

# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

DESK COPY

July - August 1988

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Santa Barbara Audubon Office  
300 North Los Cameros Road  
Goleta, CA 93117  
(805) 964-1468

Lee Sutter  
Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to the great efforts of Mary Ann Ambrose, the SBAS is fiscally sound. Mary Ann leaves the Board and Santa Barbara for a move to Buellton. She will be missed as an active president, field-trip leader, and a very-much appreciated member of the Education Committee.

The new Board of Directors, voted in at our 25th anniversary dinner, has a positive outlook and hopes for more active member participation. Ron Hirst, our new field-trip director, plans some great trips this coming year. Two new field trips were added this past year: the San Bernardino mountains and the Sage Grouse trip to Mammoth. Assistance will be needed for the conservation committee under Lisa Edwards and Joy Parkinson in areas of land use, air pollution, and letter writing. Input is also needed regarding the Bird Refuge, which Helen Matelson is in charge of. Until additional funds can be raised, we will continue the current program of this bulletin, El Tecolote, every other month.

Please contact the Audubon office if and when you can actively participate. ...Tomi Sollen



<sup>86</sup>  
K. Toole  
*Bewick's Wren in Ceonothus + Chamise*

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

~~July 7~~  
~~Thurs 7:00 pm~~

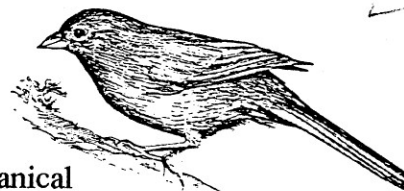
~~Board Meeting, Goleta Library. Members always welcome.~~

July 16  
Sat 8:00 am

Beginner's Walk. Rocky Nook Park and Santa Barbara Botanical Garden. Meet at the entrance to Rocky Nook Park. Beginners are urged to come on this leisurely and pleasant walk, and observe the wide variety of birds that spend their summer in Santa Barbara. Leader Ron Hirst (967-4966)

August 4  
Thurs 7:00 pm

Board Meeting, Goleta Library.



HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!  
MONTHLY PROGRAMS WILL START AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER  
MANY BIRDWALKS PLANNED IN THE FALL

## MAY THE BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS ...

Three local organizations were instrumental in forming the Bluebird Trail near Devereux Slough.

Ellen Anderson, leader of the Isla Vista 4-H club contacted SBAS for assistance in their project to help the Western Bluebird.

Audubon office volunteer Virginia Collett gave a slide show, bird walk, and an informal talk on bluebirds for eight 4-H girls and boys and two leaders. The group then built nest boxes, procured a proper site for the trail, and learned about successful trails throughout the country.

The Santa Barbara Natural History Museum was eager to help with funding and the securing of plaques for each box to inform the public of the trail and its protected species. Ellen Anderson, Virginia Collett, and Audubon president Mary Ann Ambrose along with 4-H Youth/Public Service Advisor A. Michael Marzolla and eight 4-H children put up the boxes on March 29, 1988.

Paul Anderson, a 4-H member, won First Place and County Winner in the Wildlife Division for his entry of a nest box and poster at the 4-H Fair at Nojoqui Falls!

Recent observation has shown three to four boxes to be in use - three with complete nests, possibly wrens. Next year, bluebirds?!

Anyone interested in starting a second trail or funding one, please contact the Audubon office or Virginia Collett at 967-0697. Another group of children as well as the Western Bluebird will benefit.

## MUCHAS GRACIAS

Thanks from the office and library to all of the following: to Bob Eyman for matting one of our office pictures; to Selmer O. Wake for an Audible Audubon Living Sound System (including a full set of bird cards and four sets of wildlife cards); to Ginny Collett for her donation of Bird Care Booklets for us to sell; to Martin Kellogg for his donation of prints, books, and booklets to our library, (including Field Days in California by Bradford Torrey, 1913) and to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Greeff for donating some beautiful hand-made items to sell.



## MISSING!!

Our office copy of the National Geographic Bird Guide is missing. If you have visited the office in the last couple of months, would you please check to see if you may have carried it out with other books or belongings?

## CONSERVATION

Issues covered this past year by SBAS' Conservation Committee were:

- 1) Requested County Board of Supervisors to adopt a tree ordinance for use by Public Works and Parks Depts. to *not* prune trees during the spring bird nesting period.
- 2) Flood Control - hired a biologist who is sensitive to our interests to evaluate fauna and flora of streams. Paul Lehman's analysis of our streams and his knowledge of our bird habitats provided excellent input.
- 3) More Mesa Biological Evaluation - County Board of Supervisors unanimously accepted the Planning Commission's findings on this report. Wayne Ferren of UCSB Herbarium, presented his still applicable research from 1983 which shows that a major portion of the More Mesa is environmentally sensitive habitat.
- 4) Gibraltar Dam - appealed to the City Council to, if necessary, strengthen the dam, but *not* raise it. Jim and Violet Greaves' study of the endangered species, the Least Bell's Vireo, would prevent the raising of the dam.
- 5) Mary Ann Ambrose wrote a letter to the County Parks department approving the installation of floating toilets on Lake Cachuma.

We need assistance in evaluating county and state materials on air pollution toxics, and oil.

## DESERT TASK FORCE IN FORCE

National Audubon Society is joining with 15 California chapters in endorsing the CA Desert Protection Act, introduced as Senate Bill 7 by U.S. Senator Cranston. This proposed act would 1) expand the boundaries of Death Valley and Joshua Tree Nat'l Monuments and make these areas national parks, 2) preserve 4.5 million acres of spectacularly diverse BLM wildlands as wilderness, and 3) establish the nation's 50th national park, the 1.5 million-acre Mojave National Park, east of Barstow.

## DOES YOUR BOAT FLOAT?

Last year's Xmas count we had to use \$150 of our dwindling coffers to rent a boat. Had we not done so, many species would not have been counted, and we would not have been able to maintain our status of tying with Morro Bay as having the highest count in California, second highest in the nation. If you, or someone you know has a boat we can use or rent cheaply this coming winter for our count, we sure would appreciate it. Think about it; talk to friends, and let us know.

## WRITE LETTERS!!

- 1) Tundra National Forest - to save old forests, (spotted owl habitat); 2) Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to stop oil development; 3) Endangered Species Act Reauthorization; 4) California Desert Protection Act. Call Audubon office for addresses.

## BIRDWALK REPORTS

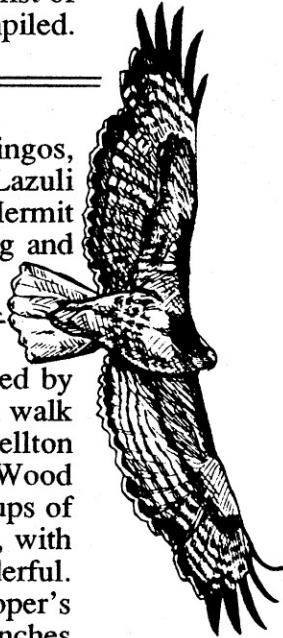
Zaca Lake, Santa Barbara county's *only* natural lake, and vicinity were good walks on April 30 led by Brooks Allen. Not much waterfowl, mostly woodland species were seen, 41 in all! Brook's accurate mimicry got us excellent looks at a pygmy owl, disguising itself as a burl. Color was provided by Northern Orioles, Western Bluebirds, both species of our Jays, Purple Finch and Black Headed Grosbeak. The Black-throated Gray Warbler was striking, and an Ash-throated Gray Flycatcher posed for us, making its querulous chirp. Nuthall, Hairy, Downey and Acorn Woodpeckers were all observed. The folks at Zaca did not charge us admission, only asked that we send them a list of species seen, which Bob Brigden compiled. What a deal!

### REFUGIO CANYON REPORT

Excellent birding, led by Guy Tingos, provided a Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and a Hermit Warbler. The weather was accommodating and great fun was had by all.

### RAVIN' ABOUT FLAVIN

The three Santa Ynez Valley walks, led by John Flavin, were all successful, with each walk getting about 40 species. The Buellton riverbottom walk gave views of a pair of Wood Ducks, a Yellow-breasted Chat, and close-ups of nesting Tree Swallows. De la Vina Ranch, with its penstemon-covered hills, was wonderful. Under an oak canopy we watched a Cooper's Hawk gracefully swoop between bare branches to a large nest. A Lazuli Bunting sang its song from the tip of a cottonwood branch; Phainopepla flew over golden rolling hills from tree top to tree top, not stopping long enough to hold in our scope; Lawrence Gold Finch was exciting to see; a male Wilson's Warbler sang loudly and kept us busy explaining his constantly changing location to others as he moved around the underbrush. A Wrentit, normally reclusive, must have been trying to attract a mate as it scampered up and down a limb within 10' of us, singing its familiar descending song, and owl feathers and droppings were discovered in the walnut groves. The recent Sweeney Road walk, in spite of strong winds, gave good views of Costa's Hummingbirds, Indigo Bunting, a Blue Grosbeak, and a magnificent view of a singing male Lazuli Bunting on the end of a willow branch, with rich green hills in the background.



## 25th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Fifty people, which was a good turn out but less than hoped for, showed up to celebrate SBAS's 25 years "in business" at Mom's Italian Village. Six of the original 72 charter members attended: Fred and Anne Eissler, John Flavin, Arthella Jacot, Joy Parkinson, and Norman Stevens. Joy gave a delightful talk about the good old days; seems the camaraderie they had then was wonderful- they were small in numbers but big in spirit! Since this dinner party was also the annual meeting, Mary Ann Ambrose introduced the new board for this fiscal year and the members voted them in by a show of hands (with one dissenter, just to keep us on our toes, I suppose). Dinner was quite tasty and filling. Koelsch's Bakery did a terrific condor design on the spice cake (the toe was delicious). Glenn Olson, western regional vice-president of NAS presented slides and a talk on the current efforts to save wetlands in California by acquiring additional acreage via generous donations and cooperation from sensitive landowners. It was very encouraging!

The tables were nicely decorated with floral arrangements by Marge Capiello. Special thanks is given to those who donated items for our Super Raffle: Jerry and Mary Ann Ambrose, Betty Bazzi, Karen Bridgers, Marge Capiello, Ruth Carr, Anne Eissler, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Greeff, Joy Parkinson, Audrey von Bieberstein, Wynne Tufnell, Bob Eyman, Horseman's Hang-up, Tony Rose Camera, and to Douglas Telescopes for the grand prize of 10x40 Swift binoculars.

### ART SHOW

"The Golden Age of Bird Illustration, 1832-1887" will be at the Maximus Gallery at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History until August 15. Nineteen hand-coloured lithographs by John Gould will be on exhibit. Gould (1801-1881), ornithologist, artist, and successful businessman stands second only to Audubon in the history of bird illustration. The exhibit also features four works by another artist belonging to this golden age, American ornithologist Daniel Giraud Elliot (1835-1915), as well as many recent additions to the library's collection.

### WE WILL MISS YOU

We want to express our appreciation to Jim Hodgson and Blase Mafia for being on our Board last year. Jim organized a lot of good bird walks, and contributed his artwork, time and energy to other events. Blase, as program director, arranged and coordinated many fine monthly programs for our members. As well as their contributions to our walks and programs, we will miss their presence and input at our board meetings. Bye guys!

### PAL IN DROME

Our pal in drome writes that he just returned from a trip down south, and that the owls there are TOO HOT TO HOOT.



## SAY YOU WILL

If the office is to remain open during our scheduled hours, we *must* have some new volunteers. As of this writing we have two openings for regular volunteers, and we always need more substitutes. During the past year, five dedicated people have served in the office: Betty Bazzi, Audrey von Bieberstein, Margaret Eyman, Mary Ann Ambrose, and Virginia Collett. Even so, if it wasn't for Margaret Lennox and Claude Morter, our willing substitutes, the office could not have remained open so many days. Please call the office and say you can help.



## TOBACCO TAX FOR CONSERVATION

Approximately \$30 million dollars will be allocated each year for conservation programs from money generated from a proposed increase in the tobacco tax. The Tobacco Tax and Health Protection Act is an initiative which would raise the tobacco tax in California by 25 cents per pack of cigarettes. Other tobacco products would also be taxed. (The current tax on tobacco at this time, in California, is only 10 cents per pack, which is one of the *lowest* in the nation.) Contact Planning & Conservation League, 909 12th St. #203, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 444-8726.

## SOUTH COAST BIRD REPORTS

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



## SALTON SEA

Mark your calendars for October 1 & 2, when Ron Hirst will take you on a birding trip to Salton Sea! Details next issue.

## SBAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Tom! Sollen
Vice-President:	Joy Parkinson
Secretary:	Wynne Tufnell
Treasurer:	Anne Elssler
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Education:	Ada Babine
Field Trips	Ron Hirst
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Bulletin Editor:	Lee Sutter
Office Coordinator:	Audrey von Bleberstein
Programs:	Marge Cappello
<b>Other Committee Chais</b>	
Hospitality	Carol Rae
Publicity	Betty Bazzi
Rare Bird Alert	965-3949 -- Brooks Allen
Library	Audrey von Bleberstein
Bird Refuge Census:	Helen Matelson

Cover drawing by Karen Foster

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