

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

October ~~September~~, 1987
Volume 25, Number 2



SBAS Office
300 N. Los Carneros Road
Goleta, Ca 93117
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Lee Sutter/Mary Ann Ambrose
Editors

MONTHLY PROGRAM: Friday, October 23, 1987

"PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF CACHUMA LAKE AREA" will be discussed by Neal Taylor, naturalist at the lake.

Mr. Taylor is responsible for fabulous boat tours around the lake - rich in information about the flora, fauna, and history of this special area. (He is also a past National Flycasting Champion!)

Staff at the lake are busy implementing plans to enhance the accessing of what the lake has to offer: new bird trails, fish habitats, a docent program, interpretive center and a museum.

Mr. Taylor reports 278 species of birds sighted around the lake in the winter of 1986-87! Come hear more about it! Program starts at 8:00 p.m., Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

PRE-PROGRAM WORKSHOP

Chris Benesh is back and will initiate our workshops with a series on "Common Wintering Birds of Santa Barbara." October's session will answer the ever-popular question: "What, at first glance, tells you that the bird you are seeing is a particular family, such as a sparrow, or a finch, or a warbler, or a vireo?"

Meet in the Bird Hall at 7:00 p.m.

SANTA BARBARA BIRD REFUGE

As we go to press with this volume of El Tecolote, the City of Santa Barbara Parks Department is in the process of selecting an engineering firm to prepare the final details on the plans for the rehabilitation of the refuge area.

The Parks Department has requested the assistance of SBAS to conduct an on-going census of bird life over the next five years. The original plans called for such a study as a means of monitoring the changes and success of the rehab work.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Sunday 8:00 am
September 27 Goleta Beach/Devereaux Slough - Meet at Goleta Beach parking lot behind the restaurant. Bring water. Easy 2-3 mile hike; Fall shorebirds, early waterfowl, warblers, etc. Leader, Mary Ann Ambrose (685-1386).
- Thursday 7:00 pm
October 8 Monthly Board meeting at Goleta Library
- Sunday 8:00 am
October 4 Rocky Nook Park/Botanic Garden - Meet in back of Rocky Nook parking lot. Excellent for beginners; Fall woodland species. Led by Mary Ann Ambrose (685-1386)
- Saturday 8:00 am
October 10 Goleta "Hot Spots" - Meet on Patterson Ave. where it crosses San Jose Creek. Walk will include creeks, waterfront, and other places to see Fall vagrants and regulars. Leader is Karen Bridgers; contact at office.
- Saturday 7:00 am
October 17 Santa Maria - Second Fall trip to view migrants: Golden Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper. Meet at K-Mart Shopping Center near Jack-in-the-Box at Hollister/Storke. Bring lunch; moderate hiking. Brooks Allen, leader (965-3949).
- Saturday 10:00 am-4:00 pm
October 17 Stearns Wharf Birthday Party - Items for sale, music; birds around the wharf. Call Marge Cappiello for information (967-9569)
- Friday
October 23 Monthly Program - see front page
- Sunday 8:00 am
October 25 Santa Barbara "Hot Spots" - Half-day trip; Fall vagrants. Meet at Bird Refuge parking area. Leader is Guy Tingos (687-8266)
- Thursday 7:00 pm
November 5 Board Meeting - Goleta Library
- Saturday 8:00 am
November 7 Lake Los Carneros - details next newsletter.
- Saturday/Sunday
November 14 & 15 Morro Bay Weekend
- Wednesday 8:00 am
November 18 Beginners' Walk - Botanic Gardens
- Sunday
November 22 Figueroa Mountain
- Friday
December 4 Monthly Program November/December:
"Birds of Australia."
- Saturday
December 12 Lake Cachuma

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Mary Ann Ambrose, Marge Cappiello, Jim Hodgson, Tomi Sollen, Anne Eissler, Lee Sutter, and Ron Smith attended the September 10th board meeting. Lee is our new editor. Ron, an active member in the past, is again in Santa Barbara and anxious to participate once again!

We still need volunteers to staff our table at the Stearns Wharf Birthday Party on Saturday, October 17 - call Marge Cappiello (967-9569). We will have T-shirts, guide books, plants, bird seed, and prints for sale. Other ideas are welcome.

We are still trying to resolve the issue of exhorbinant prices for our office liability insurance - is there a member out there who writes insurance who could assist us?

Tomi Sollen informed us of the activities at the National Audubon Convention in Bellingham, Washington. A report will follow in El Tecolote next month.

Jim Hodgson will coordinate our 7 year plan to census bird life at the Bird Refuge as part of its Rehabilitation by the City. If anyone wishes to do some censusing, please let us know.

OFFICE

The Second Edition of National Geographic Field Guide to North American Birds is now available at the Audubon office for the bargain price of \$18.95. (Save at least \$1.)

We still are in need of substitutes for the office. Please call Audrey von Bieberstein (967-2866).

FIELD TRIP LEADERS

are needed to lead some of our adventures!

Please call Jim Hodgson (969-1209) if you are willing to help. You do not have to be the best birder in the county to lead trips - you just have to be interested and enthusiastic about birds and the area you choose to tour.

WE NEED A SECRETARY!!!

Erik Rosa was promoted to a better job and will be working different hours - congratulations, Erik! But this leaves us with a significant hole in the organization.

The Secretary attends monthly board meetings, prepares minutes and agendas, and sees that they are distributed to all board members prior to each meeting.

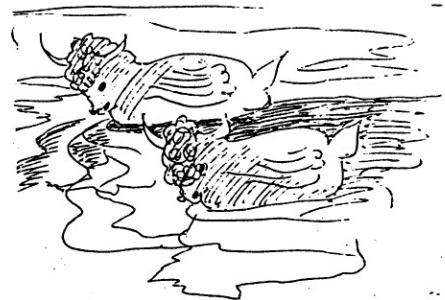
Please call Mary Ann Ambrose at 685-1386 to volunteer!

NEWSLETTER

The position of Editor has been filled by Lee Sutter, who does secretarial work for the County. After many years, she still considers herself a novice birder and is looking forward to taking part in more outings. Lee became locally famous (infamous?) a couple of years ago when she spotted the seldom-seen and little-known waterfowl "Buffalo Heads" at Goleta Beach Park (see drawing, compliments of Karen Foster).

January 4 1986 Bird Count:

Lee Sutter spots rare pair
of Buffalo Heads



READER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Although we are trying to cut down to four pages to save space, we can still use fillers on occasion. Please share your stories, cartoons, or drawings with us and we will try to fit them in as the need arises.

BIRDS OF SANTA BARBARA

Avian highlights in Santa Barbara County this past summer included a pair of Northern Parulas on San Jose Creek in Goleta during July and August; no evidence of breeding was found. A Black and White Warbler there during the same period was also quite unusual in summer. A Summer Tanager returned for a third year to the Rocky Nook Park area. A male Great-tailed Grackle was briefly spotted in Goleta, and several Black Skimmers were sighted at the Santa Inez River mouth. Single Horned Grebes and Common Mergansers at Lake Cachuma in late June were unusual for the season. In late August and early September a flurry of activity brought Bell's and Red-eyed Vireos, Canada and Chestnut-sided Warblers, And an incredible-for-the-low-lands White Headed Woodpecker to Carpinteria! Santa Maria area saw a Ruff, Parula, immature Painted Bunting, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper (first locally since 1964). Farther afield, the highlight of the season in Ventura County was certainly the female Black-backed Wagtail present for weeks in Port Hueneme. This is the first regional record of this accidental from Asia and Africa!

Paul Lehman

DIAL-A-BIRD
964-8240

TO INFORM Chris Benesh of
rare sightings: 964-1468

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

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\$20 INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP OFFER

As of now, NAS is running a special introductory offer of \$20 for new members. Of that \$20, SBAS would get \$15.

If you are thinking of gifts, or know of someone who is not a member, call us for the application form. We only get the \$15 if the application is made through our office.

AUTOGRAPH PARTY

Daniel's Publishing Company is having an autograph party for Ina Griffin, local author of a delightful bird adventure book titled Wayfaring with Birds.

Mrs. Griffin is a long-time resident of Santa Barbara and has been an active bird watcher much of her life. Her book is a systematic account of how and where she has seen her life birds in North America, with recent sightings in the 1980s!

The party will be held Saturday, October 24, 1987 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in the bookshop.

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