

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

February, 1985
Volume 22, Number 2



SBAS Office
300 N. Los Carneros Rd.
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 984-1468

Robert Lindsay
President and Editor

- Feb. 27 General Meeting - Tonight our guest will be Will Murray of The Nature
Wednesday Conservancy who will be presenting the recently completed film "Santa
Cruz Island - the Garden of Eden". This film portrays not only the
tremendous beauty and diversity of our off-shore neighbor, but also
well explains the importance of preserving such rich and relatively
unspoiled natural treasures. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann
Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History and begin at 8:00 pm.
- March 27 General Meeting - In keeping with our theme of channel island shows
Wednesday this year, our guest this night will be Peter Howorth of the Marine
Mammal Institute. His program will highlight the flora and fauna of
several of the California channel islands. In addition, a short film
on the rehabilitation of marine mammals in Santa Barbara County will
be shown. Meetings are held in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the
Museum of Natural History and begin at 8:00 pm.

PARKER PROJECT OPPOSED BY SBAS

On March 12, the residents of Santa Barbara will have the opportunity to vote in a special election on the Hotel and Convention Center proposed for construction on East Beach by Fess Parker. After thorough consideration of the project, the SBAS board of directors urges a no vote on this matter.

Our reasons are many. While the current project is by far the best that has been proposed, it still contains numerous features we believe are detrimental to Santa Barbara. The size of the project is still such that a large increase in demand for our limited water supplies will result increasing pressure for importing water to our region (an expensive, growth inducing proposition).

This is but one of several such large projects proposed for our area. Passage of one sets a precedent for the others. The result could be expansion of the airport into what remains of the Goleta Slough to accommodate the guests of the national and international conferences for which these projects are designed.

East Beach is already suffering from traffic congestion and parking problems that can only be aggravated by the addition of such a large project making our beaches less accessible to the residents of Santa Barbara.

While a need for convention facilities exists in Santa Barbara, the need is not for the type of facilities the Parker project would provide. Few if any local
(con't. on pg. 4)

BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

By Paul Lehman

Highlights of the winter season after the Christmas Bird Count includes an unprecedented five immature Glaucous Gulls at Lompoc, all attracted to a local garbage dump. Normally we record only about one individual per year. In Santa Barbara, the wintering Greater Peewee, two Grace's Warblers, and Virginia's Warbler were all still present in February. A Warbling Vireo there was excellent for this time of year. Orchard Orioles and White-winged Doves in Goleta were also of significant interest. A White-winged Scoter on Lake Cachuma was exceptional for this inland lake, and 100 Wood Ducks there was an outstanding count.

Lastly, this winter has seen record invasions of Mountain Bluebirds and Red Crossbills to our region, with many small flocks and individuals scattered about the area.



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.

DICK SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

Once again it is time to begin the selection process for the Dick Smith Scholarship to the Audubon Ecology Camp of the West. We urgently need your help in securing top candidates for this \$575 award. Nominees need not be Audubon members.

In past years these scholarships have enabled teachers, rangers and writers to attend the camp, people who would otherwise not have been able to go, yet were in good positions to promote the cause of conservation of our natural resources. The scholarship covers all costs for one of the four two-week sessions, except transportation to and from the camp.

It is our aim to find candidates who have a strong interest in ecology and conservation, who have a background to gain much from the camp, and who offer promise of using the training to advance the cause of conservation. We therefore request that the following information be provided for each nominee: (1) evidence of interest and activity to date, (2) evidence of ability to profit from the camp training, (3) ways in which the training would be passed back into our community, and (4) financial need, if any.

Please submit nominations for this scholarship as soon as possible in order to insure a place in the session of our winner's choice. We hope to make a selection at the March 14 Board of Directors meeting. Please send your nomination to Carol Rae at the SBAS Office
300 N. Los Carneros Rd.
Goleta, CA 93117
or bring your nomination to the February General Meeting. Sorry to give such short notice. Please help us find a truly worthy recipient for this generous award.

SOUTH COAST BIRD REPORTS

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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS !!

February 27 General Meeting - See pg. 1 for details.
Wednesday

March 3 Field Trip - Lompoc & Surf. This trip should provide a bounty of shore birds and gulls. Recently, as many as five Glaucous Gulls, very rare in our area, have been seen. Don't miss this chance to see of the species that may soon be migrating out of our area. Meet in the K-Mart parking lot at Storke Rd. & Hollister Ave. at 7:30 am. This will be a ½-day trip.
Leader: John Flavin
965-4979

March 14 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 March issue of El Tecolote must be submitted by this meeting.
Thursday

March 9 Field Trip - Goleta Beach & vicinity. This popular local spot generally has an abundance of shore and ocean birds. In addition, the nearby creeks hold a good variety of riparian and land birds well worth searching for. Meet in the parking lot at Goleta Beach at 8:00 am for this ½-day trip.
Leader: Guy Tingos
687-8266
Saturday

March 17 Field Trip - Santa Maria area. Here's a chance to get to know our neighbor to the north and to see the spots so often mentioned on our rare bird alert. Jody Venema, president of the Santa Maria based Los Padres Audubon Society will be leading us around this often remarkable bird watching area. Meet at the K-Mart parking lot at Storke Rd. and Hollister Ave. at 7:30 am. We will carpool from there to Santa Maria. For information and details, call John Flavin at 965-4979.
Sunday

March 27 Field Trip - Nichols-Delongpre Ranch. This ranch, located on the shores of Lake Cachuma, is an outstanding birding area this time of year. Not only are the typical valley, woodland, and chaparral birds to be found there, but from this private ranch, many of the less common water birds that frequent Lake Cachuma can be seen, including Goldeneye ducks, Bald Eagle and Osprey; the list is potentially limitless. This is a rare opportunity not to be missed. Bring a lunch for this trip to enjoy on the ranch grounds. Meet at the Von's parking lot at Turnpike and Hollister Ave. at 7:30 am.
Leader: Jim Hodgeson
969-1209
Saturday

March 27 General Meeting - See pg. 1 for details.
Wednesday

March 31 Field Trip - Sandyland Slough. This Carpinteria marsh land is one of the finest coastal sloughs remaining in southern California. In addition to the usual good assortment of water birds, such species as the declining Clapper Rail can still be found. Meet at the Andree Clark Bird Refuge parking lot at 8:00 am for this ½-day trip.
Leader: Tom Worster
Sunday

Parker Project (con't)

organizations require space for 1,000 or more people the Parker Project would be designed to serve.

In addition, the project would put additional strain on the limited available housing as workers are drawn into the area. Much of the mountain views of East Beach would be blocked by the building. The list of certain and potential problems goes on and on.

We recognize that the position adopted by our board does not represent that of many of our members and other community leaders. We also feel that the proposed project is by far the best that has come forth. Be that as it may, it is our position that on balance, the project as proposed will have a serious and detrimental effect on our community and local environment. We therefore urge a no vote on March 12, a move that will insure that a more appropriate, less harmful use of the project area will be found. Please help to preserve the character and quality of our community. We can make a difference.

Robert Lindsay

SIERRA CLUB BANQUET ANNOUNCED

This years Annual Banquet of the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club has been scheduled for March 3rd at the Goleta Holiday Inn. The special guest will be National Sierra Club President Michelle Perrault. The evening will begin with a no-host cocktail hour at 6 pm., followed by a banquet style dinner at 7 pm. Those wishing to attend should send a check made out to the Sierra Club to Al Plack

2965 Arriba Way
Santa Barbara, CA
93105

The cost is \$12.50 per person. Please make reservations by February 28th.



GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOP

Three one-week Golden Trout Workshops will be held in the Sierra July 28 through August 17, 1985. It is sponsored by members of the Eastern Sierra, San Bernardino Valley, San Fernando Valley, Santa Barbara, and Tulare County chapters of the National Audubon Society. An informal field natural history program, consisting of naturalist-led hikes by resident naturalists, will be offered, with visiting guest naturalists at some sessions. The Camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, in the southern portion of the High Sierra, on the eastern watershed, at an altitude of 10,000 feet. For details, write or call: Cindi McKernan

40 Sherril Lane
Redlands, CA
92373
(714) 793-7897



DEAN BAZZI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

After long deliberation, details for the Dean Bazzi Memorial Scholarship have at last been settled. Working with the University of California, an annual scholarship will be awarded to a student at UCSB who has demonstrated ability in the fields of study that were dear to Dean. It is hoped that a candidate who has long been a resident of our community will be found each year with a strong academic record and in need of the financial assistance this scholarship will provide.

Many have given generously to create the fund from which the scholarship will be drawn. Special thanks to Marge Cappielo, SBAS board member, who has done so much to bring this project to fruition.

Thanks to all those who have helped, Dean will always be a part of SBAS.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS



Lake Cachuma - Feb. 3

13 people braved cold and winds but found it well worth while. Highlights included an adult Bald Eagle and 5 White-fronted Geese. Also seen were numerous Goldeneye ducks and several Common Mergansers. One Lewis' Woodpecker was seen. Ospreys were common and pairing. Nesting of these birds at the lake seems imminent.

John Flavin



North County - Feb. 9

The "cancelled" Carrizo Plains trip. An alternate trip had been planned in case of wet weather, which we had. Saturday morning at 5:00 O'clock, the stars were out and it was cold. The first stop was at Lompoc to see some gulls. We had to wait for the sun to come up, but the gulls were found at a small athletic field west of town. A number of Herring and Glaucous-winged gulls were seen in a flock of about 700 birds. Most unusual was a wayward Ross' Goose in the flock. Regrettably, no Glaucous or Thayer's Gulls were found. People walking dogs did scare up the flock about five times until the birds finally gave up and moved on.

The next stop was west of Santa Maria, via the Casmalia Road. A Ferruginous Hawk and many shore birds were seen. They included Long-billed Curlew, both Yellowlegs, Dowitcher, and Black-bellied Plover. Also, a flock of Canvasbacks were seen on a small reservoir.

The Cuyama Rd. had few places to turn off and stop, but Cottonwood Canyon Road was beautiful and interesting. The hills were grass covered and almost treeless. Raptors seen were Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, Merlin, and Cooper's Hawk. Other birds seen were Red-breasted Sapsucker, Phainopepla, Vesper Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow. A flock of Horned Larks was joined by a flock of House Finch. The rattle of Longspurs was heard but the bird was not seen. The return trip was through the hills to Sisquoc, then to Los Olivos on Foxen Canyon Rd.

John Flavin

Figueroa Mountain - January 26

A dozen Auduboners joined in this trip to one of the high peaks of the county. We stopped first at Lake Cachuma for some distant looks at Canadian Geese, Bald Eagle, Osprey, and a great variety of ducks.

Moving on to the mountain, the diversity was a little disappointing but the species seen were almost all exciting. Raptors abounded including Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, Turkey Vultures, and Kestrel. At the top of the mountain Red Crossbill were seen along with Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain Bluebird, White-throated Swift, Hairy Woodpecker, and Raven. As usual, the top also afforded great views of the sweep of the San Raphael Wilderness, a great lunch stop.

Rob Lindsay



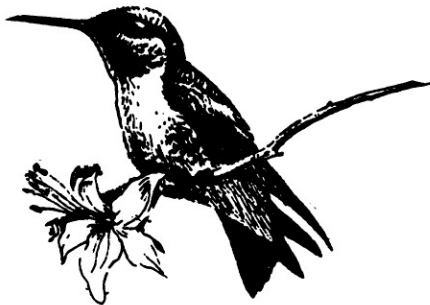
VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month it is my pleasure to select Joan Lentz as the SBAS Volunteer of the month. At the beginning of the year, Joan came forward to take over all of our Botanic Garden Walks. It is rare to find someone who cares enough to make that extra effort to keep our activities alive and functioning. Though attendance has been low at these walks this year, Joan has hung in there without complaint and I am very grateful for all the time and work she has given.

I regret that we have found it necessary to terminate this program for the remainder of the year (see article below) but I thank Joan for all she has done to keep it going. In addition to leading these walks this year, Joan has been an active participant in many SBAS activities, especially in the annual Christmas Count. I know she will continue to be an active and productive member, we are lucky to have her with us.

Thanks, Joan, for all you have done for us.

Robert Lindsay



BOTANIC GARDEN WALKS CANCELLED

We regret to announce that our Botanic Garden Walks have been cancelled for the remainder of this year. Attendance has been extremely low and so was determined to be an inefficient use of the manpower available. It is hoped that with better publicity this activity can be renewed next fall. Many thanks to Joan Lentz who has organized and led the walks that were given this year. Our apologies to any who are inconvenienced by the temporary suspension of these walks.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 1985-86 Board of Directors are now being accepted. If you know someone who would be interested in serving on the board, please let us know. Nominations should include the following information; the name of the nominee, the qualifications of that individual (skills or experience that would benefit the board), and a brief sketch of their background with SBAS and other volunteer organizations. Please be sure all nominees know they are being nominated, and be sure they will be willing to serve if elected.

Though help will be needed in many areas, it is critical that someone is found willing and able to take over production of this newsletter. I will provide all the training necessary to maintain the quality and variety the membership has come to expect from El Tecolote.

All nominations should be in writing and can be given to any chapter officer at any meeting, or mailed to the SBAS Office, 300 N. Los Carneros, Goleta, CA.

93117

Robert Lindsay



SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Our last Board Meeting was held February 14, 1985. Members present included Robert Lindsay, Louis Bevier, Carol Rae, Allan Bordofsky, Teri Ogden, Nancy Crawford, Paul Lehman, John Flavin, Eileen Gray, Marge Cappiello, Minna Smith, and Herb Drapkin.

Two guests were present at this meeting. Rose Thomson, a local biologist, presented a plan under consideration by the Santa Barbara Zoo to build a parking lot along the north shore of the bird refuge. Our opposition to the idea was made clear. Next, Phyllis Matola of the Sierra Club came to update us on the Parker Project. At her request, we consented to send a letter to our Santa Barbara resident members encouraging a no vote on this project.

Executive committee plans for the Dean Bazzi Memorial Scholarship were presented to and approved by the board. In addition, a contribution of \$1,000 to the fund by SBAS was approved.

Additional contributions to the S.B. Botanic Gardens and "Write Now" (a local conservation newsletter) were approved.

Herb Drapkin submitted a plan for a handicapped persons bird walk to be sponsored by SBAS. The idea was well received and will be investigated further by Messrs. Drapkin and Bevier. With luck, the event can be arranged this year.

Reminders were given to the board of the need to find new members for the '85-'86 Board of Directors, nominees for the Dick Smith Scholarship, and participants for this years' Bird-A-Thon. Business was concluded at 9:30 pm.

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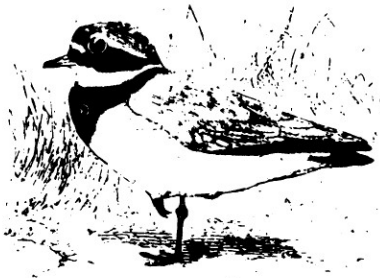
EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Spring nesting season is upon us. The Education Committee is prepared to answer the demand for our Spring slide shows. We go to both public and private schools from Carpinteria to Goleta and also answer calls from adult groups and Cachuma Lake Camp.

Our committee consists of Skye Bass (in charge of slides), in Santa Barbara - Lila Eisberg, Joe Boyd, and Virginia Collett, in Carpinteria - Jane Murray, in Goleta - Herb Drapkin, Iris Rigoli, and Nancy Crawford.

Many thanks for their consistent hard work and cooperation in spreading the beauty of our natural world. Any new volunteers are welcome to work with us. If you might be interested in becoming an Education volunteer, please call Minna Smith at 966-7971.

M. E. Smith



SBAS OFFICE NEWS

I am delighted to say that all at the office continues well. We now have a dependable staff of experienced volunteers and are open regularly, Monday through Friday from 10 until 2. We have also managed to get a good list of alternates to our regular staff when they are unable to attend and we are grateful that so many are willing to contribute their time and energy. More help is always needed however, so please let us know if you can join our growing staff of volunteers.

Our library continues to grow thanks to the many who have contributed so generously. New books are always needed if you have something to donate. All our books are available for loan to SBAS members. Stop by and see what's available.

We still have numerous items for sale at the office including bird checklists, local birding guides, SBAS patches, and the best birdseed in town, all at very reasonable prices.

Though staffing is better than ever, please be sure to call the office before you come visit to be absolutely certain a volunteer is present to serve you. Our apologies to any who have been unexpectedly inconvenienced in the past.

Robert Lindsay

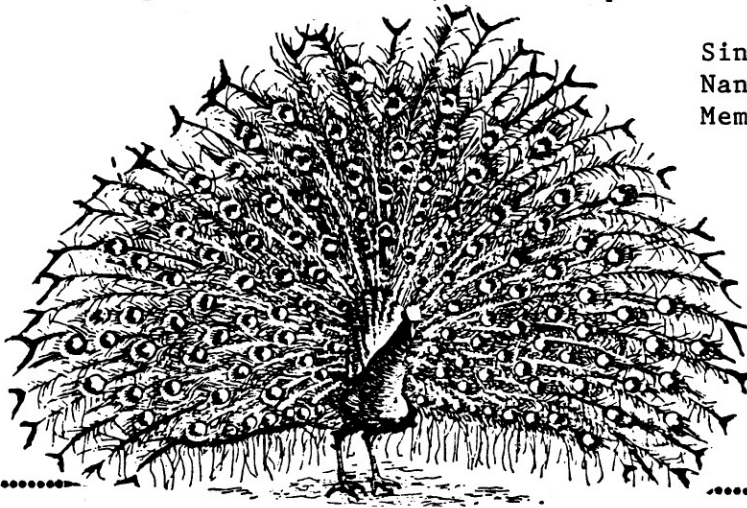
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We would like to welcome the following new members to our Santa Barbara Chapter of National Audubon: Walter Karpynka, Michael E. Libby, Ms. Lorraine Lorenzin, John Storrer, Glen Todd, Charlene Wilson, Kevin Black, Garry Hayes, Beverly and Bruce McCurdy, Robert G. Price, R. R. Blakeslee, Lou E. Chapell, the Pletcher family, David and Valerie Powdrell, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Redstock, and the Van DerHydens.

Also welcome to the following transfers to our chapter: Tina Boorey, Douglas Gould, Edward L. Bayly, and Mary Koth.

Spring is nearly here and it is time to think about attending our many outings and general meetings. Please attend, and we hope to meet you all.

Sincerely,
Nancy Crawford
Membership Chair



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(805) 964-1469

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