

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

October, 1984
Volume 21, Number 9



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

Robert Lindsay
President and Editor

December 5
Wednesday

General Meeting - On this evening Meaton Freel, wildlife biologist for the Los Padres National Forest, will talk to us about efforts to reintroduce captive-bred Peregrine Falcons into the Santa Barbara backcountry. This meeting will begin promptly at 8:00 pm in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History. This is our combined November-December meeting so make a special note on your calendar. See you all there.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month, it is my pleasure to select our Publicity Chair, Mr. Skye Bass, as the volunteer of the month. Skye first joined the SBAS team as an office volunteer and showed no hesitation in taking on duties there, including near complete reorganization of our education committee slide file. Because of his willingness to help and his responsible attitude, Skye was nominated and elected to our Board of Directors and has been a valuable contributor to that body. He has a strong interest in the conservation issues facing our community and was important in getting SBAS involved in the effort to prevent, and finally, to mitigate the harm caused by the

recent developments at the Andree Clark Bird Refuge.

In addition to his Board and office duties, Skye spent several hours in the last month helping the education committee in putting together their slide shows. His is a classic example of rising through the ranks, of taking on responsibility, and of good humor and light-heartedness in all that he has done.

Skye, you have served us all well and deserve our deep gratitude. Thank you very much.

Robert Lindsay

BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

by Paul Lehman

Certainly the highlight of the fall season to date has been the Little Curlew (Little Whimbrel) found in irrigated pasture land just west of Santa Maria. Seen by hundreds of observers since its discovery on September 16, this individual was still present in early October and establishes the first record for North America. It normally breeds in a restricted area in Siberia and winters primarily in Australia. Also present near Santa Maria was our first local record of a Curlew Sandpiper, and a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, both casual visitors from Siberia.

The most exciting news from the county's South Coast was a briefly seen Sprague's Pipit in Goleta, the first record ever for this species in Santa Barbara County. Other highlights from Goleta include 2 Dickcissels and a Lark Bunting, while Gaviota hosted a Bell's Vireo, Prairie Warbler, and Magnolia Warbler. Carpinteria had its own goodies including Northern Parula, Mourning Warbler, 2 Chestnut-sided Warblers, Least Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, and Dickcissel.

Lastly, the now-infamous Motecito Grace's Warbler returned for its sixth winter, an unprecedented occurrence. Quite a bird!



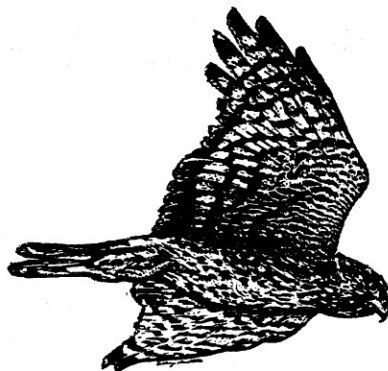
DIAL A BIRD
964-8240

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

The date of the annual Santa Barbara Christmas Bird Count has been tentatively set for Saturday, December 29. Further details will appear in the next Tecolote.

We will likely be in need of a boat to census pelagic species on the count within three to five miles off shore. If anyone has information on such a boat, please contact Paul Lehman at 967-2450.



IN THE NORTH COUNTY, TOO!

Participants are being sought for the Santa Maria Christmas Bird Count to be held Sunday, January 6, 1985. Any interested people, please set aside the day, and contact Jody Venema (481-3976 eves.) as soon as possible, so we can begin to set up the zones and leaders. Also, let us know if you would be interested in leading or birding in a particular area.



Thanks,
Jody L. Venema
Bird Count Leader
Los Padres Audubon
Santa Maria, CA

SOUTH COAST BIRD REPORTS

Los Angeles	213/874-1318
San Bernardino	714/793-5599
San Diego	619/435-6761

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS !!

- October 24
Wednesday General Meeting - Tonight our speaker will be Steve Timbrock of the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens. See last months El Tecolote for details. This meeting will be in FERRAND HALL at the Museum of Natural History.
- October 27
Saturday Field Trip - North Goleta Creeks. This trip will be a morning walk along several creeks in our area in search of riparian birds. Meet at the parking lot in front of Von's market at Turnpike and Hollister Ave. at 7:30 am. Leader: Dean Bazzi
967-5200
- Nov. 3 & 4
Sat. & Sun. Field Trip - Overnight trip to Morro Bay and Vicinity. This is an often outstanding area for shore and water birds, and a beautiful part of California besides. This trip will begin at the Natural History Museum in Morro Bay. If you have questions or need more information, contact the trip leader. Leader: Don Klopfer
(805) 772-7772
- November 6
Tuesday Botanic Garden Walk - At last, our Botanic Garden Walks begin again. These walks will be held on the first and third Tuesday of every month (unless stated otherwise in this newsletter). Walks begin at 9:00 am and start in front of the bookstore at the Botanic Gardens. These walks will last about 90 minutes. Leader: Joan Lentz
969-4397
- November 8
Thursday Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend. Meetings are held at the Coast Federal Bank building, upstairs at 1330 State St. in Santa Barbara. All articles for the Nov.-Dec. issue of El Tecolote must be submitted by this meeting.
- November 17
Saturday Field Trip - Lake Cachuma. This special trip will include a 5-hour boat trip for birders around the lake. Reservations are required as a minimum of 10 but no more than 26 people can be accommodated. The fee is \$12 per person, ½ fare for children. For reservations or information, call John Flavin at 965-4979. We will meet at the lake marina at 9:00 am. Free parking outside the marina, \$3 inside. Do bring a lunch. Leader: Neal Taylor
- November 20
Tuesday Botanic Garden Walk - Same as November 6.
- November 25
Sunday Beginners Bird Walk - Deveraux Slough. This trip will be an easy morning walk along this coastal mud flat and on to the adjacent beach. Meet at the kiosk at the entrance to the Deveraux area (intersection of Storke Rd. & El Colegio) at 8:00 am. Leader: Rob Lindsay
968-8895
- December 1
Saturday Field Trip - Carrizo Plains. This year, we're going to make this a one day trip leaving from the parking lot at the Smith's market on Milpas at 5:00 am. From there, we'll drive over hiway 33 to the Carrizo Plains in search of the Sandhill Cranes, and many other birds of note to be found there. Leader: John Flavin
965-4979

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership has had a smooth month, making a few corrections and getting all memberships up to date. We would like to welcome the following new members:

Mike Kolp, Hugh Ranson, Richard J. Swift, Clare Barrios, M. M. Brock, Mrs. Eldon Haskell, David M. Hurt M.D., Anita Karr, Mary L. Keho, Florence M. Larrick, Pam Rowland, Lawrence W. Westbury D.D.S., Ms. J. Atkins, Robert I. Boertson, Isabel C. Ebel, Roger W. Haushalter, Erica R. Hill, Joshua Macias, Gilbert Makus, Earl Osterhoff, Doris B. Peterson, Brad Sayra, James Siebert, Bertha Woods, Michael Cox, Martha G. Diaz, Lev Fanning Jr., Theresa Roberts, C. Roche, and Bob Rogers.

Thank you,
Nancy Crawford

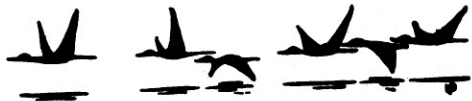
SBAS LIBRARY

This month, Audubon thanks Ruth Mahoney for her donation of a long-play record (and booklet) of Western Bird Songs to our library, and to Minna Smith for the summer copy of the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Journal.

As reported in the last Tecolote, we now have Vol. 1 of the Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding. We are considering purchasing the other two volumes to complete the set, but before we do, we would like to ask if any members have copies they wish to donate to the library.

Also, if you feel strongly that a particular book should be added to our library, would you please call in your suggestion to our office? We would like to consider your ideas in the acquisition of new books.

Audrey vonBieberstein
SBAS Librarian



FOR THE BIRDS

Don't forget. The SBAS office has the best birdseed in town. Mixed seed or millet can be purchased at our office or at any meeting for the small fee of 50¢ per pound, or \$2.00 for 5 pounds.

MISSING PARROT!

Lost: Female African Gray Parrot near Stanwood Drive & Sycamore Canyon Rd, Size of a common pigeon, with a bright red tail. If seen, please call Grace at 962-1153 (even if remains are found).



SBAS OFFICE NEWS

We are pleased to welcome Carolyn Selzer to our staff of office volunteers. Carolyn will be in the office on Mondays bringing our schedule back to five days a week. More volunteers are always needed however, so please contact our office if you can help. The SBAS office provides a valuable link to the community and does a great deal to make our organization accessible and effective in carrying out the many activities we sponsor.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank again the many people who have contributed to keeping our office open and running smoothly. These people include Caroline Frost, Gladys Singletary, Roma Walsh, Blanche Balzarette, Caroline Hawley, Marge Cappiello, Sylvie Robillard, Helen Matelson, and Sid Tarbox. I hope I didn't forget anyone.

Remember, our office is open Monday through Friday from 10 until 2.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

The last board meeting was held on October 11, 1984. Members present included Robert Lindsay, Teri Ogden, Allan Bordofsky, Minna Smith, Nancy Crawford, Marge Cappiello, Sid Tarbox, Paul Lehman, Dean Bazzi, John Flavin, and Eileen Gray.

This meeting was lighter than most, a rare event. It was decided that funds would be allocated to purchase a new message machine for our rare bird alert. The old machine is progressively deteriorating. A date and location were decided upon for a pot luck party to honor our office staff, past and present. Last, it was decided that a copy of the letter recently seen in the Santa Barbara News-Press should be forwarded to the S.B. City Council as well. A copy of this letter, for those who have not seen it, can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Remember, the Board of Directors is here to serve you. Any member of SBAS is welcome to attend our board meetings, and items presented will be added to the agenda of any meeting. Please come down if we can help you.

CALIFORNIA BOTTLE BILL

According to proponents of this bill, the result would be a 7,000 barrel-a-day reduction in energy consumed, a 40% reduction in roadside litter, a savings of 88,000 tons of aluminum, a savings of 7 billion gallons of water each year, and the creation of thousands of jobs in the recycling industry. How do they know? Because it's already working in nine states.

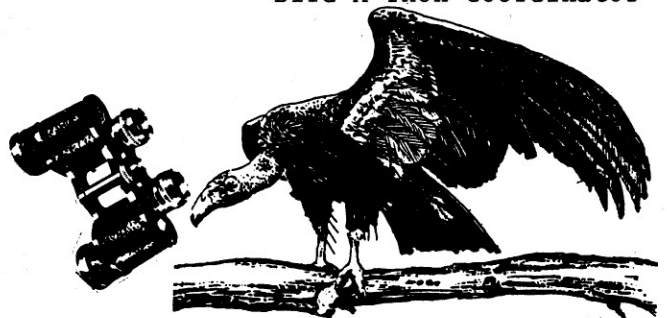
Santa Barbara Audubon therefore joins with Californians Against Waste in urging you to write your State Senator and Assemblyman and express your support for a California Bottle Bill. What could make more sense.



BIRD-A-THON

Santa Barbara Audubon raised a total of almost \$300.00 last April in the 1984 Bird-A-Thon. \$100.00 was returned to our chapter. The remainder will be used for various regional and national causes. Special thanks to Rob Lindsay, Chris Benesh, Teri Ogden, and Pat Kelley for their efforts.

Dean Bazzi
Bird-A-Thon Coordinator



EDUCATION COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

The demand for our shows by local schools is higher than ever. We will give you all the training you need. NO skills or experience necessary. If you can help, please call Minna Smith at 966-7971 today. We're counting on you.

TO THE SANTA BARBARA CITY COUNCIL AND THE PEOPLE OF SANTA BARBARA:

The board of directors of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society wishes to express its concern over the proposed expansion of the Santa Barbara Airport. The proposed 400-foot expansion of the main runway and the building of an accompanying taxiway and other associated developments would result not only in further irreversible damage to the Goleta Slough, but would also lead to an increased flood potential to the Goleta area and probably to increased noise and congestion in the region.

Wetland areas in California have been relentlessly filled in and degraded for over 100 years, with only a very small percentage of the original acreage remaining. Goleta Slough is only a small remnant of what it once was. These areas are rich in wildlife, support many species that are rare or endangered, act as nurseries for many types of fish, and serve as invaluable outdoor laboratories and recreation areas for people. Goleta Slough is no exception, and the proposed runway expansion will significantly reduce and fragment the habitat which remains. Goleta slough also acts as a natural sponge, reducing flood potential in the Goleta Area.

There is also concern over the actual need for this expansion. Does current or projected use support it? What are the city's long-term goals? It would seem that most citizens of the Santa Barbara region look upon the airport largely as a commuter facility for short-distance flights. Do they want to see a significantly expanded facility with more flights, more noise, more pollution, more congestion, and more building in the area? We think not. We do believe that the city of Santa Barbara should seriously reconsider the matter or, at the very least, explain why this expansion is so necessary as to justify further degradation of the area.

Sincerely,
Robert B. Lindsay
President
Santa Barbara Audubon Society

EL TECOLOTE
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
300 N. Los Carneros
Goleta, CA 93117

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Barbara, CA
Permit Number 125

**Dated
Material
Please Carry
Promptly**