

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

June, 1987
Volume 24, Number 6



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

Mary Ann Ambrose
Editor

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Friday, May 22, 1987

MARINE MAMMALS OF OUR OFFSHORE WATERS

THIS WILL BE OUR LAST MONTHLY PROGRAM OF THE SEASON, resuming once again in September.

Dr. Charles Woodhouse, Curator of Vertebrates at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, will show slides and talk about our offshore friends. In addition, Dr. Woodhouse will discuss the proposed relocation of sea otters to our offshore islands.

Program begins at 8:00 p.m. in Farrand Hall at the Museum of Natural History.

Pre-program workshop begins at 7:00 p.m. and our last workshop of the season will feature some of our more colorful summer visitors: tanagers and orioles. If time allows, this last session would be a good time for questions that might help you with your summer birdwatching. Meet in the Bird Hall.

ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

COME ONE, COME ALL!

- WHERE: Camp Alegre (The Boy Scout Camp across from Lake Cachuma: 7.1 miles from Solvang end of the Cold Springs Arch Bridge, 8.8 miles past East Camino Cielo turn-off on Hwy. 154. The gate is on the left (there is a \$500 litter sign on either side of 154 at the turn-off). There will be phosphorescent flagging at the entrance, and we'll have signs along the way. If you miss this back gate and arrive at the front gate, turn back - you won't be able to get in in front!
- WHEN: Sunday, May 31, 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
- WHAT: Nature Walk, games, swimming, boating, volley ball, prizes, raffle, relaxation. Lunch will include chicken, beans, salad, bread, dessert, and drinks. Business meeting to elect new Board of Directors after lunch. Food served at noon; nature walk at 10 A.M.; raffle after business meeting
- HOW: Send reservations to office by May 26th. Cost is \$6.00 for adults, \$4.50 for children.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 17

SWAP MEET - call office if you still have donations or want to help.

Saturday, May 23

FIGUEROA MT. & DAVY BROWN CAMPGROUND: Meet at Five Points center at 7:00 a.m. for a wonderful day of mountain birding. Good chance to see lots of birds, even owls. Excellent for beginners. Bring lunch. LEADER: Jim Hodgson
969-1209

Sunday, May 31

ANNUAL PICNIC: See front page. Bird walk at 11:00 led by Chris Benesh.

Thursday, June 4

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING at Goleta Library at 7:00 P.M. First meeting of new board!

BIRDS IN SANTA BARBARA

Highlights of the early spring migration season in our area were relatively few, possibly due to the late arrival of many migrants combined with a shortage of observer coverage and/or reorting of sightings!

A Green-tailed Towhee and a Solitary Vireo of the interior "plumbeus" race were both second spring records for the county. Rare but somewhat regular spring transients seen included Gray Flycatcher, Sage Thrasher, and Tennessee Warbler. A nice movement of Calliope Hummingbirds along the coast in late April produced at least 9 individuals. Lastly, a Grasshopper Sparrow in a small grassy lot in Goleta represents the first spring record of a transient away from a breeding locality!

Paul Lehman

All nature wears one universal grin.
Henry Fielding

REFUGIO ROAD AND EL CAPITAN

On Saturday, April 11, a small but determined group of Auduboners, led by Jim Hodgson, braved cool temperatures and gusty breezes to enjoy a fine morning of birding along Refugio road. Although the weather reminded one of winter, the birds were a sure sign of Spring. There was a vast assortment of migrants, with returning Northern Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Kingbirds, Western Flycatchers, Warbling Vireos, and seven species of warbler, including Nashville, Wilson's, and Black-throated Gray. One of the day's highlights was a lone Western Wood-Pewee- the earliest ever to be found in our county, and one of the earliest for the state. Other highlights included nesting Canyon Wrens; an aerial dispute between a Sharp-shinned and an apparent Cooper's Hawk; a sky full of swallows; an elegant male Phainopepla playing hide-and-seek with birders; and a pair of inquisitive Western Bluebirds. Though the group was small, it contained two first-time field-trippers. One all the way from Solvang! I think everyone had a good deal of fun with all of the Spring colors. May future trips bring more new faces and the return of some familiar ones.

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD ALERT

Learn of rare bird sightings all over N.A. with the NARBA hotline service! For \$25 annual fee (\$50 if you want them to call you) you can receive this service. Information at the office.

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP NOTICE

June 12, 13, 14. Join us for an exciting weekend exploring the San Bernardino Mtns. From our headquarters at Heart Bar Forest Service Campground, we will drive to a wide variety of habitats, including lush montane meadows, delightful mixed forest of oak and pine, arid pinyon woodlands, and sagebrush flats. These varied habitats are all within short distances of each other and are easily accessible by car.

Over 125 bird species breed in this mountain region, including several species of very restricted distribution in Southern California. Since it is still early in the breeding season, the birds should be very active, conspicuous, and vocal. Specialities we can expect to see include Common Nighthawk, Black Swift, Calliope Hummingbird, Williamson's Sapsucker, Gray and Dusky Flycatchers, and Gray Vireo. This is an incredibly rich area for sparrows - 12 species regularly breed there - and we should see ten or eleven of these. In the evening, from our campsite, we might hear Whip-poor-wills calling from the oak and pine covered slopes across the meadow. At dawn, we will wake to the chorus of many campground species.

While birds will be the main focus of the trip, we will also take time to enjoy the beauty of the mountain wildflowers - coralroot orchids should be in bloom - and will pause to investigate the great diversity of montane shrubs and forest trees. We are almost certain to find many surprises amidst the diversity of natural history phenomena in the area. Join us for a visit to a truly outstanding natural area. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Trip enrollment is limited to 25 participants.

Fee: chapter members \$15/person

non-chapter members \$ 20/person

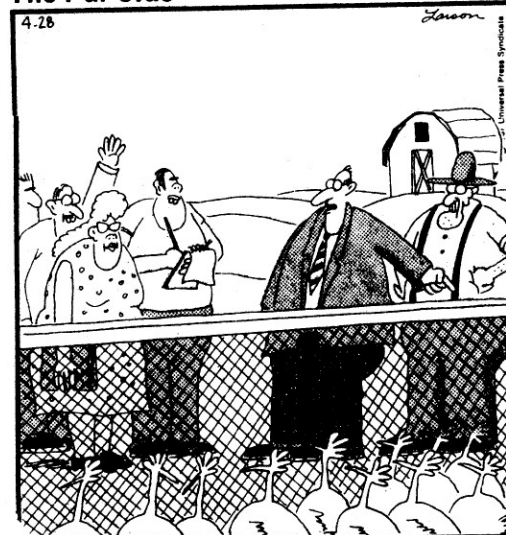
Trip Leaders; Tom Wurster (968-1540)

Chris Benesh (685-7549)

Joan Lentz (969-4397)

Call now for reservations and information. Departure: 1pm Friday, June 12. Return: Sunday afternoon, June 14. We will camp at Heart Bar Forest Service Campground. anyone unable to leave Friday at 1 pm could easily rendezvous with the group Friday night or Saturday morning. Motels and restaurants are available in the Big Bear area for those who prefer not to camp.

The Far Side



Ornithology 101 field trips

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

For several years, the Education Committee has sponsored several classes' participation in Audubon Adventures, a program from National for teachers and students that gives information and fun lessons on the environment.

Each class costs \$20.00 and because of our limited budget, we have only been able to sponsor 10 classes in the entire area.

Beginning this next fiscal year, the Education Committee would like to extend the opportunity to chapter members to sponsor a class by making a donation specifically for that purpose.

If the donor so desires, their identity will be given to the class selected, and acknowledgement is sure to follow!

Statistics show that many Auduboners got started with some form of contact when they were young - that is how this program got started.

Wouldn't you like to bring Audubon to a young person? Contact Mary Ann Ambrose.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This President's message is the last of my first term as your chapter President. It has been quite a learning experience for me! And as we approach the end of our board year, I wish to offer a few thoughts on current issues that might prepare us for next year.

Several incidents occurred this past month which have acted to rejuvenate my environmental concern so often diluted by day-to-day matters.

First of all, this last month I had the opportunity to listen to a lecture by David Brower at UCSB. Though often controversial, few would argue that he is certainly the most influential environmental figure of our century. Hearing him speak, I quickly became aware of how easily I had neglected consideration of local and global concerns. The urgency of his words brought back the shock I had first felt upon learning of rain forest deforestation, illegal animal trade, poaching in Africa, and our nation's own poisoning of its wildlife. It is this urgency that is so often lacking when we address local issues. Certainly, we cannot all be David Browers, and we each contribute however we can; but it is important to keep hold of the global scope of environmental problems, even relative to local issues.

Around this time my thoughts were turned to the news that the last California Condor was captured. AC-9, as he is called, ended millennia of wild condors over California with his capture. I have not seen many wild condors, but AC-9 was one who entertained me 2 summers past. His image remains in my mind, but not in our world. Although I support the recovery program, I can't help think of how much more promising the current program would be if it had begun 50 years earlier.

At the same time the cannon-mist nets were being reloaded for AC-9, I was romping the wilds of Ventura with a fellow birder in search of Bell's Vireo. We explored many extensive creek bottoms, profusely overgrown with willows. Despite our extensive search, we encountered only one solitary male. (I thought back to how condor biologists must surely have been alarmed to find their 60-80 bird estimates far from reality at that time!) Many species, such as our own race of Bell's Vireo, face severe losses of habitat and the threat of extinction.

A recent National Audubon flyer confirms this. The rainforest may be gone in 30 years - and with the forests, half of our planet's living organisms!! Outside the forests, we see the decline of African plains species, our own North American plain species, and those of the ocean. Some critics like to accuse environmentalists of sappy, emotional tripe in calling out these concerns. This is not the case. And because of this, each seemingly insignificant local issue should be seen in terms of its overall long-term effects globally. There are enough people out there lacking such foresight - those of us who see reason for concern must make our case known all the more emphatically. As Bower speaks, "We have to win again and again. The enemy only has to win once. We can only get a stay of execution." It is imperative to treat each issue knowing if we do not act, some species could easily be lost forever.

As we approach the end of this Audubon year and begin another, let us keep some of these notions in the forefront of our minds. While we are out in the field enjoying and studying our colorful and charismatic birdlife, let us remember that their livelihood depends entirely on our actions. If we do nothing, they will disappear. Let me close with a slightly cliché but truthful comment: ACT LOCALLY, THINK GLOBALLY!

Chris Benesh



**"NOTHING
IS QUITE SO
FINAL AS**

TOTAL EXTINCTION"

PARKLAND INITIATIVE

The National Audubon Society has endorsed a proposed initiative to preserve wildlife habitat and parkland throughout California. This measure is of particular interest to the Audubon Society because it will provide funds to permanently protect California's most endangered lands: wetlands and riparian habitat. The initiative would place a bond act on the 1988 ballot, and would provide funds to purchase habitat for rare and endangered species, wetlands and riparian areas throughout the State, and additions to State and local Park Systems.

A coalition of groups called Californians for Parks and Wildlife, led by the Planning and Conservations League, has decided to use the initiative process because of the refusal of the Legislature to place 3 important conservation bond acts on the state ballot in 1986. This 1988 bond act combines all 3 of last year's acts!

Of particular interest is the more than \$100 million earmarked in the initiative for wildlife habitat acquisition, with wetlands receiving more than \$30 million. The California Resources Agency has stated that at least \$100 million is needed to acquire the most critically threatened lands important to native plants and wildlife - this bond act will make many of those purchases possible.

Some examples include the Sacramento, San Joaquin, American, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, Feather, & other Central Valley Rivers; old growth Douglas Fir and Redwoods along the North Coast; Santa Monica Mts.; Anza Borrego State Park; Big Sur; Coe State Park; Indian Palm Canyon Park; Nipomo Dunes and threatened overwintering sites for the Monarch Butterfly.

In addition, Salmon, trout, and steelhead protection; acquisition of coastal lands, urban streams, urban forestry, state trail systems, etc. will be funded.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS BOND ACT A REALITY: More than 600,000 signatures must be gathered between June & November. If you are interested in volunteering to gather, write Californians for Parks & Wildlife, 909 12th ST., Suite 203, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Esther Feldman
Research Director

FEDERAL WILDLIFE PROGRAMS AXED

An alert was received from National regarding budget trimming in Washington for fiscal year '87-'88!

Audubon has identified a modest \$2 million in additional funding that is critical to several species (Grizzly, Colorado River fish, Whooping Crane, manatee, Platte River species, Attwater Prairie Chicken, sea turtles, Gray wolf, and red wolf. In addition, Audubon is proposing additional funds as follows: \$6 million for grants to states for species recovery programs, \$4 million for preservation of wetlands in farmlands, \$1.9 million for environmental contaminant sampling, \$1.7 million for a management plan for nongame migratory species, and last but not least, \$92.175 million (Not so modest) for acquisition of 31 high priority areas to include in the national wildlife refuge system - the last 5 years the administration has recommended no acquisitions, which is counter to its own Commission on the American Outdoors.

Your contact with members of Congress in support of these add-ons is vital. The House Interior appropriations subcommittee may consider its bill as early as mid-May, the Senate subcommittee by early July, so you must make your feelings known soon.

Write to: Sidney Yates, Chairperson, House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; and Robert Byrd, Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, Wash., D.C. 20510.



"Any hobbies *other* than ornithology?"

BIRD REFUGE

Big news from Jerry Ambrose, Parks Director of the City of Santa Barbara (and the editor's better half - at least he thinks so)! The Bird Refuge Rehabilitation Project is now fully funded. Here is a list of the donors:

Coastal Conservancy:	\$325,260
Santa Barbara Foundation:	\$25,000
Alice Tweed Tuohy Found.:	\$21,500
Anonymous Donor:	\$40,000
Offshore Oil Revenue Grant:	\$192,000

This funding means that the refuge can be upgraded according to the project plan and Los Patos Way can be improved.

The Parks Department will be asking for SBAS to conduct an annual census to ascertain if the upgrading does, in fact, improve the area for birds.

A positive note in local bird concerns!

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!

The beauty of a work of art may be reconceived, though its first material expression be destroyed; a vanished harmony may yet again inspire the composer; but when the last individual of a race of living things breathes no more, another heaven and another earth must pass before such a one can be again.

William beebe



SLATE OF NOMINEES

Following is a list of the slate of nominees for the Board for 1987-88. This is the slate you will vote for at the annual meeting:

Jim Hodgson
Brooks Allen
Mary Ann Ambrose
Chris Benesh
Marge Capiello
Anne Eissler
Blase Maffia
Erik Rosa
Tomi Sollen
Audrey von Bieberstein

At the organizational meeting in June, the Board will appoint the officers and the chairpersons for the various standing committees.

The membership will also be asked to vote on a change in the by-laws reducing the number of board members from 15 to 11 (15 has been too much). One V.P. would be eliminated, along with 2 committees (the committees, hospitality and publicity would continue to exist, but not be part of the board.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Chris Benesh, Audrey von Bieberstein, Erik Rosa, Marge Cappiello, Mary Ann Ambrose, Jim Hodgson, Betti Bazzi, Blase Maffia, Carol Rae, and Tomi Sollen were present at Marge Cappiello's. Criteria for the Dean Bazzi Scholarship were changed to make administration by the University easier and promote participation; adding to the funds was also discussed. SBAS will be represented at the City's Harborfaire on 5/16 by Marge and other volunteers to promote SBAS and sell items. Editor has entered us in a newsletter competition given by National. Changes in the by-laws were discussed and accepted by the board, with reduction of number of board members to be presented to the membership for vote at annual meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm hello to the following new members:

Hershel Arber, Jeff Archibald, Robert Baker, V. Barker, Virginia Becchio, Vera Benson, H. Buck III, Faye Christensen, G.M. Christner, James Corcoran, Michael Cox, D. Davenport, Dr. & Mrs. David E. Davis, Donna Ensign, Frank Fetscher, H. Fischer, The Fitzpatricks, Yvonne French, Rebecca Friedman, Tim Gray, Brent Grossman, Gail Hardy, Keith Hanson, L. Hannah Haskell, H. Holt, Mr. & Mrs. Audie Love, Gene Minc, Mary Papador, Nadya Penoff, E. Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rixon, Doris Rudolph, Richard Russell, Sherilyn Scranton, Mrs. Peter Stettinius, Michael Torok, Brian Willson, John Yeo.

BIRD SEED

Unless someone will take over the Greenes' job of providing us with bird seed, our present supply in the office is the last for sale!

You can obtain the white millet, however, at Horseman's Hang-Up, 5735A Hollister Ave., Goleta. That's behind The Old Habit, across from Wendy's. Millet is 39¢/lb., \$5.50/25lb.

Also, Esther Greene is looking for a scale that is consistent and has a capacity of 12 pounds to use for bird seed - and hopefully pass on to the next hard worker! Call Esther at 687-2096 if you have one (a scale or a hard worker) you would like to donate.

DEAN BAZZI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship, set up to assist UCSB biology students in their pursuit of environmental biology, has been awarded to Lisa Ellis. Lisa is a lifetime resident of Camarillo, and is studying ecology and evolution at UCSB. As an undergraduate, Lisa has already carried out a large wealth of research in topics dealing with animal behavior. Being very environmentally conscious, Lisa is currently abroad in Costa Rica, learning firsthand, the workings of a tropical rainforest and the culture of its inhabitants. She hopes to carry on research that will benefit the world's threatened and endangered species and increase our understanding of our environment. Our congratulations go out to you, Lisa!

RECYCLING ACCOUNT

Just a reminder that SBAS now has its own account with the area recycling centers. There are centers in Goleta (weekends), Carpinteria, and downtown Santa Barbara (Weekdays).

Please collect and drop off cans, bottles, cardboard, ledger paper, computer paper, etc. and say its for SBAS!

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 von Bieberstein	967-2866
V.P. Activities	Brooks Allen	965-3949
Secretary	Erik Rosa	682-6104
Treasurer	Guy Tingos	687-8266
<u>DIRECTORS-at-LARGE</u>		
Tomi Sollen		
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 von Bieberstein	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 von Bieberstein	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
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