

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

May, 1986

Volume 23, Number 4



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

Hugh Ranson
Editor

MAY MONTHLY PROGRAM

Friday, May 23rd, Dr. Elton L. Morel of La Canada, a retired surgeon, will present a slide program on the birds of Australia and New Zealand, called "Wildlife Down Under". Dr. Morel is a member of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society and leads their trips to the Mojave Narrows. He has presented programs to various groups in Southern California, using his photographs taken on trips in the U.S., Africa, etc..

If you were able to see some of our past programs in recent months, you will not want to miss this opportunity to enjoy another fascinating presentation, and to meet Dr. Morel.

The program will begin at 8:00 PM. in Farrand Hall of the Museum Of Natural History. This will be your last chance to buy the best millet and black sunflower birdseed in town for summer feeding of your backyard bird visitors. Of course it will be available at the Audubon Office at the Goleta Railroad Depot building. Bring the family and meet some new folks who also enjoy birds while you gather around the refreshment table after Dr. Morel's talk.

Our June program will be an event you will certainly want to plan to attend. Look for an early announcement.

THE WILDBIRD REHABILITATION CENTER

At the present time the Santa Barbara Zoo no longer takes in sick, injured, or oily seabirds. This task has been taken up by the Wildbird Rehabilitation center, a non-profit organization that has been running for fifteen years, and currently has thirteen members.

As you can imagine, operating the center is a 25 hour-a-day job; oiled birds need constant attention if they are to stand a chance of being returned to the wild. Expenses for running the center are endless: approximately \$80 per 50 pounds of herring, of which 5 pounds are used per day. They need to pay for medications, which they get at cost.

The center hopes to receive a grant from the oil companies or some other source, but in the meantime they desperately need:

- 1) A location to house the birds (shed, barn, house, etc.)
- 2) Donations, which are tax deductible.
- 3) Volunteers are needed to care for the birds, to write grants, and as fund raisers.

If you can help in any way, call 967-5394, or 684-1300, or write to the Wildbird Rehabilitation Center at PO Box 4, Carpinteria, Ca 93013.

With increased oil production in the Santa Barbara channel, the incidence of birds being oiled is bound to increase, and the Rehabilitation Center will need our support. The grebes, scoters and murrelets all need our help.

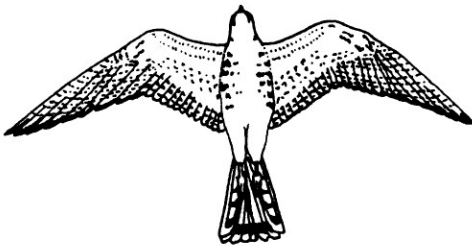


BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

By Paul Lehman

Although not thought of as a particularly exciting time of year, late March and early April produced several sightings of interest in the Santa Barbara region. In March, a Ruff and an Oldsquaw were found near Santa Maria; both birds presumably wintered locally. Also late that month, a migrant Swainson's Hawk was at El Capitan State Beach, and a Pectoral Sandpiper was in Goleta; the former is now a casual migrant in this region, and the latter is an uncommon but regular fall transient, but is casual in spring.

In April, two Elegant Terns in Goleta were exceptionally early; the species does not typically appear until July.



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 !!!

OFFICE NEWS

Your office still needs volunteers and substitutes. We have regular staff only three days a week at present. You don't have to know birds or all the answers to the great variety of queries received. Mostly, we need to answer telephone calls and serve as a communications exchange (writing messages for board members, sending out membership applications, giving information from the office material, etc.)



We check library books in and out and of course sell bird seed and other items we stock. Easy! On slow days you'll have time for birding out the window and browsing among the books. Give us a call!

We have on the bulletin board a brochure listing the Natural Excursions of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory from April through November. These are two to six-day trips to a wide variety of dynamic habitats of the bird world. We also have other travel brochures in the office.

SKYE BASS SHOW

Former board member Skye Bass is having a one man show at a new local gallery: The Cultural Arts Gallery at 536 Brinkerhoff, at the corner of Brinkerhoff and Cota Street.

In a multimedia presentation, Skye will be displaying very large ceramic pieces, many with animal motifs, and photographs.

All Audubon members are invited to attend the opening soiree on Friday, May 2nd, from 7-9:00pm. Regular hours at the gallery are noon- 5:30 pm., Friday-Sunday, or by appointment (805) 965-4626.

The show runs through May 31st.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May 3-4 is the Antelope Valley Weekend (See last issue for details).

Monday, May 5 Board of Directors Meeting - See "Splinters" for details.

Sunday, May 11 Refugio Road - See last months issue for details. **Leader:** Blase Mafia
685-4930

Thursday May 22 The Tyrrell's Hummingbird Presentation - Word has it that Robert and Esther Tyrrell are returning to Santa Barbara to give a repeat performance of their hummingbird presentation. If you missed their recent visit, this is an experience not to be missed. Call the Natural History Museum for confirmation and further details. The starting time is 7:30 pm.

Friday May 23 Monthly Meeting - See page one for details.

Sunday, May 25 Boat Trip - This all day pelagic trip will take us to the waters around and north of San Miguel Island during the peak of the spring pelagic season. As this is an all day trip please bring a lunch and your favourite motion sickness medicine. Food will also be available on board. The cost is \$32.75. To make reservations, call John Flavin at 965-4979. Meet at the Sea Landing Boat Dock no later than 5:30 am. Make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon.

Saturday, May 31 Pine Mountain - This all day trip will be in search of montaine species such as Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Quail and White-headed Woodpecker, to name but a few. Meet at 7:00 am. at the Bird Refuge, and bring lunch.
Leader: Guy Tingos
687-8266

Sunday, June 1st Audubon Annual Picnic : Morning birdwalk - As part of this year's picnic at Camp Alegre, Jim Hodgson will lead an informal birdwalk beginning at 10:00 am. The picnic begins at 1:00 pm.

June 7-8. Morongo Valley Weekend - This is an outstanding place for birding in the springtime. Possibilities include Brown-crested Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, and a whole host of other migrants. We will likely camp at Joshua Tree National Monument, but check with the leader for any last minute changes. Meet at the entrance to the Morongo Valley Nature Preserve at 8:30 am. Take Interstate 10 to Highway 62. The preserve is adjacent to Covington Park in the town of Morongo Valley.

Leader: Jim Hodgson
969-1209

June 14-15. Mt. Pinos - This will be an overnight trip to a unique montaine habitat close to Santa Barbara. In addition to the possibility of Condors, this trip should provide many special mountain birds like Calliope Hummingbird, Townsend's Solitaire, Dusky Flycatcher, and others. Also, many of the meadows will be in bloom. Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 6:00 am.

Leader: John Flavin
965-4979

August. Salton Sea - For any of the more adventurours birders, we will take a weekend jaunt down to the sea. This is a marvelous area for birds, though it will be quite hot during the day. Many species found here are found nowhere else in California. Examples include : Laughing Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, and many more. There is always the possibility of some great rarity showing up as well. More details will be published in the next Tecolote.

Leader: Jim Hodgson
969-1209

THE LAST WORD

And Now Some Answers

by Charles Secrett

Conservation groups first made their marks by rallying popular concern for the protection of endangered species. Campaigns to save the Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* and the Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, the big cats and the great whales, were founded on the notion of dragging species like these back from the edge of extinction, usually by setting up 'no-go' areas protected from development and by stopping the trade in threatened species.

But while this strategy has achieved its limited goals, it has sowed the seeds of its own ultimate failure: It is simply not enough to demarcate isolated zones for the conservation of a relatively few colourful species that capture the popular imagination. There is always the danger that either these reserves won't be big enough (look what's happening to the Philippine Eagle *Pithecophaga jefferyi*) or that it simply isn't possible to maintain the integrity of such places in the face of destructive development. Once the range of a species has been severely reduced, it becomes highly vulnerable to all forms of secondary pressures - hunting, disease, introduced predators. A huge number of less "appealing" species continue to disappear in the meantime, virtually unnoticed (except perhaps to naturalists).

Many tropical governments, such as Brazil, Indonesia, Costa Rica, and Cameroon, have set aside relatively large proportions of their forests as National Parks, wildlife reserves, or ecological stations. Yet every year 200,000 sq km of rainforest, an area larger than England, Scotland, and Wales, is destroyed or seriously degraded. With up to half of all the world's species dependent on these forests, and at least one becoming extinct every few hours, their protection is imperative. Large reserves provide a start, but they are not the solution. If we want to conserve the widest diversity of life, we must tackle the prime cause of extinction, namely habitat destruction, directly.

Brazil contains nearly a third of the world's remaining rainforest; it is home to an estimated 20 percent of all bird species. But many, including the Harpy Eagle *Harpia harpyja* and the Hyacinth Macaw *Andorhynchus hyacinthinus*, are critically endangered despite Brazil's extensive wildlife reserves. Amazonia, largely untouched until recently, stands to lose up to 60 percent of its remaining rainforests within the next two decades. Similarly, Indonesia condones the logging of at least 600,000 ha of its primary rainforest every year, yet 16 percent of all known bird species, one quarter of them endemic, reside in the forests.

So, what is the answer?

First of all, identify who is actually destroying the forests. The fuelwood gatherer uses an estimated 25,000 sq km annually; the cattle raiser, confined to

Latin America, destroys 20,000 sq km; commercial logging accounts for at least 45,000 sq km; and, finally, landless, desperately poor, slash-and-burn forest farmers are responsible for up to 160,000 sq km (much of it previously forested land). Mines, roads, agricultural plantations, and huge capital projects like dams also take their toll. Protecting forests means redirecting these resource-hungry developers.

Take the international timber industry. Because hardwood supplies have been plentiful in the past, the industry is extremely wasteful. In Africa, for instance, good timber is cut and left in order to extract only one or two saleable species. (According to the industry's own journal *World Wood*, "Reforestation rarely follows, and sustained yield management is almost unheard of.") In Malaya, it has been found that 55 percent of the forest is destroyed, though only 10 percent of the trees are actually harvested. And in soil compacted by heavy machinery and vulnerable to erosion, regrowth is virtually impossible. Moreover, for every cubic metre of wood sold, at least 1¼ cubic metres is lost in the processing.

None of this is necessary. Secondary disturbed forests could provide many of the main timber products. Plantations, another obvious long-term solution, are being established at only one-tenth of felling rates. And greater care could be taken in extracting valuable species, replanting, allowing regeneration, and reducing waste.

Since 1950, almost two thirds of Central America's lowland rainforests have been cleared or seriously degraded to produce cheap beef, 90 percent of it for export to the West. Importing countries should ensure that beef produced at the expense of rainforest is discouraged through tariffs and quotas.

Telling a developing nation how to use its natural resources smacks of imperialism and is politically untenable. Nevertheless, it's an economic fact of life that tropical governments usually exploit their natural raw materials in ways largely governed by commercial interests in the industrial world.

The World Bank, for instance, has been instrumental in the past in loaning billions of dollars for grandiose dam, road, cattle-ranching, cash crop plantation, and transmigration schemes that have directly (or indirectly through attracting subsidiary developments) resulted in the destruction of vast areas of rainforest. The EEC, other multilateral development agencies like the European Development Fund, and many bilateral aid programmes are equally culpable.

We are therefore part of the problem, as it is our taxes that are used to fund these projects. The aid agencies often have very strict conditions to minimise the environmental impact of the developments they fund. But they are rarely enforced, due to a lack of resources, corruption, or grossly inadequate pre-

liminary surveying. It's not necessary to cut development aid to protect the environment, but a much more rigorous programme of appropriate and sustainable development projects, the implementation of environmental safeguards, and the political will to make these things happen are essential if rainforests and the species that inhabit them are to be protected.

It's a huge task, but we believe this is the way to approach it (from species to systems). It will only be possible if environmental, development, and human rights organisations around the world contribute. Many have already shown what can be done.

Charles Secrett is the Friends of the Earth International Rainforest Coordinator

International Council of
Bird
Preservation



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"THE BIRD TAPE BLUES"

"Seen any good birds lately?".
"Call up the tape and see if there are any new birds to chase."

This is a familiar conversation between active local birders, and birders visiting from out of town. All of us have called the Rare Bird Tape at some time to find out about the latest interesting sightings. Before taking on the task of doing the tape myself, I was one of the most frequent callers.

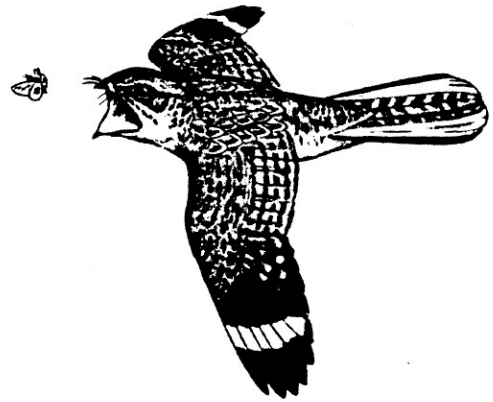
The bird tape evolved as a means of letting the birding community know of unusual birds in the area, and it is often a very effective way of letting people know what is around. But no bird tape is without its flaws, and there are many factors which limit its effectiveness. I am going to bring up some of these points, so one can understand why the tape isn't everything we'd like it to be.

The biggest complaint about the tape is that it doesn't come out often enough, except in fall. This may be partly true, but during other seasons there is often little seen and/or reported that truly qualifies as rare or unusual. Often when the tape remains the same for a long time, the birds are likewise the same.

But why don't certain rare birds make it onto the tape? There are a couple of reasons for this. First, many birds find themselves on private property. Most people do not want twenty people marching through their yard at the crack of dawn. Unless we get permission from the landowners, these birds cannot be put on the tape. That would be an invasion of privacy. Fortunately, most rare birds do wind up where people can see them.

But what of that rare bird that turns up Saturday morning on the mudflats at Devereux? Well, unless it stays through Monday it will not be on the tape. This is not because I don't want people to see the bird, but is rather because I only have access to the machine weekdays from 9am to 5pm. At all other times I am unable to get into our office to change the tape. This problem occurs typically only during migration.

This next problem is perhaps the most difficult for me to deal with.



When a bird is reported it is up to me to determine whether or not the bird was correctly identified. It is important to have relatively certain identifications, as many others will spend much time looking for the bird. If I decide that the bird is possibly something rare, I ask the reporter for details and then check them both myself and with the advice of some local experts. Between us, someone tries to refind the bird and/or decide whether the details are conclusive. We are not out to "shoot down" anyone's sighting, but we want to be reasonably sure of a bird's identity. And it is not news to anybody that that many groups of birds represent sizable identification problems, eg. fall warblers, gulls and shorebirds. We tend to be on the conservative side, and probably fail to include many valid sightings.

Finally, it is often said that I speak too fast to be understood. This is true, but I also have to say a lot in a small amount of time. One method that I used to use when I called the Rare Bird Tape was to record it off the 'phone, using either a portable tape recorder or an answering machine. This way you can play back the tape in small segments to get down all the information you need.

So the next time you get frustrated with the tape, remember that I share those frustrations as well. But the tape can provide information that would otherwise be hard to come by.

Chris D. Benesh



WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

About 800 Audubon members from the Western Region of the United States, including Alaska, gathered at the Asilomar Conference Center for this biennial conference. I attended as the delegate from Santa Barbara Audubon, and several other Santa Barbara members (including Anne Eissler, my "driver" and roommate) were present.

The special emphasis of the conference was Wetlands and the Protection of Old Growth Forests, but the overall program included lectures and slide shows, a preview of the California Condor film exclusively for Auduboners at the outstanding Monterey Aquarium, a field trip chosen from the six offered (I went to sea with Alan Baldrige), displays and presentations (such as The Book Nest), and approximately 40 workshops during the mornings and afternoons.

Peter Berle (pronounce "Burley"), National Audubon Society's new president, gave the keynote address. He spoke of the California Condor as a symbol and outlined some steps necessary to its continued existence in the wild.

Of the many workshop sessions offered, I attended those on National Audubon's Education Program, Audubon in the World (international issues), The Audubon Wildlife Report (a new, invaluable reference book- a guide to wildlife management in the United States and the agencies involved), a Priorities Setting Session (for N.A.S. and chapters), Acid Rain and the Clean Air Act, Population (Audubon has had a program since 1979), and the Ballona Wetland Project of N.A.S. (accessible to urban Los Angeles).

Just a brief explanation of the priorities session: Every two years the chapters vote on the three issues to receive top priority by N.A.S. and the chapters. Each region (there are ten in the U.S.) goes through a voting process and

finally (about April/May 1987) National Audubon will identify the three issues receiving the most votes nationwide. The Western Region priorities are Wetlands, Old Growth Forests, and Protection of Riparian Habitat.

Well, you can see that Audubon is not just birds. What a variety of complex problems Audubon addresses! There are so many hundreds doing so many jobs--which brings up the most obvious way we can all support Audubon's good works: national membership. Another way, of course, is writing our legislators. Over and over, workshop speakers urged chapters to get excited and mobilized, stating emphatically that Congresspeople do respond to letters and that N.A.S. depends on our letters to make progress, especially in international matters (because Congresspeople don't get much mail on such issues).

This report doesn't begin to cover, or even mention, many of the important topics discussed or Audubon leaders participating. I'll keep notes and printed material in the office in case you have specific questions (and upon special request I'll show you my Conference T-shirt!). Seriously, I urge more of you to attend future conferences. I kept wishing you were there. Thank you for sending me.

Audrey von Bieberstein



SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

On Monday evening, April 7th, 1986, board members Chris Benesh, Herb Drapkin, Jim Hodgson, Teri Ogden, Carol Rae, Minna Smith, Guy Tingos and Audrey von Bieberstein met at Minna Smith's home. Brooks Allen, Eric Rosa, and Virginia Collett were guests that evening.

The board reviewed nominations for the 86/87 board which included Brooks Allen, Chris Benesh, Marge Cappiello, Herb Drapkin, Jim Hodgson, Carol Rae, Eric Rosa, Hugh Ranson, Minna Smith, Guy Tingos and Audrey von Bieberstein. There is room for more people to be on the board (the capacity is fifteen members) if anyone is interested. The new board will be voted in on June 1st at the annual picnic.

Speaking of picnics, everything is all set and ready to go. The board decided to offer a car pool service to the picnic. If anyone needs a ride or is interested in giving a ride please contact the office. This is to encourage people to come and get acquainted. Don't forget to make your reservations early.

The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on May 5th, at Audrey von Bieberstein's home (4690 La Espada Drive, Santa Barbara)

Teri Ogden

ANNUAL PICNIC

Our annual picnic will be on June 1st. The menu is a Santa Maria style barbeque, including ball tip, beans, salad, dessert, punch and coffee, all for \$5! For children from 5-11, the cost is \$2:50, and children under 5 can come for free.

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".

Directions: Take Route 154 (San Marcos Pass Road). Turn left 1/2 mile before Cachuma Lake entrance (sign on left says "Camp Alègre, Cachuma Camp, Camp Cielo"). Watch for flagged signs from then on.

We suggest that people carpool. If you need, or can offer, a ride, call office. (Meeting place : 5 Points, next to Big 5. Park away to edge.)

Bird walk will start at 10:00 am. Plates, utensils furnished. Bring the whole family! Birding, walking, swimming, boating, eating, relaxing, election of new officers and board.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members for March, '86:

John Milton, Anne Streeter, Fred Keller, Barbara Schaefer, J.E. Armeson, Ameyalli N. Ayala, Betty Burkhart, L. Cable, Rosalie F. Cervntes, Pat Cramer, Cherie DE Jong, Silvia Dobson, Fred Dowhower, Gregory Gartrell, Dr. Robert Good, A. Graf, Ruby E. Hill, Mike and Irmhild Hahn, Ken Kruger, Mary Mason,

P. Mooney, William Mooney, Harry Proctor, Mrs. Robert W. Puddicombe, Joann M. Robin, Jerry Rogers, Mary R. Rose, Louis Andaloro, B.L. Beaudette, Marjorie Boyle, G. Chapman, S. Clay, Carolyn Crawford, H. Declercq, H. Lee Dodd, Jr., Mrs V.M. Eyestone, Edward F. Flores, Corinne Gallagher, Charlotte Honeywell, Diana Irwin, Anita Lewis, Katherine Mason, Sandy Messor, Ms. Jordan Mo, Mr. P. Orr, Dr. William Otto, Sherilyn C. Phenix, Connie Pratt, Jan Roberta, Judy Rodriguez, Jean Sankey, Jean Teufen, Mrs. Harold Thelin, Rachel Tobler, Margaret Wolfe.

RENEW RENEW RENEW

Please renew your local or national memberships.

We urge lapsed national members to renew your membership. National Audubon is an important habitat/wildlife advocate and needs your support. Likewise, Santa Barbara chapter receives a percentage of your renewal dues but not your initial dues, as funds to keep us functioning.

Due to lack of committee and being short on time, I haven't been able to send out renewal notices for local memberships. (ie. Tecolote subscriptions) so please send in your \$10 renewal if you know your year has passed.

Gracious thanks to all of you who have indeed mailed in renewals. (National renewals should be sent to National, when you're notified.)

Thanks,
Carol Rae

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

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Secretary	Teri Ogden	964-6572
Treasurer	Guy Tingos	687-8266
Office Coordinator	Audrey von Bieberstein	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 Bieberstein	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
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