Mrs. Ree Kramer, Zita Nielsen, Frederisk A Petrarca, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Roberts, E.E. Robertson, Patricia S. Sillars, Winifred Van Wingerden, Gordon Conroy, Mrs. E. Cumpaino, Mr. C.J. Davis, W. Des Lauriers, L.L. Des Lauriers, Wm. H. Hall, Judith Hamilton, Erik Hansen, Alice

Horan, Dr. Judy Jones, and Robert S. McDonald.

New members transferring into our chapter are: Miss Candi Bach, Cheri L. Baroni, Mrs. Rosemary Hall Bergen, and Holly C. Forbes.

New local members are: Michael H. Byrne, Ronald P. Howard, and Wm. D. Murray.

Thank you all for your continued membership. Chapter renewals are doing fantastic!

Nancy S. Crawford
Membership Chairman



1. Why does a turtle cross the road?
(To get to the shell station)
2. What is a carton of ducks called?
(A box of quackers)

EL TECOLOTE
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
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