

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

April 1986

Volume 23, Number 3



SBAS Office
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Goleta, Ca 93117
(805) 964-1468

Hugh Ranson
Editor

APRIL MONTHLY PROGRAM

Friday, April 25, Dr. H. Elliot McClure of Camarillo, a retired ornithology professor, will be our guest speaker. His background is varied and unusual. Twenty five years in Asia as ornithologist for Walter Reed Army Institute of Research studying the ecology of birds and virus diseases of man enables him to give a fascinating glimpse of "Tropical Rainforests of South East Asia and their Wonders". The slides will reveal some of the birds, mammals and trees of Borneo, Thailand and Malaya.

Among his activities were: extensive bird banding, a study of pheasants and other game birds in Nebraska, a study of birds in the San Joaquin Valley, and director of an eight year international study of bird migration in Eastern Asia. At Iowa State University, he received a Ph.D. in wildlife management.

Dr. McClure has published many papers and four books. His latest book entitled "Bird Banding" appeared in 1984.

The meeting will begin at 8:00 pm in Farrand Hall of the Museum of Natural History. The best bird seed in the area will be on sale for your backyard bird feeders. Come and bring a friend for an enjoyable program.

HELP SAVE THE SALTON SEA

The Salton Sea is one of the most vibrant ecosystems in California, and is the home of huge numbers of birds of many species. According to a report compiled by Parsons Water Resources, the Sea could be dead as soon as 1995 due to excessive salinity levels. The problem is that the Sea receives all the irrigation run-off from Imperial and Coachella Valleys, and this water contains a significant level of dissolved salts. Since the Salton Sea has no surface outlet, all the water that departs is by evaporation, but the salt remains and its concentration increases. If it increases any further the ocean fish will no longer be able to survive, and so most of the water birds will disappear.

A major Catch-22 has been created. Farmers have been told to use less water, which means that the Sea's level will go down, and the concentration of salt will increase dramatically. The Imperial Irrigation District has issued a Notice of Preparation for what it should study in its Environmental Impact Report on the transfer of water out of the Imperial Valley. The Salton Sea Coordinating Council, an organization dedicated to saving the Sea, says we must have a Task Force, Lead Agency and a firm commitment to maintain the Sea as a surviving ecosystem PRIOR to any transfer of water or water rights.

To help save this invaluable area, please write immediately to:

Imperial Irrigation District, PO Box 937, Imperial, Ca 92251.

and send a copy to Governor Deukmejian, State Capitol, Sacramento, Ca 95814, giving your views.

BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

The late winter season of 1986 provided few additional records of note. While most of the rarities present throughout the winter remained into late February, few new finds were made. On Lake Cachuma, a Ross' Goose continued to be seen, and nine Mew Gulls there was an unprecedented occurrence so far inland. Unusually early spring arrivals in the Santa Barbara area included Rough-winged Swallows on February 13, Western Flycatcher on February 28, and Wilson's Warbler on March 5.

Slightly farther afield, a Ruff was at Pt. Mugu in early March, and a female Great-tailed Grackle was frequenting the Ventura Marina area during the same month.



SOUTH COAST BIRD REPORTS

Los Angeles
San Bernardino
San Diego

213/874-1318
714/793-5599
619/435-6761



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 Chris Benesh at 968-9434. Good birding !!!

SCHOLARSHIPS TO GOLDEN TROUT CAMP

SBAS will send two high school juniors or seniors to the 1986 Audubon Sierra Natural History Workshop in the Golden Trout Wilderness out of Lone Pine.

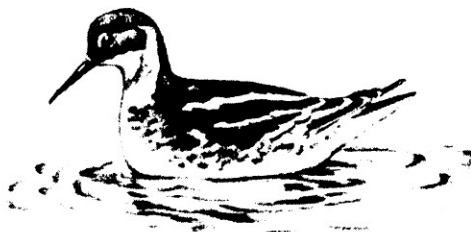
Applicants need not be Audubon members. The scholarships cover all costs for the July 20-26 session except transportation to and from the camp. Car-pooling is available with other local people.

It is our aim to find students who have an interest in ecology and conservation, and those who offer promise of the benefits of their experience. Applicants should write a paragraph or an outline of why they want to attend; their interests and activities; what they consider their benefits will be. Include a letter of recommendation from a teacher. Mail to the office c/o Audubon Golden Trout by May 3.

Golden Trout Camp, at 10,000 feet in the Southern Sierras near Mt. Whitney, is a backpack camp: food and supplies are brought in by muletrain. Guests carry in their own sleeping bags and personal belongings. Four to six people share a large tent with canvas cots. There is a central log cooking and dining cabin. Daily hikes with professional naturalists and informal evening sessions around the campfire make the camp a serene, fun, enriching experience.

For more information call me at 964-3827. I can send you a brochure describing the camp more fully.

Carol Rae



DICK SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

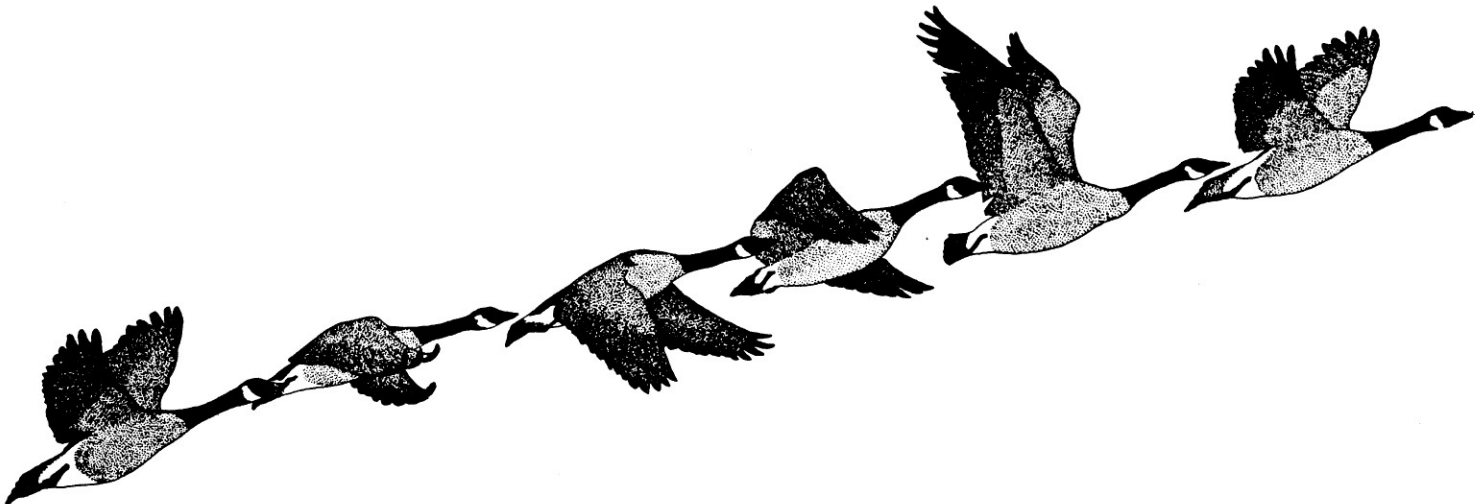
Congratulations to John Sterner as the recipient of SBAS' scholarship to Audubon's Camp of the West in Wyoming. John is the project assistant for the Nature Conservancy Santa Cruz Island project, and will soon be taking over the duties of directing the Nature Conservancy's public education program. In that capacity, the teaching techniques and other knowledge he picks up from the camp will be directly applied to educational programs promoting the preservation of biological diversity.

Our special thanks to the very qualified people who applied,

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Sunday
April 6
Saturday
April 12
Devereux Slough- See last months issue for details.
- Figueroa Mountain- This spring trip will provide the opportunity to see some of the montain specialities, like Cassin's Finch, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch and Mountain Quail. In addition, there should be a wealth of wildflowers. Meet at the Von's parking lot at the intersection of Hollister and Turnpike at 7:30 am.
Leader: Chris D. Benesh
968-9434
- Sunday
April 20
Big Sycamore Canyon (Pt Mugu State Park)- Spring migration will be in full swing as we return to this diverse area which Audubon has not visited in several years. We should see a great variety of migrants as we walk through some of the many habitats that this area provides.
Leader: John Flavin
965-4979
- Friday
April 25
Saturday
April 26
Monthly Program- See page one for details.
- Nojoqui Fall Park- Spend a scenic spring morning in this attractive area which hosts the very local Purple Martins and the endemic Yellow-billed Magpie. We will meet at the lot near Jack in the Box on Storke and Hollister at 7:30 pm. Bring a lunch. Half-day trip.
Leader: Joan Lentz
969-4397
- Saturday-Sunday
May 3-4
Antelope Valley Weekend- Don't miss this wonderful desert trip. We will bird in and around Lancaster at the peak of migration, so birds should abound. Additionally, there should be a multitude of wildflowers. We will tentatively plan on staying overnight at Saddleback Butte campground. There is no limit, but if you plan on attending, please contact the leader so that he can get a rough estimate. We will leave from the Museum of Natural History at 6:00 am. Bring food and camping gear.
Leader: Jim Hodgson
969-1209
- Sunday
May 11
Refugio Road- This route should provide a good variety of songbirds passing through on their way north, many of which will be in full song. Plus an abundance of plants to look at. Meet at the corner of Storke and Hollister in the K-Mart lot at 8:00 am.
Leader: Blase Mafia
685-4930 (evenings)

*Upcoming boat-trip on May 25. More details in the next tecolote.



The Christmas Bird Count.

by Jane Braydon

Piercing the dawn comes trump of Chanticleer,
"All creatures great and small, depend on me!"
Leaving his couch, hearing the summons clear,
The birder sighs. "The Christmas Count," groans he.

Zeiss Ikon glasses swinging from his neck,
The field-guide in capacious pocket placed,
Of weekly cares he gladly clears the deck,
With winged rarities to be replaced.

Along the beach sonorous breakers pound.
The scoter sits secure within the wave;
The whimbrel lifts oblique his plaintive sound,
While sanderlings their sand-mole dinners save.

Leaving the beach, ascending up the bank,
Listing more starlings with one shamefaced stroke,
Scramble alike the critic and the crank,
Testy at crow's admonitory croak.

The eucalyptus grove pulsates with life;
Warblers abound, most with a yellow rump,
But far more thrilling is the chance to see
The broad-billed hummer on the dead pine stump.

Will the hepatic tanager appear,
Red-shouldered hawks scream warnings in the sky?
Will chatty bush-tits so bemuse the ear
That meadowlarks soar unobserved by?

Competitive, we scan the rich terrain,
Not always knowing what is peering out,
Slogging through mud and surf and often, rain,
To hear afar companions' triumph shout.

When finally tolls the knell of parting day,
The weary group winds slowly o'er the lea
To tally birds from eagle down to jay,
Widening our grasp of ornithology.

For whom does this odd pastime hold reward,
To strive, to seek, to find, then to commune?
These birds banal or rare we must record,
That their fresh notes may keep our lives in tune.

HOSPITALITY

Many thanks to the people who have brought goodies to our monthly meetings, particularly Betty Bazzi and Caroline Frost who have graced our table with their healthy offerings. Thanks also to the woman who brought delicious brownies in December, but who unfortunately I don't know by name, because we have your serving platter and wish to return it. Everyone is welcome to share their favorite nibbles, cookies, cakes, at the monthly meetings- feel free to bring 'em.

We enjoy the opportunity to get acquainted with more of you, so see you at the monthly meetings!



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Greetings! Hopefully our Spring programs will resume in April. We need volunteers to train and participate in taking our slide shows to the schools. If we do not enlarge our personnel we may have to cancel our program entirely!

Five classes participated in our Audubon Adventures, the National Audubon Society second year course. Five teachers will receive their diplomas. Thank you for your participation.

Minna E. Smith
966-7971

THANKS!

Many thanks to Mrs. Lorene Noel for her gift to SBAS in memory of her husband, Frank Noel.

We also thank the anonymous donor for an addition to the library. It is Carpenteria Salt Marsh (Environmental, History, and Botanical Resources of a Southern California Estuary) by Wayne R. Ferren, Jr., UCSB Herbarium.

OFFICE

Join the office crew! We need one more volunteer 10-2 one day per week. Call the office if you can help.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Welcome to the following Jan. 1986 members:

Mrs. Donald Streeter, Fred Keller, John Applegate, Mrs. T H Barker, M. Chadbourne, Rosemary Chase, Mrs. Robert Foust, R.B. Garcia, Mrs. Eve P Gill, Mr Eric Hopson, Joan Philip Hoskins, Mrs Ruth E. Klanderud, Ausma Lacey, Mrs. C.L. Nelson, Burke O'Connor, Bridget Recht, Kenneth Richmond, Mrs. Doris R. Stern, MR. Robert D. Sweet, Chris Cynthia Thompson, Kenneth P. Turner, P.J. Kelleher Wener, William Wollett, Joanne Stevens, Kym Ostensen, Dorothy Coe, Allison Atwill, Anne and Arthur Brown, Mrs. William Tomkins, Edward Engberg, Andy Rooney, The Kpeikins, Ruth L. Carr, Marilyn J. Ulvaeus.

I'm constantly updating and trying to keep up with the mailing list, so if you have questions or need a Tecolote, give me a call at 964-3827.

Carol Rae



WHY YOU SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO AMERICAN BIRDS

American Birds, formerly Audubon Field Notes, is in its 39th year of publication. Published by the National Audubon Society five times a year, American Birds contains numerous articles on many ornithological topics plus regional reports from all areas of the United States and Canada. There is an issue for each season plus the giant Christmas Bird Count issue, which is published each summer or fall. American Birds fills a niche between the purely technical journals and the backyard oriented publications. It is easy and fun to read for anyone with a basic knowledge of birds, yet the articles can be of serious scientific value.

Subscriptions are \$25 per year. Mail checks, payable to American Birds, to American Birds, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

On 3/18/86, board members Chris Benesh, Marge Cappiello, Jim Hodgson, Teri Ogden, Carol Rae, Minna Smith and Audrey von Bieberstein met at Jim Hodgson's house.

The board took care of the usual business such as reading of the minutes from the previous meeting, then moved onto the business of this meeting. The memorial checklist for Dean Bazzi will be called "Wildlife in Santa Barbara Botanic Garden". It will be a list of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and will include a table of the seasonal abundance of birds in the Botanic Garden. It was announced that Nancy Crawford will be our spokesperson on the Lake Los Carneros Nature and Historical Park development. The board decided to continue the T-shirt contest for another month.

The Dick Smith Scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West was awarded to John Stern, and two Golden Trout Scholarships will be offered to high school students. The Annual Picnic will be a catered affair at Camp Alegre across from Lake Cachuma on June 1st (see details in annual picnic article). The annual Bird-a-Thon is coming up (see bird-a-thon article) and we need everyone to participate to make this a good year.

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on April 10th at Minna Smith's house. Nominations for next year's board are being made, so come and help us out!

Teri Ogden

NOMINATIONS FOR 86-87 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If there is anyone who would like to be on the board, now is the time to come forward. You don't have to be a member of Audubon to become an S.B. Audubon Board member. If you have an interest in nature and a concern for the environment then this is for you. You don't even have to be a birdwatcher! Anyone interested should contact either the present members of the board or the S.B. Audubon office before the next board meeting.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Our annual picnic will be held on June 1st. This time we decided to have it catered. The menu is a Santa Maria style barbeque including ball tip, beans, salad, dessert, punch and coffee, all for \$5! The location of the picnic is Camp Alegre, across from Lake Cachuma. There is a pool available, and of course, the lake for boating. There will be a bird walk at 10:00 am (leader Jim Hodgson) and the dinner begins at 1:00 pm. Members are welcome to the meeting even if they don't want the dinner. This is when the new board will be voted in, so we need everyone there!

Reservations should be in by May 22nd, and checks made payable to S.B. Audubon Society. They should be sent to the Audubon office, attn. "Annual Picnic". See you there!

AUDUBON BIRDATHON

Audubon Birdathon is upon us again. If anyone would like to participate, contact Minna Smith through the Audubon office. To be a counter you may have as few or as many sponsors as you want. The count period is the month of April so you can pick the day. You can even pick the area you want to bird, it doesn't have to be in Santa Barbara. In fact there is a field trip to the Antelope Valley which in the past has proven to be a gold mine for Birdathon counters. Our chapter gets part of the money raised, and it is for a good cause. Just clip out the form and mail it in or contact the office.

Good luck and good birding!

"DOWN UNDER" ANYONE?

The US Cultural and Sports Society is planning a three week trip to the Australian State of Queensland for 13-17 year olds. The group will study tropical rainforests, national parks, and will snorkel at the Great Barrier Reef. The trip will go from June 14th to July 5th, 1986, and the cost is \$1500. For more information call Bridget or Diana Recht at 962-9798.



**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
WESTERN REGION**
555 Audubon Place
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 481-5332

AUDUBON BIRDATHON '86

Our chapter is taking part in the National Audubon Society Birdathon '86. We need the support of all members to make it a success. This chapter's top birders will be going out to count as many bird species as they can in a 24-hour period in order to raise money for the chapter and for the National Audubon Society. Won't you help us? **Here's how:**

1. BE A COUNTER. Recruit sponsors to pledge a sum of money (you might suggest ten cents as a minimum contribution) for each bird species you count during the Birdathon.

2. BE A SPONSOR. Use the form below to sponsor our chapter's best birders. Or you can sponsor NAS's new president, Peter Berle, in his first Leadership Birdathon.

Contributions to Audubon Birdathon '86 are tax deductible and are split evenly between this chapter and the National Audubon Society's regional office to support our work to save birds and other wildlife and the habitat necessary for their survival.

— Count on me to be a COUNTER in our chapter Birdathon '86. Send me details right away!

— Count on me to be a SPONSOR in our chapter Birdathon '86. I pledge _____ cents/dollars per species. (My maximum contribution would not exceed \$_____).

— I would like to sponsor **NAS President Peter Berle** in Leadership Birdathon '86. I pledge _____ cents/dollars per species identified by Peter. My maximum contribution would not exceed \$_____.

— This chapter's best birders are so good, I'm afraid of the effect on my pocketbook. I'd rather send in a straight contribution of \$_____ to support Birdathon '86. Here's my check.

Sponsor Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Return this form to: **Chapter Birdathon Coordinator**

(fill in chapter address here)

Attn: Minna Smith
Santa Barbara Audubon Office
300 N. Los Carneros Rd.
Goleta, Ca 93117

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Committed to the sound use and conservation of our natural resources

SBAS OFFICE
300 North Los Carneros
Goleta, California 93117
(805) 964-1468

OFFICERS

President		
Vice-President		
Secretary	Terl Ogden	964-6572
Treasurer	Guy Tingos	687-8266
Office Coordinator	Audrey von Bleberstein	967-2866
Newsletter Editor	Hugh Ranson	968-5165

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Dahlke	683-3315
Jim Hodgeson	969-1209
Rare Bird Alert	964-8240

EL TECOLOTE, the SBAS Newsletter, is published 11 times annually and is free to members. Subscriptions to non-members cost \$10.00. For information about membership, please call our office.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips	Chris Benesh	968-9434
Programs	Marge Cappiello	967-9569
Publicity	Herb Drapkin	683-3374
Education	Minna Smith	966-7971
Conservation	Chris Benesh	968-9434
Membership	Carol Rae	964-3827
Library	Audrey von Bleberstein	967-2866
Hospitality	Carol Rae	964-3827
Christmas Bird Count	Paul Lehman	967-2450
Rare Bird Alert	Chris Benesh	968-9434

Monthly programs are held at 8:00 pm in Farrand Hall at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on the 4th Friday of each month, September through May. The November-December program is held the 1st Friday of December. Non-members are welcome to attend.

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

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