

El Tecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY



February 1992

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February Program

February 28, 1992
7:15 to 7:45 p.m.

Museum of Natural History
Cartwright Hall

Special tour (before the slide show) of the Museum's new exhibit, "Insects and Plants of the Santa Barbara Area," led by exhibit biologist, John Torkington.

8:00 p.m.

Farrand Hall

"Insects of Santa Barbara County"

by Larry Friesen, Ph.D.

Great slide-lecture on butterflies, bees, spiders and bugs of our area, and adaptations, given by Santa Barbara City College professor and entomologist Larry Friesen, Ph.D. Dr Friesen has ongoing research interests in native bees and other insects of Santa Cruz Island. If you are interested in close-up photography, this will be a good opportunity to see many examples and ask questions.



Audubon Adventures

Major Grant Kicks Off Environmental Education Program in Schools

A generous grant from a Chicago foundation will bring environmental education into local elementary classrooms this fall, through Santa Barbara Audubon Society's award-winning "Audubon Adventures" program.

The Mayer and Morris Kaplan Foundation's generous \$1,500 grant, combined with this chapter's private resources, brings the total number of elementary classrooms funded for "Audubon Adventures" subscriptions up to 117 for the 1992/93 school year.

This special environmental education program — the only one of its kind in our area — provides each student with a colorful, educational bimonthly newsletter on plants, animals, biology and natural history.

Teachers appreciate the subscriptions which supplement their limited school budgets. And, since a helpful detailed teacher's guide is included with each issue, they are able to build entire science classes around "Audubon Adventures."

Additional funding is still sought to reach additional 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade classrooms this fall in south Santa Barbara County. Ultimately, Audubon would like to enrol every schoolchild in our community, to help them gain a personal understanding and lifelong appreciation for local plants, animals and natural resources.

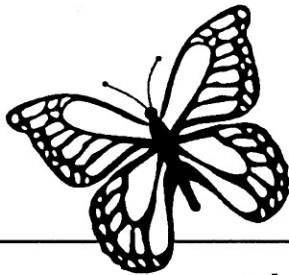
Please dip generously into your pocket for this good cause. It costs only \$30 to sponsor a year's subscription of "Audubon Adventures" for an entire elementary classroom of 30 students. Send your tax-deductible gift of \$30, \$60, \$90 or more to the Santa Barbara Audubon office, earmarked for the "Audubon Adventures" program.

For further information, call Lila Eisberg, Audubon Adventures Program coordinator, at 963-4886.

— Sally Walker

Activities Calendar

- 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. 8** Ventura County Game Preserve. Guy Tingo (687-8266) will lead us on Saturday to this outstanding habitat for numerous ducks and geese. Possible rarities may be white-faced ibis, yellow-headed blackbird and raptors. Meet at Andree Clark Bird Refuge at 8:00 a.m. for car pooling. Bring food, water and boots.
- Feb. 15** Cañada Larga trip is **CANCELLED**.
- Feb. 22** Devereux Slough. A half-day trip on Saturday led by Everett King (962-0883), to view shore birds and wetland birds. Meet at the west end of Del Playa Road in Isla Vista at 8:00 a.m. Good birding will depend on more rain before the 22nd.
- Feb. 28** February Program: *"Insects of Santa Barbara County"*



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

February 5, 10:00 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 and plants. 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 Museum Condor Biologist Jan Hamber. Jan has studied the California condor since 1976 — before the captive breeding program began — and will give an overview of what led up to the California Captive Condor Breeding Program.

1992 Audubon Meetings

February 1: Southern California Audubon Council Quarterly Meeting in Santa Monica. Two programs will be presented: Robert McKernon from San Bernardino County Museum will lead off with *"The State of the Salton Sea"* followed by a major presentation on California's wetlands. Anyone interested in attending should contact the SBAS office (964-1468) for details and car-pooling information.

April 11 - 14: NAS Western Regional Conference at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, CA. Agenda information will be given in the March newsletter.

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

June 13 - 19: NAS National Convention in Washington D.C. Theme is *"Act for Wildlife in '92: Endangered Species Need You!"* Special emphasis will be given to the workings of our federal government and upcoming legislation that affects wildlife and wildlife habitat. There will be an opportunity to meet with legislators and agency officials, and share views on wildlife policy. Sessions will focus on the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and other national wildlife issues.

In addition to Convention activities, several chapters in West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia have organized field trips to some of the most beautiful natural areas of the region.

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.

February 19, 7:00 p.m.: Santa Barbara Public Library, Faulkner Gallery
Slide Lecture: *"Eagles, The American Dream."*
Robert Mesta, Head of the Condor Recovery Project, will talk about the re-introduction programs for golden eagles and bald eagles and the future introduction of eagles in Santa Barbara County.

Conservation Notes

■ **County:** Because of serious budget shortages, various schemes are being considered by the County of Santa Barbara to save money. One proposed by Supervisor Michael Stoker (R), Santa Maria, is aimed at eliminating as much as possible of the County's planning and environmental resources divisions. Gutting the Resource Management Department might be a north county developer's dream come true, but it would have catastrophic effects on local efforts to preserve habitats, open space, and complex eco-systems. Please take a moment to phone the Board of Supervisors to urge them *not* to dismantle the County Resource Management Department. Call 568-2191 or send a note to the Supervisors at the SB County Administration Building, 105 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, 93103.

Hearings are ongoing for both the designation of open space in the Goleta Valley and the new proposed land-use designations for the Goleta Valley section of the Comprehensive Plan. If you desire more information, or wish to participate, call Dan Gira (pronounced Ji-rah) at 568-2000.

■ **State:** Western Audubon is asking all concerned members to write or phone our state representatives, Senator Gary Hart (966-1766) and Assemblyman Jack O'Connell (966-2296) to show your SUPPORT for the Forest & Logging Compromise Bill hammered out between state environmental groups, Governor Wilson and industry leaders. Audubon believes that the Compromise Bill is the very best preservation package for old-growth forests we can expect at this time. Please encourage our representatives to give this preservation package fair consideration.

■ **Federal:** A federal legislative package designed to protect California desert lands from over-development and excessive recreational exploitation is pending in Congress again this year. California Senator John Seymour at this writing remains "undecided" on this important bill being carried by California Senator Alan Cranston. Please take a moment to write to Senator Seymour urging him to give this bill the serious attention it merits. Please write: Senator John Seymour, 361 Phillip Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Audubon and a coalition of western regional environmental groups have won a major victory this month when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formally recommended that approximately 7 million acres of old-growth forest be excluded from commercial logging to protect the habitat of the northern spotted owl. This represents about 80% of the acreage that preservationists were seeking to protect.

—Lee Moldaver

Local Birders Go Far Afield

Santa Barbara is the home of many first-rate birders. Some of them you may know for their volunteer work with our local Audubon, or for their literary and ornithological talents. A number of our top birders, including Karen Bridgers, Shawnee Finnegan, Brad Hines, Paul Lehman and Joan Lentz visited the recent American Birding Association Convention in McAllen, Texas.

These ABA conventions occur semi-annually near birding "meccas," this year's Rio Grande Valley being one such place. The conference included technical talks, workshops and numerous field trips in Southern Texas. Mexican rarities seen by many of our group included: Audubon's and Altamira orioles, clay-colored robins, hook-billed kites, white-collared seedeaters, green kingfishers, and the first ever green mango seen in the U.S.

Birds of Santa Barbara County



Yellow-billed magpie

One of the handsomest birds found in the County, the yellow-billed magpie resides in valleys and foothills of our inland areas, especially in the Santa Ynez Valley. A good place to observe these beautiful birds is along Happy Canyon Road, from the turnoff at Highway 154 to the lower slopes of Figueroa Mountain.

It is easily identified by its striking black and white coloring, yellow bill and long iridescent tail, which is longer than its body — like no other North American land bird except the scissor-tailed flycatcher and fork-tailed flycatcher. This magpie is slightly smaller than the more common black-billed magpie.

In fact, the yellow-billed magpie has caught the eye of the SBAS Board of Directors and has been chosen to decorate the new Chapter stationery.

President's Message

Politics, politics... I recently spent forty minutes with Congressman Bob Lagomarsino discussing wetlands, endangered species, a national energy policy and other environmental concerns. The congressman showed himself to be knowledgeable about these issues and showed concern with effects in Santa Barbara County. He is reviewing a folder of magazine articles and newspaper clippings I gave him which highlight the unsound practices currently espoused by President Bush and the Congress with regards to wetlands.

In December, Governor Wilson wrote President Bush a letter regarding proposed revisions to the federal Wetlands Delineation Manual. The letter was very critical of certain changes which would, for example, reduce federal protection of Southern California coastal wetlands by approximately 75% and of Central Valley wetlands by 50%! Gov. Wilson asked for a more regional approach to wetlands and that the previous manual, written in 1989, continue to be used in the interim. In his letter, Gov. Wilson states his intention to seek short-term stabilization and a long-term net gain in the quantity and quality of California wetlands.

A California Legislative Affairs Director (lobbyist) is being hired through the Audubon Western Regional Office in Sacramento. This person is being hired primarily to advance Audubon perspectives before the California legislature and state regulatory agencies and the press. This position is partly funded by National Audubon and partly by California chapters. SBAS will contribute \$200 this fiscal year for the position.

— Ron Hirst

Board of Directors' Meeting

January: The Board voted to assist in setting up the position of California Legislative Affairs Director. This person will represent Audubon's position on conservation issues.

The Board is actively pursuing the placing of Audubon Adventures in local schools. More than 38 classrooms are currently receiving this excellent publication.

This is a time for Audubon members to become very vigilant because County cutbacks and layoffs will impact conservation and environmental issues and positions.

Late News. In January up to 77 black skimmers were seen at the Santa Barbara Street outfall. And 2 black-shouldered kites were recently seen at Lake Cachuma.

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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At-Large	Joe Martorana	685-4045
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Publicity	Betty Bazzi	967-5200
Bird Refuge Census	Helen Matelson	966-3217
Rare Bird Reporter	Karen Bridgers	964-1316
Rare Bird Tape, Santa Barbara County		(805) 964-8240
Santa Barbara Audubon Society Office		(805) 964-1468

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

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