

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

April, 1987

Volume 24, Number 4



SBAS Office
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Mary Ann Ambrose
Editor

MONTHLY PROGRAM

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1987

"WHALES, SEAL AND DOLPHINS: INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND ILL-LEGAL KILLINGS" will be the topic presented by Michael Bailey, a director of the international conservation organization, Earth Trust. Mr. Bailey will present specific incidents and efforts to alleviate this problem around the world. Program begins at 8:00 p.m. in Farland Hall at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Pre-program workshop will look at selected bird identification difficulties, such as kinglets vs. vireos, vireos vs vireos, and others. (This is the topic that was lsited for last month and was changed!) Meet in the Bird Hall of the Museum at 7:00 p.m.

MONTHLY PROGRAM

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1987

"NEW ZEALAND LANDSCAPES" will be presented by Dr. Bob Norris, Professor of Geology - retired from UCSB. Pre-program workshop will discuss terns.

EARTHWATCH EXPEDITIONS

EARTHWATCH is a non-profit organization that provides memebres of the public with the opportunity to work directly with scholars and scientists in the field. In 1987, 2,800 people age 16-80 will contribute their time, talent, and funds to over 100 research scientists.

Among the projects for 1987 are 4 ornithological studies: Bird of Bodega Bay is already underway; Rhum and Shearwaters (that's an island, not a drink!) in Scotland starts July 18 or Sept. 5; Salmon Fishers is a study of mergansers in Whales and Scotland that has teams running March through July; Honeyeaters, a study in Australia on Kangaroo Island, runs April through December.

Participants actually assist with collection of field data. Field conditions vary. Costs are not exorbinant. More detailed information available at the office. If you are looking for something different in a vacation, this could be it!

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Friday, March 27 MONTHLY PROGRAM begins at 8:00 p.m. in Farrand Hall at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Pre-program workshop begins at 7:00 p.m. See first page for details.
- Thursday, April 2 MONTHLY BOARD MEETING begins at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Ann Ambrose. Members are welcome!
- Saturday, April 4 ZACA LAKE - tentative trip. Call Brooks Allen (965-3949) to confirm.
- Saturday, April 11 REFUGIO CANYON: Meet at KMART in Goleta (Storke & Hollister) at 7:30 a.m. for a nice day of caravan birding. Bring lunch. GOOD FOR BEGINNERS.
Leader: Jim Hodgson
969-1209
- Friday, April 17 Last day to reserve spot on pelagic trip.
- Saturday, April 18 HOLLISTER RANCH: Reservations required - limited to 25 persons. Meet at KMART (Storke & Hollister) in Goleta at 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Will return around 2 p.m.
Leader: Brooks Allen
965-3949
- Saturday, April 25 ANNUAL BIRDATHON to raise money for our local chapter and region. See article in this issue. Call Chris Benesh for details (685-7549).
- Friday, April 24 MONTHLY PROGRAM - see first page for details.
- Sunday, April 26 CONSERVATION DAY at the Childs Estate Zoo from 10-5.
- Saturday, May 2 MT. PINOS: Meet at corner of Lockwood Valley Road & Mt. Pinos Pkwy. in Frazier Park at 10:30 a.m. Bring lunch, of course. Leave home by 7:30 a.m. Call Brooks Allen who will arrange car pooling. (Those of you with cars please call too!) Brooks will be at Mt Pinos on 5/1. Leader: Brooks Allen
- Sunday, May 10 PELAGIC TRIP: Out to the islands aboard the CONDOR. Bring lunch, dramamine or ear-patch, and WARM CLOTHES. Meet at Sea Landing at 6:00 a.m. RESERVATIONS AND CHECKS FOR \$40.00 per person MUST BE RECEIVED BY BROOKS ALLEN (965-3949) BY APRIL 17. If there are not enough people signed up by the 17th the trip will be cancelled.
- Thursday, May 7 MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
- Saturday, May 16 NOJOQUI FALLS: Will meet at Five Points Center at 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Good chance for Purple Martin, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting.
- Friday, May 22 MONTHLY PROGRAM: Marine Mammals of our Offshore Waters.
- Saturday, May 23 FIGUEROA MT. & DAVY BROWN
- Sunday, May 31 ANNUAL PICNIC

BIRDS OF SANTA BARBARA

Post XMAS count winter birding in the SB region was highlighted by a number of unseasonal species. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was back for its 3rd year on Hope Ranch and represents one of the few winter records for the state. A Bell's Vireo in Montecito established our second winter record. A Warbling Vireo, very rare in winter, was in SB, as was a Red-naped Sapsucker, Tropical Kingbird, Black-headed and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and a Swamp Sparrow. In Goleta, a Clay-colored Sparrow was our second winter record, while other highlights included White-winged Doves, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Tennessee and Palm Warbler, and Hooded Oriole.

A Baird's Sandpiper on Hollister Ranch in mid-December was one of the latest for North America. Farther afield, a Ruff and 2 Glaucous Gulls were near Santa Maria in January, and 2 Tufted Ducks were back for their 3rd winter near Ventura in February.

SOUTH COAST BIRD REPORTS

Los Angeles	(213)874-1318
San Francisco	(415)528-0288
San Bernardino	(714)793-5599
San Diego	(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 685-7549. Happy Birding!

Bird Refuge and Harbor Area

Saturday, February 21st was a beautiful day for birding. The temperature, light, and wind were ideal, and created a perfect setting for a morning of good birding. I was joined by only three dedicated individuals, but we were all handsomely rewarded for our efforts. Just to set the mood for words to come, I tallied 60 species in our morning visit. Unquestionably, the bird of the day was the Tropical Kingbird which appeared magically in front of us and kept us company for much of the morning. This is the same bird which had been eluding me since its discovery in November. (I later became one of few birders who have seen two Tropicals in the same day, seeing the Devereux bird, fresh from its encounter with a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and looking worse for wear.) A Ross's Goose, Canada Goose, two White-fronted Geese, Ring-necked Ducks, further graced us at the refuge. When discussing gulls, a Mew, Ring-billed, and California flew down to sit side by side in profile! The Clark's Grebes were with Westerns; and Horned Grebes with Eared. Several more species were added at the harbor, including the elusive Wandering Tattler. So, as Guy Tingos said just one short year ago, one should never underestimate the potential of the bird refuge, for it will often lend several surprises.

Chris Benesh

NIPOMO DUNES

It has been announced that the Coastal Conservancy has been awarded a \$715,000 grant to purchase and preserve 567 acres of Nipomo Dunes that extends from Mussel Rock to the Santa Maria River Mouth.

The Coastal Conservancy, Nature Conservancy, and Santa Barbara County will share management.

This area includes "numerous" rare and endangered species and, in addition, is considered the largest area of its kind in the state.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The feedback which I received from the last President's message was very encouraging, indicating to me that this service is very important to you members. I thank all of you who have responded favorably, and encourage further contact with other concerned members. I hope to make this a regular feature in El Tecolote.

This month, the prospects of the projects alluded to in the last message, seem to be much more positive. The wetlands area at Los Carneros got top billing on the local television newscast, due to the efforts of Earth First. I was able to provide them with some pertinent information, and they turned it into a very effective cleanup/ public awareness gathering at the site. The event received full news coverage, and further strengthened the awareness of this area. Further, I am aware of several members who wrote letters expressing their concerns. My thanks to you for this.

I have received similar support from members concerning the Flood Control activities occurring along our creeks. Letters have been written to Flood Control, the Board of Supervisors, and to the Santa Barbara News-Press. I have been told that such pressure has been effective in the past, so we may well be successful in our efforts. Karen Bridgers has been particularly helpful to me in fighting Flood Control, providing me with some valuable information. Thanks Karen! Despite our efforts so far, it is very important to keep up the pressure, so write, write, write. I was further pleased to hear Dr. Steve Timbrook's comments at his presentation this month, expressing the importance of riparian habitat for maintaining our watershed. This is very pertinent to Flood Control activities.

Those of you who attended the Southern California Coordinating Council meeting, know what a success it was. For those who could not attend, let me say that our Audubon volunteers put on a great job! I would particularly like to thank Marge Cappiello and Blase Maffia who did an outstanding job of getting this event organized, and Mary Ann Ambrose and Audrey von Bieberstein who were invaluable to the event's smooth running. To all others who assisted with the lunch, my thanks!

We are still working on ideas for our fundraising projects for this year. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, it is very important that Audubon increase its funds, so that we can remain a conservation and educational force. In addition to the ideas mentioned last month, Karen Bridgers contacted me with a sure-fire fundraising event. If it can be worked out, we will have an Audubon night at Straw Hat Pizza, which will raise money for the chapter. I have also received details of this year's Audubon Bird-A-Thon. For those of you unfamiliar with this event, it is a fundraiser in which money is pledged for each species of bird seen in a twenty-four hour period. I hope to put together an Official Santa Barbara Audubon team. In the past, this event has been met with mediocre response. I ask all of the members to reach extra deep in their savings to help make this year's effort a great success. For everyone who pledges their support to our team, they will receive an official account of the day's event and a species list. All of you are encouraged to participate as well. I have done this event twice, and have found it to be incredibly exciting! For more details, call me at 685-7549. Tell all of your friends, your boss, class mates, whomever. The event will take place in the later part of April, with details to be finalized later. PLEASE help out.

I hope to see more of you at monthly meetings, bird walks, and other gatherings! If there is someone out there with the urge to help, we are looking for conservation helpers to assist Brooks Allen.

Good bye for now.

Chris Benesh

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Chris Benesh, Audrey vonBieberstein, Brooks Allen, Erik Rosa, Marge Cappiello, and Mary Ann Ambrose were present at the meeting held at Audrey's home.

Fundraising was discussed and specific plans initiated for the swap meet; Brooks will look into an open account for recycling of aluminum and paper; plans are in the works for a Pizza night.

The situation with the flood control district and our creeks was discussed. Tomi Sollen attended the meeting with some ideas. Chris spoke with Michael Feeney, assistant to County Supervisor Tom Rogers, and plans were made to introduce an initiative for a citizen committee to oversee flood control activities.

The board will also be looking into sponsoring a revision and reprinting of "Birds of Santa Barbara & Ventura Counties" - a book authored in part by Paul Lehman in its last revision of 1980 and published by the Museum of Natural History.

Next meeting will be held at Mary Ann Ambrose's on April 2nd.

OFFICE

We are happy that Cecile Forbes has volunteered to be a substitute. Although we are presently staffed each day, we do need more subs on our list. Please call if you can help.

BIRD SEED

For 5 years Bill & Esther Greene have provided us, as a labor of love, with the finest bird seed. They have ordered it, weighed it, re-packaged it, and delivered it to the office, meetings, and often to individuals.

After June, however, the Greens feel that they must discontinue this service. We certainly understand their decision, and want them to know that we have valued their contribution more than we can say!

Is there anyone out there who would like to take over the Greene's work? Esther will be happy to answer your questions and train you. And the birds and many Auduboners will thank you! Call the office.

PUBLICITY

Betty Bazzi has graciously volunteered her services as our new Publicity Chairperson - thank you, Betty! Any helpers would be appreciated.

LIBRARY

We thank Ruby Burton for the donation of a fine collection of books:

The American Seasons by Edwin Way Teale

North with the Spring

Journey into Summer

Autumn Across America

Wandering through Winter

Stalking Birds with Color Camera, Aurthur Allen

The Quails, Edward Spaulding

Springtime in Britain, E.W. Teale

A Paradise of Birds (When Spring Comes to Texas), Helen G. Cruickshank

The Birds and the Beasts Were There, Maraget Miller

Birds of the World, Austin & Singer

Menaboni's Birds, A 7 S Menaboni

CONSERVATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Your SBAS Conservation Chair, Brooks Allen, is desperately in need of committee members to assist him with following and responding to the voluminous notices we receive on the host of environmental issues that exist - both local and global.

Certainly, conservation is a prime concern and activity of Audubon - and a place where you can make a difference.

Please reach out - and help! Take an issue, take a letter - whatever you can.

ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC

Do you have Sunday, May 31st marked on your calendar for our SBAS meeting & picnic?

Again we will meet at the Boy Scout Camp, Rancho Alegre, across from Lake Cachuma.

Following a bird walk at 10 a.m. there will be free time to swim, boat, play volleyball or other games, walk, visit, whatever, before a catered luncheon and short business meeting to elect next year's board. Activities and prizes too. More details next issue.

SWAP MEET

May 17th has been set as the date for SBAS' trip to the Swap Meet.

Marge Cappiello has graciously offered the use of her garage to store donations. Marge lives at 808 Via Campobello - just off of Old San Marco Pass Road. Please call first.

Bring anything saleable-check with Jim Hodgson (969-1209) first regarding large items, such as furniture.

Let's clean out those closets and garages!!!

CONSERVATION DAY AT ZOO

Sunday, April 26, 1987 is the first annual Conservation Day at the Chids Estate Zoo.

Sponsored by the zoo docents, this event is designed to provide the public with information on how to help with conservation issues that concern us all.

SBAS is working on materials and a display to have available. If anyone is interested in representing us, give Chris Benesh a call.

For more info on the event, call Nancy Hollenbeck at the zoo.

THE 1987 AUDUBON BIRD-A-THON

As part of Santa Barbara Audubon's renewed interest in fundraising, we are looking to together a crack team of birders to get this year's Birdathon off the ground. Here is the plan. Some of us at Audubon are itching to get out and earn some money for our chapter and for our regional National conservation projects. In order to make the most of the event, we need a little pressure from our members to put in a good showing. How shall we do this? I am organizing a team that will represent the Santa Barbara Audubon board members. What I want to see is you members organize a team to try and out bird us on the count day. Sound like a great idea? I think so. Having been out on walks with many of you, I know there is a lot of talent out there just waiting to be tapped. Now is the chance. But do not be scared out of participating. This event is meant to be great fun, and I would like to see participants of all levels compete. If the event shapes up well, we can organize some evening tally to compare our outings and have some more fun. If you like the idea of fundraising, but are not able to compete, pledge for our Audubon Board team, and your money will go to assuring that Audubon remains strong. I ask that members limit themselves to a maximum of four members per team, though smaller teams can participate. Contact me if this is something you want to be a part of. PLEASE DON'T BE SHY. EVERYONE COUNTS! All counters will receive an official Audubon patch in appreciation for their efforts. All this fun will take place in late April. More details forthcoming.

Chris Benesh 685-7549

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

The Community Environmental Council (CEC) will hold this day of education and activity on Saturday, April 25 from 11-5 at the Gildea Resource Center, 930 Mira Monte Drive.

The affair will center on workable means of achieving better uses of the planet's resources.

Those of you sponsoring but not participating in the Birdathon might want to attend!

1987 AUDUBON CAMP IN THE WEST PROGRAMS

Nature Photography in Wyoming:

The Wind River Mountains, Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park are the settings for this field seminar on the use of 35 mm camera equipment. Professional photographers led by Perry Conway (producer of a dozen educational filmstrips) will guide you in photographing mountain scenery and wildlife. Five days are spent at the Audubon Camp, three days in Yellowstone and one day in Grand Teton National Park.

Dates: June 19 - June 28, 1987

Audubon Camp in the West for Adults

Geology speaks from the massive rock walls, and petroglyphs stir your curiosity in sessions on native American culture and wilderness values. Unique birds, mammals, insects, and flowers are tools in the art of understanding this rugged mountain environment. There is also time for hiking, rock climbing, square dancing, canoeing, and volleyball - plus an optional float trip down the spectacular Snake River in Grand Teton National Park. 3 two-week sessions and 1 one-week session are available.

Dates: Session 1 June 26 - July 3, 1987

2 July 5 - July 17, 1987

3 July 19 - July 31, 1987

4 August 2 - August 14, 1987

WILDERNESS RESEARCH BACKPACK TRIP

Participate in an extensive, ongoing research effort by Audubon biologists while backpacking in the spectacular Wind River Mountains and/or Absaroka Mountains. Learn the skills of bird and mammal censusing, bird banding, insect survey and collection, plant identification, and herbarium collection. Small groups of 10 persons (maximum) will accompany our research staff on 12-day expeditions. Moderate hiking ability needed to cover 5-7 miles daily.

Dates:

Session 1A Wind River Mountains

June 21 - July 3, 1987

1B Absaroka Mountains

June 21 - July 3, 1987

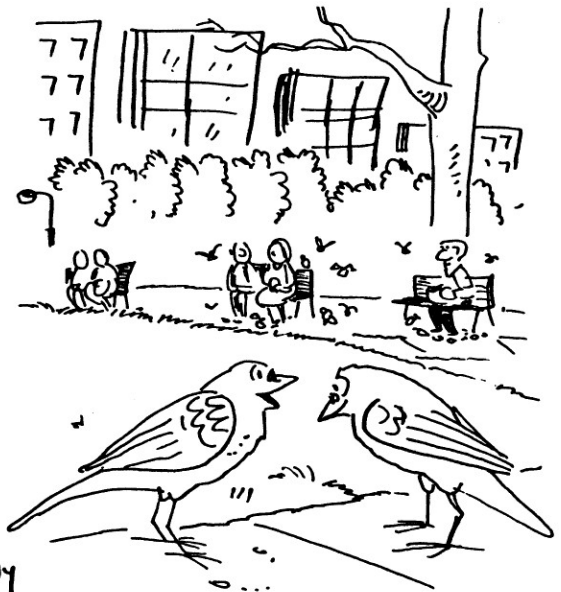
2A Wind River Mountains

July 5 - 17, 1987

2B Absaroka Mountains

July 5 - 17, 1987

For more information: please contact:
National Audubon Society, 4150 Darley, Suite
5, Boulder, CO 80303 (303) 499-5409.

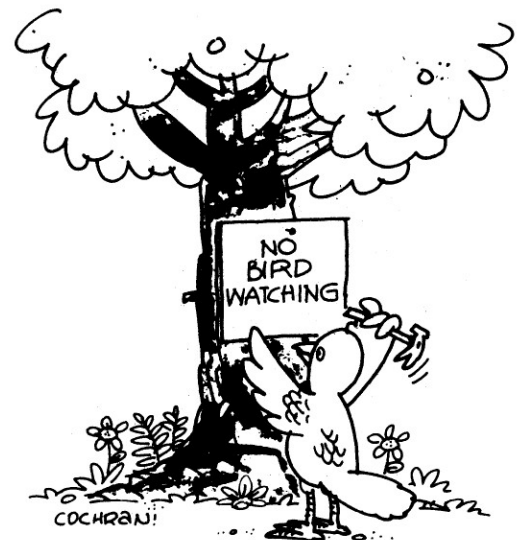


"Bench One has bread crumbs. Bench Two has popcorn, and Bench Three has cracked corn."

Remembering Spring

There is a day
Before the first bud swells
Or the first bird returns
on eager wing
When the blind roots stir
And sap begins to rise.
Then deep within my heart
I feel the spring.
No threat of north wind
Nor the chill of lingering snow
Can quench the flame
When I remember
The sound of April rain,
And robin calling
From the bare branch
He left in gray November.

—Edna Denniston
Rockville Centre, New York



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

Office Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President	Chris Benesh	685-7549
V.P. Administ.	Audrey vonBieberstein	967-2866
V.P. Activities	Brooks Allen	965-3949
Secretary	Erik Rosa	682-6104
Treasurer	Guy Tingos	687-8266

DIRECTORS-at-LARGE

Patty Tunnicliffe	687-6154
Blase Maffia	685-4930
Jim Hodgson	969-1209

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips	Brooks Allen	965-3949
Programs	Herb Drapkin	683-3374
Publicity	Betty Bazzi	967-5200
Education	Mary Ann Ambrose	685-1386
Conservation	Brooks Allen	965-3949
Membership	Marjorie Cappiello	967-9569
Hospitality	Carol Rae	964-3827
Office Coordinator	Audrey vonBieberstein	967-2866
Newsletter Editor	Mary Ann Ambrose	685-1386

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Bird Seed	Esther Greene	687-2096
Rare Bird Alert	Chris Benesh	685-7549
Dial-a-Bird Tape		964-8240
Library	Audrey vonBieberstein	967-2866
Christmas Count		

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

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. The office is open Monday - Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

EL TECOLOTE

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

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