

# El Tecolote

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Karl L. Weissmann  
Editor

Vol. 29 No. 5  
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Farrand Hall  
Museum of Natural History

Friday Evening  
February 22, 1991

SANTA BARBARA: SUSTAINABLE CITY OF FUTURE!!

8:00 P.M.

What would a sustainable model for the South Coast of Santa Barbara County be like?

How would we meet our needs in resources, housing, and transportation?

Audubon Society expands its vistas this month, and has invited environmental planner Paul Relis, to present a slide show and talk on the environmental outlook for Santa Barbara.

Mr. Relis will draw upon policies outlined by the Community Environmental Council (CEC) in their recently published report, "Restructuring For Sustainability," a thorough-going, in-depth look at California's struggle to maintain a quality of life in the face of enormous growth pressures.

In addition to his position as Executive Director of the CEC, Mr. Relis is an advisor to California State authorities, the Environmental Protection Administration of the United States, and is a consultant to various local governmental institutions.

He is also author of the recently published work, "The Future of Recycling,"



Refreshments 7:45 P.M.

Bring Your Cup!



## DECLINING BIRD POPULATIONS ARE NOTED DESPITE HIGH SPECIES COUNTS

The 1990 Santa Barbara bird count of 214 species, second only to Freeport, Texas' 218, is noted with passing pride locally, but masks a continuing long-term decline in a few species.

(see BIRD COUNT, pg. 3)

## UCSB DOWNSCALES HOUSING EXPANSION, FACES FURTHER CUTS AT COASTAL COMM. HEARINGS

The UCSB expansion plan that included the Devereaux Slough area has been significantly downscaled. Instead of 316 house

(see UCSB DOWNSCALES pg. 2)

units near Devereaux there are plans for about 160 units. This is still 100 too many as far as I'm concerned but we're making progress. The plan goes to the California Coastal Commission soon and further modifications are possible.

My fund raising World Birdathon is progressing Okay, although more sponsors are needed. If you want to contribute to a cause that is really concerned with local environmental, conservation, natural history and outdoor activities, there is no better one than your Santa Barbara Audubon Chapter. Please call me today to sign up,

— Ron Hirst,  
President.

#### SEATTLE AUDUBON TOURS COVER BROAD AREAS

Seattle Audubon Chapter sponsors varied broad-ranged tours, inexpensive to high, from camping to grand tours:

A trip to the Soviet Far East appears to be the tour of a lifetime - Seattle to Khabarovsk, the Amur River and Sakhalin Island, May 18 - June 8; Car camping in Arizona July 21 - Aug 3; Oregon river rafting in June. Contact Seattle Audubon, 8028 35 Av. NE, Seattle, Wa. 98115. (SBAS office has flyer).

#### LOS PADRES PUBLICATIONS

The Los Padres Forest Interpretive Association offers a variety of authoritative publications for sale at Forest Service outlets. Their latest list includes some prize-winning postcards by local photographers, as well as camping, hiking, and nature guides and booklets. Many of these publications are not readily obtained elsewhere. The Los Padres Forest Service Headquarters office is located at 6144 Calle Reale (1 block north of Fairview Exit of US 101 in Goleta.)

#### NEW BIRD GUIDES NOW AT SBAS OFFICE

The Chapter has just acquired three new bird guides, "hot off the press," and they are available to members on a loan basis:

John Oliver Jones - Where The Birds Are  
Peterson's - Western Birds  
Harold Holt - Birder's Guide to Southern California

#### DESTRUCTION OF TREES IN MONARCH HABITAT BRINGS DEMAND FOR S.B. COUNTY ACTION

ISSUE: Goleta West Sanitary District removed at least 65 eucalyptus trees from Devereux Creek in bird and monarch butterfly habitat.

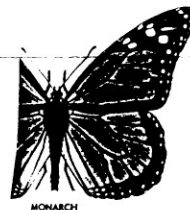
BACKGROUND: The trees were removed over a weekend when alert neighbors were unable to notify county officials in time. Although the Sanitary District had received permission from the Department of Fish and Game Long Beach office, they neglected to obtain required county permits. The District claims they cleared their right-of-way to reach clogged mains. But neighbors argue alternative access is available.

Local organizations (Save Ellwood Shores, Scenic Shoreline, Sierra Club, Urban Creek Council) join in protest against this violation by a public agency and the significant loss of sensitive riparian habitat. The Urban Creek Council has proposed that neighborhood creek committees be established to report such land disturbing activities and potential violations.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Ask the Board of Supervisors (Court House, 105 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101) to enforce environmental regulations against the Goleta West Sanitary District.
2. Urge the Board to coordinate a county, DFG, and U.S. Corps of Engineers interagency creek project permit check-off list of assistance to both the county and neighborhood organizations in their environmental oversight.

--Margaret Eissler,  
Conservation Chair.



#### SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY - OFFICERS 1990-91 (Area Code 805)

President.....	Ron Hirst.....	967-4966
Vice-President....	Lee Moldaver.....	682-2120
Secretary.....	Nancy King.....	687-2079
Treasurer.....	Anne Eissler.....	964-2492
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Education.....	(vacant)	
Field Trips.....	Everett King.....	962-0883
Fund-Raising.....	Sally Walker.....	569-5388
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Newsletter.....	Karl L. Weissmann.....	967-3008
At-Large.....	Joe Martorana.....	685-4045

#### CHAIRS

Hospitality.....	Carol Rae.....	964-3827
Publicity.....	Betty Bazzi.....	967-5200
Rare Bird Alert...	Karen Bridgers.....	964-1316
Bird Refuge Census.	Helen Matelson.....	966-3217
DIAL-A-BIRD TAPE..	Santa Barbara .....	964-8240

# BIRD COUNT (cont.)

Paul Lehman, Santa Barbara's veteran count compiler identified these noteworthy changes in reporting on the count. He particularly identified the continuing decline of the green-backed heron and black-shouldered kite as due to losses in habitats, whereas declines in other species reflect the temporary impact of the drought. Drops in the presences of water-birds and insect-eaters have been widely noted as being drought-related. The exceptionally severe Christmas freeze that swept California recently has also impacted local bird populations.

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## SONORAN DESERT EXPLORED BY AUDUBON ECOLOGY INSTITUTE

The 21st Annual Audubon institute of Desert Ecology is set for April 17-21, 1991, at a Catalina Mountains campsite north of Tucson, Arizona.

Four days of field studies in the Sonoran desert are conducted by six U. Arizona natural history experts, from dawn to owling at dusk, blacklighting for insects and star talk. Contact Institute at 300 E. University Blvd., Rm. 120, Tucson, AZ. 85705. (Fee \$245).

## SANTA BARBARA SOCIETY CHRISTMAS COUNT, DECEMBER 29, 1990: 214 SPECIES TOTAL

59	Red-throated Loon	7	* Black-necked Stilt
19	Pacific Loon	7	American Avocet
14	Common Loon	40	Greater Yellowlegs
36	Pied-billed Grebe	1	* Lesser Yellowlegs
8	Horned Grebe	102	Willet
22	Eared Grebe	2	* Wandering Tattler
724	Western Grebe	14	Spotted Sandpiper
27	Clark's Grebe	24	Whimbrel
8	Northern Fulmar	6	* Long-billed Curlew
1041	Black-vented Shearwater	98	Marbled Godwit
	* American White Pelican	9	Ruddy Turnstone
653	Brown Pelican	16	Black Turnstone
428	Double-crested Cormorant	380	Sanderling
637	Brandt's Cormorant	4	Western Sandpiper
17	Pelagic Cormorant	48	Least Sandpiper
2	American Bittern	6	Dunlin
34	Great Blue Heron	104	Long-billed Dowitcher
28	Great Egret	4	Common Snipe
39	Snowy Egret	3	* Red Phalarope
10	* Cattle Egret	5	* Pomarine Jaeger
3	Green-backed Heron	4	* Parasitic Jaeger
22	Black-crowned Night-Heron	458	Bonaparte's Gull
	* White-faced Ibis	633	Heerman's Gull
38	Canada Goose	244	Mew Gull
11	* Wood Duck	364	Ring-billed Gull
92	Green-winged Teal	468	California Gull
333	Mallard	16	Herring Gull
83	Northern Pintail	2	* Thayer's Gull
2	* Blue-winged Teal	1110	Western Gull
3	Cinnamon Teal	18	Glaucous-winged Gull
87	Northern Shoveler	1	* Black-legged Kittiwake
13	Gadwall	4	* Caspian Tern
	* Eurasian Wigeon	30	Royal Tern
120	American Wigeon	118	Forster's Tern
10	Canvasback	8	Common Murre
63	Redhead	2	* Cassin's Auklet
187	Ring-necked Duck	31	* Rhinoceros Auklet
5	* Greater Scaup	710	Rock Dove
48	Lesser Scaup	372	Band-tailed Pigeon
	* Black Scoter	9	Spotted Dove
63	Surf Scoter		* White-winged Dove
2	White-winged Scoter	597	Mourning Dove
7	* Common Goldeneye	5	Greater Roadrunner
70	Bufflehead	1	Common Barn-Owl
23	* Hooded Merganser	15	Western Screech-Owl
6	Common Merganser	1	Great Horned Owl
72	Red-breasted Merganser	1	Northern Pygmy-Owl
147	Ruddy Duck	1	Burrowing Owl
95	Turkey Vulture	1	* Short-eared Owl
2	* Osprey	8	White-throated Swift
4	Black-shouldered Kite	1180	Anna's Hummingbird
8	Northern Harrier	1	* Costa's Hummingbird
11	Sharp-shinned Hawk		* Rufous Hummingbird (♂)
5	Cooper's Hawk	2	* Allen's Hummingbird (♀)
48	Red-shouldered Hawk	5	Selasphorus (sp.)
84	Red-tailed Hawk	22	Belted Kingfisher
	Golden Eagle	1	* Lewis' Woodpecker
67	American Kestrel	724	Acorn Woodpecker
9	* Merlin	1	* Red-naped Sapsucker
1	* Prairie Falcon	17	Red-breasted Sapsucker
330	California Quail	49	Nuttall's Woodpecker
6	Mountain Quail	38	Downy Woodpecker
2	Virginia Rail	5	Hairy Woodpecker
2	Sora	324	Northern Flicker (R.-shaft.)
2	Common Moorhen	1	* Northern Flicker (Y.-sh.)
633	American Coot		* Western Flycatcher
70	Black-bellied Plover	150	Black Phoebe
73	Snowy Plover	58	Say's Phoebe
6	Semipalmated Plover	1	* Ash-throated Flycatcher
263	Killdeer	1	* Tropical Kingbird

5	* Cassin's Kingbird
	Horned Lark
	* Violet-green Swallow
985	Scrub Jay
1246	American Crow
1	Common Raven
1	Mountain Chickadee
338	Plain Titmouse
1760	Bushtit
34	Red-breasted Nuthatch
69	White-breasted Nuthatch
4	Brown Creeper
4	Rock Wren
10	Canyon Wren
64	Bewick's Wren
25	House Wren
4	Winter Wren
9	Marsh Wren
	American Dipper
19	Golden-crowned Kinglet
666	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
13	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
83	Western Bluebird
2	Townsend's Solitaire
694	Hermit Thrush
1584	American Robin
12	* Varied Thrush
212	Wren
243	Northern Mockingbird
72	California Thrasher
170	Water Pipit
486	Cedar Waxwing
11	Phainopepla
28	Loggerhead Shrike
978	European Starling
38	Hutton's Vireo
	* Tennessee Warbler
88	Orange-crowned Warbler
5	* Nashville Warbler
5	* Yellow Warbler
2052	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)
75	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
1	* Black-throated Gray Warbler
163	Townsend's Warbler
	* Hermit Warbler
	* Palm Warbler
	* Black-and-white Warbler
66	Common Yellowthroat
2	* Wilson's Warbler
3	* Summer Tanager
12	* Western Tanager
	* Rose-breasted Grosbeak
	* Black-headed Grosbeak
438	Rufous-sided Towhee
474	Brown Towhee
16	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
11	Chipping Sparrow
137	Lark Sparrow
3	* Sage Sparrow
160	Savannah Sparrow
172	Fox Sparrow
206	Song Sparrow
85	Lincoln's Sparrow
1	* Swamp Sparrow
8	* White-throated Sparrow
1108	Golden-crowned Sparrow
354	White-crowned Sparrow
1	* Harris' Sparrow
110	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
4	Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)
	* Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed)
341	Red-winged Blackbird
13	Tricolored Blackbird
616	Western Meadowlark

498	Brewer's Blackbird
102	Brown-headed Cowbird
1	* Orchard Oriole
1	* Hooded Oriole
13	* Northern Oriole (Balt.)
	* Northern Oriole (Balt.)
	* Scott's Oriole
374	Purple Finch
1946	House Finch
20	Pine Siskin
332	Lesser Goldfinch
15	Lawrence's Goldfinch
275	American Goldfinch
315	House Sparrow

### Additional Species:

37	Brant
1	Bald Eagle
1	Ferruginous Hawk
1	Glaucous Gull
1	Common Tern
1	Xantus Murrelet
4	Common Ground Dove
1	Gray Flycatcher
1	Eastern Phoebe
8	Steller's Jay
1	Warbling Vireo
2	Hepatic Tanager
1	Vesper Sparrow

GRAND TOTAL: 214 Species



Xantus Murrelet



Black-shouldered Kite



Green-Backed Heron

FEB. 9  
Sat. 7:30 A.M.



**Cañada Larga Rd. with Ron Smith (687-2990).** Off the Ventura River, Cañada Larga is a great place for birding. Burrowing Owls, Barn Owls, Phainopeplas, Mountain Bluebirds, and Ferruginous Hawk are among the birds seen in past years. Meet Ron at the Andre Clark Bird Refuge at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch and warm sweater.

FEB. 22  
Friday Eve.  
8:00 P.M.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER PEERS INTO SANTA BARBARA FUTURE**

Paul Relis, Executive Director of Community Environmental Council, will make a presentation on plans and prospects for the future of this area and its live-ability in the face of inexorable growth processes. (see story, page 1)

FEB. 23  
Sat. 7:30 A.M.

**Kinevan Rd. / East Camino Cielo Rd. with Everett King (962-4397).** The elusive golden-crowned Kinglet will be the primary objective of this trip, but expect to see other birds of the Chaparral and Riparian habitats. Possibility of a Golden Eagle. Meet Everett at Carl's Jr. (State and La Cumbre Rds.) at 7:30 a.m.

MARCH 22  
Friday Eve.  
8:00 P.M.

**SANTA BARBARA'S GEOLOGIST EMERITUS LOOKS AT THE PAST**

Thomas W. Dibblee, Jr. takes us on a grand tour, from the channel to the Santa Ynez peaks. **DON'T MISS IT!!!** (More about it next month.)

**BIRD BIOLOGY CLASS AND FIELD TRIPS COURSE  
STARTS SOON - REGISTER BEFORE FEB. 8**

Serious birders can sign up now for the timely Spring Session course on Biology of Birds offered at S.B. City College. Classes and field trips are held on Saturday mornings, starting March 2nd. Call SBCC for registration forms (963-4091). Deadline is February 8th for this well-rated course with instructor Rob. Lindsay.

**BOTANIC GARDEN DOCENT COURSES**

Spring session training courses on the natural plant, animal and bird life of the Mission Canyon area are offered by the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens. Call Susan Stephenson, 563-2451, for details on these free courses, which start on February 21.



**El Tecolote**

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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