

El Tecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY



December 1991

Vol. 30, No. 3

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December Program

December 6, 1991
8:00 p.m.

Farrand Hall
Museum of Natural History

"Sea Birds of the Southern California Region"

by Paul Collins

The slide show and lecture will cover various kinds of habitats for sea birds of the region, common species found in each habitat, foraging behavior, and unique biological adaptations for marine birds. Mr. Collins is Associate Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. He has done extensive research over the past 17 years on mammals and birds of the Channel Islands region, as well as studies on the distribution of reptiles and amphibians in this area.

Note: This program was originally scheduled for November 22 and was postponed to December 6.

102nd Annual Audubon Bird Count

Everyone is welcome to help Santa Barbara Audubon with the Christmas Count to be held this year on Saturday, December 28. On the evening of Count Day, you are all invited to the compilation dinner at the Santa Barbara 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 Harris' or white-throated. Other species we need; any geese, dippers, pygmy owls, long-billed curlews.

This year's count compiler will again be Paul Lehman, assisted by Joan Lentz and Pat Kelly. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU SIGN UP BEFORE DECEMBER 15, IF POSSIBLE, BECAUSE WE WANT TO HAVE THE COUNT ORGANIZED EARLY THIS YEAR. Please fill out the coupon on page 3 and mail it to Pat, or call her at 962-9916. We will be contacting you shortly after December 15 to let you know details of the area you will cover. After December 20, please call the SBAS office at 964-1468 if you have further questions or additional sign-ups.

THANKS SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!

— Joan Lentz

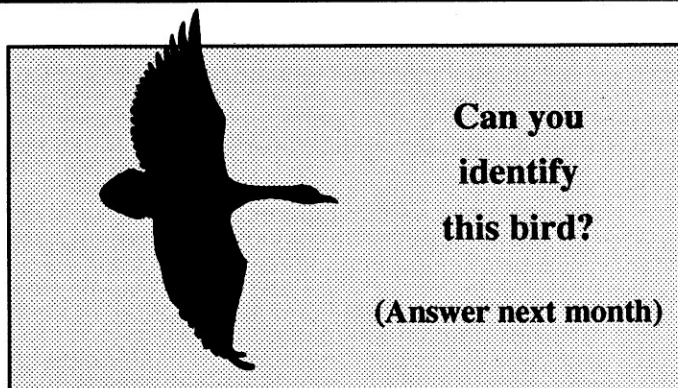
The next issue of *El Tecolote* will include a full report on the Christmas Bird Count, and should be in the mail by January 10th.

Activities Calendar

- Dec. 6 December Program: "*Sea Birds of the Southern California Region*" by Paul Collins.
- Dec. 14 Field trip to Devereux Slough led by Rob Lindsay (964-9514). Devereux is a great place for migrant shorebirds and other waterfowl. Meet Rob at the west end of Del Playa Road in Isla Vista at 7:30 a.m. for a half-day trip.
- Dec. 15 La Purisima Audubon Society Bird Count. SBAS members are invited to help. Call Brad Hines at 735-4823 or Col. Alex Abela (734-4008) for info.
- Dec. 28 SBAS Christmas Bird Count.

1992

- Jan. 1 Ventura Audubon Society Bird Count.
- Jan. 15 Field trip, call Everett King (962-0883) for details.
- Jan. 24 January Program: "*Flora and Fauna of Venezuela*" by Jeff Chemnick.



1992 Audubon Meetings

April 11-14, 1992: Western Regional Conference of the National Audubon Society.

May 2, 1992: Southern California Coordinating Council hosted by Santa Barbara Audubon Society.

Additional Activities Co-Sponsored by Santa Barbara Audubon Society and Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

In an effort to provide additional educational programs for Audubon members, SBAS is pleased to sponsor a series of programs and events on California's endangered wildlife. Other co-sponsors for this series include Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Los Padres Interpretive Association, the Santa Barbara Public Library, and the Adult Education division of Santa Barbara City College.

January 30 to April 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Gallery,
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
Photo exhibit: "*California's Treasured Wildlife*"

In addition to daytime hours, the Museum Gallery will be open for viewing from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. before each program, as well as afterwards.

January 30, 7:30 p.m.: Fleischmann Auditorium
and

February 5, 10 a.m.: Bird Habitat Hall
Slide program: "*California's Treasured Wildlife*" by "Moose" Peterson. "Moose" is a wildlife photographer with a special interest in California's endangered species. He will discuss the causes and prevention of extinction of California wildlife.

February 6, 7:30 p.m.: Farrand Hall
Slide program: "*Perched on the Brink: An Historical Overview of the California Condor*" by Jan Hamber, a biologist who has studied the California condor since 1976 — before the captive breeding program began.

February 13, 7:30 p.m.: Farrand Hall
Lecture: "*Return to the Wild: A Current Look at the California Condor*" by David Clendenen, Head Field Biologist for the Condor Recovery Project. He will talk about the condor recovery program and the recent release of two California condors in the Los Padres Wilderness.

March 5, 7:30 p.m.: Botanic Garden Library
Lecture: "*Treasures of the Flora: Rare and Endangered Plants and Habitats in the Golden State*" by Mary Carroll, Director of Education at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Mary will discuss factors contributing to California's rich plant heritage as well as underlying causes for species decline and extinction.

March 12, 7:30 p.m.: Farrand Hall
Lecture: "*The Desert Tortoise and the Endangered Species Act: Prospects for Survival*" by biologist Ray Bransfield of U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The Endangered Species Act is up for review in Congress this year. Ray will discuss prospective changes, and how they might affect listed species such as the desert tortoise.

Conservation Update

■ **Arctic National Wildlife Reserve:** The local chapter joined National Audubon and hundreds of environmental and conservation groups in lobbying Congress *not* to approve new oil exploration or drilling in Alaska's federal wildlife preserves. The Senate voted recently against taking any action in the current legislative year. This was a major victory!

■ **Old Growth Forests:** The local chapter also joined with a coalition of California environmental and conservation groups in writing to Governor Pete Wilson to examine — and hopefully approve — compromise proposals designed to protect large tracts of Old Growth Forests in Northern California from exploitation. Much of the cut timber is shipped to Japan and Taiwan. Wilson is considering new options.

■ **Open Space:** Locally, Audubon has participated in three Santa Barbara County habitat/park planning groups to assure expansion and preservation of threatened open space. As part of the Comprehensive Plan update, community and conservation leaders were asked to designate open space and habitat areas that deserved further protection or examination. Audubon also cooperated with the Park Department on the update of open space and recreation areas. And Audubon is monitoring recommended coastal areas suggested for purchase via the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) disbursed annually by the County from oil company fees earmarked for land acquisition or restoration.

Audubon, in recent months, has also attended an area "environmental summit conference" to share common visions and reach consensus on approaches to loss of habitat and open space, and on strategies for future planning. Similarly, Audubon is actively supporting the

efforts of the Santa Barbara County Urban Creeks Council in their efforts to preserve and/or restore area creeks to more natural settings, capable of again acting as bird nesting or foraging areas.

Audubon has written a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the position taken by the Lompoc-area Audubon chapter, urging the County to maintain the natural habitat and open space currently surrounding the La Purisima Mission complex and park. Private parties have petitioned the County to allow significant residential development over the hills that are now in a fairly pristine condition.

■ **Lake Cachuma Golf Course:** A coalition of concerned County groups is considering legal action to overturn the Supervisors' approval of a golf course along the shores of Lake Cachuma (Rancho San Marcos) adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest. Audubon is *not* participating in the lawsuit, although our chapter testified very forcefully against the project.

■ **Legislators:** Congressman Bob Lagomarsino and junior California Senator John Seymour will be in Southern California for the traditional holiday recess of Congress within the next three to five weeks. Both are up for re-election next year, and are particularly open to constituent input on key environmental matters. This would be an excellent time to write or phone their local offices, or to make appointments to speak with them personally while they are here, to share your Audubon-related conservation concerns.

— Lee Moldaver



SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 28, 1991



Yes, I(we) want to join the Bird Count team!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Preferred area: if yes, where _____

Would like to work with: _____

Optional: ☐ Dinner, ☐ Leader, ☐ Feeder count

Please complete this form and return to:

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

President's Message

Give an Audubon membership as a gift. There is no better way to express your appreciation for our local and global natural wonders. Your friends will enjoy the colorful Audubon magazine and will be kept up-to-date on local programs, field trips and issues. Call the office or our Membership Chair to sign up your friends.

Your Board of Directors needs assistance in conservation and education projects. If you're interested in attending public meetings and other conservation events, please call Lee Moldaver. If you're interested in giving slide programs of birds to elementary schools, call me.

— Ron Hirst

Board of Directors' Meetings

October: Margaret Eisler has moved to Point Reyes and will be unable to continue as Conservation Chair. Lee Moldaver will fill in temporarily. Treasurer updated Board on budget. Fund-raising initiative for Audubon Adventures successful. New stationery discussed. Board contacted by Museum of Natural History about co-sponsorship of programs. Board vacancies to be filled.

November: Four beautiful Audubon prints circa 1860 donated. These will be appraised first, then we will decide what to do with them. Ron urged Board to cultivate acquaintances for Membership and Board positions. Treasurer's report given; we are within budget. Audubon will be co-sponsoring S.B. Museum of Natural History series on endangered species. Fund-raising initiative for '91-92 Audubon Adventures has begun. Field trips reported. Membership reported. Conservation updated us on open space and Johnson-Wallop. We have two new Newsletter co-Editors: Julie Sheldon and Dorin Mayes.

Santa Barbara Audubon Society
5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
Santa Barbara, CA 93117



SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

OFFICERS		1991 - 1992
President	Ron Hirst	967-0138
Vice President	Lee Moldaver	682-2120
Secretary	Nancy King	687-2079
Treasurer	Ben Berkowitz	687-6122
Conservation	Lee Moldaver (acting)	682-2120
Education	(vacant)	
Programs	Sally Walker	569-5388
Field Trips	Everett King	962-0883
Membership	Marie Slaton	683-2935
Newsletter: Editor	Julie Sheldon	682-0272
Production	Dorin Mayes	683-1079
At-Large	Joe Martorana	685-4045
CHAIRS		
Hospitality	(vacant)	
Publicity	Betty Bazzi	967-5200
Bird Refuge Census	Helen Matelson	966-3217
Rare Bird Reporter	Karen Bridges	964-1316
Rare Bird Tape, Santa Barbara County		(805) 964-8240
Santa Barbara Audubon Society Office		(805) 964-1468

AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

You may use this form for your new membership. Return to Santa Barbara Audubon Society at 5679 Hollister Ave., Suite 5B, Santa Barbara, CA 93117. Or telephone SBAS office (964-1468) for application form. Send renewals directly to the National Audubon Society.

Make checks payable to "National Audubon Society."

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual, new (\$20) | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior citizen (\$21) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual, renewal (\$30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. citizen family (\$23) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$38) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$100) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$18) | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor (\$500) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Tecolote subscription only, non-members (\$10 payable to SBAS) | |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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