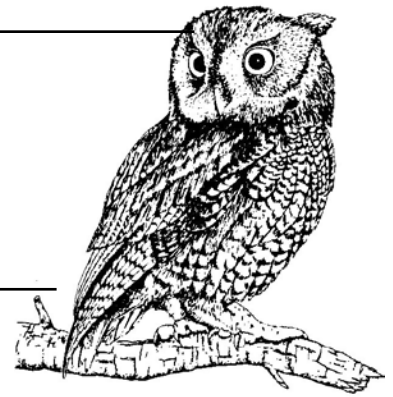


# El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 45, Issue 2

October/November 2006



## California Least Tern hatch at COPR

Photos—Calle Bowdish

I am glad to report that seven endangered California Least Terns fledged at the Coal Oil Point Reserve this year. This is the first time in four decades that Least Terns have successfully nested at the reserve. The Coal Oil Point Reserve is part of the University of California Natural Reserve System and it protects natural areas for research and education.



Since 2001, the reserve has worked on a beach protection program to restore the wildlife on the beach and the estuary of the Devereux Slough. The increased protection includes symbolic fencing, signs, weed removal, a docent program, and prohibition of some activities such as unleashed dogs, bonfires, launching of sailing sports, and fireworks.

As a result of the improvement of habitat and reduced disturbance, the threatened Western Snowy Plovers quickly established a breeding population and now have a stable population of around 20 breeding pairs and approximately 40 fledged chicks per year. The California Least terns also started using the fenced beach area to feed and teach their young to fish. These young hatched somewhere else and migrated here for the fishing lessons. In 2004, 6 terns attempted to nest at the reserve but 4 nests were predated by skunks and the adults of the other 2 nests were predated by a Great Horned Owl. In 2005, the terns attempted to nest again but they abandoned the area after the 4th of July fireworks at Girsh Park.

The terns feed on small fish from the ocean and, mostly, from Devereux Slough. To manage the plovers and the Least Tern colonies, we monitor the nests from the perimeter of the fenced area, study the slough's water quality and fish populations, and, most importantly, separate people from their breeding and feeding areas.

Many people are involved in this program. A graduate student from UCSB, **Darcie Goodman**, will continue to monitor the water quality and other biological parameters of the slough. This research will help us better understand the variations in fish populations, pollution, and food availability to the terns. **Jen Stroh**, the docent coordinator for the reserve continues to recruit

and train docents to help educate the public about the beach wildlife and solicit compliance with the regulations. **Tara Longwell** and **Julie Love**, the restoration coordinators, are working to restore the slough margins with native vegetation to reduce erosion and increase coastal scrub habitat. The **Santa Barbara Audubon Society** and the **Friends of Coal Oil Point Reserve** have been partners in this effort, both by providing labor, assistance, and funding for many aspects of the program. I would like to thank all these individuals for another great success.

Cristina Sandoval, PhD.  
Director, Coal Oil Point Reserve



## Coal Oil Point 2006 Statistics

**Least Terns:**

At Coal Oil Point Reserve we had 5 breeding pairs. Of the 5 nests, 4 hatched and fledged a total of 7 chicks. There was no chick mortality. One nest was laid very late and was abandoned. The details for each nest can be seen below.

Nest #	Post	Discovery	Hatch day	Hatched	Fledged
7	198	6/4/2006	6/30/2006	2	2
8	217	6/11/2006	7/4/2006	2	2
9	177	6/26/2006	7/16/2006	2	2
10	110	6/16/2006	7/8/2006	1	1
11	222	7/16/2006	Abandoned 8/1	0	0
Total				7	7

**Western Snowy Plovers:**

2006 had the largest fledgling rate so far with 48 chicks fledging at the beach and 11 at the nursery (59 total).

Year	# pairs	# males	# nests	nests hatched	chicks fledged	Nursery Hatchings
1982	2	2	2	0	0	
2001	1	1	1	1	1	
2002	5	5	9	6	14	
2003	12	12	24	16	40	
2004	14	14	51	20	29	
2005	30	15	64	16	30	17
2006	34	17	43	24	48	11



*Snowy Plover with chicks  
Photo Callie Bowdish*

## November Proposition Recommendations

**Yes on Prop 84!!!**  
**\$5.4 Billion Conservation and Water Quality Bond**

Help Audubon and other conservation groups pass Prop 84, the \$5.4 billion conservation and water quality bond on the November ballot!!

Prop 84 is critical to renew funding for the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Coastal Conservancy, numerous regional conservancies, and other important restoration and acquisition programs. Without Prop 84, many of the State's conservation dollars will dry up within the next one to two years, a risk we cannot afford to take.

**Vote No on Prop 90 !!!**  
**The Most Extreme Threat to California's Environment in Decades !!**

Prop. 90 is a full frontal assault on environmental protection in California. Hidden behind language to stop abuses of eminent domain, Prop 90 includes several very dangerous provisions that would drastically cut back on the State's, local governments' and even voters' ability to protect the environment, local communities, farmland, and other important resources. The most damaging provisions would make it nearly impossible to implement many resource protection laws or to acquire private property to protect wildlife habitat or other important resources

**For more information on these propositions please go to the California Audubon website at:  
[www.ca.audubon.org](http://www.ca.audubon.org)**

## 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.*



### Habitat Restoration on Santa Cruz Island

Ken Owen,  
Executive Director of Channel Islands Restoration  
Wednesday, October 25, 2006

Please join Ken Owen of Channel Islands Restoration for a presentation featuring the habitat restoration project on Santa Cruz Island. Through slides and videos, this one hour PowerPoint presentation will highlight the following:

- Overview of the California Channel Islands, a Biological Treasure
- Human History of Santa Cruz Island from the Chumash to Today
- The Restoration Project, Including Volunteers and Invasive Plant Removal Techniques
- Stunning Island Landscapes
- Marine Mammals and Endemic Land Animals
- Native and Endemic Plant Species

Channel Islands Restoration is a California Nonprofit Organization that restores habitat in sensitive and unique natural areas in the Channel Islands National Park and adjacent mainland. They help protect rare and endangered native plant and animal species by restoring the natural habitat they depend on for survival. They also help educate a variety of groups about the value of native habitat and how to protect it.

Ken is a lifelong resident of the south coast and has worked in the environmental restoration field for Coal Oil point Reserve, Growing Solutions and Santa Barbara Audubon Society. He is currently coordinator of the Santa Cruz Island Native Plant Restoration Project and is Executive Director of Channel Islands Restoration.

**Travels with a Tortoise  
Through Zambia and Namibia**  
Steve Seward,  
Zimbabwean Professional Guide and Ornithologist  
&  
Christina Bollinger,  
Santa Barbara-based photographer  
Wednesday, December 6, 2006



Steve Seward and Christina Bollinger have spent the last eight months touring through Central and Southern Africa in their "Tortoise", a 1999 Landrover equipped with a deepfreeze, rooftop tent and portable "office". They are passionate naturalists and photographers. Steve and Christina will take you on a whirlwind tour of Zambia's game-rich wilderness and into the fascinating deserts of Namibia through South Africa's Kruger National Park and the beauty of the wine lands in the Western Cape. Come join this fun, informative and inspiring (we hope) photo safari of birds, bees, butterflies and animals (some with sharp pointy teeth).

## 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](mailto:jacksanford@hotmail.com) for details or questions.*

**Devereux Slough  
UCSB West Campus, Goleta  
Saturday, October 14, 2006, 7:30-11:00 a.m.**

Target Birds: Shorebirds, waterfowl, wintering songbirds  
Trip Leader: **Robert Lindsay**, 684-5373 [capnbob@sbceo.org](mailto:capnbob@sbceo.org)

**Directions:** Take Hwy. 101 to the Glen Annie/Storke Rd. exit. Proceed south (towards the ocean) on Storke Rd. Turn left on El Collegio Rd., right on Camino Corto Lane and right on Del Playa Drive. Park and meet at the end of Del Playa.

We will bird a loop trail walking the beach past the Snowy Plover reserve, take trails by the pond below the storage tanks then around the top and east side of the slough and back to the cars.

**Las Cruzitas Ranch (near Santa Ynez)  
Saturday, November 18, 2006, 9:15 a.m. to 2-3 p.m.  
(8 a.m. at car-pool location)**

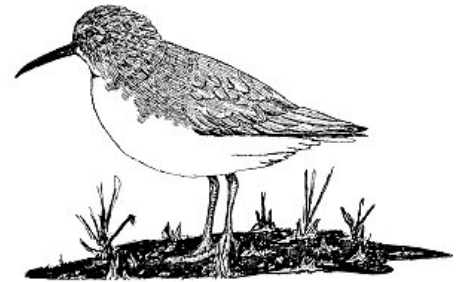
Target Birds: Goldfinches, Buntings, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Phainopepla, Yellow-billed Magpies, Prairie Falcons, Nuthatches, Hummingbirds and maybe a Golden Eagle.

Trip Leader: **Cruz Phillips**, 688-8233, [cruzitas@aol.com](mailto:cruzitas@aol.com)

Cost: \$6.00 to car-pool drivers. Car-pooling is recommended, as parking is limited.

**Directions:** We will meet at the Five Points Shopping Center (3925 State St., Carl's Jr.) at 8 a.m. To meet us at the ranch, take Hwy. 154 to Armour Ranch Rd., which is 3.3 miles west of Bradbury Dam (Lake Cachuma). Go north on Armour Ranch Rd. 1.4 miles and turn right on Happy Canyon Rd. At 2.4 miles turn right on Alisos Ave. At 0.7 miles the pavement ends at a cattle guard. Continue 2.6 miles straight past 2 more cattle guards to the barn and ranch.

We will arrive around 9:15 a.m. and bird near the ranch house for about 2 hours where there are a large number of feeders and bird habitat. Then we will take an easy walk around the general area and perhaps a tour of a canyon. Bring water, a snack and/or lunch.



*Dunlin  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service/line  
art by Tom Kelley*

### 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.

## 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](mailto:jacksanford@hotmail.com) if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.*

### Hidden Valley Park

Friday, Oct 6

(Note: this is the first Friday of the month.)

Target Birds: Black-headed Grosbeaks, Towhees, Mockingbirds, Woodpeckers.

**Directions:** Take Modoc Rd. to Calle De Los Amigos. Park is on the corner of Calle De Los Amigos and Torino Drive. Park on street.

### Rocky Nook Park

Friday, Oct. 27

Target Birds: Blackbirds, Bushtits, Woodpeckers, Phoebes, Vireos, Warblers, Wrens.

**Directions:** From Hwy. 101 take Mission St. past the Mission. The road becomes Mission Canyon Rd. Rocky Nook Park is on the right as you head towards the mountains.

### Stevens Park

Friday, Nov. 17

(Note: this is the third Friday of the month.)

Target Birds: Raptors, Woodpeckers, Warblers, Phoebes, Wrens, Kinglets, Towhees.



*Warbler, Yellow-rumped*  
*Louis Agassiz Fuertes*  
*Cornell University Library.*

**Directions:** Take Hwy. 101 to Las Positas Rd. off ramp. Turn towards the mountains. Follow Las Positas Rd. until it becomes San Roque Rd. Follow San Roque Rd. Turn left on Calle Fresno and right on Canon Drive. Stevens Park is on your right.



*Red-shouldered Hawk*  
*by Kirsten Munson*

### Winchester Canyon

Friday, Nov. 24

Target Birds: Kingbirds, Kinglets, Raptors, Siskins, Woodpeckers, Titmice, Towhees.

**Directions:** Take Hwy. 101 to Winchester Canyon Rd. exit. Take Winchester Canyon Rd.; cross Cathedral Oaks Rd. Turn right on Winchester Rd. and left on Rio Vista Drive. Park near the open space area on your left.

**Bonus Afternoon Bird Walk during Creek Week**

(Sponsored by the Santa Barbara City Creeks Division and County Project Clean Water)

**Santa Barbara Harbor,**  
**Thursday, Oct 12, 2006, 4-6 p.m.**

Leader: Jack Sanford  
Target Birds: Waterfowl, Shorebirds, Peregrine Falcons, Songbirds.

**Directions:** We will meet on the sidewalk next to the Sea Landing Sport Fishing Building (301 W. Cabrillo Blvd.). All birders should park on Bath St. or Mason St. (no time limit) or use paid city lot parking.

# Field Trip Report

## August 27, 2006 Rancho Guadalupe Dunes

by Susan Horne

Birders met at the newish parking lot/picnic area at the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve beach. A little silver trailer is the creative summer solution to having a Dunes Interpretive Center on site. The dunes were buff and beautiful, and the big waves offshore felt wild in spite of the windless morning. At 9 a.m. about 20 of us, ably led by Jack Sanford, met Willie Richardson, the friendly and knowledgeable Dunes Center Naturalist, who shared the next 2 hours on a leisurely walk and talk about the local natural lore and science. Without the binoculars and a couple of scopes, we might have missed the perfectly camouflaged snowy plovers that remained at the corded-off (March–September) nesting area. Willie told us that although the females had left, some males still remained with the chicks teaching them the plover ropes, huddling down in their sand dune dents and gobbling the flies and larvae around the kelp piles on the shore.

We saw a flow of birds offshore maybe a mile, flying at least 20 feet above the waves. We looked both directions to find that it seemed like an endless, seamless flow. These Sooty Shearwaters live life completely at sea except for their annual nesting. They are specially adapted for



drinking seawater, mostly eating small fish and doing long distance gliding using wings as sails, and they are rarely seen from shore.

As we meandered north to the estuary of the Santa Maria River, pelicans wheeled over the waves in loose formations. A hundred Brown Pelicans busily preened and stretched in a group on the estuary’s edge. The only white-headed pelican turned out to be the one adult overseeing all the motley feathered juveniles. Like a high school prom? Gulls mixed in peaceably. In the shallow fresh water, we saw 2 elegant Avocets with their thin upward curving bills and some swimming Red-necked Phalaropes among the throngs of Sandpipers. Two Great Blue Herons stood stock-still out on the mud flats, and we spotted a Great White and a Snowy Egret.

Then came the excitement. Everyone fluffed up, riled up, and flew up in a big swirling avian crowd until eventually organizing back on shore again. It was a Peregrine Falcon swooping in. It came around twice, looking for a morsel on the wing, or just to mix it up for fun?

As we reluctantly left these pristine dunes and the riparian zone of the Santa Maria River, we spotted more soaring hawks and Turkey Vultures along with many boxes on poles, erected at vineyard edges to attract owls and hawks which keep the rodent population down. Jack logged at least 17 species. Some of us stopped at the Dune Center, located in a lovely Craftsman bungalow on Guadalupe’s main drag (Highway 1), to round out this fine field trip.

### 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](mailto:ltvolunteer@yahoo.com) or 684-4405. For Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact **Julie Love** at [jlove805@gmail.com](mailto:jlove805@gmail.com) or 453-4840 or **Darlene Chirman** at [dchirman@rain.org](mailto:dchirman@rain.org) or 692-2008.*

### ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Jane Murray**  
 Sunday      October 9                      9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 Sunday      November 5                      9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Julie Love**  
 Saturday    October 21                      9 a.m.-12 noon  
 Saturday    November 18                      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:

October . . . . . 7  
 November . . . . . 4

### 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.

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## 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](mailto: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.

**Save the Date**  
**Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2006.**

## 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!

H. E. Bartel	Jo Goodman
Peter Begley	Ms. Anna Hatfield
David J. Chapman	David C. H. Photograph
Jalaledin Ebrahim	Mary Lyle Remple
Cathy Foy	Roy Washburn
George Gilmour	

## Other Things of Interest

### COPR a "HOT SPOT"

Birder's World Magazine The current issue lists Coal Oil Point Reserve in their *Hot Spots* section. Check it out at: [www.birdersworld.com/brd/default.aspx?c=a&id=734](http://www.birdersworld.com/brd/default.aspx?c=a&id=734)

### Catalina Christmas Bird

Catalina Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 17th. If you can help or are interested contact:

LeeAnn Human  
 Coordinator, Volunteer Groups  
 Catalina Island Conservancy  
 (310) 510-2595 x112

**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/>

- Oct. 7 Plover Training
- Oct. 6 Hidden Valley Park Bird Walk
- Oct. 9 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Oct. 12 SB Harbor Creek Week Bird Walk
- Oct. 14 Devereux Slough Field Trip
- Oct. 21 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- Oct. 25 Program: Santa Cruz Island
- Oct. 27 Rocky Nook Park Bird Walk
- Nov. 4 Plover Training
- Nov. 5 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Nov. 17 Stevens Park Bird Walk
- Nov. 18 Las Cruzitas Ranch Field Trip
- Nov. 18 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- Nov. 24 Winchester Canyon Bird Walk
- Dec. 6 Program: Travels with a Tortoise

**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](mailto:sbasnews@cox.net)  
 Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

**SBAS - July 2006/June 2007**

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

**OFFICERS**

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Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	964-1468	<a href="mailto:audubon@rain.org">audubon@rain.org</a>
Secretary	Susan Lentz	968-6011	<a href="mailto:salentz@cox.net">salentz@cox.net</a>
Treasurer	Ginny Turner	964-6384	<a href="mailto:vtturner10@cox.net">vtturner10@cox.net</a>

**BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Field Trips Chair	Jack Sanford	566-2191	<a href="mailto:jacksanford@hotmail.com">jacksanford@hotmail.com</a>
Programs Chair	John O'Brien	962-7799	<a href="mailto:mlbm@cox.net">mlbm@cox.net</a>
Conservation Chair	Julie Love	453-4840	<a href="mailto:jlove805@gmail.com">jlove805@gmail.com</a>
Education Chair	Patricia Malone	569-1993	<a href="mailto:pamalone@verizon.net">pamalone@verizon.net</a>
Science Chair	Melissa Kelly	687-7109	<a href="mailto:farmer.kelley@gmail.com">farmer.kelley@gmail.com</a>
Membership Chair	Steve Ferry	967-5162	<a href="mailto:sjferry@cox.net">sjferry@cox.net</a>
Newsletter Chair	Callie Bowdish	968-2857	<a href="mailto:cjbowdish@hotmail.com">cjbowdish@hotmail.com</a>
Publicity Chair	Ben Shalant	448-4447	<a href="mailto:kagawaben@hotmail.com">kagawaben@hotmail.com</a>
At Large-Outreach	Julie Kummel	964-9444	<a href="mailto:jkummel@rain.org">jkummel@rain.org</a> At
Large-Outreach	John Walker	570-7864	<a href="mailto:johnlee@umail.ucsb.edu">johnlee@umail.ucsb.edu</a>
At Large-Outreach	Margo Kenney	963-3011	<a href="mailto:margo@margokenney.com">margo@margokenney.com</a>

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Webmaster: Bobbie Offen	684-0160	<a href="mailto:bobbieo@cox.net">bobbieo@cox.net</a>
Eyes In The Sky: Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	<a href="mailto:eyes-in-the-sky@cox.net">eyes-in-the-sky@cox.net</a>
Snowy Plover Docent Prog: Jennifer Stroh	880-1195	<a href="mailto:stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu">stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu</a>
Hospitality: Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
Report Rare Birds: Karen Bridgers	964-1316	<a href="mailto:k.bridgers@cox.net">k.bridgers@cox.net</a>
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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El Tecolote  
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