

El Tecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY



March/April 1992

Vol. 30, No. 6

March Program

March 27, 1992 Museum of Natural History
7:15 to 7:45 p.m. Bird Hall and Bird Habitat Hall

Special opportunity to view the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Bird Hall and the new interactive Condor exhibit in the Bird Habitat Hall (go past the Gallery). Both exhibits will be open for Audubon members and guests prior to the slide program.

8:00 p.m. Slide show Farrand Hall

"Southeast Arizona — Exotic Birding North of the Border"

by Joan Lentz and Shawneen Finnegan

Join Joan Lentz, local author, and Shawneen Finnegan, artist and photographer, as they take you on a guided tour of one of the most famous birding hot-spots in North America: the southeast region of Arizona. You'll enjoy slides of the birds and scenery you can expect to find on a trip to this exotic birding location. If you plan to visit this fabulous area, bring your questions.

Tonight's program will be based on a chapter from Joan Lentz's latest book, *Great Birding Trips of the West*. She teaches birding classes locally for Adult Education, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and the Museum of Natural History. Joan has also written *Bird-Watching — A Guide for Beginners* (with Judith Young).

Shawneen Finnegan has long had a strong interest in both the outdoors and photography. She attended the San Francisco Academy of Art, studying photography just after her interest in birding developed. Since that time she has traveled extensively across the U.S. and Canada, photographing birds and their habitats. Currently she is Editor's Assistant for *Birding* magazine. She also co-leads tours for WINGS, Inc., a national birding tour company, with her husband, Paul Lehman. Art and bird illustration occupies her time when she is at home in Santa Barbara.

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April Program

April 24, 1992 Museum of Natural History
 Farrand Hall

7:30 p.m. Refreshments/networking

8:00 p.m. Slide show/lecture

"Sea Mammals of the Santa Barbara Channel"

by Peter Howorth

See the beautiful, fascinating color slides taken by local marine biologist and journalist Peter Howorth, of whales, porpoises, sea lions, elephant seals and other marine mammals found in the Channel Islands region. Peter is Director of the Marine Mammal Center, and will discuss identification, habitat, and unusual behavioral adaptations of these beautiful creatures of the sea.

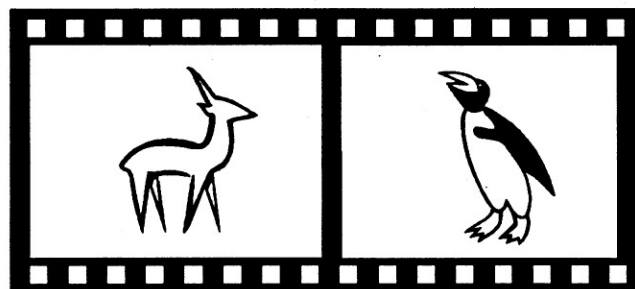


Activities Calendar

- Mar. 14** Rocky Nook Park/Botanic Garden. A half-day field trip for beginners. Led by Everett King (962-0883), this will be a morning of birding and perhaps also some wildflowers. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Rocky Nook.
- Mar. 21** Los Cerritos Wetlands Tour. Long Beach Sierra Club and El Dorado Audubon Society are inviting our members to join this annual tour of Alamitos Bay marshlands. The two-mile guided walk during the morning takes about two hours, with groups leaving every 15 minutes. For more information and directions, call Bob Lamond (310) 425-3268 or Larry Lee (310) 597-7491.
- Mar. 28** Stow House/Lake Los Carneros. Rob Lindsay (964-9514) will lead this morning's field trip to view resident waterfowl and marsh birds. Meet Rob at Lake Los Carneros parking lot, Los Carneros Road, Goleta at 7:30 a.m.
- Apr. 11 to 14** Western Regional Conference at Asilomar. Plan to attend this traditional biennial conference. All Audubon issues are addressed, workshops go nonstop, and the fellowship is great.
- Apr. 18** Refugio Road. Half-day field trip starting early. We'll bird the lower reaches of the road and then head for the top for a short hike and lunch. Afterwards we'll drive down into the Santa Ynez Valley and stop at Cachuma Dam for additional sightings. Meet at Jack-in-the-Box, corner of Hollister and Storke at 7 a.m. Leader is Ron Hirst (967-0138). Bring food and water.
- Apr. 25** Surf/La Purisima Mission. This field trip, led by Everett King (962-0883), will focus on marsh birds and shore birds at Surf, and chaparral and riparian birds at the Mission. Meet at Carl's Jr., State St. and La Cumbre Rd, at 7:30 a.m. for car pooling. Bring lunch.
- May 2** Southern California Coordinating Council Meeting hosted by SBAS. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the SBMNH Bird Habitat Hall. This regional meeting will have NAS and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service representatives presenting topical regional wildlife and legislative information. The preliminary plan is for an emphasis on endangered species. Full agenda in next issue.

Looking Ahead

Members' Slide Night



Attention, all members! Dust off those beautiful, one-of-a-kind natural history slides you've accumulated over the years on your treks to favorite spots, near and far. SBAS Members' Slide Night is Friday, May 22, when the spotlight is on YOU. Please bring your best slides and join us for a fun evening.

Members wishing to show their slides should plan to bring 5 to 15 slides, already mounted in a carousel. We will have a Kodak auto-focus slide projector on hand for you to use, but bring your own equipment, if you prefer.

Please call Sally Walker, Program Chair, at 569-5388 in advance to get on our list and to be part of the program.

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

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. A special plant heritage of some of the rarest local plant species and habitats will highlight the lecture.

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 Notes

■ **Earth Day 1992:** April 26 will be Earth Day. Our chapter will again staff a booth. Last year's participation was a great success. Every bit of Audubon literature was distributed long before the exhibit closed, and the looks of wonderment as young children got to touch and examine life-size raptors and shore birds (courtesy, S.B. Natural History Museum) were thrilling. We need your help with this year's booth. If you have an idea for making it visually interesting, or if you have one or two hours that you can donate to help us staff it, your assistance would be greatly valued. Please contact the Audubon office at your early convenience. This year's committee is forming now.

■ **Asilomar:** The annual Audubon workshop and nature retreat at Asilomar, on the Monterey Peninsula, is also coming up soon (April 11 to 14). If you've never experienced one of these, you're missing something special. Contact the SBAS office for more information; the prices are very reasonable.

■ **Drought-breaking rains:** Outstanding opportunities for hiking and birding will be in abundance throughout the county as a result of our drought-breaking storm cycle this winter. Humans "adjust" to prolonged dry spells, but plants and animals experience traumatic stress to their ecosystems and their lives. Recharging our creeks, streams, waterfalls, estuaries and coastal wetlands will also recharge our area's natural food-chain. Expect profusions of wildflowers this spring, and the return of several bird species scarce in these parts since the dry spells began. If you haven't gone on one of Audubon's free, guided nature walks lately, this may be the perfect season to resume. Either way, do make a special effort to return to cherished birding areas of former years, and observe what a transformation the rains have wrought.

■ **Election year:** With the profusion of new or unfamiliar political candidates coming forward this year for local, state and federal offices, it's especially important to carefully examine how their views compare with your own. Don't be shy about asking them, if you're not sure. We have three County Supervisors seats, one Congressional seat, two U.S. Senate seats, and the office of President in contention. The selections we make will influence policies on nature and the environment for many years to come. Be prepared to use your responsibility wisely.

— Lee Moldaver



Board of Directors' Meeting

February: The Board was updated on National Audubon old-growth forest and wetlands initiatives, and the visits by board members to the Playa del Rey Education Office. Treasurer has put his monthly report into an easily readable format which shows the chapter running under budget this year and increasing reserves. Mike Pahos, Parks Director, County Parks Department, gave the Board a 45-minute presentation on the status and plans for an Open Space District in Santa Barbara County, which was much appreciated. Membership Chair reported *El Tecolote* mailing list currently totals 1,354 names.

Notice to Authors

El Tecolote invites submission of scientific articles on the natural history of Santa Barbara and the Southern California region. Such articles are subject to peer review and may be condensed. Articles should be typewritten double-spaced with 500 to 1000 words.

Photographs may be either color or black-and-white, 3.5 x 5 inches or larger. Originals of figures, graphs, maps, etc. should be clean and clear, with lettering large enough to remain legible after reduction to fit newsletter format.

Manuscripts should be sent to: Newsletter Editor, Santa Barbara Audubon Society, 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B, Goleta, CA 93117. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish your material returned.

Help Wanted: Education Coordinator

Audubon's natural history presentations in the schools ensure that young students gain a personal understanding and lifelong appreciation of local plants, animals and natural resources. And they supplement the schools' meager budgets for science programs and audiovisual aids.

Trained, capable Audubon volunteers are available to do presentations in the schools, and enthusiastic requests for our programs are coming in — but we lack one essential ingredient: we need a committed, energetic Coordinator to pull it together by scheduling volunteers and speaking engagements.

If you're looking for some rewarding volunteer work, consider being our Education Coordinator. No speaking skills are needed — just occasional phone work and correspondence from your home, plus attending Education Committee meetings, as needed. For further information, please contact Ron Hirst at 967-0138.

President's Message

A few weeks ago Nancy King, Everett King, Lee Moldaver and I attended a reception for Peter Berle, National Audubon President, at the regional Audubon Education Office in Playa del Rey. Peter, in L.A. to address business leaders during the day, spoke strongly about our wetlands campaign, ancient forests and the ANWR legislation victory. He spent some time talking to Everett about his work for our chapter and his goals. When talking with Lee about the innovative electric buses Santa Barbara MTD uses, he thought these could be an appropriate topic for an article in the *Audubon Activist* newsletter.

A week later, your leaders again went to the Education Office in Playa del Rey, the occasion this time being the quarterly Southern California Coordinating Council meeting. Joining me on this trip were Sally Walker and David Wass, our chapter wetlands coordinator. This meeting emphasized wetlands issues and legislation, and included wetlands presentations on the Salton Sea and South Coast wetlands, plus updates on California's old-growth forests, endangered species and the California Audubon Lobbyist. Sally presented our chapter activities report to the ninety people in attendance.

Your Board of Directors is seeking members to assume leadership responsibilities in the chapter. Real needs exist in Education and Conservation, and we can use help with *El Tecolote* Newsletter, Programs, Field Trips, Hospitality, Special Events, etc. Elections will be in June and Board positions will be available. Call me when you are interested in volunteering. Get involved — it's fun and rewarding!

— Ron Hirst

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) |
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Name _____

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SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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	Ron Hirst (acting)	967-0138
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 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
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