

El Tecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY



April 1993

Vol. 31, No. 7

Thirtieth Anniversary Gala Banquet

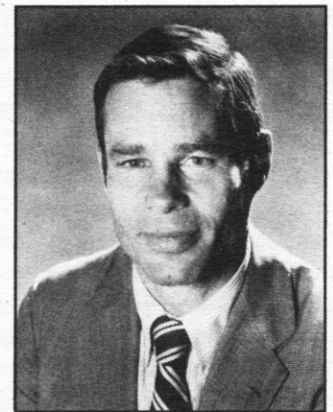
Wednesday, April 14, 1993
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Wine Cask Restaurant
813 Anacapa Street, S.B.

To help celebrate our chapter's 30th birthday, **Peter Berle**, President of the National Audubon Society, and internationally renowned conservation champion, will come to Santa Barbara to present the keynote speech, *"Environmental Challenges Facing the Clinton Administration, the Country, and Audubon."* He will also personally recognize the career achievements of charter founding members **Joyce (Joy) Parkinson** and **Janet (Jan) Hamber**. **John Borneman**, our Audubon District representative for 30 years, will also be honored on the occasion of his recent retirement.

A charismatic speaker, Berle has helped focus Audubon energy into: reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, nationwide Wetlands Preservation programs and nationwide Nature Education programs in public schools. Recently he won architectural and conservation kudos for the way Audubon restored an "historic" New York building into a super-energy-efficient national headquarters.

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Peter Berle — graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School, environmental attorney, former Air Force intelligence officer, explorer and world traveler, skilled outdoorsman, author, past head of New York State's Dept. of Environmental Conservation and three-term New York State Assemblyman — to speak in Santa Barbara on April 14th.

Santa Barbara in Springtime

by Shawneen Finnegan

APRIL and May are two of the most exciting months of the year to watch birds in the Santa Barbara region. Replacing the wintering residents and rarities is a myriad of shore-birds, seabirds, and land birds moving northward on their annual spring migration.

"Spring" comes quite early to Santa Barbara. Thanks to our temperate climate some species begin nesting in January; owls and hawks are well-known for nesting early. Anna's hummingbirds breed year-round, but courting and nesting activities seem to increase after the New Year. Early-arriving Allen's

hummingbirds can be heard *zippity-zipping* about flowering eucalyptus and bottle brush. By February, swallows and migrant cinnamon teal begin to arrive. Great horned owls are already feeding young. High above, red-tailed hawks soar overhead, swooping on and chasing one another with dangling legs during courtship. Red-shouldered hawks scream from the tops of trees or from on the wing. Come March, many of our permanent residents are already engaged in nesting activities; these birds include woodpeckers, wrens, plain titmice, bushtits, wrentits, and towhees.

The chaparral-covered slopes above

us are at their prime from mid-April through May. Along East Camino Cielo, the beautiful song of the black-chinned sparrow contrasts with the barking call of mountain quail. Male lazuli buntings, singing atop many a bush, provide a splash of brilliant color to the hillsides with their turquoise-colored upperparts, chestnut breast, and white underparts. Black-headed grosbeaks and rufous-sided towhees add black, white and cinnamon to the palette.

Seabirds provide additional flavor to spring migration. Locally, the coastal promontory of Goleta Point at UCSB, is the favored place to observe this movement. Thousands of birds pass by the Point in March, April and May. Flocks of brant, scoters, and loons fly past just

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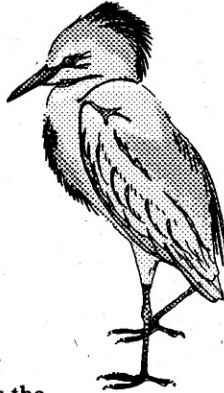
Activities Calendar

Saturday, April 3: Andree Clark Bird Refuge

Volunteers are requested to help the City Parks and Recreation Dept. with planting and caring for existing vegetation. Get involved and be rewarded with a beautiful Bird Refuge. Come at 9:00 a.m. and bring your strong backs and garden tools — refreshments will be provided. For more information call Sue Alemdar at 965-3813.

Saturday, April 24: Devereux Slough

A three-mile walk around the lagoon to look for shorebirds, spring migrants and summer residents. Meet at the west end of Del Playa Road in Isla Vista at 7:30 a.m. Leader: **Hugh Ranson** (569-0873).



Friday, May 21: Members' Slide Show Night

Come share a fun, casual evening with your Audubon friends, or make new ones. This is the night we amateur photographers get to share a few of our best slides of exotic places, species and landscapes. We do amazing things in our not so spare time! Fly around the world, or just around the block in 45 minutes. The program is free, and the public is welcome — so introduce a friend to Audubon!

Saturday, May 22: Pelagic Birding Trip

There is still space available on this one-day trip to Santa Barbara Island from the Ventura Harbor. Sponsored by Ventura Audubon and led by **Shawneen Finnegan**, the cost is \$50 per person. For more information and reservations, call **Ginny Mickelson**, the trip coordinator, at (805) 653-0151.

April Program

Friday, April 23, 1993

Farrand Hall, SBNH Museum

7:45 p.m. Refreshments

8:00 p.m. Slide program

"Peregrine Falcon Project"

Lee Aulman, featured in *National Geographic Magazine*, April 1991, is a Research Associate with the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group. Seasonally, work takes him to the Sequoia National Forest for consulting work on the northern goshawk and peregrine falcons. Lee has been a consultant for National Audubon's Condor Research Center. The public is always welcome to come enjoy our free monthly programs.

Conservation Notes

◆ **Earth Day.** Sunday, April 25, Audubon will again offer an Earth Day booth in sunny Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara. We need your help. Can you be half of a pair for one hour at our Earth Day booth beneath the palm trees? Can you hand out Audubon brochures and sign up interested parties on a clipboard? Can you explain the difference to children and their parents between a shorebird and a raptor (using life-size models we borrow annually from the Natural History Museum)? Do you have one hour to renew old acquaintances and make new friends, as several thousand of our county's most delightful and diverse conservation supporters pass your chair at the Audubon booth? Do you have even a half-hour to help set up and take down our booth? Do you have a friend or relative who'll "team" with you during "your hour"? If so, please call the Audubon office (964-1468), leave your name, phone number and the preferred hour you wish to volunteer.

◆ **Snowy Plover.** The US Fish & Wildlife Department, after months of delays, has officially listed the Western snowy plover as a legally "threatened species." Santa Barbara County's coastline features a number of traditional plover habitats, many threatened with development in coming years, so the designation comes at a very good time.

— Lee Moldaver

Grant to Fund Bird Refuge Project

Our chapter has teamed with City Parks to develop docent training materials, and to help raise funds to equip docents, so they can lead school children and the general public on regular interpretive bird trips through the Andree Clark Bird Refuge.

To help purchase binoculars and a spotting scope, valued at \$4,000, for the City's new docent education program at the Refuge, the Santa Barbara Foundation has generously extended a \$2,000 challenge matching grant to Santa Barbara Audubon Society.

What this means is that to get the full benefit from this grant, our chapter and the City must raise the matching \$2,000 before the end of this year. Should we fail, precious funds will be irretrievably lost and the good they would have done will be lost too.

Please make sure we don't lose this opportunity. Send in your tax-deductible gift to the Audubon office today. Every dollar you give becomes two dollars instantly!

— Sally Walker

Calling All Charter Members

We wish to honor the Charter Members of Santa Barbara Audubon Society (those who joined by June 1963) at our 30th Anniversary Dinner. If you are such a member, or know of someone who is, please call Nancy King at 964-4741 weekdays. Thank you.

Springtime (Continued from page 1)

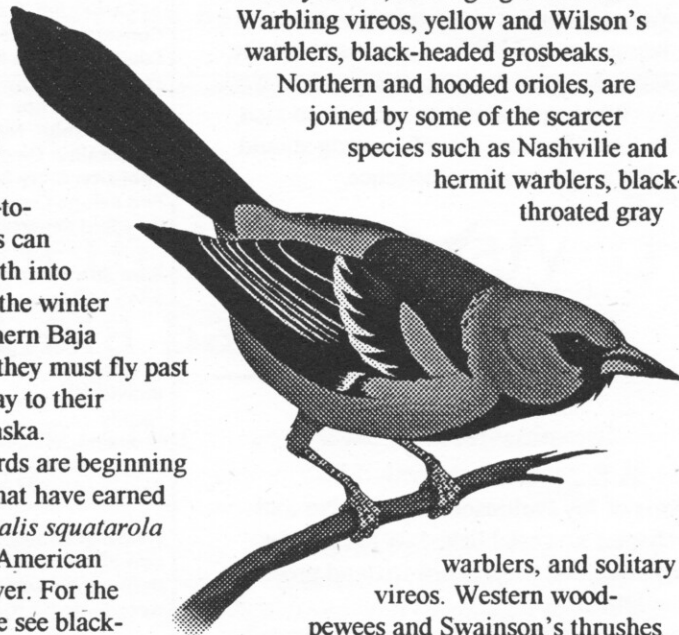
offshore. Afternoons are best; bring a scope. If you ever wanted to study loons in flight, now is the time. Red-throated loons migrate earlier than Pacific loons, with the peak passage of red-throateds occurring between late March and late April. Pacific loons reach their apex in mid-to-late April, but stragglers can still be seen drifting north into June. Most brant spend the winter from San Diego to southern Baja California. This means they must fly past Santa Barbara on the way to their breeding grounds in Alaska.

By April the shorebirds are beginning to appear in plumages that have earned them their names. *Pluvialis squatarola* begin to resemble their American name, black-bellied plover. For the better part of the year we see black-bellies in a plumage more closely resembling their European name, grey plover. Surfbirds, coming into or already

in breeding plumage, can be seen on the rocks just off Goleta Point.

Wandering along one of the creeks in Goleta or through the Botanical Gardens can provide a memorable morning. As the day wears, on singing declines. Warbling vireos, yellow and Wilson's warblers, black-headed grosbeaks,

Northern and hooded orioles, are joined by some of the scarcer species such as Nashville and hermit warblers, black-throated gray



warblers, and solitary vireos. Western wood-pewees and Swainson's thrushes arrive a bit later.

A sight not to be missed is the April hummingbird migration. Find a street

lined with blooming bottle brush. Several streets in Goleta are lined with bottle brush which can attract up to six species at once. Paralleling San Jose Creek on its east side is a street called Merida Drive. The streets in the Winchester Canyon area can also be very productive. Depending on the year, rufous hummingbirds can be scarce or plentiful. Anna's, Allen's, black-chinned, and, usually, Costa's, are present. The crown jewels are the few calliope hummingbirds which pass through the lowlands in spring.

The number of land-bird migrants can vary greatly from year to year. The spring of 1991 was overwhelming. Many people commented that it was the best spring in memory. Everywhere one turned, from backyards to riparian creek-sides and canyons, birds were literally dripping from the trees. The numbers of Hammond's flycatchers, Western tanagers, Nashville warblers, and other birds were astounding. Rufous hummingbirds were so abundant they were able to dominate hummingbird feeders, crowding out and sometimes attacking the usually dominant male Anna's. In contrast to 1991

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Banquet (Continued from page 1)

Preceding the banquet, a no-host gourmet wine-tasting reception will be held in the El Paseo Fountain Court at 6 p.m., where members can mingle and meet Dr. Berle. Dinner will follow at 7 p.m. with full table service — all costs covered — and choice of: **Vegetarian, King Salmon, or Free-range Chicken.** The Wine Cask Restaurant is regularly

rated among Santa Barbara's **Ten Best.**

All of this: the chapter birthday celebrations, the reception, the talk by Peter Berle, the recognition of Charter Founders, the honoring of John Borneman, and the full sit-down dinner with tip and tax included is only \$25 per person.

At this price, the 100 seats at the Wine Cask Restaurant are sure to sell out fast, so don't be disappointed; send in the

attached form and your check early to Santa Barbara Audubon Society. Pre-paid reservations will take priority over telephone reservations; however payment at the door with a reservation will be accepted.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND JUST ONE AUDUBON EVENT THIS YEAR, MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR APRIL 14th.

RESERVATION REQUEST

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Wednesday, April 14th, 1993

Name _____

Address _____

Number of \$25 Seats Requested _____

Entrée choice (please specify number of each):

Salmon _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Note: The Wine Cask is a non-smoking restaurant. Free parking is available at El Paseo Parking Lot or the Lobero lot.

Wine Cask Restaurant
813 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara
6:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Banquet

Please send your check (made out to Santa Barbara Audubon Society) and this form to:
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
5679 Hollister Ave., No. 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

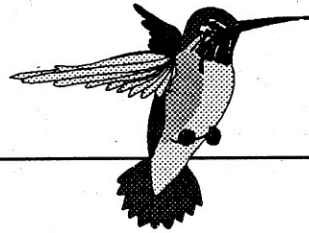
Springtime (Cont. from page 3)

was the poor passage noted in 1992. With the exception of a phenomenal occurrence of Kentucky, hooded, and Northern parula warblers — vagrants from the eastern U.S. — spread all over the state, there were few western migrants observed. Santa Barbara County alone recorded 11–14 Kentucky warblers, most found and banded by Jim Greaves on the upper Santa Ynez River drainage.

An unexpected benefit caused by the drought was utilized by Western and Clark's grebes at Lake Cachuma. At the east end many shrubs and small trees

were able to grow after the water receded; with last year's rains these now semi-submerged scrubs became ideal anchors for grebe nests. The first breeding record for either species in the county occurred only in 1991. Already by January 1993 young grebes of many ages were seen being escorted by their parents about the lake, documenting winter nesting as well.

Whatever habitat you choose to visit in Santa Barbara County, spring should offer a memorable experience.



President's Message

Thirty years ago, thanks to the pioneering efforts of Joy Parkinson, Jan Hamber and other founding members, our local Audubon chapter was established — not just for birders, but for all of us who care about the environment, natural history, and preserving our wonderful wilderness areas and local wildlife.

Over the years our chapter has grown to more than 1200 members and has contributed greatly to our community. On Wednesday, April 14 we celebrate our chapter's 30th anniversary with a special reception and dinner at the Wine Cask Restaurant. Our keynote speaker is none other than Peter Berle, President of National Audubon Society, who is flying in from New York for a rare Santa Barbara appearance.

One of the leading conservationists of our time, a prominent environmental attorney, an active farmer and avid outdoorsman, and former New York Assemblyman, Peter is a dynamic, exciting speaker with much to share with us. Please join us on April 14 for a very special anniversary celebration with Peter Berle.

While you have your calendars out, don't forget to stop by the Audubon booth on Earth Day, Sunday April 25, in Alameda Park.

— Sally Walker

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: Jim Greaves	682-4638
Conservation: Lee Moldaver	682-2120
Education: Don Rathbun	964-5521
Programs: Elan Sutton	683-1143
Field Trips: Ron Hirst	967-0138
Membership: Nancy King	964-4741
Hospitality: David Wass	682-6962
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, announcements, 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.

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