

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1989
Vol. 27 - No. 4



ALL MEMBERS: URGENT MESSAGE!

Help save Mono Lake. The National Audubon Society urges members to send cards, notes or letters (A.S.A.P.) to the National Forest Service, supporting preservation of Mono Lake in two ways:

1. Commend the National Forest Service for drafting a Mono Lake Management Plan; and,
2. Urge the National Forest Service to adopt the "Amenities" Alternative, as the Plan's "preferred" scenario.

The Forest Service document considers five(5) alternative plans for Mono Lake, under the title of a "Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area." (whew!)

The National Forest Service itself favors an "Interpretive" alternative. But the Mono Lake Committee and the National Audubon Society strongly support the "Amenities" plan to provide the best level of protection for Mono Lake.

Both groups urge members to commend the Forest Service for the report, and ask it to adopt "Amenities", eliminating grazing in the area, and taking other steps to enhance wildlife habitat. Accentuating protection of Mono's wilderness values would take the place of new interpretive facilities that can still be placed at the new Visitor Center to be built in Lee Vining.

Comments should be submitted BEFORE JANUARY 19, 1989, to Mr. DENNIS MARTIN, FOREST SUPERVISOR, INYO NATIONAL FOREST, 873 NORTH MAIN, BISHOP, CALIFORNIA, 93514.

A public hearing on the Plan is scheduled for 2:00 P.M., January 7, 1989, at the American Legion Hall, in Lee Vining.

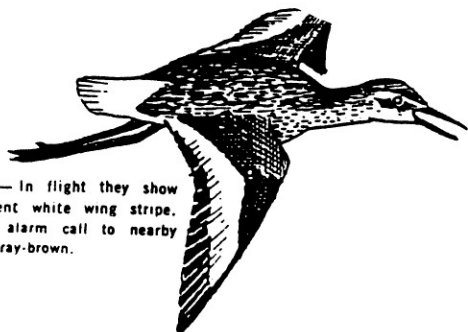
The Christmas Bird Count

Our annual Christmas Bird Count will take place SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1988

Because we inadvertently omitted the registration form in the last issue, former counters will be contacted directly by telephone.

New counters (and interested volunteers), please call PAT KELLY at 962-9916, and have ready for her:

1. your name, address, and phone number
2. where you'd like to cover
3. with whom (if you have a preference)
4. whether you plan to attend the pot-luck dinner at the Bird Habitat Hall, S.B. Natural History Museum, 6:00 P.M., for the total count.



WILLETS — In flight they show a prominent white wing stripe. Gives an alarm call to nearby feeders. Gray-brown.



SANDPIPERS — (Least, Western, Spotted, Dowitchers, Dunlin, etc.) Smallest waders, usually running in flocks.

FIELD TRIPS JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 1989

1. January 14, 7:30 A.M.

SAT

Canada Larga Road, Ventura. Half-day. Interesting birds and Golden Eagles frequent these canyons. Meet at the Bird Refuge. Bring lunch & water. Leader: RON SMITH (687-2990). Rain Cancels.

2. January 28, 9:30 A.M.

SAT

Seagull identification. Half-day. Six to eight gull species will be studied in the field. Includes a 2-mile walk. Meet at Goleta Beach sandspit. Rain Postpones. Leader: RON HIRST (967-4966).

3. February 4, 7:30 A.M.

SAT

Ventura County Game Preserve. Half-day. Ibis, shorebirds, and waterfowl abound at this bird haven near Point Mugu. Bring lunch & water. Meet at Bird Refuge. Rain Cancels. Leader: GUY TINGOS (687-8266)

4. February 11, 8:30 A.M.

SAT

Goleta creeks. Half-day. Local resident and wintering birds will be highlighted. Meet at Patterson Ave. bridge over San Jose Creek (just above Cathedral Oaks). Rain Cancels. Leader: KAREN BRIDGERS (964-1316).

5. February 25, 9:30 A.M.

SAT

Lake Cachuma boat trip. *(3 hours)* Bald eagles, osprey, numerous waterfowl will be seen from your seat on the 23-seat boat. RESERVE EARLY. (cost: Adults-\$9; Children-\$5). Leader: to be announced. If interested, call RON HIRST (967-4966). Rain Postpones.

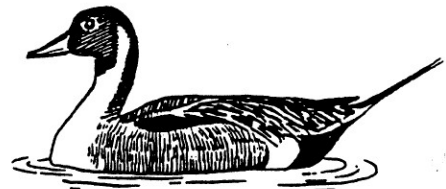
6. February 27, time to be announced. *MON*

Seagull identification workshop. Identifying characteristics of local gulls will be discussed. If interested, call RON HIRST (967-4966).

AUDUBON OFFICE: HELP PITCH IN!

Audrey does such a marvelous job keeping all of Audubon's projects & activities humming from our Los Carneros Road office. But she could be even more effective if members could volunteer just a few hours per week. Right now the office is often closed Mondays & Wednesdays for lack of volunteers or substitutes. Come on, this is one challenge we ought to be able to correct!

Please check your schedules for 1989. If you can spare even 1-2 hours per week, call Audrey at the office (964-1468) and sign-up to help Audubon now.



DUCKS — (Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy, Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser Scoters).

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

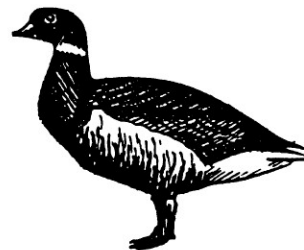
Marie Slaton, Membership, and I attended two regional council meetings. As we're interested in preparing necessary information for the Department of Fish & Game, with our proposal to save riparian habitat, the meeting was helpful.

Audubon is carrying on the appeal to save the old-growth forests in Washington, Oregon & California, the habitat of the Spotted Owl.

Note the separate article on Mono Lake. National is counting on as many letters as possible supporting the "Amenities" alternative. Please, take a few minutes to respond to this appeal.

Thank You's to all the members and the committee that made the December 9th Members' Slide Show and get-together so enjoyable.

Happy Holidays, and Good Birding.



GEESE — Black Brant is common. A small dark goose. Hundreds winter in Morro Bay.

SPECIAL EVENTS, UPCOMING:

1. California's Oak Woodlands Symposium; Sacramento, CA, January 22-24.
2. The Bald Eagle Conference; Klamath Falls, Oregon, February 17-19
3. National Audubon Desert Conference; Davis, CA, April 7-9, 1989
4. National Audubon Convention; Tucson, Arizona, September 12-16

BIRDING NOTE--- The Bald Eagles have again arrived at Lake Cachuma. Please call 568-2460 for cruise information.



MONTHLY PROGRAM

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



Friday, January 27, 1989

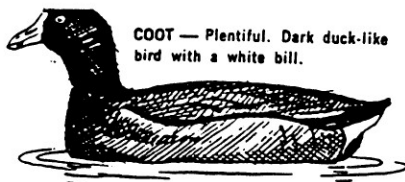
- 7:15 PM. Seagull identification by Ron Hirst in the Bird Hall.
- 8:00 PM. ERNEST H. BROOKS II, President of Brooks Institute School of Photographic Arts & Science, and a widely noted photographer and educator who's won international acclaim for underwater photography and audio-visual presentations.
- He will present "A Journey to the Sea of Cortez".

Friday, February 24, 1989

- 8:00 PM. DR. DEMOREST DAVENPORT, retired U.C.S.B. Professor of Zoology, and a Trustee of the Museum of Natural History, will present: "Looking at Birds in Tradition, Mythology & Art."

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 the SBAS office (805) 964-1468.

964-1316 (Karen Bridgers)



COOT — Plentiful. Dark duck-like bird with a white bill.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We were blessed with excellent weather and a great variety of species during our 1988 guided field trips, w. abundant opportunities for birding & discovery of fine hiking/viewing areas. This did NOT happen by chance. El Tecolote salutes our intrepid 1988 field-trip leaders:

BROOKS ALLEN KAREN BRIDGERS JOHN
FLAVIN JIM HODGSON JIM ROYER RON
SMITH GUY TINGOS & RON HIRST.

Knowledgeable, gracious, good-humored, enthusiastic, they made 1988 field trips a uniform success. Thanks.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: MIXED RESULTS

There have been mixed results in our ongoing effort to preserve endangered species. On November 17th, U.S. District Judge Tom Zilly of Seattle ruled that the U.S. Forest Service must list the Spotted Owl as endangered, and must show cause why their woodland habitat may be timber-harvested. Audubon was one of the litigants in the case. The forest industry is expected to appeal.

Closer to home, it was determined by federal/state officials that County officials "must consider" effects of enlarging Lake Cachuma on the Least Bell Vireo, which is known to feed and nest in the area.

But in a sobering Environmental Defense Fund article (provided by Marge Capiello) Dr. Bruce Manheim & senior E.D.F. attorney Michael Bean urge all interested naturalists to write their state & federal representatives to BAN synthetic fishing nets & lines; non-biodegradable, these plastic items can kill birds, fish and marine mammals years after being lost or discarded. Many rare species are being victimized (i.e. green sea turtles, Hawaiian Monk Seal, Parakeet Auklet, etc.) daily. National & international legislation is badly needed on this issue. Write: E.D.F., 257 Park Ave. South, NY, NY, 10010 for more info. on what you can do.

Yielding to pressure, Madagascar has expanded its wildlife rain-forest sanctuaries, a step Brazil still refuses to take despite their uncontrolled deforestation programs.

AUDUBON & THE SANTA BARBARA BIRD REFUGE

A message to all El Tecolote readers from
City Parks Director Jerry Ambrose (a long-
time, active Audubon member):

"Dear Audubon Members,

At long last, the project to improve
wildlife habitat at the Andree Clark Bird
Refuge is about to begin. Major construc-
tion will be taking place between February
and May (1st phase); we hope to complete
the entire project by Spring, 1990. The
City has committed itself to regular cen-
susing of bird species at the Refuge for
the next 5 years, as a means of evaluating
our program's success. Your board has gene-
rously agreed to do these censuses for us.
However, committee chair Helen Matelson is
working virtually alone! Please call Helen
to see if your bird walks at the Refuge
can be turned into census data for this
project. All we need is species & numbers,
on a form we will furnish. Call Helen at
966-3217 to help. We'd like you to be a
part of this important process. I look for-
ward to work with you in this. "

Sincerely

Jerry Ambrose

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Stuck for a Holidays (or birthday) present?
Why not give a New Membership to The Audubon
Society? Fun & excitement for all ages, in
support of a good cause, gift memberships
make great gifts, while the magazine is one
even the fussiest person would be proud to
display in their home. Why delay? Give now.

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

300 North Los Cameros Rd.
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 964-1468

**Dated
Material
Please Carry
Promptly**

DIAL-A-BIRD

964-8240

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

BIOLOGY OF BIRDS class at S.B.C.C.

Members & friends, a class on bird bio-
logy will again be offered at City College
this Spring Semester by former SB Audubon So-
ciety President Rob Lindsay, this class not
only includes 6 field trips to local birding
hot-spots, but a series of lectures on topics
ranging from avian taxonomy & evolution, to
bird anatomy & physiology, life cycles, mi-
gration, flight, etc. The course begins in
late February, but it's strongly recommended
you sign up at the beginning of the semester.
For enrollment information, please contact the
Registrar's Office, City College, and ask for
information on Zoology 21B-Biology of Birds.

AS OTHERS SEE IT

Those who missed the November issue of
Smithsonian are urged to pick it up for its
marvelous article (with great photos) on the
Snowy Egret.

And even more unusual, the Sports Il-
lustrated Magazine issue the first week of
October featured a guest article in their
ongoing series on "Unusual Sports & Recre-
ation" on Audubon and "Birding", which SI
rates right up there with Curling (sigh).

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