

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

November-December 1989
Vol. 27, No. 5



Santa Barbara Audubon Office
5679 Hollister Ave., Rm. 5B
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 964-1468

Ronald Hirst
Editor



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

7:45pm Refreshments
8:00pm Program



OCTOBER 27

(note change in speaker)

"Great Birding in the Four Corners of America -- Alaska, Arizona, Florida and the Gaspé." Slide show presentation by Shawneen Finnegan (Mrs. Paul Lehman)

DECEMBER 8

*** MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT ***

Let's see some of your favorite slides from your vacation trip of 1989, 1988 or earlier. Scenery is most welcome with or without visible birds. Call Marge Cappiello 967-9569 or the Audubon Office 964-1468 and let us know we can plan on you to bring 10 slides that night. This is always a special evening.

* WANTED *

Office Volunteers -- Two hours rather than four makes the time go by quickly. Call the office. The more the merrier.

Sponsors -- Audubon Adventures is a key part of our educational activities. Our board budgets money for this program which costs \$30 per class but there are always more requests than we can meet. A \$30 donation to Santa Barbara Audubon will help us reach out to one more classroom.

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE PROTECTION INITIATIVE



To aid wildlife and conserve wildlife habitat in our State, sign the initiative.



1989 is the 100th anniversary of the Royal Society for Protection of Birds. The Society has its roots in the plight of the Great Crested Grebe, among others, whose feathers were in great demand for Victorian ladies' hats. It has 114 reserves covering 180,000 acres.

President's Message

I would like to thank the following members who carried the heavy loads in our move from the Depot to the new office: Joe and Betty Bazzi, Michael Goodwin, Ron Hirst, Ed and Joy Parkinson, and Bob Sollen. Ginny Collette and Betty Bazzi patiently refiled the loose slides.

The Tucson Audubon convention covered a myriad of subjects which need our attention. To meet and bird with like-minded Auduboners from the U.S., Mexico and Canada reinforces one's energy.

Ron Hirst and Joy Parkinson will undertake the editorship of the El Tecolote.

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, and another great Christmas Count.

Tomi Sollen

CALENDAR OF MONTHLY EVENTS

- October 27
Friday 8:00pm Great Birding in the Four Corners of America -- Alaska, Arizona, Florida and the Gaspé. Shawneen Finnegan.
- November 4
Saturday 9:00am Carpinteria Slough with Wayne Ferren, curator UCSB Herbarium and manager of Carpinteria Slough Reserve. Walk with Wayne and observe firsthand the birds, plants and issues of this, one of the few remaining natural estuaries in southern California. Meet at intersection of Carpinteria Ave. and Sandyland Cove Road.
- November 12
Sunday 8:30am Rocky Nook Park and Botanic Gardens. Numerous birds overwinter in Santa Barbara and are well represented in these parks. Methods to tell apart and field markings will be explained during this birdwalk for beginners. Binoculars will be available for those without them. Meet at entrance to Rocky Nook.
Leader: Ron Hirst 967-4966
- November 18
Saturday 7:00am Point Mugu N.A.S. A base naturalist will lead us around this waterfowl and shorebird haven. Past years have produced numerous unusual and interesting species such as Peregrine Falcon, White-faced Ibis and American Avocet. Meet at Bird Refuge for carpooling to Pt. Mugu. Bring drivers license or picture ID.
- December 2
Saturday 7:30am Devereux Slough & Coal Oil Point. Trip will involve a 3 mile walk around entire slough. The trip will be great for wintering waterbirds. Meet at west end of Del Playa.
Leader: Rob Lindsay 964-9514
- December 8
Friday 7:45pm Members' Slide Night. Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.
- December 16
Saturday 7:30am Nichols Arabians Ranch. This ranch bordering Lake Cachuma has expanses of grassland, woodland and shoreline and is a favorite field trip every year. Many landbirds will be seen and, if the water level is up, ducks, geese, Osprey and Bald Eagles are anticipated. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Big 5 Sporting good store in 5 points shopping center.
Leader: Guy Tingos 687-8266
- December 30
Saturday all day Christmas Bird Count. Join us for the Audubon Society's 90th Annual Christmas Bird Count and the compilation dinner. Details on next page.
- January 13
Saturday Kinevan Road with Brooks Allen. Details next issue.

August and
September



Participants on the Santa Clara River field trip saw 11 Bairds' Sandpipers, among the numerous shorebirds. At Lake Los Carneros about 30 species were seen. Virginia and Sora Rails and a brilliant Indigo Bunting were the highlights. A number of shorebirds were seen on the Devereux Slough trip. UCSB lagoon yielded Blue-winged Teal and Wood Duck on the foggiest morning of the summer, giving new meaning to the ability to identify birds by their shape. Santa Maria had about 50 species including numerous Long-billed Curlews, Greater White-fronted Geese, Lesser Golden Plover and a Prairie Falcon catching a blackbird.



Conservation Notes - "If a man walk in the woods for love of them half of each day he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer; but if he spends his whole day as a speculator shearing off these woods and making earth bald before her time, he is esteemed an industrious and enterprising citizen." Henry D. Thoreau

"Rage Over Trees", a recent Audubon Special documentary, is in Beta and VHS at the office for loan. This highly topical film covers cutting of irreplaceable ancient forests in Oregon.

Closer to home, 27 volunteers picked up 2436 lbs. of trash at our Carpinteria Creek clean-up. Thanks to local residents, boy scouts, members and non-members who helped. Thanks to Dr. Larry Faucett for bringing a truck and arranging the dumping. The Coal Oil Pt. beach clean-up had 28 volunteers pick up 406 lbs. of trash. Many thanks to all the coordinators and participants.

CHRISTMAS COUNT TO BE HELD SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1989

Everyone is welcome to help Santa Barbara Audubon with the Christmas Count, to be held this year on Saturday, December 30, 1989. On the evening of Count Day, you are all invited to the compilation dinner at the S. B. Museum of Natural History (Bird Habitat Hall). The potluck dinner begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. and the compilation at 7:00. Please bring a salad, main dish, or dessert. If your group includes out-of-towners, they can contribute drinks, bread, paper plates, etc. Please bring your own service.

Before the Count, watch for the following birds, which we often have difficulty in getting: grosbeaks, tanagers, orioles, any non-Anna's Hummingbirds, unusual sparrows at feeders such as White-throated or Harris'. Other species we need: any geese, dippers, pygmy-owls, Long-billed Curlews. In fact, we are interested in any species in The Birds of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties by Webster, et. al., listed as rare or casual during this season.

This year's count compiler will again be Paul Lehman, assisted by Joan Lentz and Pat Kelly. Please fill out the coupon below and mail it to Pat, or call her at 962-9916 if you can help us by participating. We will be in touch with you sometime after Dec. 26 to confirm Count areas and groups.

THANKS SO VERY MUCH AND GOOD BIRDING!

Paul Lehman 967-2450
Joan Lentz 969-4397
Pat Kelly 962-9916



SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS COUNT

Saturday, December 30, 1989

Please complete this form and return to:

Pat Kelly
554 Litchfield Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
(805) 962-9916

Name(s) _____
Address _____

Phone _____

Preferred area-if yes, where: _____

Would like to work with: _____

(optional) _____ Dinner
_____ Feeder Count
_____ Leader

A MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

You undoubtedly noticed that you received only 6 issues of "El Tecolote" last year. We think you should know why.

About 4 years ago the National Audubon Society reduced the "Dues Split" - the amount of money it sends each chapter when members renew their memberships. NAS was in financial straits and needed the money to balance its budget. In the case of SBAS our reduced income was further impacted by the loss of Lompoc and Santa Ynez Valley members who transferred to La Purisima Audubon; and increased operating costs - rent, insurance, printing and mailing, etc.

For several years we tried to maintain our previous level of operations by dipping into our capital. This could not continue and so, last year our Budget Committee put together a very strict budget and, for the first time in 4 years, we did NOT spend more than we received. We had to make several sacrifices: ONLY 6 issues of "El Tecolote"; NO contributions to any conservation project; NO Dick Smith scholarship; NO Golden Trout scholarship. It was indeed a "Bare Bones" year!

In our 26 years of existence we have never asked you for money for SBAS. The two or three times we have come to you, it has been for some worthy cause such as The Nature Conservancy's purchase of the Stanton property on Santa Cruz Island; or the effort to save More Mesa.

Now, however, we need your help! We would like to print more newsletters! We would love to give at least partial scholarships to the Audubon Camp of the West (Dick Smith Scholarship) and Golden Trout Camp!

We would also like to be able to offer financial support to worthy conservation issues!

We have over 900 members. If every member sent just ONE DOLLAR we could print two more issues of "El Tecolote"; or give a Dick Smith and a Golden Trout scholarship to two deserving recipients.

We know, of course, that not every member will send a dollar, so it would be great if you who can do so would send more than one. Any contribution, however small, will be gratefully received.

Please let us know that you are behind us in our efforts to make SBAS a more effective conservation organization in our community and state. Thank you.

Joy Parkinson
Vice-President

President--Tomi Sollen	966-4836
Vice President--Joy Parkinson	967-9371
Secretary--Wynne Tufnell	682-9607
Treasurer--Anne Eissler	964-2492
Field Trips--Ron Hirst	967-4966
Education--Ada Babine	962-2042
Membership--Marie Slaton	969-5090
Program--Marge Capiello	967-9569
At-Large--Nancy King	687-2079
At-Large--Lee Moldaver	682-2120
At-Large--Sally Walker	569-5388

* * * * *

Conservation--Joy Parkinson	967-9371
Hospitality--Carol Rae	964-3827
Publicity--Betty Bazzi	967-5200
Rare Bird Alert--Karen Bridgers	964-1316
Dial-a-Bird	964-8240

Board of Directors meet the first
Thursday of the month at 5679 Hollister,
Rm.5-B, Goleta at 7:00 PM

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
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