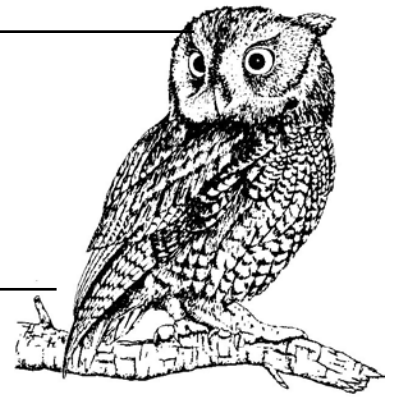


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 47, Issue 1

August—September 2008



FEATHER THE NEST 2008



*Creekspirit Foundation's home.
Photo by Callie Bowdish*



*Acutinoer Jeff Chemnick
and Board President Darlene Chirman
Photo by Callie Bowdish*



*Feather the Nest Co-Chairs
Dolores Pollock and Julie Kummel.
Photo by John Walker*

Feather the Nest, Santa Barbara Audubon's second annual benefit auction, was held June 29 to support our educational programs. Guests enjoyed the beautiful setting at Creekspirit, the private garden of artist/author **Patti Jacquemain** and **David Gledhill** on Mission Creek. Peaceful accompaniment was provided by harpist **Patricia Rushton**. Special guests included **Max**, the great horned owl, and other live birds of prey. Forty-seven interesting items were sold in the Silent Auction, including two from the estate of ornithologist Barbara De Wolfe. For the second year Auctioneer **Jeff Chemnick** led spirited bidding in the live auction, which this year consisted of 14 items. The raffle of a donated case of Los Cinco Locos wine was won by SBAS member **Janet Uribe**. We thank our many generous donors, bidders, and volunteers for supporting this event which raised \$9,600.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Patti Jacquemain, David Gledhill, and
Creekspirit Foundation
Nancy States
Los Cinco Locos
Santa Barbara Bank & Trust
Easy Lift Transportation

Rockwood Women's Club
Buttonwood Winery
Carina Cellars
Tompeet Frederickson
Nancy Crawford
Virginia Mayer

Janet Uribe
Melissa Kelly
James & Roxanne Mattinson
H. & P. Shalant
Jeff Stearns
Bobbie Offen

Continued on the next page.

Lora Von Seydewitz
Grace Thomas
Francis Preston
Barbara Fleming
Julie & Bruce Morrow
“Fund-the-Mews”

SILENT AUCTION DONORS

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ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

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John Walker and Bright Walker
food and drink organizers
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Andy Lentz
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Laura Shelton
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FINALLY

THE AUDUBON BOARD :

Darlene Chirman, Julie Kummel,
Dolores Pollock, Lee Moldaver, Susan
Lentz, Bobbie Offen, Jack Sanford, John
O’Brien, Steve Ferry, Patty Malone, Kris
Burnell, Callie Bowdish (for the flowers),
Margo Kenney

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES WHO GAVE TO “FEATHER THE NEST”



*EITS Volunteer Coni Edick
with Kachina—an American Kestrel*



Silent Auction in full swing.

Annual Picnic — Toro Canyon Park

By Darlene Chirman

Each summer, the Santa Barbara Audubon chapter holds an annual picnic for members and guests. This year, the picnic will take place at Toro Canyon Park, and will have occurred by the time you receive this newsletter. One event that always occurs at the picnic is the election of the Board of Directors for the coming year. See the back page of this newsletter for the proposed slate that is most likely an approved board by the time you read this!

The annual picnic is also the opportunity to thank the outgoing board members for their service to the chapter. This year, outgoing board members include:

- **Callie Bowdish**, who has served as Newsletter Chair for three years, coordinating articles with newsletter editor **Andy Lentz** and contributing outstanding photographs of birds and events.
- **Patty Malone**, who has served as Education Chair for three years, serving as liaison between the board and the EITS program, managed by **Gabriele Drozdowski**. Patty also organized the Earth Day booth, and initiated Family Bird Walks, which were very popular.
- **Kris Burnell**, who has served as Science Chair for one year, acting as liaison for the Snowy Plover Program (managed by **Jennifer Stroh**) and overseeing the Tree Swallow nest box program (monitored by **Dave Eldridge**) and the Bird Island (monitoring by **Dave Compton**). Kris also restarted the White-tailed Kite monitoring project
- **Ben Shalant**, who has served as Publicity Chair for four years, resulting in media coverage for our programs, field trips and bird walks. Ben has also assisted with habitat restoration and served as a Snowy Plover Docent while completing his degree at Antioch University.

Volunteers are the force behind our organization and we like to recognize them at the annual picnic as well. In addition to the board members, we appreciate the incredible contribution of all Audubon volunteers! Snowy plover docents, field trip leaders, Christmas Bird Count participants, restoration volunteers, EITS volunteers, special event assistants--most recently for our auction, White-tailed Kite monitors, nest box monitors, committee members for Conservation, Science and Outreach Committees....who has been left out? Last year (the most recent data), we calculated that our chapter members provide 9100 hours of volunteer time! Kudos to everyone!!



Mark your Calendar Environmental Defense Center's

TGIF

5:30-7:30 Friday, September 12
\$10 admission

Santa Barbara Audubon is a sponsor of the popular Environmental Defense Center "TGIF" that will be held on Friday, September 12. Come out for live music, drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and lively discussion with fellow advocates for the environment.

EDC assists Audubon with protection of the threatened Western Snowy Plover, Condor protection, and protection of the Devereux watershed.

Plover News

One of our nursery plovers (with band PA:BY) is nesting in McGrath State Beach. He was born in the Summer of 2006 and hand raised in our nursery. Some of our volunteers helped feed him. This shows that hand raised birds can do well back in the wild. Congratulations to you all who work hard to protect these birds.

Sightings of PA:BY
6/28/2006 at COPR
9/16/06 at Sandspit
11/14/06 at Sandspit SB
12/15/06 at Sandspit
7/5/08 nesting at McGrath



Snowy Plover
by Peter Gaede

Cris Sandoval
Director, Coal Oil Point Reserve

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.

Aquatic Bird Rehabilitation

Dave Weeshoff

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Dave Weeshoff, Docent with the International Bird Rescue Research Center in San Pedro, will present a colorful slide presentation, describing in words and photographs how orphaned, sick, injured and oiled aquatic birds (including pelicans, gulls, loons, grebes, terns, etc..) are cleaned, rehabilitated, and released back into the wild, as well as what each of us can do to mitigate



human impacts on our feathered friends. Dave's photography and entertaining style promise to bring these subjects to life.



Dave is on the Board of Directors of the International Bird Rescue Research Center and the San Fernando Audubon Society, and is a frequent guest speaker on environmental issues for Heal the Bay, an organization concerned with improving the water quality off the Southern California coast, and the Algalita Marine Research Foundation, concerned with the plague of plastic in the oceans.

Tax-Savvy Strategy for Giving

by Darlene Chirman

adapted from the Santa Clara Audubon newsletter, *The Avocet*

Recent surveys indicate that about 50% more Americans own stock today than 20 years ago. Do you fall into this category? If so, you are probably holding securities such as stocks, bonds or mutual funds that have appreciated in value since you purchased them. Donating these directly to Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS) can be a very tax-efficient way of giving.

Let's run the numbers. Suppose you bought 100 shares of ABC Corporation many years ago for \$10,000 and now it is worth \$100,000.

If you sell the stock and give the cash to SBAS, your taxable income will be reduced by \$100,000, saving you \$35,000 in federal income tax (assuming the highest tax bracket of 35%). However, you will still owe capital gains tax of \$13,500 (15% x \$90,000). Therefore, the real cost of the gift to you is its market value plus the capital gains tax minus the income tax savings: $\$100,000 + \$13,500 - \$35,000 = \$78,000$.

But if instead you donate the stock directly to SBAS, you avoid the capital gains tax, and still get the deduction of \$100,000 from taxable income. Your real cost of the gift would be \$65,000: the market value minus the income tax savings (\$100,000 - \$35,000). This is a savings of \$13,000! As a tax-exempt non-profit organization, SBAS doesn't have to pay capital gains, even if the stock is then sold.

Donating appreciated securities is easy to do. You can donate directly from your account to the brokerage account of SBAS. Your broker can provide you with the form you need; you fill it out and mail it.

Consult your own tax advisor or brokerage account manager for more details. You may contact Darlene Chirman at 692-2008 for more information.

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.*

Oso Flaco Lake "Wonder of the Dunes" Sunday August 17, 2008 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (6:45 a.m. car pool time)

Target Birds: Fresh water and salt water birds plus Northern Harriers and Wrens

Trip Leader: Ken Wolf, Dunes Center Docent

Cost: \$8.00 to car pool drivers and \$5.00 entrance fee per car (unless you have a State Park Pass)

We will be joining Guadalupe Dunes Center Docent Ken Wolf who will lead a leisurely 2-mile walk across the Oso Flaco Lake bridge and follow the boardwalk trail to the ocean. We will learn about this rare and unique ecosystem while spotting birds and enjoying the beauty of the area.

We will meet at the 5 Points Shopping Center (Carl's Jr) at 6:45 a.m. and at the Kmart parking lot in Goleta at 7:00 a.m. and car pool to the Oso Flaco Lake parking area. If you would like to meet us at the lake at 9 a.m., take Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 166 (Main street exit in Santa Maria), and head west towards the town of Guadalupe. Turn right at the Hwy. 1 intersection, and go thru the town of Guadalupe. Travel 3 miles to the Oso Flaco Road, and turn left. Proceed 3 miles to the parking lot. Dress in layers and bring water and a snack.

Some photos from past field trips See what you are missing!



*2007 SBAS Las Cruzitas Ranch field trip.
Photo by Dung Ha*

Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Saturday, September 20, 2008 9 a.m.-11 a.m. (6:45 a.m. car pool time)

Target Birds: Shorebirds

Trip Leader: Jack Sanford

Cost: \$8.00 to car pool drivers

We will enjoy a leisurely stroll at the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve. We will view both migratory and resident shorebirds along the beach and the Santa Maria River Estuary. Dress in layers and bring water and a snack.

We will meet at the 5 Points Shopping Center (Carl's Jr) at 6:45 a.m. and at the Kmart parking lot in Goleta at 7:00 a.m. and car pool to the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve. If you would like to meet us at the dunes at 9 a.m., take Hwy. 101 north to Hwy. 166 (Main St. exit in Santa Maria) and head west towards the Guadalupe Dunes. Cross Hwy. 1 and continue on Hwy. 166 for 7 more miles to the parking lot. (Added attraction: optional lunch at the Far Western Tavern in Guadalupe.)



Road Runner spotted on the Las Cruzitas field trip, left. Photo Dung Ha and Grebes seen on the 2008 Field Trip to Lone Star Ranch, below. Photo by David Levasheff



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 if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.*

Lake Los Carneros

Friday August 1 (Note: this is the first Friday)

Target Birds: Water birds, songbirds

Directions: From Hwy. 101 take Los Carneros off ramp and head towards the mountains. (Stow House is on the right.) Park behind the fire station where we will meet.

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park

Friday August 22

Target Birds: Curlews, Ducks, Teals, Egrets, Godwits, Gulls, Herons, Killdeer, raptors

Directions: From the north on Hwy. 101, take Linden Ave. off ramp. From the south on Hwy. 101 take Casitas Pass Rd. off ramp, Turn right on Carpinteria Ave. and left on Linden Ave. Follow Linden Ave towards the ocean and turn right on Sandyland Rd. Go to the end; the Nature Park entrance is directly ahead.



Long-billed Curlew by Daniel S. Kilby

Honda Valley Open Space

Friday September 12

Target Birds: Woodpeckers, Towhees, Jays, Mockingbirds, raptors

Directions: From Hwy. 101 take the Carrillo Street exit. Turn toward the south (away from downtown). Turn left onto Miramonte Drive. (It is only on the left and almost at the top of the hill.) We will park on the street and meet several hundred yards into Miramonte Drive. From there we will bird a loop trail around the open space.

Toro Canyon Park

Friday September 19 (Note: this is the 3rd Friday)

Target Birds: Songbirds, raptors

Directions: From Hwy. 101 take exit #90 (Padaro Lane off ramp coming from the north and Summerland off ramp from the south). Turn towards the mountains and turn right on Via Real. Turn left on Toro Canyon Road (2nd road on your left). Proceed on Toro Canyon until you reach the park sign on your right. Turn right and follow the road to the park. Enter the park and follow the park road to the last parking lot where we will meet. We will bird the loop trail (1 mile slightly uphill) and then in the park.

Docents needed at Arroyo Hondo Preserve



If you love nature, hiking and children, join our next docent training class. Have fun and rewarding experiences with children exploring our pristine creek and canyon. Training will be at the Preserve on Mondays from 1:00-4:00, Sept. 8 - Oct. 27. Local experts will present the natural and cultural history of the preserve through discussion and exploration.



For information contact:

Jane Murray 684-4405 or volunteer@sblandtrust.org

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 lvolunteer@yahoo.com or 684-4405. For Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact Tara Longwell at longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 252-4903. or Darlene Chirman at dchirman@rain.org or 692-2008.

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: Jane Murray

Sunday August 3 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Sunday September 7 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: Tara Longwell

Saturday August 16 9 a.m.-12 noon
 Saturday September 20 9 a.m.-12 noon



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 jdawson@silcom.com. The **SBAS** e-mail mailing list will only be used for **SBAS** business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

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:

August 9
 September 27
 October 11

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.

**Join the
 Cornell Lab of Ornithology's
 Celebrate Urban Birds!**

People of all ages and backgrounds can participate in **Celebrate Urban Birds** through gardening, cultural activities and citizen-science. For the citizen-science part of the project, participants watch city birds for 10 minutes, check off 15 target species of birds, and send the information through the mail or the Internet to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Once enough data are gathered, scientists hope to learn more about how birds survive in cities and how they use urban green spaces such as parks, rooftop gardens, and even potted plants on balconies for food, resting sites, and shelter.

For more information go to:
<http://www.celebrateurbanbirds.org/>

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

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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/>

- Aug. 1 Lake Los Carnereos Bird Walk
- Aug. 3 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Aug. 9 Plover Training
- Aug. 16 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- Aug. 17 Oso Flaco Lake Field Trip
- Aug. 22 Carpinteria Salt Marsh Bird Walk
- Sept. 7 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Sept. 12 Honda Valley Bird Walk
- Sept. 12 EDC—TGIF
- Sept. 19 Toro Canyon Park Bird Walk
- Sept. 20 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- Sept. 20 Guadalupe Dunes Field Trip
- Sept. 24 Program: Aquatic Bird Rehabilitation
- Sept. 27 Plover Training

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 2008/June 2009

(805) 964-1468, audubon@rain.org

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

(Pending Election July 26, 2008)

OFFICERS

President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008	dchirman@starband.net
Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	964-6477	audubon@rain.org
Secretary	Susan Lentz	968-6011	salentz@cox.net
Treasurer	Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@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	Steve Ferry	967-5162	sjferry@cox.net
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At Large—Outreach	Julie Kummel	403-3203	jkummel@rain.org
At-Large—Outreach	Dolores Pollock	681-8661	dolorespollock@earthlink.net
At Large—Outreach	Margo Kenney	963-3011	margo@margokenney.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster:	Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@cox.net
Eyes In The Sky:	Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	eyes-in-the-sky@cox.net
Snowy Plover Docent Prog:	Jennifer Stroh	880-1195	stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu
Hospitality:	Sylvelin Edgerton	964-1658	sylvelin@verizon.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.**

Printed on recycled paper.



El Tecolote
Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

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