

El Tecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY



January 1992

Vol. 30, No. 4

January Program

January 24, 1992
8:00 p.m.

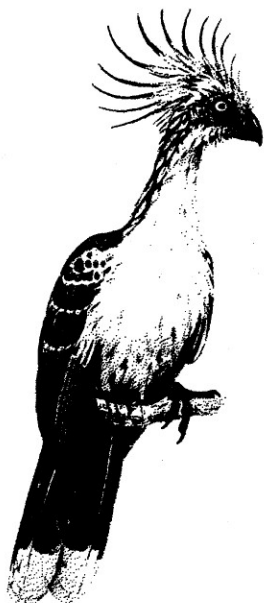
Farrand Hall
Museum of Natural History

"Anis to Zosterops"

Fauna and Flora of Venezuela and Australia
by Jeff Chemnick

Slide show presentation by Jeff Chemnick, who earned a B.S. in zoology and botany at San Diego State University. He has traveled to many tropical regions of the world in pursuit of natural history, including two two-month trips to Australia, and a month-long trip to Venezuela. His special interests are primitive and derived life forms, from cycads to cassowaries.

Come join us for an fascinating evening in Venezuela and Australia searching for unusual plants and animals. Jeff has photographed many exotic species in these countries — including the hoatzin.



Hoatzin

A bizarre bird that inhabits shrubby trees bordering the tropical rivers of northeastern South America. Large and untidy-looking, it is about two feet long, brownish and somewhat pheasantlike. The eyes are bright red and the facial skin is intense blue. Hoatzin chicks have wing claws — helpful for crawling about — that disappear after the first two or three weeks, leaving no vestige in the adult bird.

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Christmas Bird Count

On a partly sunny, partly rainy Saturday, sandwiched between two days of torrential rains, 94 observers found 201 species in the Santa Barbara and Goleta area. The area covered included a circle encompassing Gibraltar Reservoir, Devereux, Montecito, foothills, residential neighborhoods and the near-shore ocean.

Super rare birds found this year included our first ever ruddy ground dove, a pine warbler, an olive-sided flycatcher, our first CBC black skimmers (39 of them near Stearn's Wharf), and the intrepid hepatic tanager, back for its 10th winter at Rocky Nook Park!

Few pelagic birds were found because our boat broke down! To the horror of the boat crew, a warning light came on and smoke poured out of the engine before they were past Stearn's Wharf. Extra effort was put in on shoreline promontories to try and find pelagic birds.

The after-count dinner at the Bird Hall of Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History was well attended and the potluck food offerings have never been better. Joy Parkinson was congratulated on this, her 30th consecutive CBC!

We'll see you again next year.

— Ron Hirst

Activities Calendar

Jan. 18 Cachuma Lake eagle tour led by Everett King. A 2 hour boat trip of Cachuma Lake to view bald eagles and loads of waterfowl. The boat leaves at 10:00 a.m. from Cachuma Lake harbor facility. Audubon has reserved 15 spaces on this boat, at \$8/person; call the Audubon office (964-1468) to reserve a space. Meet at Carl's Jr, State St. and La Cumbre Roads, at 9:00 a.m. for car pooling.

Jan. 24 January Program: "*Anis to Zosterops*"

Feb. 2 A Sunday trip to Santa Barbara Harbor and Andree Clark Bird Refuge, co-led by Everett King (962-0883) and Elan Sutton. Meet at the Breakwater Restaurant at 7:30 a.m. for a morning of birding.

~~Feb. 15~~ ~~Canada Larga Road off the Ventura River, led by Ron Smith. Call Ron for details (687-2990).~~

Feb 8 Ventura Game Preserve Trip

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

January 30 to April 26, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:
Gallery, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
Photo Exhibit: "*California's Treasured Wildlife*"
A series of photographs of endangered species taken by local wildlife photographer B. "Moose" Peterson. The exhibit will comprise photographs of animals and some plants from these habitats: grasslands, marsh (salt and fresh), desert oak savannah.

January 30, 7:30 p.m.: Fleischmann Auditorium, and
February 5, 10:00 a.m.: Bird Habitat Hall
Slide Program: "*California's Treasured Wildlife*" with wildlife photographer B. "Moose" Peterson. "Moose" will look at the endangered species of California and some of the causes for their declining numbers. What steps are being taken to prevent their extinction? His intimate relationship with these animals combined with his passionate concern for them will make his talk worth hearing.

December Mystery Bird
No, it wasn't a Christmas goose!
It was a *Canada* goose.
(2 were sighted on Bird Count Day)



Field Trip Report

Nov. 23, 1991: Happy Canyon and Figueroa Mountain

Our group of 10 people left Santa Barbara at 7:40 a.m., and left the valley to return at 3:15 p.m. Ron Hirst and a companion saw a mountain lion on this trip. The day was pleasant, warm, and clear. Bird count: 46.

Drove to Happy Canyon Road, turned right onto Alisos Road. Our first stop was just before the end of the pavement at a bridge over a dry creek in front of a large ranch house: cedar wax-wing, golden-crowned sparrow, red-shouldered hawk, black phoebe, white-crowned sparrow, western bluebird, yellow-billed magpie, mockingbird, mourning dove, lesser goldfinch, plain titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Say's phoebe, savannah sparrow, house wren, northern flicker, double-crested cormorant, American crow, house finch.

Drove onto Cruz Phillips' Las Crusitas Ranch. At the ranch house: lark sparrow, red-breasted sapsucker, Cooper's hawk, red-winged blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, starling, mockingbird.

Drove up to Johnson Canyon, Bone Canyon branch: northern harrier, California thrasher. Johnson Canyon, water trough: red-tailed hawk, ruby-crowned kinglet, California towhee, golden eagle, American kestrel, dark-eyed junco, blue-gray gnatcatcher.

After Las Crusitas Ranch, up to Figueroa Mt. picnic-ground for lunch and a stroll round the nature trail: hairy woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, ruby-crowned kinglet, scrub jay, mountain chickadee, golden-crowned kinglet, Steller's jay.

Down the hill to Midland School land at Mile 7 marker: purple finch, golden eagle, Nuttall's woodpecker, phainopepla, western meadowlark, California quail.

[Members who want to go birding on Las Crusitas Ranch should first obtain permission from Cruz Phillips (688-8233).]

— Jeff Chemnick

Board of Directors' Meetings

DECEMBER: A quorum was not in attendance, so issues were discussed but no votes were taken. Board meetings may switch to the third Thursday of the month. Sections from the Goleta Community Plan Draft EIR were distributed. Twenty-two properties in Goleta are under consideration for development and are shown on the map section. Development impacts are described in the parcel-specific analysis section. A new format for the monthly Treasurer's Report was discussed.

1991 Christmas Bird Count

LOONS

14	Red-throated Loon
12	Pacific Loon
4	Common Loon

GREBES

57	Pied-billed Grebe
3	Horned Grebe
35	Eared Grebe
133	Western Grebe
1	Clark's Grebe

SHEARWATERS

—	Northern Fulmar
3	Black-vented Shearwater

PELICANS

186	Brown Pelican
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CORMORANTS

212	Double-crested Cormorant
37	Brandt's Cormorant
3	Pelagic Cormorant

HERONS

1	American Bittern
30	Great Blue Heron
29	Great Egret
33	Snowy Egret
3	Cattle Egret *
6	Green-backed Heron
44	Black-crowned Night-Heron

SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS

2	Canada Goose
11	Wood Duck
140	Green-winged Teal
298	Mallard
102	Northern Pintail
9	Blue-winged Teal *
6	Cinnamon Teal
215	Northern Shoveler
38	Gadwall
236	American Wigeon
17	Canvasback
80	Redhead
434	Ring-necked Duck
3	Greater Scaup *
216	Lesser Scaup
77	Surf Scoter
2	White-winged Scoter
8	Common Goldeneye
76	Bufflehead
24	Hooded Merganser
32	Common Merganser
37	Red-breasted Merganser
288	Ruddy Duck

NEW WORLD VULTURES

94	Turkey Vulture
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HAWKS

1	Osprey *
—	Black-shouldered Kite
5	Northern Harrier
16	Sharp-shinned Hawk
14	Cooper's Hawk
55	Red-shouldered Hawk
54	Red-tailed Hawk
—	Golden Eagle

FALCONS

56	American Kestrel
6	Merlin
—	Prairie Falcon *

QUAIL

280	California Quail
—	Mountain Quail

RAILS & GALLINULES

1	Virginia Rail
2	Sora
3	Common Moorhen
661	American Coot

PLOVERS

289	Black-bellied Plover
133	Snowy Plover
21	Semipalmated Plover
228	Killdeer

STILTS & AVOCETS

11	Black-necked Stilt
8	American Avocet

SANDPIPERS

25	Greater Yellowlegs
—	Lesser Yellowlegs *
159	Willet
2	Wandering Tattler
5	Spotted Sandpiper
23	Whimbrel
1	Long-billed Curlew
65	Marbled Godwit
14	Ruddy Turnstone
32	Black Turnstone
350	Sanderling
16	Western Sandpiper
79	Least Sandpiper
17	Dunlin
124	Long-billed Dowitcher
3	Common Snipe
—	Red Phalarope *

JAEGERS, GULLS & TERNS

—	Pomarine Jaeger *
2	Parasitic Jaeger *
133	Bonaparte's Gull
383	Heermann's Gull
455	Mew Gull
241	Ring-billed Gull
526	California Gull
11	Herring Gull
4	Thayer's Gull *
753	Western Gull
18	Glaucous-winged Gull
—	Black-legged Kittiwake *
1	Caspian Tern *
14	Royal Tern
94	Forster's Tern

AUKS & MURRES

5	Common Murre
—	Cassin's Auklet *
1	Rhinoceros Auklet *

PIGEONS

1118	Rock Dove
414	Band-tailed Pigeon
2	Spotted Dove
928	Mourning Dove
—	Common Ground-Dove

CUCKOOS

4	Greater Roadrunner
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OWLS

1	Barn Owl
2	Western Screech-Owl
8	Great Horned Owl
2	Northern Pygmy-Owl
—	Burrowing Owl
—	Short-eared Owl *

SWIFTS

2	White-throated Swift
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HUMMINGBIRDS

1017	Anna's Hummingbird
—	Costa's Hummingbird *
1	Allen's Hummingbird *
1	Selasphorus sp.

KINGFISHERS

14	Belted Kingfisher
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WOODPECKERS

555	Acorn Woodpecker
—	Red-naped Sapsucker *
7	Red-breasted Sapsucker
29	Nuttall's Woodpecker
39	Downy Woodpecker
11	Hairy Woodpecker
210	Northern Flicker (Red-shaft.)
(1)	Northern Flicker (Yel.-shaft.) *

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

141	Black Phoebe
27	Say's Phoebe
—	Tropical Kingbird *
8	Cassin's Kingbird *

LARKS

—	Horned Lark
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SWALLOWS

—	Violet-green Swallow *
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JAYS & CROWS

667	Scrub Jay
938	American Crow
—	Common Raven

CHICKADEES & TITMICE

1	Mountain Chickadee
203	Plain Titmouse

BUSHTITS

1309	Bushtit
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NUTHATCHES

1	Red-breasted Nuthatch
54	White-breasted Nuthatch

CREEPERS

5	Brown Creeper
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WRENS

3	Rock Wren
4	Canyon Wren
56	Bewick's Wren
37	House Wren
3	Winter Wren
11	Marsh Wren

DIPPERS

—	American Dipper
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OLD WORLD WARBLERS & THRUSHES

13	Golden-crowned Kinglet
609	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
57	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
102	Western Bluebird
1	Townsend's Solitaire
128	Hermit Thrush
989	American Robin
2	Varied Thrush
119	Wrentit

THRASHERS

233	Northern Mockingbird
48	California Thrasher

WAGTAILS & PIPITS

196	American Pipit
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WAXWINGS

462	Cedar Waxwing
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SILKY FLYCATCHERS

5	Phainopepla
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SHRIKES

16	Loggerhead Shrike
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STARLINGS

1639	European Starling
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VIREOS

36	Hutton's Vireo
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WOOD WARBLERS, TANAGERS & SPARROWS

1	Tennessee Warbler *
153	Orange-crowned Warbler
3	Nashville Warbler *
—	Yellow Warbler *
2097	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)
110	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
2	Black-throated Gray Warbler *
139	Townsend's Warbler
2	Hermit Warbler *
6	Palm Warbler *
2	Black-and-white Warbler *
93	Common Yellowthroat
1	Wilson's Warbler *
—	Summer Tanager *
9	Western Tanager *
2	Rose-breasted Grosbeak *
—	Black-headed Grosbeak *
147	Rufous-sided Towhee
448	California Towhee
6	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
3	Chipping Sparrow
203	Lark Sparrow
—	Sage Sparrow *
136	Savannah Sparrow
11	Fox Sparrow
178	Song Sparrow
111	Lincoln's Sparrow
6	Swamp Sparrow *
7	White-throated Sparrow *
430	Golden-crowned Sparrow
1817	White-crowned Sparrow
—	Harris' Sparrow *
697	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
—	Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)
—	Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed) *

BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

331	Red-winged Blackbird
4	Tricolored Blackbird
197	Western Meadowlark
699	Brewer's Blackbird
24	Brown-headed Cowbird
—	Orchard Oriole *
—	Hooded Oriole *
5	Northern Oriole (Bullock's) *
—	Northern Oriole (Baltimore) *
1	Scott's Oriole *

FINCHES

37	Purple Finch
2840	House Finch
—	Pine Siskin
194	Lesser Goldfinch
5	Lawrence's Goldfinch
139	American Goldfinch

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

364	House Sparrow
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ADDITIONAL SPECIES

1	Tundra Swan
1	Ross's Goose
24	Brant
2	Oldsquaw
39	Black Skimmer
1	Ruddy Ground Dove
6	Steller's Jay
1	Pine Warbler
1	American Redstart
1	Warbling Vireo
1	Eastern Phoebe
1	Olive-sided Flycatcher
(1)	Mountain Bluebird
1	Hepatic Tanager
1	Vesper Sparrow
1	Clay-colored Sparrow

* Requires written description.

GRAND TOTAL: 201 Species

Conservation Update

■ **Wetlands:** All members are urgently requested to contact our area's federal representatives to inform them that you *strongly oppose* any governmental effort to weaken policy on "Coastal Wetlands Protection" — a campaign pledge by President Bush in 1988. Heavy nationwide pressure from business-and-developer lobbies threaten to expose *over 60 percent of currently protected wetlands acreage!* This would be catastrophic to our tri-counties coastal habitats, and to our nation's coastal ecology in general. Contact: Bob Lagomarsino (R), Congress; John Seymour (R) and Alan Cranston (D), Senate.

■ **Open Space Development:** This is *your* chance to protect your favorite County birding area or hiking open-space from development in the 1990s. Two separate County workshops are soliciting public and group input on areas to be designated as "critical open space." Audubon is participating in both processes, but you can also be heard as private citizens. First note the exact location of that special site you would recommend for protection on the General Plan maps. Then send a note with this information, and your name and address, to *both* Dan Gira, Comprehensive Planning, County Resource Management Department, *and* Mike Pahos, Parks Director, County Parks Department. To be safe, send copies to each person, since their projects, while overlapping, are separate.

■ **Air Quality:** Our local Audubon Chapter participated this December in the renewal for SB County of our state-mandated Air Quality Attainment Plan. We also are participating in environmental analysis and comment for

the proposed new Goleta Valley Land Use Element update for the Comprehensive Plan. Public comment period stays open through mid-January; feel free to first read, then comment, on the E.I.R.

— Lee Moldaver

President's Message

Many thanks to those of you who have taken the time to write or call me. I highly value your input and it does make a difference in what the priorities are.

Due to the poor economy, my World Birdathon travel plans fizzled. In any event, I did manage to visit Mexico, Germany, and a few areas of the United States. I saw a total of about 450 species. A more detailed write-up will follow.

— Ron Hirst

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