
EL TECOLOTE

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Incorporated



Volume 35 Number 2

October 1996

BIRDING AUSTRALIA

Ginger Puddicombe

Excitement reigned as we landed in Sidney, Australia last November and took our first bird walk through Hyde Park. Seeing our first new bird — a Silver Gull — then banded Wandering Whistling Ducks was just the beginning. Ah ha! Kookaburras!

We flew to Cairns and met our guide, Simon Neville, with whom we would spend the next 28 days. Our bags collected, we began birding as soon as we left the airport. "Look! Over there!" and on and on. Our list of new and exotic birds grew daily. We took a boat to Michelmas Cay to see Sooty and Crested Terns as well as other birds. As a group of nine, we rode in a van built for people far smaller than ourselves! We drove or flew to Darwin, Kakadu National Park, Alice Springs (where many Aborigines reside), Glen Helen, Perth, Dryandra State Forest, Albany, Porongurups, Chiltern, and Melbourne.

Using the *Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds* to identify all birds seen on the trip, we were able to record the rare Regent Honeyeater and the Superb (Blue) Fairy-wren in Chiltern; Emu near Albany at Emu Point; Azure Kingfisher in Kakadu National Park while boating in the Billabong; and King Parrots feeding at a National Trust building in Victoria.

We experienced everything from plush hotels and excellent food to a wood cutter's cottage with our guide serving as chef (an excellent one!) and we ourselves as his helpers. Our wildlife sightings included dingos, platypuses, a variety of wallabies, kangaroos, possums, camels, crocodiles, and of course Koala bears -- and many more mammals.

It was exciting to see Galahs and exotic Crimson Rosellas and have Lorikeets sit on our heads. All in all we saw 352 birds — the majority endemic to Australia. What a trip! In addition to lots of new birds, many of them of outstanding beauty, our memories include the varied and spectacular scenery, the warm and helpful people, and the unique and endearing flora and fauna that underpin life in the "land down under."

Ginger Puddicombe has been keeping records of her bird sightings since 1958 when she noticed 34 birds perched on a telephone wire outside Everglades National Park. She was later able to identify them as Roseate Spoonbills with the help of her first Peterson's Field Guide. An interest in birding has taken her and husband Bob to many unusual, fascinating, and remote places over the years.

CONTENTS

Birding Australia	page 1
President's Message	page 2
Morro Bay Bird Festival	page 2
Welcome to New Members	page 2
October Program & Field Trips	page 3
Rare Bird Alert Information	page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This summer, as I was preparing for my new role as President of SBAS, I spent some time looking over the membership list for the chapter. Besides names and addresses, the list shows the date each individual became a member. I was impressed by the number of long-term members in the chapter; many had been members for over 10 years. It is certainly an honor for me to be president of an organization with such a loyal, consistent membership. I can't boast 10+ years with Audubon at this point, but I can predict that someday I'll get there. Audubon has and continues to be an important part of my life. Since I have not personally met many of you, I wanted to take this opportunity to give a little background on myself.

SBAS is the second Audubon Board on which I have served. On the East Coast, I was on the Greenwich (CT) Audubon Board for two years as Secretary. My volunteer involvement with Audubon led to a full-time job with National Audubon in New York. For nearly four years, I coordinated recycling and composting programs around the country, one of which was here in Santa Barbara. After spending a year and a half traveling back and forth between New York and Santa Barbara, I succumbed to Santa Barbara's charms and moved here.

Since my initial involvement with Audubon in 1991, I've

witnessed many changes within the organization. I believe Audubon's commitment to streamline its mission based on its strengths -- education, conservation of ecosystems, and promotion of birds and wildlife -- is a positive change. In addition, chapters and state offices have been recognized as the primary components for carrying this mission into the next century. In other words, the grassroots is where the action, dedication, and strength is really at. SBAS is certainly a brilliant example!

On that note, I invite all members to share their ideas and suggestions for the chapter. I especially extend a warm welcome to our new members and invite them to become actively involved with the chapter; no large time commitment is required. In the coming months, I will be sharing some new ideas and projects that our Board members have been working on. These will present additional opportunities for potential volunteers out there. I look forward to meeting you in the coming months at our programs and field trips. Kudos and thanks to former president Lee Moldaver for his leadership over the past few years and for continuing on the Board as vice-president this year.

Lauren de Chant
President



MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL JANUARY 17- 20, 1997

Field trips, workshops, speakers, banquet — all to promote the California Central Coast Birding Trail (CCCBT). Contact Suedene Nelson, Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, 880 Main St., Morro Bay 93442 (800) 231-0592 for brochure.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Santa Barbara Audubon Society extends a warm welcome to all new members. We look forward to seeing you at Audubon meetings and field trips this fall. We're glad you're part of the growing number of local supporters for Audubon's efforts to excite people about birds and the preservation of their habitat. Thank you for joining:

Mr. Malcolm E. Brady
Mr. Barclay Brantingham
Mr. George Chapman
Emma L. Cruz
Lauretta Griffin
Mrs. Nelson Howard
Mr. Steve Marzicola
Ms. Ricki Mazzullo
Mrs. Alice McPherson
A.L. Pittinger
Steve Plunket
Valerie Riddle

OCTOBER PROGRAM
SANTA BARBARA'S WILDFLOWERS
 HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH THE YEARS
 WITH CLIF SMITH

Wednesday, October 23 — NOTE NEW DAY —
 8:00 p.m. program; 7:30 p.m. refreshments
 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History — Farrand Hall
 1226 Puesta del Sol
 Santa Barbara, CA 93105

For more details, call the Audubon Office at (805) 964-1468.

COME SEE the best wildflower displays in Santa Barbara at the October Audubon program. Clif Smith, well-known local botanist, will take us on a tour of the Santa Barbara region's most wondrous wildflower locales, including Oso Flaco, Mount Pinos, the Cuyama Valley, Figueroa Mountain, and the Carrizo Plain. If you missed seeing past peak wildflower seasons, this is your chance to catch up! Clif — who has known many of Santa Barbara's

eminent ornithologists — will weave just a bit of local birding lore into the program as well. For the past 50 years Clif has worked at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Currently, he is completing a revision to his 1976 publication, *The Flora of the Santa Barbara Region*, which will be in bookstores in the spring of 1997.



FIELD TRIPS

LAKE LOS CARNEROS, GOLETA
Saturday, October 12, 8:00 am
 Karen Bridgers: (805) 964-1316
 Target: fall passerines
 Take 101 to Los Carneros exit; north on Los Carneros Rd. to Stow House parking lot next to fire station. Finish before noon.

DEVEREUX SLOUGH, GOLETA
Saturday, October 19, 7:30 am
 Rob Lindsay: (805) 964-9514
 Target: Fall shore birds
 Take 101 south to Storke/Glen Annie exit; take Storke Rd. south; left on El Colegio Rd., right on Camino Corto Lane OR 101 north to Los Carneros Rd. south past Hollister Ave. to El Colegio Rd.; turn right then left onto Camino Corto; drive to end and park on street. Wear junk shoes (tar). Scopes useful. Bring water. Trip over 10:30 am.

ANDREE CLARK BIRD REFUGE & S. B. HARBOR SAND SPIT
Saturday, November 9, 9:00 am
 Ron Hirst: (805) 967-0138
 Target: Fall shore birds
 Take 101 north to Cabrillo Blvd. (left exit just past Montecito); left on Cabrillo; right on Los Patos; look for Bird Refuge parking on left OR



take 101 south to Los Patos off ramp (after Milpas exit); right into Bird Refuge parking. Bring children and out-of-town guests for eye-opening trip geared for the beginning birdwatcher seeking expert guidance. Binoculars supplied for those who can't bring a pair. Two hour trip.

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE & McELGOTT PONDS
Sat., November 16, 6:15 am
 Mark Holmgren, UCSB
 Target: birds of rocky coasts, riparian areas, sage sparrows on Burton Mesa
 Meet at Jack-in-the-Box parking lot at Storke Rd. and Hollister Ave.; carpool from there. No cameras. Photo ID required. Call Paul Keller to reserve space (805) 968-7804. Back by mid afternoon so bring lunch.

All field trips are open to the public. Unless otherwise noted, trips are free and reservations are not needed. If you need a loaner pair of binoculars for a trip, call the leader several days in advance.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 12	Lake Los Carneros Field Trip
Saturday, October 19	Devereux Slough Field Trip
Wednesday, October 23 — NOTE NEW DAY —	Santa Barbara Wildflower Highlights with Clif Smith
Saturday, November 9	Andree Clark Bird Refuge & S.B. Harbor Sand Spit Field Trip
Saturday, November 16	Vandenberg AFB field trip
Saturday, January 4, 1997	1996 Holiday Bird Count

Rare Bird Alerts



Santa Barbara: (805) 964-8240
 Los Angeles: (213) 874-1318
 Monterey Bay: (408) 375-9122
 San Francisco: (415) 528-0288
 N. California: (415) 681-7422
 Morro Bay: (805) 528-7182
 Orange County: (714) 563-6516
 Sacramento: (916) 481-0118
 San Bernadino: (909) 793-5599
 San Diego: (619) 479-3400

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SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers and Committee Chairs
 September 1996 - August 1997

OFFICERS:

President: Lauren DeChant 566-9314
 Vice President: Lee Moldaver.... 682-2120
 Secretary: Everett King..... 569-2307
 Treasurer: Annette de Knijf..... 962-1325

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: Dave Wass..... 682-6962
 Education: Elan Sutton..... 683-1143
 Programs: Gage Ricard..... 967-3604
 Field Trips: Paul Keller..... 968-7804
 Membership: Nancy King..... 964-4741
 Hospitality: Jay Bishop..... 565-2332
 Publicity:

BIRD REFUGE: Rob Lindsay..... 964-9514

RARE BIRDS: Karen Bridgers..... 964-1316

AT LARGE

Ron Hirst..... 967-0138
 Rob Lindsay..... 964-9514
 Sally Walker..... 569-5388

Officers and Committee Chairs meet the second Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. Please call the office to verify dates and times at (805) 964-1468.

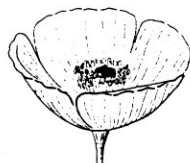
WESTERN SCREECH-OWL PEN & INK ON COVER © EILEEN J. GRAY

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