

# El Tecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY



December 1992/January 1993

Vol. 31, No. 4

## It's Count Time Again!

Our annual count, traditionally one of the top three in the nation, regularly records over 200 species. We need your help to continue the tradition. All birders, whether chaparral trudgers or backyard feeder watchers, are welcome to join Santa Barbara Audubon for this year's Christmas Count to be held on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1993**.

On the evening of Count Day, you are all invited to the compilation dinner at the S.B. 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.

This year's count compiler will again be Paul Lehman, assisted by Joan Lentz and Pat Kelly. Please fill out the coupon on page 3 and mail to Pat, or call her at 962-9916. **PLEASE SIGN UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE CAN ORGANIZE THE COUNT.** We will be contacting you the week of December 28 to let you know details of the area you will cover. After December 28, please call the S.B. Audubon office at 964-1468 if you have further questions or additional sign-ups.

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 white-throated or Harris'. Other species we need: any geese, dippers, pygmy-owls, and long-billed curlews. Call Paul at 967-2450 or Joan at 969-4397 after December 27 if you see any of these species or other rarities in the Count "circle" during December.

Don't forget participants pay a \$5 fee to cover the costs of compiling and publishing the results.

THANKS SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!

— Joan Lentz



## December Program

Friday, December 11

Bird Habitat Hall, SBNH Museum

7:15 p.m. Pre-show

Beginner birders and Bird Count volunteers, here's a great chance to brush up on your birdwatching skills! **Shawneen Finnegan** will point out the birds to look for in the Santa Barbara area at this time of year.

Farrand Hall, SBNH Museum

7:45 p.m. Refreshments

8:00 p.m. Slide program

### *"African Natural History — East by South"*

**Jeff Chemnick** returns with another colorful slide show of Tanzania and South Africa with a twist: Jeff focuses on the interesting plants and animals you can photograph from the safety of your car. On this trip Jeff saw 360 species of birds and 35 species of mammals in South Africa, and 160 species of birds in East Africa.

Many loved his presentation last year and will surely enjoy another great adventure — Chemnick style!

## January Program

Friday, January 22, 1993

Farrand Hall, SBNH Museum

7:45 p.m. Refreshments

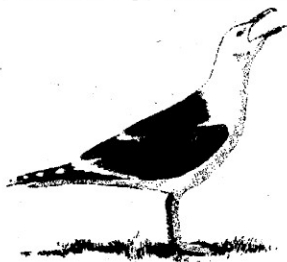
8:00 p.m. Slide program

### *"Willow Flycatcher Versus the Brown-headed Cowbird on the Kern River"*

**Mary Whitfield** is a Research Associate with the Kern River Research Center. This program will present the dilemma of saving endangered species threatened by brown-headed cowbird parasitism. Come for a beautiful and educational presentation.

## Activities Calendar

### Saturday, Dec. 5: Gull Identification



Those confusing gulls will be the focus of this trip. Nine species of gulls are typically found in Santa Barbara in the winter and each one will have three or four distinct plumages. We'll locate many of these and learn them. Meet at the Goleta Beach Park Pier at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Ron Hirst (967-0138).

### Sunday, Dec. 13: Point Mugu Naval Air Station

Home of clapper rails, peregrine falcons and other threatened wildlife. Spend a morning touring the wetlands with a Base naturalist. Due to regulations, we are limited to 22 U.S. citizens on the trip. Please reserve with Everett King (962-0883) or the SBAS office by December 10.

### Saturday, Jan. 2: Christmas Bird Count

### Saturday, Jan. 23: Ventura County Game Preserve

A good example of man-made wetlands providing habitat for thousands of waterfowl and many raptors. Yellow-headed blackbirds common, possible geese and Eurasian widgeon. Meet at Andree Clark Bird Refuge at 8:00 a.m. Call if bad weather. Leader: Guy Tingos (687-8266).

### Saturday, Jan. 30: Figueroa Mountain

The closest location to Santa Barbara for montane species such as mountain chickadee and pygmy nuthatch, the trip also offers exhilarating views and crisp mountain air. Be prepared for walking, cold and wind. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Carl's Jr., Five Points Shopping Center at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Jeff Chemnick (965-0895).

## Wish List



As we approach the holidays, our Audubon chapter has its own "wish list" of items that would help further our conservation work, community education, and habitat preservation efforts. Please call our office at 964-1468 if you can help us out with any of these items:

- ♦ **Loan of a Motor Boat** for just one day — Saturday, January 2 — for Audubon's annual bird count. It should hold three to four people comfortably and be able to go out in choppy water up to five miles offshore. If you can help, call Paul Lehman (967-2450) or Joan Lentz (969-4397).
- ♦ **Fax Machine** to simplify and enhance communication efforts with legislators, volunteers, National Audubon and the Western Regional office, local vendors, etc.
- ♦ **Audiovisual Aids:** Laser or stick pointers for our slide programs, large self-standing projector screen, heavy-duty extension cords, overhead projector.
- ♦ **Graphic Supplies:** Exacto knife, staple gun, poster board, and stencils for use in preparing displays.

## Conservation Notes

■ **Regional Wetlands Conference.** Special thanks to all Santa Barbara Audubon members who helped make this timely program a success, particularly to committee members Marie Dornan, Elan Sutton, Ron Hirst, Sally Walker, Joy Parkinson, Tomi Sollen; to Dorin Mayes for his outstanding graphics and layout work on both mailers and programs; to Nancy and Everett King for special assistance leading up to and on conference day; also to all the people at UCSB whose support and cooperation resulted in such a fine meeting site (the Cliff House on West Campus); especially Teresa Bertuzzi (UCEN Facilities), UCEN Food Services, Deirdre Edgar (Parking Services) and Winny (in Ernest Lopez's office), and to the UCSB Biology Department for acting as our on-campus co-sponsor.

Because of the uniformly high quality of the program, attendance was double our original projections. Perhaps the ultimate dividend of this conference is the strong possibility that data and ideas will be assembled in a scholarly fashion over the next year, resulting in specific recommendations to government agencies to preserve our regional "focus" wetlands.

### ■ Goleta Valley Land Use and Habitat: 1992-2001.

What land uses will occur on "open space" in the Goleta Valley over the next decade? These next two months are the time for members of the public to get their specific suggestions into the record, as a multi-year effort to update the Goleta section of the County Comprehensive Plan enters its final stage, in hearings before the County Planning Commission. All areas are being considered, from the mountain ridge lines to coastline, from Gaviota to San Marcos Pass. Many parcels we think of as open space or farmland are actually owned by private parties who would like to develop them in coming years, or significantly alter their current use. If you have a favorite stream or creek, scenic vista, trail, birding location, grove of trees, or section of ocean-front bluffs, now is the time to ensure their protection in the new Ten Year Master Plan. Hearings are set for December 3, 8, 10 and 15 (and possibly several more). Plan to attend in person, or mail in specific site locations and your suggestions. For more information, please contact Dan Gira, Alissa Hummer or Wynne Tufnell at 568-2000. Remember, if the County does not hear from us, they will assume we do not care.

■ **Ellwood Shores.** Developers of the large bluff-top acreage in the Ellwood area are planning a massive appeal effort in anticipation of denial by the County Planning Commission, due to the large number of unmitigatable Class One environmental impacts (i.e. water supply, quality and discharge, vernal pools, eucalyptus grove monarch butterfly habitat, threatened bird species, beach access, traffic circulation, etc.). If you wish to help preserve this key Goleta coastal open space, contact Chris Lange (968-5743).

— Lee Moldaver



## President's Report

Deep in our chapter's archives this weekend, I ran across a yellowed invitation, circa 1980, to an Audubon wetlands workshop with speakers like Ralph Philbrook and Wayne Ferren and governmental representatives.

On November 7, 1992, Audubon history repeated itself. More than 100 concerned tri-counties residents crowded into Cliff House, overlooking Devereux Slough, to discuss preservation progress and renewed efforts to protect three threatened wetlands: Carpenteria Slough, the Oso Flaco Dunes/Lakes complex and the Santa Clara River.

Special thanks go to conference chair Lee Moldaver and our hard-working conference committee, moderator David Anderson, and speakers Wayne Ferren, David Keil, Cathy Brown, Mark Capelli, Morgan Boucke, John Ford, John Gill, Jesse Grantham, and Tom Yokom, who volunteered their time and considerable expertise to draw public attention to the loss of more than 90% of Southern California's wetlands since the turn of the century.

Please call the Audubon office if you'd like to help with local wetland preservation efforts. Also, for \$10, you can buy a detailed California wetlands preservation manual developed by National Audubon.

Our Adopt-a-Beach crew, led by Ron Hirst, received a California Coastal Commission award for its clean-up of Coal Oil Point. The team's most unsettling find was a 200-lb gill net.

Our Audubon Adventures fund drive continues, with 30 elementary classrooms underwritten so far by generous Auduboners. As you plan your holiday gift list, please include youngsters whose science budgets are woefully underfunded. For just \$30 per class (tax deductible) you can underwrite an award-winning environmental education program for 35 elementary students for an entire year! This year's goal is 120 classrooms.

See you at the annual Christmas Count, Saturday, January 2. Happy holidays, and good birding!

— Sally C. Walker



## Chapter Job Opening

Santa Barbara Audubon is seeking an enthusiastic member to assist in the coordination of the National Audubon Society's Composting Program. **REQUIREMENTS:** Must have college degree, be energetic, flexible, self-motivated, able to work and communicate well with others, experienced with environmental issues/advocacy, good word processing skill, have car, be familiar with Audubon chapter activities and philosophy. Other helpful skills: media/publicity knowledge and/or experience, public speaking experience and knowledge/interest in solid waste issues. The position is for six months, full-time, with the possibility of a part-time extension. Salary: based on 25K/year. Please send resume by December 15 to:

Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
Attention: Composting Program  
5679 Hollister Ave, Rm 5B  
Goleta, CA 93117

## Important Audubon Election Underway in the Western Region

Nominations are now open for the Western, chapter-selected candidate to the National Audubon Society Board of Directors. Any chapter in the Western Region may nominate one candidate for the Board this fall and winter. The election to choose the candidate will be held in the spring.

Nominees should be willing and able to:

- ✓ Help set overall national policies
- ✓ Articulate the issues and concerns of our region
- ✓ Participate in fund raising and maintain the fiscal integrity of National Audubon
- ✓ Fill the position for the next three years, beginning December 1993
- ✓ Attend four Board meetings per year, each three days in length.

Contact a chapter officer with your suggestions. The nomination will be sent to the regional office by January 31, 1993.



## SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, January 2, 1993



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

## Special Magazine Subscription Offer

The form below enables our chapter to benefit when you purchase a new subscription to *Bird Watcher's Digest*. The terms are as follows: For every new one-year regular or gift subscription at \$17.95, we'll receive \$9.00; for a new two-year subscription (\$29.95) we get \$15.00; a new three-year subscription (\$39.95) nets us \$20.00. Simply fill out this form, and send it with your payment to Bird Watcher's Digest, P.O. Box 110, Marietta, OH 45750. What better way to give a nice gift (to yourself or someone you know) and help us finance our future projects.

### Bird Club Subscription Program

**BIRDWATCHER'S  
DIGEST**

P.O. Box 110  
Marietta, OH 45750



Please enter my subscription to  
*Bird Watcher's Digest*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_

*Santa Barbara Audubon Society*

Name of my Bird Club \_\_\_\_\_

☐ One Year  
(6 issues)  
\$17.95

☐ Two Years  
(12 issues)  
\$29.95

☐ Three years  
(18 issues)  
\$39.95

Unless  
otherwise  
specified,  
subscription  
will begin  
immediately

☐ Payment  
enclosed -

☐ Bill my Visa/  
Mastercard

### SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

#### OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President: Sally C. Walker ..... 569-5388  
Vice President: Lee Moldaver ..... 682-2120  
Secretary: Everett King ..... 962-0883  
Treasurer: Ben Berkowitz ..... 687-6122  
At-Large: Don Rathbun ..... 964-5521  
Jim Greaves ..... 966-3984  
Conservation: Lee Moldaver ..... 682-2120  
Education: Virginia Puddicombe ..... 969-1702  
Programs: Elan Sutton ..... 683-1143  
Field Trips: Ron Hirst ..... 967-0138  
Membership: Nancy King ..... 964-4741  
Hospitality: (vacant)  
Publicity: Betty Bazzi ..... 967-5200  
Bird Refuge Census: Helen Matelson ..... 966-3217  
Rare Bird Reporter: Karen Bridgers ..... 964-1316

Rare Bird Alert ..... (805) 964-8240  
SBAS Office ..... (805) 964-1468

#### MEMBERSHIP

Special new member rate ..... \$20  
Individual ..... \$30  
Family ..... \$38  
Student ..... \$20  
Senior citizen ..... \$21  
Senior citizen family ..... \$23

Please send *only* new member applications  
and *El Tecolote* subscriptions to: Santa  
Barbara Audubon Society, 5679 Hollister  
Ave., Suite 5B, Goleta, CA 93117.

#### EL TECOLOTE

Editor: Dorin Mayes ..... 683-1079

*El Tecolote* is published 7 times a year by the  
Santa Barbara Audubon Society. Members  
are invited to submit articles, announce-  
ments, letters, photos and drawings for  
publication consideration. Copy deadline is  
the 10th of the month prior to publication.  
Non-member subscription is \$10 per year.

©1992 SBAS



Printed on recycled paper

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

**Dated Material  
December 1992  
Please Expedite**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Santa Barbara, CA  
Permit Number 125



or current resident