

El Tecolote

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 29 No. 7

May-June, 1991



Farrand Hall
Museum of Natural History

Friday Evening
May 24, 1991
8:00 PM

Bruce H. Tiffney

A Long-Term Perspective on Extinction

Dr. Bruce Tiffney, guest speaker at the May meeting, presents fascinating perspectives on evolutionary changes and extinctions as they affect what we view of life on this, Our Planet Earth.

While we currently see extinctions of species as disturbing, worst-case occurrences, another view is to regard them as long-term natural processes. The flora and fauna of the Age of Coal went extinct, together with 98% of all marine invertebrates, at the Permo-Triassic Era.

Thereafter for 160 millions of years there existed the Age of the Dinosaurs. In turn, the last 65 millions of years has seen the great diversification of their descendants - birds,

Dr. Bruce H. Tiffney is Associate Professor of Biological and Geological Sciences at UCSB. His research concerns the evolution of terrestrial plants and the ecosystems they create, as well as the development of the flora of the Northern Hemisphere in the last 65 million years.



(Refreshments - 7:45 pm. Bring your cup)

URGENT!

SBAS ASKS MEMBERS CALL TO KEEP COASTAL COMM OFFICE IN SANTA BARBARA

SBAS opposes plans by the Coastal Commission to move its local office to Port Hueneme area, as an "economy" measure. In response to County Supervisors and SB City Council requests, the Commission delayed action until early May.

SBAS is on record against the move, since much of the work affects our Central Coast Area, and alternate economy measures can be taken.

Sbas urges members to call or write Sen. Gary Hart (966-1766) and Assemblyman Jack O'Connell (966-2296) to help preserve the Santa Barbara Office. Suggest support for an alternate proposal to shift two Long Beach staffers to the Oxnard area to help resolve the Malibu problems.



ANNUAL PICNIC AND BOARD ELECTIONS

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1991 1 - 4 P.M.

Join our last meeting of the season, celebrated by socializing, festive picnic lunches, games, and reunions, and elections of the new board for the next year. We hope to top last year's outing, which was a wing-a-ding (Ed. note: We needed a birding angle to the story.)

We will again have the use of charming Giorgio Park, at 1027 Old San Marcos Road.

Exit 101 at Turnpike, north to Cathedral Oaks Road and left to Old S.M. Rd. Right on Old S.M. two blocks. Look for Audubon sign.

Please mail your reservations now. See tear-off form on page 4. Help conserve: Bring Your Own Plate, Cup and Flatware! Deadline for reservations - May 27.

BOARD ELECTIONS

By Ron Hirst

At the Annual Picnic the elections will be held for the 1991-92 Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Tomi Sollen and Joy Parkinson, offers the following slate:

Directors already on the Board who are willing to serve another term: Margaret Eissler, Ron Hirst, Everett King, Nancy King, Joe Martorana, Lee Moldaver, Marie Slaton, and Sally Walker.

New nominees: Ben Berkowitz, a retired systems analyst from General Electric, who has been an active birder for almost forty years. He is Treasurer for Recordings for the Blind, and recently donated an IBM-XT to our chapter. Ben feels it is important to support favorite local environmental groups; Lila Eisberg, although not a board nominee, has volunteered to administer an expanded Audubon Adventures program for our Education Committee. Lila has been an Education Committee member for the past eleven years.

Many thanks to retiring board members Anne Eissler and Karl Weissmann for their services to Audubon and the community. Anne has devoted four years to guiding our finances as Treasurer, and Karl was Newsletter Editor for the past year.

PRESIDENT MESSAGE...by Ron Hirst

It's been an exciting first year as President. There have been memorable achievements in all our active committees. Worth special mention this year are the notable successes that Sally Walker has had in coordinating both Program and Fund-Raising.

Our conservation activities are making progress. The UCSB expansion plan ended up being approved, but the West Campus (Devereaux) part was down-scaled by half and significant wetlands protection measures were added. The Conservation Committee is very active in issues affecting our hiking trails, open spaces, water quality, and other quality-of-life issues, although it could always use more volunteers. Please call me or Margaret to be put on a list for letter-writing, telephoning, or outdoor conservation activities.

My idea of a successful chapter is one which can consistently challenge important environmental threats, reliably communicate educational information to the public, provide inspiring programs and field trips, and maintain a vibrancy and dynamism attractive to the next generation of Auduboners. Improvements anticipated for the next year are a) more newsletters b) more education activities with schoolchildren c) new field trips d) new programs e) more leadership roles in community environmental issues.

APRIL BOARD ACTION...voting unanimously to oppose a permit for the Rancho San Marcos Golf Course project on Highway 154 near Lake Cachuma, as an improper use of open space. Board asks SBAS members to write County Supervisors Rogers and Wallace to deny the request when it comes up on the calendar.

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 Bernadino (714) 793-5590
San Diego (619) 435-6761
Santa Barbara (805) 964-8240
San Francisco (415) 528-0288
S.W. Sierra/San Joaquin (209)
782-1237
Tucson AZ (602) 798-1005

RARE BIRD ALERTS



EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE...end of assignment

This issue ends a year's commitment to edit the newsletter. It has been a rewarding experience.

There are also some regrets - that we did not find time or space to cover, from our local vantage point, many of the major issues that come within Audubon's scope. World-sized issues - the ozone layer, global warming, population control, clean air, energy policies, and pollution control - and how we may adapt them into and thru the 21st century for the generations ahead, are really the crucial matters of existence, while the local and timely items of concern fill the calendar of daily actions.

Would we could have done both...and better.

Karl L. Weissmann

FLOOD OF LETTERS ASKED TO PROTECT WETLANDS

A powerful oil, chemical, developer, road construction and timber lobby "threatens to gravely weaken existing federal wetlands protection," states Nation Audubon VP Liz Raisbeck in an appeal for a flood of letters to counter the well-financed assault.

The center of controversy is HR 1330 (Hayes D-LA) and a companion measure to be introduced in the Senate by Senator John Breaux (D-LA). Although titled "Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1991," the bill, Liz asserts, "destroys wetlands protection." She refers to these dangerous features: 1) The Corps of Engineers is designated "the sole regulatory authority" and eliminates EPA ability to veto Corps 404 permits (section of Clean Water Act that protects the wetlands); 2) Redefines wetlands to eliminate seasonal, ephemeral and isolated wetlands not inundated for at least 21 consecutive days in the growing season; 3) Creates a system of high, medium, and low-value wetlands, and limits the amount classified as high value."

President Bush, who earlier promised a "no-net-loss" wetlands policy, is also about to change his position. "If the administration redefines wetlands to exclude seasonal and emergent wetlands," Liz says, "a 'no-net-loss' policy is a joke - as tens of millions of acres of such habitat could be affected."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: 1) Write or call House members, including Congressman Lagomarsino (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; (202)-224-3121). Urge them not to co-sponsor or vote for the Hayes bill (HR 1330). 2) Ask Senators Cranston and Seymour (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) not to co-sponsor or vote for the Breaux companion measure. 3) Urge the President (White House, Washington, D.C. 20500; (202)-456-1414) to keep his pledge to adopt strong wetlands policy. Time is running out on wetlands which are disappearing at the rate of 300-400,000 acres a year, and the proposed legislation would hasten the process.

- Margaret Eissler,
Conservation Chair.

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY - OFFICERS 1990-91

President.....	Ron Hirst.....	967-0138
Vice-President....	Lee Moldaver.....	682-2120
Secretary.....	Nancy King.....	687-2079
Treasurer.....	Anne Eissler.....	964-2492
Conservation.....	Margaret Eissler.....	964-6486
Education.....	(vacant)	
Field Trips.....	Everett King.....	962-0883
Fund-Raising.....	Sally Walker.....	569-5388
Membership.....	Marie Slaton.....	683-2935
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

Editor.....	Karl L. Weissmann.....	967-3008

BOARD ACTION...March 1991 meeting...

Conservation Chair Eissler presented resolution on issue of mountain bikes on single-track trails in County. Board voted unanimously to support County ordinance barring such bikes from single-track trails, as incompatible with other trail usages, wildland habitat values and trail country experiences, as well as accelerated trail erosion and hazards to hikers.

COASTWALKING THE SANTA BARBARA COAST JUNE 12-16!

Coastwalk, the hiking organization that has been developing a California coastal trail, has reached our county this year, and is organizing a walk from the Rincon to Gaviota for June 12-16.

The walk will feature walks thru four state beaches that feature tide pools, sea lions, and nature preserves, escorted by UCSB professors. Meals will be served from mobile chuck-wagons, and overnight camping at State parks.

For details, call Coastal Resources Information Center (CRIC) 964-6477, or SBAS 964-1468.

SBAS OPPOSES CHEVRON TANKER PERMIT AT HEARING

Conservation Chair Eissler spoke for Audubon in opposition to Chevron Oil's appeal for a tankering permit at the mid-April hearings of the California Coastal Commission, as did several other speakers at the brief hearing. The Commission later voted to deny Chevron its long-sought and hotly-contested permit. Chevron's attorneys later told the press that they might appeal the issue in court.

GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

Golden Trout Workshops are again offered for 3 weekly sessions, August 4 thru 24. The camp is in the High Sierras at 10,000 ft. altitude, with weekly fees from \$125 (children) to \$220. Call SBAS office for flyer and details. SBAS (964-1468)

DON'T MISS THIS TRIP

SUPPORT MAY 11 BIRDATHON

To make your pledge for the 1991 BIRDATHON, call me, (Wynne Tufnell, 682-0607); Ron Hirst (967-4966); or Santa Barbara Audubon Society, 5679 Hollister, Goleta, CA 93117, (964-1468); or send your contribution or pledge to the Audubon office:



Name _____

Address _____

I pledge _____ per species.

I enclose my contribution of _____
in support of the 1991 BIRDATHON.



AUDUBON GEARS UP FOR SCHOOL KIDS

By Sally Walker

Santa Barbara Audubon's Education Committee, under the direction of Ron Hirst, is gearing up for educational slide presentations on plants, animals, biology and natural history, starting next Fall, in elementary school classrooms in South County, and to other clubs and organizations.

In addition to giving presentations in the schools, Education volunteers also hope, through the generosity of concerned Audubon members, to provide a limited number of elementary classrooms with complimentary subscriptions to "Audubon Adventures," enabling each classroom student to receive this colorful, educational bimonthly newsletter. Teachers appreciate the subscriptions which supplement their limited budgets. And since a helpful detailed teacher's guide is included with each issue, they build entire science classes around "Audubon Adventures."

It costs only thirty dollars to sponsor a year's subscription of "Audubon Adventures" for an entire classroom of 30 students. This year the Chapter underwrote 10 classrooms from its tight budget. In the coming year we hope to help even more young students gain a personal understanding and life-long appreciation for nature.

Please dip generously into your pockets for this good cause and send your tax-deductible gift of \$30, 60, or 90 dollars or more, or any amount, to the SBAS office, earmarked for the "Audubon Adventures" program. Call the SBAS office to volunteer for the committee or for further information.

OVERPOPULATION CHALLENGES NATURE

THERE IS NO SINGLE VIEW as to how we should address the problem of overpopulation. Dr. Garrett Hardin, noted ecologist and author, takes a stand that simply getting population numbers down must be a main priority. He agrees with Paul and Anne Erlich, also noted authors on this subject, that the sheer magnitude of our population growth is depleting our resources and food supply beyond sustainable limits.

Others differ. Feminist writer Eleanor Bader argues that singular efforts to limit population growth (which often include coercive measures such as near-forced sterilization in lesser developed countries) merely substitute for what is really needed: a lessening of the gap between the "haves" and "have nots" which would result in better educated and healthier populations who would then limit their growth of their own volition.

All concerned seem to agree that a combination of problems exist that require a multi-pronged solution. Nonetheless, population is an emotionally-charged topic, largely because it challenges conventionally held religious beliefs ("be fruitful and multiply") and notions of family.

---Environmental Magazine

AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

May / June 1991



By Everett H. King

MAY

12 Sun-day **Aliso Canyon** with Guy Tingos (687-8266). A two-part trip, the first part an easy walk along riparian habitat, where orioles, grosbeaks and warblers can be seen. The second part is a shorter, more rigorous hike to the chaparral, where Costa's hummingbird, lazuli buntings, and wildflowers are featured. Bring water and snack. Meet at Carl's Junior at State and La Cumbre Rds. for car pooling at 7:30 a.m. Trip to end at or around noon.

25 Sat **De La Vina Canyon** with Ron Hirst (967-4966). Birds of the Santa Ynez Valley and the Chaparral. Meet Ron at Carl's Junior at State and La Cumbre Rds. for car pooling at 7:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch.

JUNE

9 Sun-day **Nojoqui Falls** with Everett Holt King (962-0883). Purple Martins, Western Bluebirds, grosbeaks and warblers will be the primary aims of this early summer trip. Meet at Carl's Jr. at State and La Cumbre Rds. at 7:30 a.m. for car pooling. Bring a lunch.



JULY

A possible trip to the Los Angeles Zoological Garden's Aviary is in the works for July. More information will be available, via the Audubon Office, beginning in mid-June.

ICBP spells it out. When 380 conservation experts from 56 countries met at the 20th World Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation (in Hamilton, New Zealand, in November 1990), they made plain some stark facts. Two-thirds of the world's 9,000 bird species are in decline and over 1,000 are threatened with possible extinction.

Habitat loss is the greatest problem, particularly for the birds of wetlands and of tropical forests. Let anybody should think the problems are confined to birds, the ICBP also pointed out that other immediately threatened taxa include 90,000 insect species, 35,000 plants and 500 mammals. Particular 'hotspots' are identified as Indonesia (126 threatened birds), Brazil (121), China (81) and Peru (71). Further alarming statistics are that longlines, driftnets and the other paraphernalia of modern commercial fishing kill over one million seabirds worldwide every year; and that over half of the 7,000,000 birds caught for the international cagebird trade each year die during capture or transportation. The ICBP calls for international action on a massive scale, involving governments and the 'private sector', if countless further catastrophes are to be avoided. Many of the world's birds face an uncertain future; the truly sickening part about it all is that we have a fairly good idea of how to go about improving things. All that is lacking is the international will.

-British Birds, March 1991.



RESERVATION FORM FOR ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

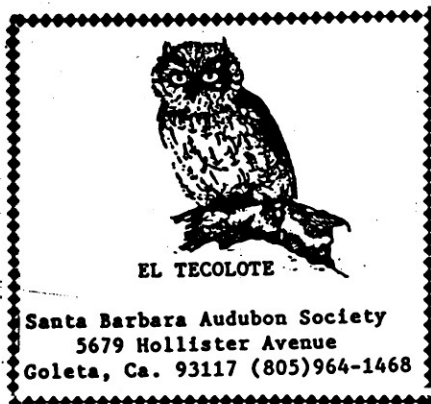
Please reserve ___ tri-tips and ___ vegetarian loafs.

I enclose my check for \$ ___ for ___ adults (\$6) and ___ children(\$4).

Please make check payable to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society. Mail with this coupon, to: Ron Hirst, 555 Camino de la Aldea, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93111.

MEMBER
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY-JUNE 1991



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