

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Mary Ann Ambrose
Editor

GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 1986

Jonh Dunn will present a slide show and lecture on the "Birds of Alaska" at 8:00 p.m. in Farrand Hall at the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum. Mr. Dunn is an expert on birds of this area and a well known and well received lecturer.

There will be a pre-meeting workshop on fall warblers presented by Chris Benesh in the Bird Hall of the museum at 7:30 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 24, 1986

This month's featured speaker will be John Ives (a correction from last month's erroneous "Jones") from Sonoma. He will be presenting a slide and lecture show on "Birds of Southeast Asia".

Mr. Jones leads bird trips to this part of the world, and in addition to the show he will bring us, there will be information on future trips.

Be there at 8:00 p.m. in Farrand Hall at the Museum of Natural History to enjoy this trip to Southeast Asia!

In addition, Brooks Allen will conduct a pre-meeting workshop in the Bird Hall of the Museum. This month's subject will be fall ducks. It's a good opportunity to review or acquaint yourself with these fall visitors. The workshop will meet at 7:00 p.m. (The time was moved up to allow participants more time between the workshop and the meeting for visiting and refreshments.)

RAIN FOREST GROUP FORMING

In Central America, the loss of wildlife populations and habitat is particularly alarming. The cutting of tropical forest for growing beef and export crops, over-use of pesticides, and other short-sighted land-uses combine with military activities to decimate native bird and other animal populations, reduce winter habitat for migrant species, and generate an array of ecological tragedies. The Environmental Defense Fund and other groups have taken action on the role of Multilateral Development Banks (such as the World Bank); the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club have made major policy statements regarding the environmental costs of rainforest clearing.

Some of us in the Santa Barbara/Ventura area have associated ourselves with a group called the Environmental Project on Central America (EPOCA). The organization is affiliated with the Earth Island Institute and is dedicated to peace and environmental protection in Central America through education, sponsoring volunteer trips, and researching the issues. We are starting a local branch of EPOCA, and want to hear from those who are interested in the issues, desire to become more active, want information, or, especially, can help financially in our efforts. A meeting is planned for early autumn.

If interested, drop me a line (Tom Dudley, P.O. Box 14124, SB, Ca. 93107) or call me at 968-0128. Membership in EPOCA is \$15/year. To contact EPOCA directly, their address is c/o Earth Island Institute, 13 Columbus Ave., San Francisco 94111. Please state we were your information source.

Paul Lehman has had the good fortune to spend his summer birding in Arizona and the East Coast; but in his absence some good birds have shown up locally: this summer's Frigate Bird at La Conchita in June, and a Little Blue Heron reported from Devereux were both briefly seen. There were several shorebird highlights, with a couple of Semipalmated, Stilt, and Pectoral, along with many Baird's seen. Two (and possibly 3) Ruff were seen in Santa Maria. The highlight of all had to be the adult male Mongolian Plover at McGrath in July - at most the fourth state record. Black Skimmers were reported from the Santa Inez and Santa Clara River Mouths. A Chimney Swift was a rare find in July. A Tropical Kingbird spent a day near Devereux, and 2 Eastern Kingbirds were unusual flycatchers. A Steller's Jay in coastal Santa Barbara was unusual, as was an August Mt. Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, and Waxwings in Montecito. A Northern Parula was very rare as a summer visitor at Rocky Nook Park. Other good warblers were Tennessee, American Redstart, and Northern Waterthrush. Several Summer Tanagers were reported. a male Rose-Breasted Grosbeak was at Gaviota. An immature Painted Bunting was a very good find at Gaviota also, being the third for the country. Bobolink, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and a male Great-Tailed Grackle rounded out this summer and early fall. Paul should be back in town to continue this monthly feature. Good birding!

Chris Benesh



SOUTH COAST BIRD REPORTS

**Los Angeles
San Bernardino
San Diego**

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



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

SALTON SEA

August 16, 1986

My wife and I spent a miserable twenty-three hours at the Sea August 15 & 16. It was far too hot, it smelled horrid, and the campsites are not worth mentioning.

Birding, however, was quite good with a total of 62 species seen just by myself (my wife is not a birder!). Hundreds of White Pelicans were seen at Red Hill Marina along with Wood Storks, Black Skimmers, and Yellow-footed Gulls. I saw about 50 White-faced Ibis in a field off McDonald Road with hundreds of other birds including a couple hundred Cattle Egret and a few Laughing Gulls.

The highlight of the trip was a Peregrine Falcon at the end of McDonald Road in a dead tree overlooking hundreds of shore birds - the bird must have been thinking, "God, look at all this food!"

I was very impressed by the sheer numbers of birds to be found at the Salton Sea but I'm never going back unless the Boobies do first - and then I'm staying in a motel!

Brooks Allen

McGRATH - SANTA CLARA RIVER ESTUARY

August 31, 1986

It began as a foggy morning at the Bird Refuge, and took off quickly as we were treated to great view of three male Wood Duck. A group of about a dozen spent the next few hours looking at good numbers of estuarine birds. There were a few species of gulls, most notably Bonaparte's, not normally seen until late fall. The big highlight was the shorebirds: 20 species were seen during our visit. Many on the trip were introduced to the strategy for aging shorebirds. As this was learned, we then tackled separating Short-billed Dowitcher from Long-billed, and Least from Western Sandpipers. Finally, many were able to add the scaly backed and long-winged Baird's Sandpiper to their growing shorebird lists. Some Red Knots were on the scene to round out the shorebird highlights, and finish off a full morning. With this trip behind us, we see many more adventures ahead this year. See you then.

Chris Benesh



SAN FRANCISCO BIRD ALERT

For those planning a trip to the bay area, there has been a change in the phone number for the Rare Bird Alert: (415) 528-0288.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Friday,
September 26 Monthly Meeting - Jonn Dunn will present "Birds of Alaska" at 8:00 p.m. in Farrand Hall of the Natural History Museum. Pre-meeting workshop on fall warblers will be presented in the Bird Hall by Chris Benesh at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday,
September 27 North Goleta Creeks - Spend a fun Saturday exploring some of the best warbler habitat around and learning to ID those fall plumages! Meet at San Jose Creek Bridge about 2 blocks towards mountains on Patterson past Cathedral Oaks at 8:00 a.m. This should be a half day trip.
Leader: Karen Bridgers
- Saturday,
October 4 Beginners Bird Walk - Rocky Nook Park and Scofield park will be explored. Emphasis on learning identification techniques. Both places are excellent spots for woodland species such as titmice, towhees, robins, warblers, woodpeckers, flycatchers. Meet at Rocky Nook Park at 7:30 a.m.
Leader: Blaise Maffia
685-4930
- Saturday,
October 11 San Marcos River Mouth - Another opportunity to see fall shorebirds and possible vagrants. Attention, as always, will be given to beginners. Meet at K-Mart at Hollister.
Leader: Jim Hodgson
969-1209
- Friday,
October 24 Monthly Meeting - John Ives presents "Birds of Southeast Asia" at 8:00 p.m. in Farrand Hall. Pre-meeting workshop on ducks will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Bird Hall.
- Saturday,
October 25 Devereux Slough and Goleta Beach - Shorebirds, ducks, even some brushy edge to house surprises. The more you see shorebirds, the more familiar they all become - and these fall trips are great for seeing them! Meet at Goleta Beach at 7:00 a.m.
Leader: Joan Lentz
- Sat./Sun.
November 1 & 2 Morro Bay - A weekend trip to one of the area's best shorebird havens. Wintering ducks, shorebirds of all kinds, and woodland species are to be expected. Initial meeting will be at the State Park's Museum on Saturday morning. (Time to be announced later.) Be sure to make reservations if you wish to camp at Morro Bay State Park. There is also camping at Montana de Oro Park, a few miles away, with no reservations.
Leader: Brooks Allen
969-3949
- Saturday,
November 8 Goleta "Hot Spots" - This will be a trip "around town" to places where fall vagrants may be found. Meet at Magnolia Center off Hollister at 7:00 a.m.
Leader: Chris Benesh
968-9434
- Sunday,
November 16 Vandenburg Airforce Base - Marsh and shorebirds. Must make reservation with leader.
Leader: Brooks Allen
- Saturday,
November 22 Point Mugu - Marsh, shorebirds, ducks. Call leader for reservations. As with Vandenburg, there is a limit to the number of people allowed on base. Leader: Brooks Allen
- Friday,
December 5 Combined November/December monthly meeting. Program to be announced in next issue.
- Sat./Sun.,
December 6 & 7 Carrizzo Plain - Another bird-filled weekend awaits participants! Sandhill Cranes, raptors, some wintering ducks, Mountain Plovers, sparrows are among those species likely to be present. Watch next issue for details.
- Saturday,
December 13 Lake Cachuma/ Nichols-DeLongpre Ranch
- Saturday,
December 20 Mt. Pinos



SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Present at the 9/8/86 board meeting held at the home of Brooks Allen were Chris Benesh, Brooks Allen, Audrey vonBieberstein, Marje Cappiello, Carole Rae, Mary Ann Ambrose, Patty Tunnicliffe, and Blase Maffia. Also present were William and Esther Greene.

Plans for the February meeting of the Southern California Coordinating Council are progressing nicely.

The hearing on Lake Los Caneros held Sept. 4 eliminated use of the area for domestic duck feeding and the EIR was accepted. Final approval is expected in a few months when the matter comes before the County Board of Supervisors for that purpose.

Marje Cappiello will be working with UCSB to facilitate granting of the Dean Bazzi Scholarship. No award has been given yet. The board approved publishing the scholarship in the Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation's "Student Financial Aide For Education" publication.

Esther Greene discussed bird seed not being on list of ad hoc committees. You can now find the Greenes listed there.

There have been some changes in board members effective immediately: Hugh Ranson will not be able to chair the Conservation Committee due to school. Brooks Allen will be taking over that Committee. And Patty Tunnicliffe will no longer be chairing the Membership Committee. Marge Cappiello has agreed to assume those responsibilities.

The board also agreed to renew our lease with the Goleta Depot for two more years.

Next meeting will be at Marje Cappiello's on Monday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. As always, members are welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome to the following new members: Sidney Ailbert, Lilla Brown, L. Breinball, Gill Chadwick, M. Cooper, Greg Gille, M.W. Heywood, Maggi Heinrich, Lori Hiland, Sherl Hovas, John Howard, Shelley Jackson, R.V. Lichty, Sarah Messica, Karen Paulson, Katherine Pinolaub, Suzanne Revels, K. Savage, Mr. & Mrs. William Simmrell, and William B. Witmer.



OFFICE

Virginia Collett will no longer be covering the office on Thursdays. Mary Ann Ambrose will be taking Virginia's place.

There has been no interest expressed as yet in covering the office on Saturdays. If anyone is interested let us know.

EDUCATION

Mrs. Jarrel has offered to help with Education Committee presentations and is willing to go to Carpinteria. Welcome!

We are still looking for volunteers to help with Carpinteria and in general. There is a growing interest from the State Parks and other such places in our presentations. These shows are offered on weekends and evenings, so if you are not available in the daytime, but are interested in making presentations, you could help out with these.

Please call Mary Ann Ambrose at 685-1386. We would be happy to take you with us to see how a show is done if it would help you decide!



The wild goose comes north with the voice of freedom and adventure. He is more than a big, far-ranging bird, he is the epitome of wanderlust, limitless horizons, and distant travel. He is yearning and the dream, the search and the wonder, the unfettered foot and the wind's-will-song.

Hal Borland



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LOCAL BIRD SEED PRODUCTION

Early in 1983 Eileen Gray and I agreed that our backyard birdfeeders had much seed spewed out onto the ground by our bird visitors. We asked ourselves, "Isn't there some kind of seed which birds like better? Can we find seed that birds will eat without throwing any away?"

The then president and editor, Robert Lindsay, appointed me to find such seed and to provide it for sale at Audubon Society's new depot office.

We searched many months, tried many different brands of mixes, and ended up with 2 all-time bird favorites: white millet which we buy from Santa Barbara's La Cumbre Feed Store, and Black-Oil Sunflower Seeds which are grown in Minnesota. The Black-Oil Sunflower Seed is offered for sale in Santa Barbara at no other place except our office.

The seed you buy is sold to you at the same low price as if you bought Millet in 50 lb. bags or Black-Oil Sunflower Seed in 35 lb. bags. There is no cost mark-up.

Millet is sold in \$1, \$2, and \$5.30 (25 lb.) bags. The per pound price is the same for any bag. Black-Oil Sunflower Seed is sold in 1,2, 5 lb. (\$3.75), and 10 lb. (\$7.50) bags.

In 1984 Audubon Society sold \$215 in seed; in 1985 \$800 in seed was sold. Already in 1986 we have sold \$600 worth: 1,650 lb. of millet, 400 lb. of Black-Oil Sunflower Seed, totaling in excess of one ton!

William & I order by repackaged seed in varied amounts, deliver to the office, and carry it up all those stairs for you to buy for your feeders. We have been donating our services and related expenses since 1983. We even deliver to whomever has a problem getting 25 lb. down all those stairs and into their homes!

The mark of all our seed is that there will be no waste whatsoever. The birds will eat each and every seed and will be well nourished by them.

Happy bird feeding!

Esther Greene



WOODPECKING HUMMINGBIRD

Kit Brighton of Ojai shared with us an observation of hummingbird behavior that is worth sharing: Upon releasing a rehabilitated Anna's... "We expected, of course, that the bird would delightedly go to one of the feeders ...Instead, she flew straight up to a very high, very large broad limb of an enormous oak. She lit on a broad branch, and went along the limb like a tiny, very hungry woodpecker, pecking and eating what seemed to be plentiful insects from the branch. She fed for a long time, pecking rapidly and acting more like a woodpecker than a hummingbird....!"

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS

Debi Shearwater of Monterey offers some exciting pelagic trips yearround. Monterey Bay, Monterey Seavalle, Albacore Grounds "Very" offshore Monterey, and, for the hard-core sea lovers, an overnite excursion in search of Pterodroma petrels!

Fees run around \$40 per person.

A schedule and description of trips can be obtained by writing California Seabirding, Shearwater Journeys, Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073 - or call (408) 688-1990.

COMPUTERIZED BIRD LISTS

LA's "Western Tanager" is running a series of articles on computers and bird lists that is very informative. It started with the 9/86 issue which can be reviewed at the office.

There is actually a book - A Field Guide to Personal Computers for Bird Watchers and Other Naturalists - by Edward M. Mair (1985, Prentice Hall.).

MORE ON LISTS...

From Wild Birdwatchers I Have Known, by Gerry Bennett: "...There's no end to the possibilities. Many birders keep life lists for various states... monthly lists for specific area or county lists... One acquaintance keeps a record of birds seen in dreams...birds seen on television...I know a guy who keeps a list of birds he's seen under water. The bird has to be totally below the surface. Of course the first few are easy. Grebes, cormorants, diving ducks, osprey, kingfisher. But he has some dandies. He was fishing from a boat one time when a barred owl dove for a fish nearby. He also has a screech owl and a kiskadee flycatcher. One spring day, when weather had turned very cold, we were walking along the shore of Lake Ontario. Flies were scarce and a lot of insect eating birds were right on the beach picking flies off dead fish. Suddenly, a Tennessee warbler plopped right into the water..."

I guess Mr. Bennett is right - there is no end to the possibilities!

CHRISTMAS COUNT

If all the commercial industries can talk about Christmas after Labor Day, so can we!

Believe it or not, it is time to think about the annual Christmas Count. We don't have the actual date yet, but make a note in the general vicinity of last of December/first of January on your calendar.

Application forms to participate and date, etc. will appear in the next issue.

Merry Christmas Shopping!

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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Rare Bird Alert	Chris Benesh	968-9434
Dial-a-Bird Tape		964-8240
Library	Audrey vonBieberstein	967-2866
Christmas Count	Paul Lehman	967-2450

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