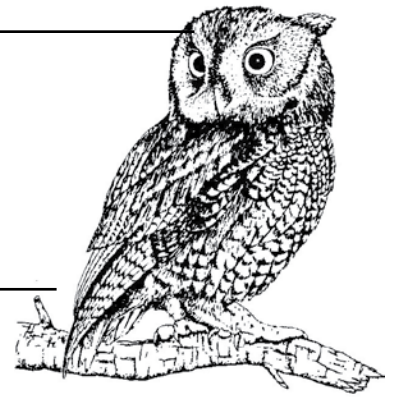


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 47, Issue 5

April–May 2009



Lompoc Wind Energy Project

By Steve Ferry

On February 10, 2009, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved the Lompoc Wind Energy Project (LWEP). The project, which will be built by the Spanish company Acciona, includes 65 wind turbine generators (WTGs) producing about 1.5 MW each on 3000 acres of private grazing land in San Miguelito Canyon about 5 miles southwest of Lompoc. Each WTG will be about 400 feet tall from base to tip of blade, with blades about 130 feet long.



Wind Farm in Similar Setting (Spain).

The approval of the LWEP is the culmination of approximately two years of effort by Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS), La Purisima Audubon Society (LPAS), Los Angeles Audubon Society (LAAS), and the Environmental Defense Center (EDC). EDC and the three Audubon chapters made extensive comments on the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Reports and had numerous meetings with County staff, the applicant, and their consultants. Among our many concerns regarding the project was the direct impact on birds. Although the wind turbines rotate very slowly, the blades are so long that the tips are moving at over 200 miles per hour! As a result of our efforts, the Biological Resources section of the DEIR was completely re-written and significant protections to the environment were added.

The County staff, at the urging of EDC and the Audubon chapters, inserted a requirement that parts of the project could be shut down if there were excessive bird mortalities. This provision was a major goal of the environmental groups. During a Planning Commission hearing in September, EDC

and Audubon advocated for strengthening of the shutdown provision, a longer period of bird mortality monitoring, offsite land easements, and additional protection for burrowing owls. Our positions were supported by the Sierra Club, the Santa Barbara Community Action Network, and in part by the Community Environmental Council. Commissioner Cecilia Brown, a member of SBAS's Conservation Committee, advocated for the environmental protection provisions. In the end, the Commission voted to extend the mortality monitoring and

strengthen the shutdown provision.

The approval of LWEP is a significant environmental achievement. The project will produce enough clean energy to power about 50,000 homes. The reduction of greenhouse gasses as a result of this project, if replicated across the country, will reduce global warming—a major threat to the survival of birds. And the protections added to the project as a result of the efforts of EDC, SBAS, LPAS, and LAAS ensure that the environmental impacts of LWEP will be significantly reduced.

We should recognize the long, sustained, and effective effort of those who worked on this project: Karen Kraus and Brian Trautwein of EDC, Steve Ferry of SBAS, Paul Keller (former SBAS Board member) and Tam Taaffe of LPAS, Garry George of LAAS, and Mark Holmgren. Thanks also to Kris Burnell, former SBAS Science Chair, for her contributions.

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, April 19 (10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.) Earth Day Celebration, Alameda Park
Sunday, June 14 (Noon – 3:00 p.m.) Annual Membership Picnic at Stevens Park
Saturday & Sunday, July 18 & 19 SCAPE Art Show in La Arcada Courtyard:
“On the Wings of Art” benefits Santa Barbara Audubon Society.

Chapter-only Membership

Your board of directors has established a new form of membership in the Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS). **Current and future members of National Audubon Society (NAS) are automatically members of SBAS, and this will not change.** The new class is called “chapter-only” membership. It will replace the current ‘newsletter only’ category, which technically is not a full membership. The chapter-only membership will direct all subscription funds to our local programs. **For all current members, your term of subscription will remain in effect just as before.** For new members, or at time of renewal, a choice can be made to sign up for a chapter-only membership or the standard National Audubon membership (or both). All chapter-only memberships will come due on June 30th of each year. As a sign-up incentive, all new chapter-only sign-ups submitted before July 1, 2009 will have a term that ends on June 30, 2010, with re-subscriptions running annually after that.

The advantages of this change are several:

- A new choice for members to intentionally select their desired support of Audubon, either chapter-only or NAS + SBAS.
- Additional support for the vital programs and advocacy

that have been a proud SBAS tradition within our local community (currently NAS keeps most of your dues after the first year)

- The new membership class, with a proposed flat rate of \$25 annually, confers all of the rights of full SBAS membership, including voting rights. This rate, while greater than the NAS introductory rates, is \$10 less than their re-subscription rate.
- We believe that by keeping the SBAS rate constant we will maintain a steadier membership base.

Please note that your local SBAS keeps its membership list private. We do not sell or share our names or addresses with any other organization or entity. With a chapter-only membership, you will no longer receive the Audubon magazine, unless you chose to sign up with NAS, but you should also no longer receive unsolicited mailings due to your name and address being sold.

Comments, positive and negative, received after the announcement in the last ET were all individually addressed and did not significantly alter the Board’s sense that this was a viable option. If you have questions please write or call the office, or email the Membership Chair at Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org.

Audubon Society Membership Application



Local Chapter-only Membership



National and Local Membership

Santa Barbara Code: C9ZC130Z

This is a full membership to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, with all funds put to work locally.

Includes:

- * a subscription to the local newsletter, *El Tecolote*
- * new enrollments current through June 30, 2010
- * subsequent membership dues on a July - June cycle

Does Not Include:

- * National magazine, *Audubon*,
- * distribution of your name to any other organization

The cost is \$25 annually.

This is my choice of membership!
Make check payable to:
Santa Barbara Audubon Society

This is the traditional membership offered by the National organization.

Includes:

- * membership on both the local and national levels
- * most of membership dues applied to national issues and advocacy
- * both the national magazine, *Audubon*, and the local *El Tecolote*
- * renewal notices from National organization
- * your name may be distributed to third party advertisers

The cost for this introductory membership is \$20, or \$15 for senior 62+ or student.

(NAS subsequent-year memberships are currently \$35/year.)

This is my choice of membership!

This is a Senior/Student membership.

Please do NOT share my contact information.

Make check payable to: **National Audubon Society**

Name: _____	My special interests: _____
Address: _____	_____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	Amount Enclosed: _____
E-mail: _____	

**Mail to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society
5679 Hollister Ave, Suite 5B, Goleta CA 93117**

Santa Barbara Audubon Programs

All programs will take place at Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara. Free on-site parking. All programs 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.

William Leon Dawson – a California Bird Pioneer

Ron LeValley

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

WILLIAM LEON DAWSON was the author of the two volume *The Birds of Ohio* (1903), *The Birds of Washington* (1909) and the monumental four volume *The Birds of California* (1923). Together with a group of prominent Santa Barbarans, Dawson founded the Museum of Comparative Oology, at first located in two outbuildings on his property on Puesta del Sol in Mission Canyon and based on his own extensive collection of bird eggs as well as collections of several members of the community. He traveled throughout California collecting information and photographs for his book. Dawson wrote with a flowery prose, full of humor, spirituality, and true love for the feathered beings. But he was also an incredible scientist and an amazing photographer.

Ron LeValley will offer readings from the writings of William Dawson illustrated by his own photographs and recordings. Dawson's writings are humorous, sad, spiritual, satirical and inspirational, and Ron's presentation and photography captures much of this feeling.

Ron LeValley has been photographing nature for over 40 years. He is a founding member of the Mendocino Coast Photographer Guild and Gallery at 301 North Main Street in Fort Bragg where his work can be seen. As a professional photographer, Ron has compiled an impressive collection (over 70,000 images) of wildlife photographs that he uses for presentations and publications.

One of Ron's outstanding attributes is sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with others.



On the causes and consequences of species extinction

Bradley Cardinale

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

P perhaps the most striking feature of our planet is its great variety of life. But loss of this biological diversity is one of the most pronounced forms of environmental change in the modern era. In this talk, Brad will discuss some of the causes of biodiversity loss, as well as the impacts that extinction has on society. He will begin with a global perspective, summarizing the results of two decades of experiments that have examined what species diversity 'does' for nature. Brad will then give examples from local habitats in the Santa Barbara area and end with a presentation of some of his own research that has focused on streams and rivers in California.

Dr. Bradley J. Cardinale is a member of the Department of Ecology, Evolution & Marine Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.



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: newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
 Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

The mission of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society is to help conserve and restore the earth's natural ecosystems and improve its biological diversity, principally in the Santa Barbara area, and to connect people with birds and nature through education, science-based projects and advocacy.

Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

*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.*

Rancho La Vina 4455 Santa Rosa Road (Between Buellton & Lompoc) Saturday April 4, 9 a.m. -12 noon (8 a.m. at car pool location)

Target Birds: Spring migrants, songbirds, woodpeckers, etc.

Leader: Paul Keller

We will car pool at 8 a.m. from the parking lot near Carl's Jr. in the Five Points Shopping Center off State Street. (\$8 gas money to drivers.) We will take Hwy. 101 north to Santa Rosa Rd. off-ramp just before Buellton. We will park and meet at 4455 Santa Rosa Road at 9 a.m.

Bring water and a snack and wear shoes that are comfortable for some leisurely walking. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful. Enjoy ranch owner Jose Baer's generous hospitality in allowing us to bird his ranch.

Special Field Trip for MEMBERS ONLY: Wind Wolves Preserve (WWP) Friday night, April 24; Saturday, April 25; and Sunday, April 26

Leader: Jack Sanford

This trip is for members only and is a first! It will be limited to 20 participants. You must either call or email Jack on or before April 15 to reserve a place. He must know if you plan on camping Friday and/or Saturday nights. The campground has no hook ups, only 12 sites, nice rest rooms, and no charge. The gate is locked at night so you will have to call Jack's cell phone if you arrive after the gate is locked; Jack will have the combination and will be there both nights. Or you can just sign up for Saturday and not spend the night.

Although Jack has visited WWP before, this will be a first with a group so it will be an adventure—it is a great site. We will meet at the Trailhead parking lot on Saturday morning at 10:15 a.m. and hike and bird the main trail. Sunday we will hike and bird a lesser trail. We will probably leave after lunch on Sunday. By the way: we will not see any wolves! If you want to learn more about WWP go to www.wildlandsconservancy.org.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 166 (Santa Maria). Stay on Hwy. 166 to Maricopa and continue on Hwy. 166 to the WWP turnoff (13 miles from Maricopa). Look for the WWP sign on the right hand side of Hwy 166. The total mileage from S.B. to WWP is approximately 155 miles.



White Breasted Nuthatch, Sedgwick Reserve.

Photo by Andy Lentz

Nojoqui Falls County Park Saturday May 23, 9 a.m.-12 noon (8 a.m. at car pool location)

Target Birds: Yellow-billed Magpies, Purple Martins, Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Barn Owls, vireos, towhees, woodpeckers and orioles.

Leader: Rob Lindsay

We will car pool at 8 a.m. from the parking lot near Carl's Jr. in the Five Points Shopping Center off State Street. (\$8.00 gas money to drivers.) We will take Hwy. 101 north to the Nojoqui Falls turnoff (the obscure turnoff just after the large truck parking area at the top of Gaviota Pass).

We will hike to the falls (an easy walk) and then bird the entire park. If you plan on meeting us there, we will park and meet at the parking area nearest the falls at 9 a.m. Bring water and a snack or stay longer and bring lunch.

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.

Ennisbrook Nature Trail Friday, April 10, 2009

Target Birds: Nuthatches, Common Yellowthroats, Townsend's Warblers, 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). The nature trail is located on right side of road past the white picket fence near a pump house. We will park and meet near the entrance gate.

Tucker's Grove and Kiwanis Meadows Friday, April 24, 2009

Target Birds: Cooper's Hawks, Towhees, American Robins, Lesser Goldfinchs, etc.

Directions: From Hwy. 101 exit at Turnpike Road. Turn north towards the mountains on Turnpike. Cross Cathedral Oaks Rd. and enter San Antonio County Park (Tucker's Grove). We will park and meet near the playground/restroom area.

UCSB Campus Lagoon Friday, May 8, 2009

Target Birds: Grebes, Herons, Dowitchers, ducks, Godwits, Plovers, etc.

Directions: Coming from the south on Hwy. 101, take the Ward Memorial Blvd. exit. Take the Goleta Beach County Park exit. Park at the west end of the Goleta Beach parking lot (nearest the UCSB campus).

Coming from the north on Hwy. 101, take the Fairview Ave. off-ramp and head towards the ocean. Fairview Ave will turn into Fowler Rd. Turn right into the Goleta Beach County Park. We will park and meet at the west end of the Goleta Beach parking lot (nearest the UCSB campus).



*Pelicans fishing at UCSB Lagoon
Photo by Callie Bowdish*



*Wren
Drawing by Kirsten Munson*

San Jose Creek & Open Space Friday, May 29, 2009.

Note: this is the 5th Friday of the month.

Target Birds: Hummingbirds, woodpeckers, songbirds, maybe even an owl.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to the Patterson Ave off-ramp and turn north towards the mountains. Turn left on Parejo Drive (the second street from Hwy. 101). Follow Parejo Drive to the end (at Merida Drive and San Jose Creek). Turn right on Merida Drive. We will park and meet at the end of Merida Drive.

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.

**Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Field Trip Report**

Duck Pond & Wetlands Field Trip

February 22, 2009

by Peggy Kearns & Jeff Hanson

Not one but two American Bitterns appeared and flew to a place where all of the group could look through our scopes and enjoy. It did, however, take awhile to “see” the birds through the rushes as they stood motionless with their heads extended high in the air.

A small, committed group of birders had left the Bird Refuge under overcast skies and periodic showers, driving to the Duck Ponds & Wetlands. A good number of birders met us there, and 20 of us set out for what would be the only group at the reserve of that day. This served us well as the varied ducks and shorebirds were in ponds close to the walking trails. The first bird we saw was a Chukar, a life bird for many, although it can't be counted since it is a game bird for the wetland reserve. Next came a Yellow-headed Blackbird, which was a good find, because it was not seen last year.

As we skirted the Pt. Mugu northern boundary, tree swallows were on the fence, and hundreds of ibis were flying and settling in ponds close to us. All agreed it was breathtaking. Although the day was crisp, the usual wind did not come up. This allowed us to spend four hours enjoying this private reserve. The four scopes came in handy as we focused on the raptors including many Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels. We heard many Marsh Wrens, and a few birders got good glimpses of the fast-moving, camouflaged bird. Toward the end of our day, a Tundra Swan was spotted at a far pond. Sixty-nine species were the day's count including those spotted at the Bird Refuge meeting location.



American Bittern
Photo by Dennis Ringer



White-faced Ibis
Photo by Diana Ricky



Birding Group
Photo by Diana Ricky

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@starband.net or 692-2008.*

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Jane Murray**

Sunday April 5 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Sunday May 3 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Tara Longwell**

Saturday April 18 9 a.m.-12 noon.
 Saturday May 16 9 a.m.-12 noon



Earth Day Festival
Sunday, April 19, 2009
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Alameda Park, Santa Barbara
Organized by the
Community Environmental Council

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:

April 11
 May 2

Training Schedule:

Tour 9-11 a.m.
 Training 11 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 Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org. The **SBAS** e-mail list will only be used for **SBAS** business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

Monday Morning Bird Walks.

Join Rebecca Fagan Coulter for free, informal bird walks around the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's grounds, looking and listening for our resident and migrant birds. Every Monday morning, through the end of April, (unless it's a downpour), 8:30-9:30 a.m. Meet at the Blue Whale Skeleton in front of the Museum, 2559 Puesta del Sol Rd., Santa Barbara.

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!

Marc & Leslie Beauchamp
 Hari Bhaskaran
 Douglas A. Billings
 Karla Bonoff
 Bonnie Braastad
 Doug & Lee Buckmaster
 Kay Butler
 Jack Christensen
 Yolanda Clements
 Bill Cornfield
 Kelly Cruce
 Elizabeth A. Dow
 Helen Drachkovitch
 Katherine Eastman
 Steve Emory
 L. A. Fanthorpe

George Gaynes
 Fern Gebert
 Alma Heck
 Jeff Hirsch
 Brittany Howard
 Michael Howe
 Sue Irwin
 Dorothea M. Johnson
 Glen Kaltenbrun
 Paige Kaye
 Harold Kono
 Barry Levine
 Steve Lovell
 Dorothy F. McNeil
 Jennifer Miller
 Dick Montgomery

Lucy O. Najjar
 Maimu Ohanian
 Nathan Paul
 Donna Peddicord
 Maija Pekkanen
 Rose Radula
 David N. Ross
 Claude Saks
 Doug Shaw
 Dominique Smith
 Jon & Ann Sonsteli
 Ruby Taylor
 Lloyd George Tupper
 Tony Vassallo
 Kelly Wilcox

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Santa Barbara Audubon Society July 2008/June 2009
 (805) 964-1468, Info@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
<http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org>

OFFICERS

President	Darlene Chirman	962-2008	President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	964-6477	VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Secretary	Susan Lentz	968-6011	Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Treasurer	Bobbie Offen	684-0160	Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips Chair	Jack Sanford	566-2191	FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Programs Chair	John O'Brien	962-7799	Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Conservation Chair	Steve Ferry	967-5162	Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Education Chair	Ann Steinmetz	680-2638	Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Science Chair	OPEN		
Membership Chair	Jared Dawson	687-6218	Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Newsletter Chair	OPEN		
Publicity Chair	Adam Lewis	967-7213	Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
At Large—Outreach	Julie Kummel	403-3203	Development-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
At-Large—Outreach	Dolores Pollock	681-8661	Development-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
At Large—Outreach	Margo Kenney	963-3011	Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster:	Bobbie Offen	684-0160	Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Eyes In The Sky:	Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Snowy Plover Docent	Prog: Jennifer Stroh	880-1195	Plovers@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Hospitality:	Sylvelin Edgerton	964-1658	Hospitality-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
	Nancy Röhrer	687-7587	Hospitality-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Report Rare Birds:	Karen Bridgers	964-1316	RareBirds@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

Hear Rare Bird Report 964-8240

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

Calendar of Events

Check our website for any changes or late additions to our Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs:
<http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org>

April

Apr.	4	Rancho La Vina Field Trip
Apr.	5	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Apr.	10	Ennisbrook Bird Walk
Apr.	11	Plover Training
Apr.	18	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Apr.	19	Earth Day Alameda Park SB
Apr.	22	Program: William Leon Dawson
Apr.	24	Tucker's Grove Bird Walk
Apr.	24-26	Wind Wolves Preserve Field Trip (Members only)

May

May	2	Plover Training
May	3	Restore Arroyo Hondo
May	8	UCSB Campus Lagoon Bird walk
May	16	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
May	23	Nojoqui Falls Field Trip
May	27	Program: Species extinction
May	29	San Jose Creek Bird Walk

Upcoming Dates

June	14	Annual Membership Picnic
July	18-19	SCAPE Art Show

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