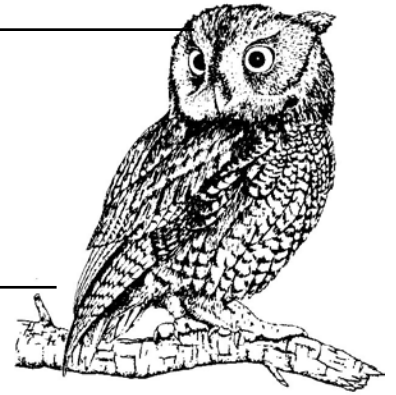


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
Volume 46, Issue 2

October — November 2007



Plover Project Update



*This year 2 Least Tern chicks and 72 Snowy Plover chicks hatched.
Photos by Callie Bowdish*

The renovated plover nursery, reported in the April-May ET, was put to good use this breeding season, along with a new incubator purchased by **SBAS**. Skunk predation on plover eggs was very high this year, despite an improved skunk fence and removal of additional non-native shrubs, such that **Dr. Cris Sandoval** gathered many plover eggs for incubation in the nursery, and replaced the eggs on the beach with wooden eggs painted to resemble plover eggs. The parents continued to incubate the fake eggs, but the skunks lost interest. As the first chick from each brood hatched, Cris returned the clutch to the beach in the parent's nest. As long as the first chick was 2 hours or less old, the parents recognized it as their own and cared for it and its nestmates as they hatched. Seven plover chicks, some injured at other beaches and some from failed nests, were raised in the plover nursery; they were released on the beach when they could fly, at about one month old. Nursery Volunteers were ably managed by Nicole Cerra, with funding secured by **SBAS** from Shoreline Preservation Fund. Thanks to all the Plover Nursery

volunteers! **SBAS** volunteer **Sam Chirman** also installed Plexiglas sheets all around the new plover cages to keep the sand hoppers from "hopping" out; this provided a more consistent food supply for the plover chicks, and reduced the collecting time on the beach for the volunteers. Jennifer Stroh juggled docent schedules, recruitment and training during the intense breeding season.

Audubon continues the "Important Bird Area Enhancement Project", removing the non-native shrubs that harbor the nest predators—skunks and raccoons—from areas close to the mouth of the slough. This project is funded by Audubon-California and the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project. Iceplant is also being eradicated and will be replaced with native dune vegetation which supports insects and provides nectar for butterflies and food resources for birds.

If you'd like to become a Snowy Plover docent, call 880-1195. See the Calendar of events for training dates and habitat restoration workdays.

**Please Save Saturday, January 5, 2008, for the
upcoming Santa Barbara Christmas Bird Count!
See Dec./Jan. El Tecolote for further details and sign up information.**

Projects your Santa Barbara Audubon Society has been involved in for the 2006-2007 fiscal year:

Snowy Plovers program
 Tree Swallow Nest Box Project
 Bird Island Monitoring
 White Tailed Kites Monitoring
 Wind Farm Studies
 Condors and lead ammunition
 Phenology Study
 UCSB Faculty Housing habitat protection.
 Habitat restoration at COPR and Arroyo Hondo
 San Marcos Foothills Coalition
 City of Goleta General Plan comments
 San Jose Creek Flood Control & Fish Passage Project
 Goleta Beach Erosion EIR Comments
 Global Warming
 Earth Day
 MAX Project



Great Blue Heron in habitat
 Artist Steven D'Amato

Eyes in the Sky and MAX Project

EITS presented 170 programs (an all-time high) to an estimated audience of over 4500 community members, students, families, seniors, and out-of-towners; 56 school programs were presented to approximately 1200 students (including the Youth Enrichment Adventure Summer Program). Six Meet Your Wild Neighbor—a five-week science series—were held.

The MAX Project at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History contributed 96 raptor programs as weekend interpretive presentations. Progress has been made on permitting for the “mews” to house the birds of prey on the Museum grounds, with a revised construction schedule of spring 2008.

Field Trip and Bird Walks

There were 14 Field Trips and 24 Bird Walks held this year with a total of 644 participants.

SB Audubon Programs

Nine evening programs on diverse nature topics were presented at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History which attracted from 35 to 175 attendees.

Tecolote Circle Donor Appreciation Saturday, October 27

Tecolote Circle members: please save the morning of October 27 for a special experience. **Joel and Vasanti Fithian** will host our event at their historic and beautiful home near the Mission. We'll enjoy a tour of their elegant horticultural garden along with a visit from **Eyes in the Sky** birds of prey, and brunch will be provided. Other surprises are in store. You will receive an invitation.

Members of Tecolote Circle have made donations or bequests of \$1000 or more to the **Endowment Fund of Santa Barbara Audubon**. If you've made a bequest to **SBAS**, let us know so we can send you an invitation! If you'd like to become a member in time for the October 27 event, please contact **Julie Kummel** at 964-4944.

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.

Birds and Habitats of Vandenberg AFB

Mark Holmgren
Associate Director,
Center for Biodiversity, UCSB

Wednesday, October 24, 2007



Twelve years of UCSB bird studies on Vandenberg AFB have yielded valuable information on the special birds and habitats on the base. How well does the military mission foster bird protection and preservation on this air force base? We'll look at the issues, the information, and the opportunities for long-term protection. Mark has been the curator of birds, mammals, and herps at UCSB since 1984 in what is now known at the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration.



All From An Egg The Origins Of The Santa Barbara Museum Of Natural History Krista Fahy Associate Curator Vertebrate Zoology

Wednesday, December 5, 2007
(Please note special date)

Do you know which local institution got its start as the Museum of Comparative Oology? Come join Associate Curator Krista Fahy as she reveals the history, secrets and jewels of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's egg collection.

Krista started with the Vertebrate Zoology department in 1994. She currently manages the museum's extensive avian collections and works to provide access to the data held within to researchers and naturalists around the world.

As a doctoral candidate at UCSB, Krista has studied the habitat characteristics and nest preferences of central coast Snowy Plovers. In her lack of free time she enjoys birding, travel and antique natural history art.

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.



*Least Tern
Artist Steven D'Amato*

Devereux Slough UCSB West Campus, Goleta Saturday, October 13, 2007 7:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Target Birds: Shorebirds, water birds and wintering songbirds

Trip Leader: Robert Lindsay, 684-5373 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 17, 2007 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

Cost: \$6.00 gas money 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 for about two hours near the ranch house where there are a large number of feeders and bird habitat. Then we will take an easy walk around the general area and perhaps take a tour of a canyon. Bring water, a snack and/or lunch.



*Golden Eagle Juvenile
Artist Steven D'Amato*

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.

Hollister Ranch Field Trip Report

June 9th, 2007
by Jeff Hanson

There's nothing like an early morning drive up the Gaviota coast to get your day started. Especially when it's an **SBAS** field trip to the magnificent Hollister Ranch! After the usual gathering at 5-Points, a full compliment of birders headed out under perfect weather. Once we cleared Goleta, the 101 allowed us terrific views of the channel as we motored west. Several squadrons of Brown Pelicans were also heading west, along with their gull escorts. Meanwhile on the north side, Red-tails stood sentry atop their power poles.



*Wendie Kruthers meets the group.
Photo by Jeff Hanson*

While getting checked in at the gate, we all got great views of many Humpback Whales feeding offshore, a first for many of us. Once inside the Ranch, we met up with **Wendie Kruthers**, our hostess, who took us to Bulito Beach. We spent quite a long time there, and for good reason. There was plenty to look at onshore and off. There were hundreds of Brown Pelicans and Western Gulls, along with large numbers of Heermans Gulls and Brandt's Cormorants. Far offshore were a flock of Sooty Shearwaters, while handfults of Clarks Grebes, Pacific Loons and Bonaparte's Gulls worked the inshore area.

Our next stop was the familiar walk past the historic farmhouse, through the oak grove, and up the now-dry Bulito Creek. We picked up many of the common birds such as swallows, towhees, woodpeckers, blackbirds, thrashers and phoebes, but specialty birds were hard to come by.

Our last stop was another familiar one, Alegria Beach. We birded the beach and adjoining wetland vigorously with minimal results, so we moved a bit further inland by the pond. It was there that we got 2 of our best-of-day birds. In the distance was a Blue Grosbeak perched up high. While not far away we got a Loggerhead Shrike on a fence post. A nice way to end our day of birding! On the way out, just before the gate, a Greater Roadrunner perched on a fence post at eye level and flicked it's tail as if to say "see you next time"

The final tally was 60 birds for the trip. Our special thanks go out to the **Hollister Ranch Association** and **Ms. Wendie Kruthers** for their kindness and generosity, and to **Guy Tingos** and **Jack Sanford** for their expertise in leading this delightful trip.



*Brown Pelicans.
Photo by Jeff Hanson*

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!

Gaylen Davidson
Mark Ferrer
Kristin Mccallister
Robert Muhr
Faye E. Nennig
Lora Von Seydewitz

Patricia Moreland
Laura Wilson
Stephanie Calkins
Wendy Davee
Janice Hamilton
Mr. Nathan Alley

Kris Burnell
Mr. Benjamin Hitz, Jr.
Mr. Andrew R. Lemert
Ms. Barbara G. McAuliffe
Alvie A. Pagel
Mr. Cliff J. Perreault

Mr. David Raney
Mr. James Rehfus
Mr. Ron Camp
Mr. Robert A. Scott

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.*

Hidden Valley Park Friday, Oct 12

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. 26

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.



*Northern Flicker
Artist Kirsten Munson*



*Red-winged Blackbird
Artist Steven D'Amato*

Stevens Park Friday, Nov. 9

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

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Las Positas Rd. offramp. 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.

Winchester Canyon Friday, Nov. 23

Target Birds: Kingbirds, Kinglets, Siskins, Woodpeckers, Titmice, Towhees, raptors

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. 11, 2007, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Target Birds: Waterfowl, Shorebirds, Peregrine Falcons, Song birds

Directions: Coming from the north on Hwy. 101, take the Castillo St. off ramp to Cabrillo Blvd. Coming from the south on Hwy. 101 take the Cabrillo Blvd. off ramp. Park on Bath or Mason St. (no time limit) or use paid city lot parking. We will meet on the sidewalk next to the Sea Landing Sport Fishing Building (301 W. Cabrillo Blvd.)

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 Tara Longwell for site at longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 252-4903. or Darlene Chirman at dchirman@rain.org or 692-2008.

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Jane Murray**

Sunday October 7 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sunday November 4 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Tara Longwell**

Saturday October 13 9 a.m.-12 noon
Saturday November 17 9 a.m.-12 noon

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 _____

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 6
November 10
December 8

Training Schedule:

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

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

Birding Festival Information

Morro Bay Winter Annual Bird Festival January 18-21, 2008

For more information about the Festival, check out our website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677.

San Diego Bird Festival February 6 -11, 2008 Kenn Kaufman Keynote Speaker Trip & Workshop leader

For a Festival brochure and registration information contact us at: sandiegoaudubon.org or 619-682-7200

Please Save
Saturday, January 5, 2008,
Christmas Bird Count!
See Dec./Jan. El Tecolote for further details
and sign up information.

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.

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. 6 Plover Training
- Oct. 7 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Oct. 11 Santa Barbara Harbor Bird Walk
- Oct. 12 Hidden Valley Bird Walk
- Oct. 13 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- Oct. 13 Devereux Slough Field Trip
- Oct. 24 Program: Habitats of Vandenberg
- Oct. 26 Rocky Nook Bird Walk
- Oct. 27 Tecolote Circle Donor Appreciation
- Nov. 4 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Nov. 9 Stevens Park Bird Walk
- Nov. 10 Plover Training
- Nov. 17 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- Nov. 17 Las Cruzitas Ranch Field Trip
- Nov. 23 Winchester Canyon Bird Walk
- Dec. 5 Program: All From An Egg
- Dec. 8 Plover Training
- Jan. 5 Christmas Bird Count

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 2007/June 2008

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

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Secretary	Susan Lentz	968-6011	salentz@cox.net
Treasurer	Dave Messick	969-4373	

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Field Trips Chair	Jack Sanford	566-2191	jacksanford@hotmail.com
Programs Chair	John O'Brien	962-7799	mlbm@cox.net
Conservation Chair	Steve Ferry	967-5162	sjferry@cox.net
Education Chair	Patricia Malone	569-1993	pamalone@verizon.net
Science Chair	Kris Burnell*	683-4868	krisburnell@juno.com
<i>*Agreed to serve; anticipate board appointment at the August meeting</i>			
Membership Chair	Jared Dawson	687-6218	jdawson@silcom.com
Newsletter Chair	Callie Bowdish	968-2857	cjbowdish@hotmail.com
Publicity Chair	Ben Shalant	448-4447	kagawaben@cox.net
At Large-Outreach	Julie Kummel	964-9444	jkummel@rain.org
At-Large-Outreach	Dolores Pollock	681-8661	dolorespollock@earthlink.net
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Hospitality: Sylvelin Edgerton	964-1658	sylvelin@earthlink.net
Nancy Rohrer	687-7587	rohrer_n@yahoo.com
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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El Tecolote
 Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
 Goleta, CA 93117

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