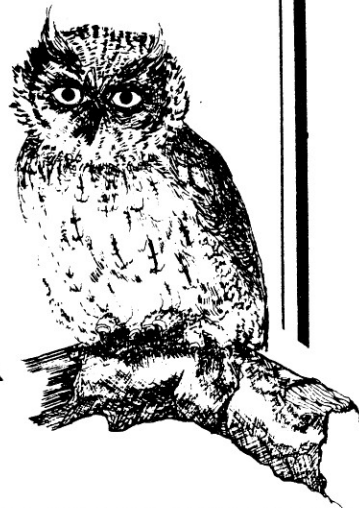


El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

January
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Santa Barbara Audubon Office
300 North Los Carneros Road
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Lee Sutter
Editor

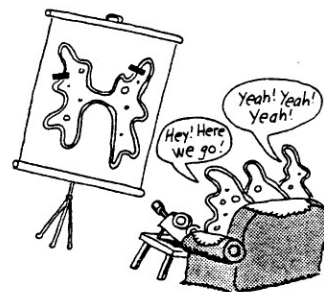


MONTHLY PROGRAMS

January ²⁹~~19~~, Friday
8:00 pm

*** MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT ***

Farrand Hall
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta del Sol
Santa Barbara



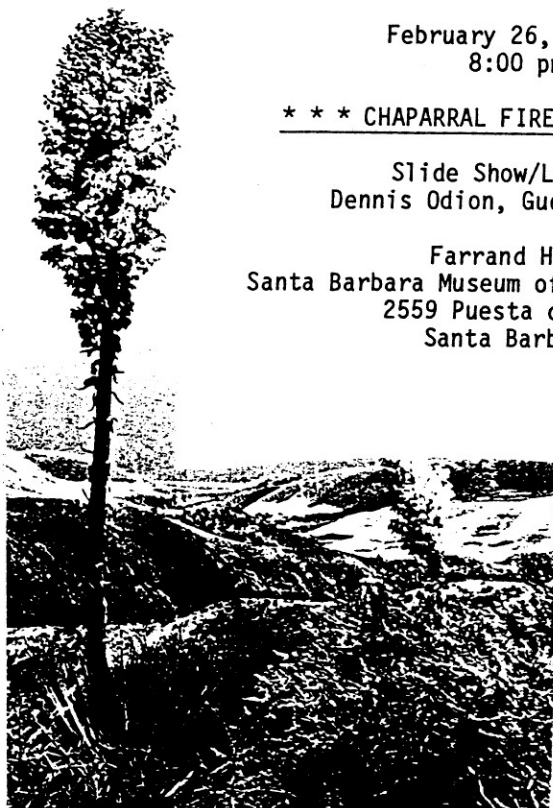
Show off your slides; tell your stories of adventures in foreign lands or your own back yard. Each member is limited to 10 slides and 10 minutes. Take this opportunity to meet others with your interests and to share their experiences as well as your own. If you haven't already done so, sign up with Blase through the Audubon office.

February 26, Friday
8:00 pm

*** CHAPARRAL FIRE ECOLOGY ***

Slide Show/Lecture
Dennis Odion, Guest Speaker

Farrand Hall
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta del Sol
Santa Barbara



Formerly a botanist at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Dennis Odion will present an interesting slide show and lecture on the role of fire in the growth and development of chaparral vegetation. Come and learn about the specialized fire ecology in this plant community which is so prevalent in our area.

CALENDAR OF MONTHLY EVENTS

January 29 Friday- 8:00 pm	<u>Member's Slide Night</u> - Farrand Hall, SB Museum of Natural History. Members limited to 10 slides and 10 minutes. Sign up with Blase through the Audubon office.
January 30 Saturday	<u>Ventura County Game Preserve</u> - Excellent trip for wintering waterfowl & raptors. Two to four miles of hiking; bring water/lunch. Limited to 25 people. For reservations, time, and meeting place contact leader Brooks Allen (965-3949). Call only between 10 am and 10 pm.
February 4 Thursday 7:00	<u>Monthly Board Meeting</u> - Home of Audrey von Bieberstein, where we will view another video tape from National Audubon Society
February 7 Saturday	<u>Lake Cachuma Boat Trip</u> - Bald Eagles, Osprey, Swans are highlights. Trip limited to 22 people, \$15 per person. For reservations, time, and meeting place, contact leader: John Flavin (565-1229).
February 20 Saturday 7:30 am	<u>Kinevan Road</u> - Good trip for Wintering passerines. Meet at 5-Pts Shpng Ctr near Big 5 Sporting Goods. Leader: Brooks Allen (965-3949). Call only between 10 am and 10 pm.
February 26 Friday 8:00 pm	<u>Monthly Program</u> - Chaparral fire ecology - see cover for details.
February 28 Sunday 8:00 am	<u>Devereux Slough</u> - Good trip for wintering waterfowl. Meet at entrance to Devereux Slough on the corner of Storke Rd. and El Colegio. Park to the left of the guard station. Leader: Guy Tingos (687-8266)
March 5 Saturday 7:30 am	<u>Oso Flaco Lake, Santa Maria</u> - Good trip for wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at K-Mart shopping Center Leader TBA.
March 19 Saturday 8:00 am	<u>Bird Refuge/Santa Barbara Harbor</u> - Meet at the Bird Refuge. Leader: Mary Ann Ambrose (685-1386)
March 25 Friday 8:00 pm	<u>Monthly Program</u> - Travelling through the Antarctic - George Andrews - Details next issue
April 29 Friday 8:00 pm	<u>Monthly Program</u> - Natural History of Carpinteria Slough, Wayne Ferren, curator UCSB Herbarium and Manager of Carpinteria Slough Reserve. Details next issue.



Sorry, the Carrizo Plains trip tentatively planned for January has been cancelled.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again the holidays are passed and another Christmas Count is behind us. You should be very proud of the folks who organized this year's bird count. A total of 211 species is again impressive. We have tied with Morro Bay this year, and we were again "out-birded" by Freeport, Texas: 217. (As we go to print we may have a count of 212). Freeport may have had more species, but they couldn't possibly have more dedication.

Special thank-you's go to Joan Lentz for chairing the event and making it a success and to Pat Kelly for assisting with taking applications and organizing the areas. Thank you also to Robby Hamilton for updating and retyping our checklist. I hope that all participants (over 100) had a fun day and a good dinner. Let's look forward to an exciting "Bird-a-Thon" this spring.

I am reminded, when given the opportunity to go out birding, (which doesn't happen enough) of what got me interested in the first place some fifteen years ago: the simple joy and wonder of being part of the natural world. To read about wildlife and their habitats, even to see

pictures and films, does not begin to take the place of the excitement of actually sharing their lives, even when only for a fleeting moment.

Caught up in an urban, mechanized world, I need to know those wild places and their creatures are out there. That's why I am active in this Society: to do what I can to ensure the continued existence of wild places and animals. Education, speaking up on issues, sharing information, all these things are essential activities.

And, these activities do make a difference. To see the excitement generated in a group of first- or second-graders by one of our slide shows on local birds and to have the children tell you something they remember from your last visit; to see a governmental body change its course of action to benefit wild places due to public input; to provide factual information to individuals trying to make decisions; to see the wonder and joy on someone's face as a bird walk helps them gain appreciation - these things make the giving of my time more than worthwhile. The best to all of you in 1988 and to our wild friends.

BIRD REPORT

Since Paul Lehman was away for the holidays, we're just going repeat some of the the bird report from our Dial-A-Bird Tape of January 5.

A Tennessee Warbler was sighted at San Jose Creek near Armitos. Five Palm Warblers have been on Patterson Avenue by Atascadero Creek around the Baby's Breath. A Common Grackle visited a horse ranch corral across from the City Dump, (accessed by Calle Real).

A male Baltimore-type Northern Oriole is again by the freeway at Valerio and Mission Creek. Oak Park provided shelter for a Summer Tanager, and Rocky Nook Park again attracted an Hepatic Tanager. Late afternoons in the gardens at the El Encanto hotel on the Riviera is the best time to see the Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Two White-headed Woodpeckers have been sighted: a female in the pines at Via Orcadillo off of San Antonio Creek, and a male in a groove of pines that goes all the way down the canyon on East Camino Cielo, about 1.5 miles from Cielo Store.

DO A DEED FOR A GREBE OR GIVE A SCOTER A SCOOT

Many pelagic birds and waterfowl are helpless on land since their legs are positioned so far back on their bodies. Often, such birds as Murrelets, Scoters, or Grebes get blown onto land by storms or are left stranded when the tide goes out.

An El Tecolote contributor and former Santa Barbara resident, artist Karen Foster reports that she has recently assisted two Western Grebes and one Surf Scoter at Oceana Dunes by placing them back into the ocean. She is delighted to have the opportunity to see these birds close up and the birds must be delighted to get a helping hand. As they swim off they turn back to give her seemingly curious looks.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

December 10's meeting reported the Birds of the Bush program netted \$79. National's tape on overpopulation was viewed; general consensus was that although the material was thought-provoking, solutions needed to be offered. Services provided to the community were discussed.

Goals are to provide more and better programs, scholarships for camp & conferences, more money for conservation issues, and to get El Tecolote back on a monthly basis. Our \$4000 annual deficit is replenished by our savings, which is rapidly depleting.

FIFI WEBSTER (1925-1987)

Former SBAS president Fifi Webster passed away in November. As an active environmentalist in this area she corresponded with all the environmental agencies, including national and western Audubon offices. She was instrumental in persuading the City Council to establish the Goleta Slough as an Ecological Preserve and worked to keep the slough open and protected from marine development, airport enlargement, and from the planned freeway extension to UCSB.

It was Fifi Webster that requested the Condor postage stamp, testified at Federal oil hearings, US Forest Service hearings on mining activities and off-road vehicles, and fought for the ban on DDT. Audubon was fortunate to have such an active president and member. We shall all miss her.

AVIAN BIOLOGY CLASS

Former SBAS president Robert Lindsay is teaching a course in the Biology of Birds at City College in the spring. This class will offer an introduction to bird taxonomy, evolution, flight, anatomy, physiology, migration, and includes several local and regional field trips. Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 pm is the schedule for the first class. However, sign-ups must be made soon. Contact Admissions at Santa Barbara City College for details on Biology of Birds, Zoology 21B.

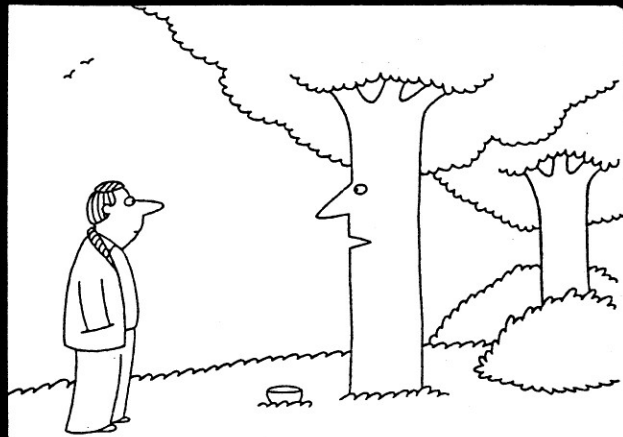
BALD EAGLE AT LAKE CACHUMA

Cynthia Shipman reports that she saw a Bald Eagle as she was horseback-riding near Lake Cachuma the first week of January. It landed on a branch and was so close she didn't even need binoculars. So, be sure to sign up for the Cachuma field/boat trip (see Calendar) so you can see this magnificent bird too!

CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS

Due to budget restraints we are unable to include an extra page in El Tecolote listing the results of the local Christmas Count. If you are interested in this information, please detach the coupon below and send it along with \$1.00 and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, 300 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117, and we will send you a photocopy of the results. The money will help to offset newsletter costs. Thank you!

YES, please send me the results of the 1988 SBAS Christmas Count for Santa Barbara. I have enclosed \$1.00 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to offset costs of El Tecolote.



"There's no charge for wandering around in the woods,
but a three-dollar contribution is suggested."

GOOD INVESTMENT

"Nature does not give to those who will not spend; her gifts are loaned to those who will use them. Empty your lungs and breathe. Run, climb, work, and laugh; the more you give out the more you shall receive. Participate. Men do not really live for honors or for pay; their happiness is not in the taking and holding, but in the doing, the striving, the building, the serving."...Harry Marsh

UNETHICAL PRACTICE

Continental duck populations in recent years are record-low. Since 1934 it has been illegal to lure migratory waterfowl near hunting sites by spreading grain or feed. US Fish & Wildlife Service is placing special emphasis on enforcing regulations prohibiting such actions.

"This practice of baiting waterfowl is not only illegal, it is totally unethical" announced USF&WS director Frank Dunkle. Any observations or suspicions that a site has been baited should be reported to a State or Federal wildlife law-enforcement office.

SOUTH COAST BIRD REPORTS

Los Angeles	(213) 874-1318
San Francisco	(415) 528-0288
San Bernardino	(714) 793-5599
San Diego	(619) 435-6761
Santa Barbara	(805) 964-8240

BIRD ALERT

Brooks Allen, one of our regular field-trip leaders, has agreed to take on the duties involved with the Bird Alert. Please call him between the hours of 10 am and 10 pm to report any unusual sightings at 965-3949. Thanks for helping us out Brooks!



TALENTED IN CRAFTS?

Do you knit or do other crafts? If so, please consider donating appropriate items for our fund-raising faires. We are always looking for ways to make money and this can be your way of helping our local chapter. We can also use yarn. Contact the local SBAS office.

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