

El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

January-February 1990
Vol. 28, No. 2



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

Ronald Hirst
Editor

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JANUARY 26
7:45pm

"Poor Mans or Hobo Cruises" by local resident Steven Gibbs. Paddling an 18 foot sea kayak he explored the rugged wilderness of Prince William Sound in 1987. Glaciers up to a mile wide are seen along with mountains that tower over 7000 feet above the floating boat. Icebergs move slowly by carrying harbor seals. Orcas, Porpoise and sea otters are often spotted. Numerous Bald Eagles are attracted to a variety of salmon runs. Over 200 species of birds have been sighted in the sound. Special sound effects were recorded on location for this spectacular audio-visual presentation. Note earlier start time.

FEBRUARY 23
8:00pm

"Computers Assist California Condor" Prof. Frank Davis of the UCSB Dept. of Geography is setting up a computer data base using a geographic information system and satellite maps. As part of the Condor Recovery Program they are mapping information on the historical patterns of condor activity and habitat. This will be valuable when the condors are released from the zoos.

We will also have some of Jan Hamber's excellent slides of the latest newborn condors. An associate with the S.B.M.N.H. and a condor biologist, Ms. Hamber has worked on field research with the condors for 14 years.

October, November
and December

Our fall and early winter field trips had outstanding variety. The Monterey weekend was excellent for pelagic species with many of the fifteen participants tallying over 20 new life birds! These included Thick-billed Murre, Tufted Puffin, Flesh-footed Shearwater, Black-footed Albatross, South Polar Skua and jaegers among others. 52 people turned out for the well publicized Carpinteria Slough nature walk. I'm told this was the best turn out ever for a trip with the exception of a Condor trip around 1980. Compliments to Wayne Ferren for doing an outstanding job bringing the marsh to life for all the participants. Pt. Mugu highlights included a Short-eared Owl hunting in broad daylight, thirty-two Black Skimmers, numerous waterfowl and over a thousand Western Sandpipers wheeling and turning in perfect unison for a minute directly in front of our group. They were so close we heard the whistling of the wind on their wings. It was breathtaking. The Devereux Slough trip permitted excellent views of Merlin, Brandt and many shorebirds including an amazing 150 Snowy Plovers. Nichols Arabians Ranch had Ferruginous Hawk, near-flying Bald and Golden Eagles, Black-throated Swifts and 3 Tundra Swans. Participants also had the opportunity to grab bunches of low hanging Mistletoe for the holidays.



California Condor

CALENDAR OF MONTHLY EVENTS

- January 14
Sunday 7:30am Kinevan Road. Half day. Wet creekside and woodland habitat provide excellent opportunity to see Varied Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren and other higher elevation species. Meet at Big 5 Sporting Goods, 5 Points center. Leader: Brooks Allen 965-3949.
- January 20
Saturday 8:00am Figueroa Mountain. Half day. Explore Santa Ynez Valley and Figueroa Mtn. area for such species as Lewis' Woodpecker, Ferruginous Hawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mountain Quail, Mountain Chickadee and Pygmy Owl. Bring lunch and water. Meet Big 5 Sporting Goods, 5 points center. Poor weather, call Leader: Guy Tingos 687-8266.
- January 23
Tuesday 8:30am Birdwalk for Beginners. Lake Los Carneros. Water birds, and landbirds at Stowe House ornamental gardens. Led by Shawneen Finnegan, Bird artist (grebes this issue) and photographer. 967-2450. Meet at Stowe House.
- January 26
Friday 7:45pm Monthly Program. "Poor Mans or Hobo Cruises." by Steven Gibbs. S.B. Museum of Natural History, Farrand Hall
- January 27
Saturday 7:30am Birdwalk for Beginners. S.B. Harbor and Bird Refuge. Looking for winter shorebirds and waterbirds. Meet in front of Naval Reserve building at the harbor. Leader: Rob Lindsay 964-9514.
- February 4
Sunday 7:30am Birdwalk for Beginners. Goleta Beach and Campus Lagoon. Still looking for winter shorebirds and waterbirds. Meet in the parking lot past the base of the pier at Goleta Beach. Leader: Rob Lindsay 964-9514.
- February 10
Saturday 8:00am La Purisima Mission, Lompoc. Half-day. Largest acreage in the mission system, this 1000+ acre State Park has riparian, pond, and chaparral sections with associated birdlife. Tour the park with our leader and the Mission on your own. Meet at K-Mart on Storke or at Mission at 9 am. Leader: Mike Kendall, 688-2706.
- February 17
Saturday 7:00am Ventura County Game Preserve. Half day. Some of the best birdwatching in the tri-counties. Thousands of ducks. Eurasian Widgeon and Peregrine Falcon sometimes found here. Bring lunch and water. Call Brooks Allen, 965-3949 for reservations.
- February 23
Friday 8:00pm Monthly Program. "Computers Assist California Condor" by Prof. Frank Davis. Plus, slides of newborn condors by Jan Hamber. S.B. Museum of Natural History, Farrand Hall.
- March 30,31
& April 1 Eastern Sierra and Sage Grouse. Two nights. Plan ahead for this special trip. Call for additional information and reservations. Limit of 14. Leader: Ron Hirst 967-4966.

Employees Challenge Forest Service

Forest Service employees, preferring anonymity, in a new publication, Inner Voice, say that environmentalists are the service's best friend and power base, not the timber industry and other commodity interests. The employees believe that the Forest Service can be a leader of the national and world environmental movement if the agency follows, instead of fights, the National Forest Management Act. Free copy: Inner Voice P.O. Box 11615 Eugene, OR 97440.

Biology of Birds (Zoology 21B) at S.B.C.C.

All Saturdays in March and 1st 3 Saturdays in May. Each meeting, 3 hour field trip & 2 hour lecture. Topics: Taxonomy, Evolution, Anatomy, Flight, Migration, Growth & Development. Call S.B.C.C. Registrar.

KLAMATH BASIN BALD EAGLE CONFERENCE
16-18 FEBRUARY 1990, Klamath Falls, Oregon
Largest gathering of Bald Eagles in the lower
48 states plus speakers, field trips and
workshops. Call Audubon Office for details.

CHRISTMAS COUNT BIG SUCCESS!

205 SPECIES 2ND IN THE NATION, 1ST IN CALIFORNIA

30 December 1989

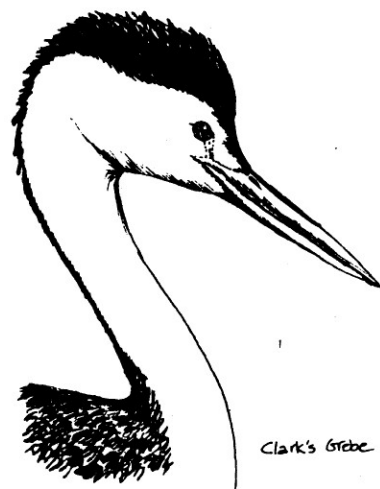
Area TOTALS

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS COUNT

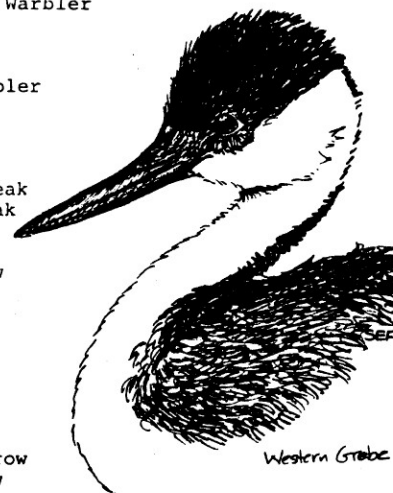
Record the total number seen beside each species name.
 Species marked with an asterisk (*) or not on the list
 require written details.

18	Red-throated Loon	8	* Black-necked Stilt
10	Pacific Loon	3	American Avocet
8	Common Loon	23	Greater Yellowlegs
47	Pied-billed Grebe	4	* Lesser Yellowlegs
2	Horned Grebe	176	Willet
13	Eared Grebe	2	* Wandering Tattler
104	Western Grebe	12	Spotted Sandpiper
3	Clark's Grebe	39	Whimbrel
5	Northern Fulmar	2	* Long-billed Curlew
287	Black-vented Shearwater	77	Marbled Godwit
	* American White Pelican	6	Ruddy Turnstone
182	Brown Pelican	9	Black Turnstone
428	Double-crested Cormorant	381	Sanderling
89	Brandt's Cormorant	16	Western Sandpiper
6	Pelagic Cormorant	112	Least Sandpiper
2	American Bittern	8	Dunlin
31	Great Blue Heron	60	Long-billed Dowitcher
37	Great Egret	12	Common Snipe
44	Snowy Egret	21	* Red Phalarope
14	* Cattle Egret	1	* Pomarine Jaeger sp.
5	Green-backed Heron		* Parasitic Jaeger
23	Black-crowned Night-Heron	218	Bonaparte's Gull
	* White-faced Ibis	152	Heermann's Gull
3	Canada Goose	80	Mew Gull
6	* Wood Duck	462	Ring-billed Gull
63	Green-winged Teal + 1 * Eurasian	385	California Gull
239	Mallard	8	Herring Gull
47	Northern Pintail	1	* Thayer's Gull
2	* Blue-winged Teal	1287	Western Gull
20	Cinnamon Teal	11	Glaucous-winged Gull
274	Northern Shoveler		* Black-legged Kittiwake
8	Gadwall	1	* Caspian Tern
	* Eurasian Wigeon	10	Royal Tern
166	American Wigeon	71	Forster's Tern
1	Canvasback	1	Common Murre
179	Redhead	3	* Cassin's Auklet
111	Ring-necked Duck	8	* Rhinoceros Auklet
2	* Greater Scaup	720	Rock Dove
41	Lesser Scaup	276	Band-tailed Pigeon
	* Black Scoter	4	Spotted Dove
115	Surf Scoter	1	* White-winged Dove
	White-winged Scoter	625	Mourning Dove
4	* Common Goldeneye	2	Greater Roadrunner
69	Bufflehead	2	Common Barn-Owl
39	* Hooded Merganser	5	Western Screech-Owl
14	Common Merganser	13	Great Horned Owl
51	Red-breasted Merganser	1	Northern Pygmy-Owl
158	Ruddy Duck		Burrowing Owl
93	Turkey Vulture		* Short-eared Owl
	* Osprey	6	White-throated Swift
10	Black-shouldered Kite	1038	Anna's Hummingbird
6	Northern Harrier	1	* Costa's Hummingbird
10	Sharp-shinned Hawk		* Rufous Hummingbird (a)
13	Cooper's Hawk	1	* Allen's Hummingbird (a)
63	Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Selasphorus (sp.)
80	Red-tailed Hawk	4	Belted Kingfisher
2	Golden Eagle	13	* Lewis' Woodpecker
55	American Kestrel	625	Acorn Woodpecker
4	* Merlin	2	* Red-naped Sapsucker
	* Prairie Falcon	23	Red-breasted Sapsucker
463	California Quail	93	Nuttall's Woodpecker
5	Mountain Quail	41	Downy Woodpecker
2	Virginia Rail	13	Hairy Woodpecker
5	Sora	489	Northern Flicker (R.-shaft.)
	Common Moorhen		* Northern Flicker (Y.-sh.)
584	American Coot		* Western Flycatcher
154	Black-bellied Plover	132	Black Phoebe
135	Snowy Plover	43	Say's Phoebe
8	Semipalmated Plover		* Ash-throated Flycatcher
320	Killdeer	1	* Tropical Kingbird

5	* Cassin's Kingbird	461	Red-winged Blackbird
1	Horned Lark	7	Tricolored Blackbird
	* Violet-green Swallow	501	Western Meadowlark
791	Scrub Jay	514	Brewer's Blackbird
604	American Crow	37	Brown-headed Cowbird
	Common Raven		* Orchard Oriole
2	Mountain Chickadee		* Hooded Oriole
271	Plain Titmouse	10	* Northern Oriole
1854	Bushtit		* Northern Oriole
1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	* Scott's Oriole
45	White-breasted Nuthatch	426	Purple Finch
6	Brown Creeper	1809	House Finch
	Rock Wren	37	Pine Siskin
12	Canyon Wren	230	Lesser Goldfinch
99	Bewick's Wren	6	Lawrence's Goldfinch
33	House Wren	309	American Goldfinch
5	Winter Wren	287	House Sparrow
9	Marsh Wren		
	American Dipper		Additional Species:
	Golden-crowned Kinglet		1 Sooty Shearwater
727	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1 Brant
41	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		1 Ferruginous Hawk
85	Western Bluebird		6 Common Ground Doves
	Townsend's Solitaire		1 Poorwill
412	Hermit Thrush		1 Olive-sided Flycatcher
1023	American Robin		2 Eastern Phoebe
30	* Varied Thrush		1 Solitary Vireo
232	Wrentit		1 Lucy's Warbler
194	Northern Mockingbird		1 Hepatic Tanager
106	California Thrasher		
271	Water Pipit		Total: 205 species
382	Cedar Waxwing		
9	Phainopepla		
38	Loggerhead Shrike		
1453	European Starling		
72	Hutton's Vireo		
1	* Tennessee Warbler		
165	Orange-crowned Warbler		
1	* Nashville Warbler		
2	* Yellow Warbler		
2735	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)		
176	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)		
3	* Black-throated Gray Warbler		
159	Townsend's Warbler		
4	* Hermit Warbler		
1	* Palm Warbler		
2	* Black-and-white Warbler		
85	Common Yellowthroat		
3	* Wilson's Warbler		
1	* Summer Tanager		
15	* Western Tanager		
	* Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
	* Black-headed Grosbeak		
423	Rufous-sided Towhee		
473	Brown Towhee		
8	Rufous-crowned Sparrow		
22	Chipping Sparrow		
42	Lark Sparrow		
5	* Sage Sparrow		
173	Savannah Sparrow		
46	Fox Sparrow		
384	Song Sparrow		
132	Lincoln's Sparrow		
2	* Swamp Sparrow		
5	* White-throated Sparrow		
828	Golden-crowned Sparrow		
3476	White-crowned Sparrow		
	* Harris' Sparrow		
1395	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)		
6	Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)		



Clark's Grebe



Western Grebe

THANKS, and a REMINDER

Our sincere thanks to the two dozen plus of you who responded to our appeal for funds. We are especially grateful to Catherine Rose and Elizabeth Tehan and an anonymous donor for their very generous gifts.

We had hoped for a larger response than 3.00%, and trust that is due to the demands of the season, not a lack of interest in our chapter.

We are still hoping to be able to print more issues of "El Tecolote" and are looking forward to continuing to be an effective conservation organization in 1990.

Your tax-deductible donation to SBAS will be gratefully appreciated. Thank you.

Joy Parkinson



Rare

Bird

Alerts



California

Arcata (707) 826-7031
Los Angeles (213) 874-1318
Modesto (209) 571-0246
Monterey (408) 375-9122
Morro Bay (805) 528-7182
Northern California (415)
528-0288 or 524-5592
Sacramento (916) 481-0118
San Bernardino (714) 793-5599
San Diego (619) 435-6761
Santa Barbara (805) 964-8240
San Francisco (415) 528-0288
S.W. Sierral San Joaquin (209)
782-1237

President's Message

We have had a good half year. Great field trips and heartening response to our fund appeal. We look forward to the new year with more active support from our members. We need more education committee members to bring slide shows to the schools and other groups. Also your time to staff our office. Drop in the office, look over our library and visit with the staff.

Our thanks to the participants of the Xmas Bird Count, to Pat Kelly, Paul Lehman and Joan Lentz.

New Board members will be nominated. If you are interested please call the office.

Good Birding and A Happy New Year!!!

Tomi Sollen

The Power of a Committed Citizenry

Let us not forget what this commitment has produced—a legacy of laws like the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and laws creating tens of millions of acres of national parks and wilderness areas. Each one of these laws was bitterly opposed by the powerful special interests.

Time and again I have seen beautiful places threatened by dams or logging or mining made safe because people were committed and cared. Time and again I have seen lost causes turned into overwhelming victories because a few people were willing to stand up and be counted.

If you do nothing else, resolve to dedicate yourself to at least one cause. There is a magic and a power in one person's commitment that all the money in the world cannot match. ☐

This piece was excerpted from a speech before Audubon's Biennial Convention in September. Brock Evans is Audubon's vice-president for National Issues.

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

5679 Hollister Ave.
Goleta, CA 93117

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Santa Barbara, CA

Permit Number 125

**Dated
Material
Please Carry
Promptly**