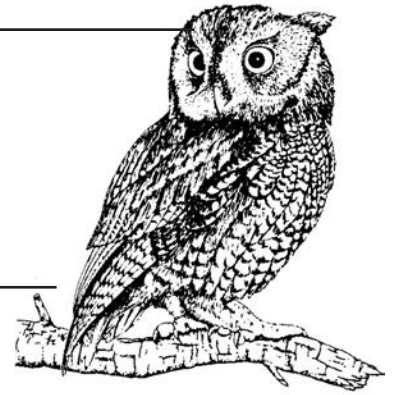


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 44, Issue 6

June/July 2006



Annual Membership Picnic Sunday, July 23 11am-2pm Rocky Nook Park, Area 1

Join Audubon board and members for our yearly potluck. This year we will meet at Rocky Nook Park on Mission Creek. At 11 a.m., Darlene Chirman will lead a walk of the creek-side native plant restoration area, a project of Santa Barbara County Project Clean Water. Darlene was the biologist on this project. This is an area of rich bird biodiversity, so bring your binoculars!

The potluck will begin at noon. Please bring a dish to share. The grill will be sizzling, if you want to BBQ anything. The chapter will provide non-alcoholic beverages. We encourage you to bring your own dishes and utensils to conserve resources.

A short program will follow the picnic. We will hold our election for the new Board of Directors for the coming year. See the Slate of Nominees. Note the open position, and let any board member know if you might be interested in serving. Nominations will be accepted at the Picnic. All terms are one year. We welcome members to serve on Committees, help at events, and volunteer in the office. We are currently seeking a chapter representative on the Naples Coalition. So if you have skills you'd like to share with Audubon, or are interested in any of the above, please



Members at last year's annual picnic.
Photo Callie Bowdich

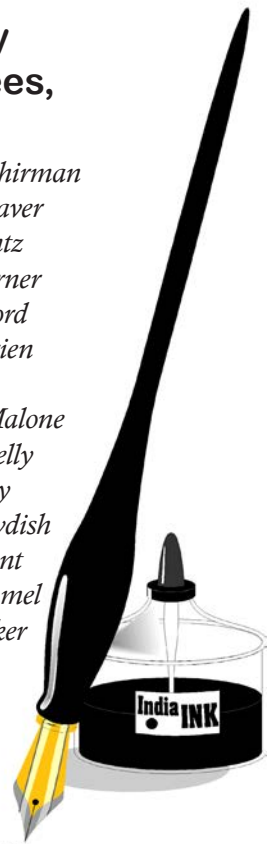
contact any board member.

This is a great time to visit with the Audubon Board and other members. Hope to see you there!

Directions: Rocky Nook Park is on at 610 Mission Canyon Road. It is past the mission, on the right after Mission Creek. Area 1 is in the back of parking areas, north of the playground.

SB Audubon Society Slate of Board Nominees, 2006-2007

<i>President</i>	<i>Darlene Chirman</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Lee Moldaver</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Susan Lentz</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Ginny Turner</i>
<i>Field Trips Chair</i>	<i>Jack Sanford</i>
<i>Programs Chair</i>	<i>John O'Brien</i>
<i>Conservation Chair</i>	<i>Julie Love</i>
<i>Education Chair</i>	<i>Patricia Malone</i>
<i>Science Chair</i>	<i>Melissa Kelly</i>
<i>Membership Chair</i>	<i>Steve Ferry</i>
<i>Newsletter Chair</i>	<i>Callie Bowdich</i>
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	<i>Ben Shalant</i>
<i>At-Large-Outreach</i>	<i>Julie Kummel</i>
<i>At-Large-Outreach</i>	<i>John Walker</i>
<i>At-large-Outreach</i>	<i>open</i>



Endowment Fund of Santa Barbara Audubon

In the past year, **SBAS** has established an endowment fund. This has been created to support the core programs of the chapter. The Board wishes to thank the members who have contributed to initiate the Endowment.

The Tecolote Circle was established to recognize and honor contributors of \$1000 or more, which can be a cash donation, a bequest, or appreciated securities. Chapter members who make a contribution or notify us that **Santa Barbara Audubon** has been included in an estate plan (will) within the first two years—through June 30, 2007—will be charter members.

With our dedicated volunteers, donations to the chapter make significant contributions in saving bird and wildlife habitat and educating our residents in caring for the natural world. If you have been planning a gift or bequest to SBAS, please consider the Tecolote Circle. The capital will be invested by our Endowment Management Committee, and the interest used to help fund our core programs. Of course, we welcome and appreciate donations of any size to our Endowment Fund!

You may be the recipient of a letter soliciting contributions to the Endowment Fund and Tecolote Circle. Please consider a donation or bequest! We are planning a special event for the charter members of Tecolote Circle. For more information, contact Julie Kummel at 964-4944.

California Biologists Find Finches Ailing

April 20, 2006 — By Associated Press
WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — A bacteria like disease that can cause blindness in birds has been detected for the first time in wild finches in California, the state Department of Fish and Game said.

State biologists urged residents to take precautions to prevent the spread of mycoplasmosis, a disease that affects finches but not humans, after an outbreak was discovered in the Walnut Creek area, about 25 miles east of San Francisco.

Birds affected by mycoplasmosis, which is not related to the avian influenza or West Nile Virus, develop an eye infection that can lead to blindness and respiratory problems.

The disease, which has been detected in wild birds in the eastern U.S. over the past decade, is spread when birds rub their heads on branches and feeders.

To control the disease over the next six weeks, DFG biologists asked residents to clean bird feeders with a 10 percent solution of household bleach in water each week. They also suggested cleaning up old food around feeders, spreading seeds over a large area in the sun rather than use feeders, and replace wooden feeders with plastic or metal feeders.

Source: Associated Press

<http://www.enn.com/today.html?id=10299>

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Information

With widespread interest in avian influenza or “bird flu,” **Santa Barbara Audubon** is providing the following web links as a resource for those who may be concerned about avian influenza, as well as about how birds are involved.

Audubon California Update on Avian Influenza
http://ca.audubon.org/avian_flu.html

California Department of Health Services
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/>

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department
<http://www.sbcphd.org/>

West Nile Virus Information

West Nile surveillance information hotline is:
1-887-WNV-BIRD

California West Nile virus Home
<http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>



Santa Barbara Audubon Programs

All programs, unless otherwise noted, will take place at Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara. Free on-site parking. All programs, unless otherwise noted, will begin at 7:30 p.m. and are free to the public. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.. SBAS members are encouraged to bring guests.

Western Snowy Plover

Jennifer Stroh

Director Snowy Plover Docent Program

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

The Western Snowy Plover (SnPI) is a small, threatened shorebird. The coastal population roosts and breeds on sandy beaches throughout the west coast from southern Washington to Baja California, Mexico. Habitat destruction and increased human recreation on these beaches have caused their dramatic decline over the past few decades, leading to their protection under the Endangered Species Act in 1993.

Throughout its range, the SnPI depends on particular sites such as wide, flat beaches around river mouths or estuaries, and beaches that are backed by sand dunes and supplied with kelp. Sand's Beach, part of Coal Oil Point Reserve (COPR), is one of these sites. Due to habitat degradation and disturbance, SnPIs had abandoned Sand's Beach as a breeding site in the late 1970's, but would return every year during the winter. Active management was implemented for SnPI conservation in 2001. Five years later, over 400 SnPIs winter at Sand's Beach, double the number found when the program began. COPR SnPI management includes restoration, fencing, signage, and a docent program. Disturbance research indicates that the recovery would not have occurred without volunteer docents. SnPI Docents are crucial for the protection of SnPIs through friendly contact and education of beach users. By promoting public awareness, docents increase the effectiveness of other management efforts, such as signs and barriers. These combined management tools have made it possible to maintain beach access and recreation for the public while preserving habitat for the SnPIs.

Jennifer graduated from UCSB with a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and has worked on several projects dealing with different bird species over the last 10 years. For a brief period, Jennifer worked in the aviaries at the Santa Barbara Zoo and has volunteered with numerous bird recovery and rehabilitation programs, her favorite being the SBAS's Eyes-In-The-Sky bird-of-prey educational program. The conservation of snowy plovers at Coal Oil Point Reserve has taken up most of her time over the last 5 years, and it has been one of her most fulfilling experiences. Please come join us and hear first hand from Jennifer about this important and exciting program.



Docents registering their count.



Jennifer Stroh with prospective docents.

Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

Everyone is welcome! These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird watchers. Binoculars are useful for enjoyment of birds, but if you don't have a pair please call the trip leader and we'll lend you a spare. Trips are free unless noted. Please contact **Jack Sanford** (805) 566-2191 jacksanford@hotmail.com for details or questions.



Flycatcher by Kirsten Munson

Valley View Ranch (near Santa Paula) Saturday, June 10, 2006, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (8:00 a.m. at car pool location)

Target Birds: White-tailed kites, Flycatchers, Vireos, Warblers, Blue Grosbeaks, Yellow-breasted Chats.

Leader: **Jim Greaves**

We will meet at Andree Clark Bird Refuge off Cabrillo Blvd. at 8 a.m. to car pool. Riders must share gas costs (\$6). If you want to meet us at the ranch at about 9 a.m., take Hwy. 101 to Ventura and exit on Hwy. 126 east. In Santa Paula, take 10th St. exit. Go under the freeway then right on Harvard Blvd to 12th St. Turn right at light where 12th St. becomes South Mountain Rd. Go 3.8 miles past # 20089 and turn left at the next dirt driveway with green gate. (If green gate is open, it is difficult to see.) Follow road about 1 mile to parking area. Jim will be waiting for us at the ranch.

Please join Jim, an environmental consultant with two decades of experience monitoring Least Bell's Vireo populations in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, for a morning of viewing and learning about our common and endangered breeding woodland and stream side birds. Bring water, snack, and insect repellent. Dress in layers and wear long pants and walking shoes

Trout Club, Santa Barbara Saturday, July 8, 2006, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (8:00 a.m. at car pool location)

Target Birds: Flycatchers, Thrushes, Gnatcatchers, Hummingbirds, Sparrows, Orioles etc.

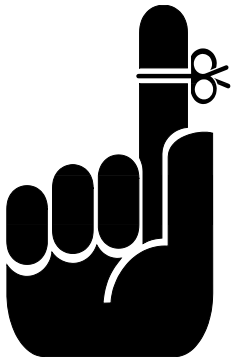
Leader: **Robert Lindsay**

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Lake Cachuma/State St. off ramp in Santa Barbara. Turn right on State St. and right again into the Five Points Shopping Center. Park near Carl's Jr. at 3925 State St. We will car pool from there at 8 a.m., or you can meet at the entrance to the Trout Club off Old San Marcos Rd. Park in the dirt area near the entrance. We will bird from there.

The private Trout Club is located off Old San Marcos Rd. and is normally off limits to birders.



*Swainson's Thrush
by Kirsten Munson*



Save the Date TGIF at the EDC Friday August 11 5:30-7:30

The Environmental Defense Center represents Audubon on plover issues and Devereux-Ellwood protection issues. We will again be "hosting" a TGIF party in support of EDC. Hope you can join us, have fun, and support EDC.



March 25th SBAS Lone Star Ranch field trip report by Jeff Hanson

All photos by Jeff Hanson.

It was a blustery morning as we gathered at 8:30, at the gate of the Lone Star Ranch. Once again, we found ourselves hoping for no rain ! Soon, 17 of us headed in, including four members of the Carr family, the owners of the ranch. Once parked and geared up, we headed for their dock on Lake Cachuma. It wasn't long before we heard the cacophony of the numerous Clark's Grebes. They were accompanied by Cormorants, Shovelers, Coots, Mallards, Gulls, Buffleheads, a few Common Mergansers, and a Common Goldeneye. A Green Heron zipped by as we checked out a Great Blue Heron rookery tree backed by a Turkey Vulture night roost. We then made our way through some oak woodland on our way out to the grassy pasture area. We all had a taste of some Miners Lettuce while enjoying all the wildflowers as well as Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Towhees, Juncos, Sparrows and Titmice. While enjoying some vistas of the lake from the high ground, we got to see those nine foot wings of a low circling White Pelican. Near the pasture, we were greeted by our first-of-season Western Kingbird as well



as a snazzy pair of Western Bluebirds. Even though it still feels like February, spring is really here !!

Sparrows, Meadowlarks, Robins, Phoebes, Wrens and Swallows welcomed us into the pasture area, where we could really see the high shoreline of a very full lake ! We traversed the pasture and headed for the cars when a small group of Wood Ducks was spotted on the far shore, just as the sky was starting to mist up. We concluded the walk with the Red-naped Sapsucker in the pepper trees near the parking area. We logged 65 species for the morning. Our special thanks go out to the **Carr family**, for their kindness and generosity, and to **Paul Keller**, for a last-minute stand-in as Trip Leader. Also, many thanks to **Jared Dawson** and **Kathleen Boehm** for keeping the bird list.



National Audubon Board Representative

The Board will be voting for the representative of the Western Region to the National Audubon Board at the June 14 meeting. If you would like to learn about the candidates, see our website, www.rain.org/~audubon/ where you will find "Statements of Interest" from each candidate.

Jess Morton
Elizabeth Murdock
Catherine Pannell Waters

Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society
Golden Gate Audubon Society
Sea and Sage Audubon Society

Santa Barbara Audubon will cast 2 votes; votes are based on chapter size for all chapters in California, Hawaii and Guam. If you have any input, please contact any board member before the 6/14 vote.

Friday Bird Walks

Join us on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 8:30-10:30 a.m. Please call Bird Walk leader **Jack Sanford** 566-2191 or email at jacksanford@hotmail.com if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.

Atascadero Creek Friday, June 9, 2006

Target Birds: Water birds, songbirds, raptors

Directions: From Hwy. 101 take the Patterson off ramp and head towards the ocean. Park in the dirt area near the Atascadero Creek bridge.



Adult Blue Grosbeak at the nest. Drawing by L. Zemitis.

Farren Road Friday, June 30, 2006 (Note: this is the 5th Friday)

Target Birds: Hummingbirds, kingbirds, flycatchers, sparrows and Blue Grosbeaks

Directions: From S.B. area, take Hwy. 101 north to approximately 1 mile past the Winchester Canyon Road exit. Exit Hwy. 101 (towards the mountains), turn left on Calle Real, and go west about 300 yards to Farren Rd. We will meet at the beginning of Farren Rd. at 8:30 a.m.

Tabano Hollow Open Space Friday, July 7, 2006 (Note: this is the 1st Friday)

Target Birds: Songbirds, Woodpeckers Hummingbirds, etc.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to the Turnpike Ave. off ramp and head towards the mountains. Turn left on Cathedral Oaks Road. Turn left on Ribera Road. Turn left on Matorral Way and continue until you must turn to the left. Park there.



Ennisbrook Nature Trail Friday, July 21, 2006 (Note: this is the 3rd Friday)

Target Birds: Nuthatches, Common Yellowthroats, Spotted Towhees, etc.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to the Sheffield Drive turn off. Follow Sheffield Drive and turn left on San Leandro Lane (first left). Nature trail is located on the right side of the road past a white picket fence near a pump house.

Field Trips/Bird Walks Do you have an idea?

We are always looking for suggestion for places to visit on our monthly field trips. If you have an idea and are not sure where or what to do next, or are interested in helping coordinate a field trip contact **Jack Sanford** (805) 566-2191.

National Audubon Society Membership Application

(new members only)

Includes membership in **National Audubon & Santa Barbara Audubon Society (C13 7XCH)** and subscriptions to **Audubon** magazine & **El Tecolote**, the **SBAS** newsletter

- \$20 Introductory Membership \$15 Senior (62+) or Student

Make check payable to:
National Audubon Society
Mail to:
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
5679 Hollister Ave., Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Habitat Restoration

*Audubon helps recruit volunteers for habitat restoration at the Coal Oil Point Reserve and the Arroyo Hondo Preserve. Come help to restore a creek or estuary while spending a morning in a beautiful bird habitat. Contact the Land Trust, Arroyo Hondo Preserve Volunteer Coordinator **Jane Murray** at ltvolunteer@yahoo.com or 684-4405. For Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact **Julie Love** at jlove@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 453-4840 or **Darlene Chirman** at dchirman@rain.org or 692-2008.*

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Jane Murray**

Sunday	June 4	9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sunday	July 2	9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Julie Love**

Saturday	June 3	9 a.m.-12 noon
Saturday	July 22	9 a.m.-12 noon

Plover Project Docent Training

Training takes place at the Cliff House at Coal Oil Point Reserve, from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Training dates:

June	3
July	8
August	5
September	2

Training Schedule:

Tour is	9-11 a.m.
Training is	11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Those interested should call **Jennifer Stroh** to register at 880-1195.

SBAS Needs Your E-mail Address

To be added to the **SBAS** e-mail list, just send an e-mail message with the subject line, "Add + your name" to sjferry@cox.net. The **SBAS** e-mail mailing list will only be used for **SBAS** business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

Welcome!

SBAS extends a warm welcome to our newest members. We look forward to seeing you at our programs and field trips. Thanks for joining!

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Susan M. Basham | Neal Friedberg | Ms. Mary L. Maruca | Laura Shelton |
| Jack C. Bechtel | Mark Gardner | Barbara Masin | Mr. Paul Soderburg |
| Suzanne R. Bock | Virginia Gardner | David Mazurskieicz | Ms. Alyse Steidler |
| Kathleen Bresslin | Michelle Gasperini | Ms. Katherine Morrow | Candice Stuart |
| Mrs. Lesley R. Buxton | P. Greene | Stephanie Mortensen | Teresa Taylor |
| Aquila Chase | Susan Gwynne | Robert Ott | Rita Temple |
| Margaret Chase | Ms. M. M. Hankey | James Paradis | Jean Thomas |
| Lyda Clough | Debra Herring | John Pavelko | Rachel Tobler |
| Mr. Randy Campbell | S. Jacobson | Ken Moulds Pierce | Nancy Tubiolo |
| Leslie Deardorff | Ms. D. Churchill Johnson | Mr. Francis G. Preston | Al Turnbull |
| Monica Dittrich | Alison Jordan | Laurie Preston | Philip J. Vedder |
| John Ernest | Kim Kathol | Dr. Deanna Purvis | Sarah Vedder |
| Betty Everett | Ms. Barbara Kerrigan | Maureen & James Richard | Anne Voehl |
| Sylvia Flanner | Lorraine Leblanc | Rhodelle Richards | Lesley Weinstock |
| C. Fletcher | Mr. Richard Lim | Timm Richardson | Gary M. Wyatt |
| Veronica Franklin | Joseph Luciano | Gerald Rounds | |
-

Calendar of Events

Check our website for any changes or late additions to our Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs:

<http://www.rain.org/~audubon/>

- June 3 Plover Project Training
- June 4 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- June 3 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- June 9 Atascadero Creek Bird Walk
- June 10 Valley View Ranch Field Trip
- June 26 Farren Road Bird Walk
- June 28 Program Western Snowy Plover
- July 2 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- July 7 Tabano Hollow Bird Walk
- July 8 Plover Project Training
- July 8 Trout Club Field Trip
- July 21 Ennisbrook Nature Trail Bird Walk
- July 20 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- July 22 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- July 23 **Annual Membership Picnic**

El Tecolote is published 6 times a year by the **Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.** Members are invited to send announcements, letters, articles, photos and drawings for consideration to:

SBAS, Andy Lentz, Editor
5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

or email: sbasnews@cox.net
Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

SBAS - July 2005/June 2006

(805) 964-1468, audubon@rain.org
<http://www.rain.org/~audubon/>

OFFICERS

President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008	dchirman@starband.net
Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	964-1468	audubon@rain.org
Secretary	Susan Lentz	968-6011	salentz@cox.net
Treasurer	Ginny Turner	964-6384	vturner10@cox.net

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips Chair	Jack Sanford	566-2191	jacksanford@hotmail.com
Programs Chair	John O'Brien	962-7799	mlbm@cox.net
Conservation Chair	Julie Love	453-4840	jlove@lifesci.ucsb.edu
Education Chair	Patricia Malone	569-1993	pamalone@verizon.net
Science Chair	David Kisner	252-5036	d_kisner@cox.net
Membership Chair	Steve Ferry	967-5162	sjferry@cox.net
Newsletter Chair	Callie Bowdish	968-2857	cjbowdish@hotmail.com
Publicity Chair	Ben Shalant	448-4447	benjamin_shalant@antiochsb.edu
At Large-Outreach	John Walker	570-7864	johnlee@umail.ucsb.edu
At Large-Outreach	Julie Kummel	964-9444	jkummel@rain.org
At Large-Outreach	Natasha Carr	967-1383	tahi@cox.net

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster: Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@cox.net
Eyes In The Sky: Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	pelican7@cox.net
Snowy Plover Docent Prog: Jennifer Stroh	880-1195	stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu
Hospitality: Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
Report Rare Birds: Karen Bridgers	964-1316	k.bridgers@cox.net
Hear Rare Bird Report	964-8240	

Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Members are welcomed to attend. Call **SBAS** office to verify dates and times. FAX: 967-7718. Cover art by Daryl Harrison.

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5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

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