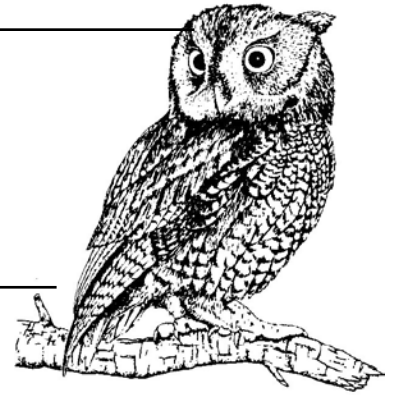


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 49, Issue 2

October–November 2010



Snowy Plover Update for the 2010 Season

By Jennifer Stroh and Maureen 'Mo' McFadden

This season was hard for the Snowy Plovers. Jennifer Stroh, Docent Coordinator for the successful program, noted “The Snowy Plover Program at Coal Oil Point fledged an estimated 30 chicks. Half of those fledglings came from the delta region—inland on the mud flats. We had 15 nests there.” She explained there was lower success with the nests on the beach this year. Cristina Sandoval, COPR Reserve Director, stated “Early in the season some nests were washed away by the tides and storms. Later in the season there was a problem with chick predation.” The plovers were monitored three times a week by Sandoval and Plover Docent, Pat Walker. The women would witness a nest hatching but in the next survey, the chicks would be missing. Determining predators of chicks is harder than eggs because chicks move around the beach. When eggs are depredated, tracks may be traced to the nest making it easier to determine the type of predator that ate them. Sandoval said “Some avian predators like owls can take chicks without landing and leaving a footprint. We know it is a predator that cued in on the chicks, but we don’t know what kind. In the future, we might place cameras and band chicks to get a better understanding of chick predation. Predators wouldn’t digest the colorful bands so we can look for scat and owl pellets and check for color bands.”

Although it seems like a disappointment to have only fledged about 30 chicks, it’s important to remember this is the ninth season and in this time COPR has fledged almost 300 chicks. Cris commented “When dealing with natural habitats, one needs to look at the big picture, the average of several years, and the overall breeding success on the Pacific coast. Oscillations in breeding success in a particular site are a normal phenomenon of the natural populations. The site at COPR still provides habitat for successful nesting of snowy plovers.”

Jennifer was most pleased with the success of the docent program this year. “Docent coverage was great. We have about 60 docents working together to provide public education and outreach on the beach. The docents help people identify plovers and show them the little chicks that are running around on the beach.” Once trained, each docent commits to a regular, two hour shift per week for a minimum of 12 weeks. They must know the information provided in the Docent Manual and be able to share facts about the Snowy Plover and its habitat with the public. Stroh urges them to always look for opportunities to



Snowy Plover on Coal Oil Point.

Photo by IanVorster.com

talk with people about plovers and give tips on how to use the beach responsibly. Plover Docents also approach dog owners; they are instructed to thank dog owners who use a leash and ask those with unleashed dogs to please use a restraint. All the local beaches (except Hendry’s) require dogs to be on leash. We offer owners a rope to use as a leash, if they don’t have one of their own.

“Our docents come from the community, Audubon Society, UCSB student body, and even parent-child teams now help with our program. UCSB’s Coastal Fund supports us by funding interns. Through the docent program, we can conduct all of the education and outreach necessary to maintain the impact we’ve made over the last nine years,” Stroh pointed out. It is easy to invest and fall in love with these cute little shorebirds.

When asked about the response from the public, Stroh said, “It varies, but most often, it’s positive. People appreciate the natural beauty of Coal Oil Point and thank us for helping to keep it that way. They are impressed by our effort to protect the plovers. Their cooperation and support has made it possible for us to keep the beach open to the public and recover this population of snowy plovers.” This program confirmed for Jennifer that people and wildlife can exist together harmoniously. “It gives me hope we can achieve the same type of relationship with wildlife on a much larger scale, if we try.” The program would be at its most effective with 100 docents. Stroh noted this goal

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.

was achieved in the past, but the recession has affected the number of people able to volunteer. (Upcoming dates for Docent Training Sessions are October 23 and November 13).

Jennifer closed good news: “Next Spring will be our 10th anniversary, and we’ll be celebrating that success. At that time, I also want to honor the Audubon Society because we wouldn’t have been able to do this without the local chapter’s help and support.”



Snowy Plover Chick.
Photo by IanVorster.com



Snowy Plover and chick.
Photo by IanVorster.com



The Snowy Plover Recovery Program docent Sarah Wohletz.
Photo by Callie Bowdish

Volunteering makes you live longer.

You don’t have to believe me. There are countless articles on aging well and doctor’s who have done the research. So, there I was, looking at 60 closer than I ever have, and I decided to get back into volunteering. I checked out a few animal rescue groups here, and, because the Plovers are listed as ‘threatened’, they came up in my research. I’d always loved going to the Devereux Slough to watch the different birds and to just get away. It was always so peaceful. Peace and Plovers—I was sold. Being out on Sands Beach every week since January as a Docent has certainly added a beautiful facet to my life and recharged me in more ways than I thought it would. It is a complete opposite to my work. I find myself really looking forward to my time on the beach with the Snowy Plovers and several other shorebirds. I have had the opportunity to notice the subtle and not-so-subtle changes to the geography of the beach. I recommend volunteering for your health: mental and physical. I recommend the Plover program because, if you like to share your knowledge with people, this is the place to have a classroom. Waves, wind, all sorts of shorebirds, the undulating lines of pelicans, occasional dolphins and seals, surfers—long, short and paddle-board varieties, the buoys the seals haul up on, watching the planes taking off from the airport behind Sands, gracefully and high enough to be barely audible, even watching the occasional visit from the Venoco barge is fascinating. All these gorgeous surroundings while doing a good thing for nature—it really doesn’t get much better.

Maureen ‘Mo’ McFadden

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, Marlene Mills Newsletter Chair
 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
 Goleta, CA 93117
 or email: newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
 Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

PROGRESS ON OUR AUDUBON AVIARY

by John O'Brien and Dolores Pollock

Work at the site of our future aviary started on the morning of June 29, after almost five years of planning and various approval cycles. Unfortunately on the afternoon of June 29, work came to a halt when an old water well was discovered directly under our site location. It took us 52 days to get a new plan in place for how best to deal with the well and then once again go back to the City for approvals.

Work at the site resumed on August 29. A great deal has been accomplished. The structure's footings were filled with concrete and the cement floor was put down. The target date for completion is now the first week of December.

We have raised almost \$9,000 this summer towards the additional costs we have incurred. We are especially grateful for a recent pledge of \$5,000 to the most ambitious project in our chapter's history.

We hope to see Max and his friends in their new home by the New Year! Thanks to everyone who has helped create a permanent home for our birds of prey.



Aviary floor and wall framing.

Photo by John O'Brien

YES ON PROP. 21!

by Steve Ferry, SBAS Conservation Chair

California's state parks are falling apart because of decades of chronic underfunding. Budget cuts are causing the parks to drop severely behind in needed maintenance and repair. A backlog of more than \$1 billion already exists. Twice in the past two years, state parks were on the brink of closure. Only a last-minute budget reprieve kept them open. However, because of budget cuts, nearly 150 state parks have been shut down part-time or suffered deep service reductions. California's parks are at serious risk of irreversible damage. It's clear that the powers that be in Sacramento aren't riding to the rescue for state parks. So conservation organizations including SBAS and Audubon California have worked to qualify Proposition 21 for the November ballot. SBAS members collected several hundred signatures – the most of any Audubon chapter in the state!

Prop. 21 will create the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund. The parks budget will no longer be subject to being raided by the Legislature or Governor. Rather than living on a budget roller coaster, the fund will provide a stable, reliable, and adequate source of funding for the state park system and for wildlife conservation. Features of Prop. 21:

Trust Fund revenues can only be spent on state parks, wildlife, natural lands and ocean conservation programs.

The Trust Fund will be funded by an \$18 annual State Park Access Pass surcharge on all California cars, motorcycles and recreational vehicles. Larger commercial vehicles, mobile homes, and permanent trailers would be exempt.

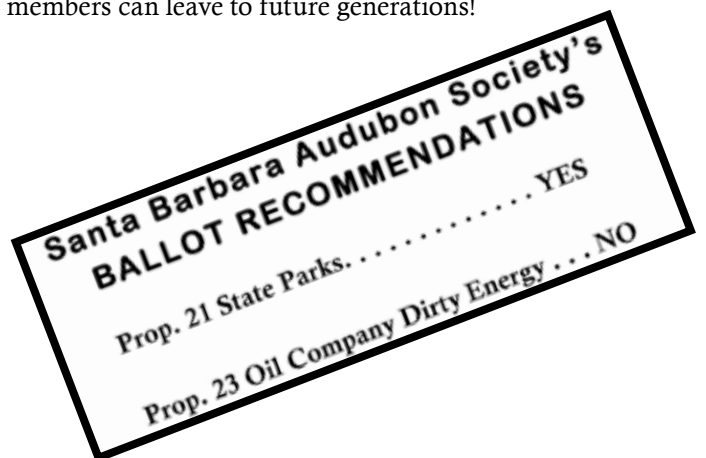
Vehicles subject to the surcharge and all occupants of those vehicles will have free day use of all state parks throughout the year.

Trust Fund revenues would amount to approximately \$500 million each year. Eighty five percent would be allocated to state parks and 15 percent to other state wildlife and ocean protection agencies.

With a new dedicated revenue stream in place, approximately \$130 million of General Fund dollars that now provide a portion of overall state parks funding would be available for other vital needs, like schools, health care, social services, or public safety.

The Trust Fund would be subject to an independent audit by the State Auditor, and a Citizens' Oversight Committee would be created to ensure funds are spent appropriately.

Vote for Prop. 21 in November to save our state parks! Passage would be a conservation legacy that all Audubon members can leave to future generations!



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.

Bats—What Hollywood Doesn't Want You to Know

Mary Wenzel

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Bats by popular demand! By day Mary Wenzel is a programmer at UCSB, but by night she is a bat aficionado. Mary has had a lifelong fascination with all animals and a special interest in bats ever since encountering spectacled flying foxes on a bird-watching trip to Queensland, Australia. Mary has been taking bat classes, going on bat vacations, and caring for local injured and orphaned bats with the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network since 1998. She will share with us pictures and video of bats from around the world to introduce us to these intriguing animals.



Alexander Wilson: Father of American Ornithology

Linda Miller

Curator, John & Peggy Maximus Gallery
Wednesday, December 1, 2010

I am a volunteer in the cause of natural history impelled by nobler views than those of money.

-Alexander Wilson, 1809

Before Audubon, there was Wilson. Learn about the origins of ornithology in America. In Alexander Wilson's short and intensely productive life, he recorded, through drawings, prose, and poetry, his impressions of America's birds. His great work, *American Ornithology*, was published in nine volumes, from 1808-1814, and was a landmark work of early American natural history. He described most of the bird species found in the United States two hundred years ago with detailed field observations and charming illustration.

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 or jacksanford@hotmail.com for details or questions.*

Devereux Slough
UCSB West Campus, Goleta
Saturday, October 23, 2010
8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Target Birds: Shorebirds, water birds and wintering songbirds.

Trip Leader: Robert Lindsay, 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 Colegio 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, by the pond below the storage tanks, around the top and east side of the slough, and back to the cars.



Franklin's Gull

Las Cruzitas Ranch
near Santa Ynez
Saturday November 6, 2010
9 a.m.-1 or 2 p.m.
(7:45 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: \$8.00 gas money to car pool drivers

Directions: Car pooling is recommended as parking is limited. We will meet at the Five Points Shopping Center (Carl's Jr) at 7:45 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 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 and a snack and/or lunch.

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!

Aaron Lieberman
 Amanda McConnell
 Angela Stevens
 Barbara Briggs-Anderson
 Barbara Hoffman
 Billye Viole
 Christina M. Bocek
 Debra Rodgers
 Eleanor Paulazzo
 Gayle H. Labrana
 Gwen Rigby
 Jan Matthews
 Jan Oldham

Jane Bianchin
 Jean Toepfer
 Jessie Wayne
 Jill Miller
 Jim Firth
 Mr. John Morelli
 John Scott
 Joseph & Ruth Duwell
 Joye Lytel
 Judi Doernberg
 Kenneth Blake
 Lynne Borderre
 Margaret Meinhardt

Maurya Murphy
 Patricia M. Swanson
 Paul F. Smith
 Peter Hasler
 Renee Worthington
 Richard Davies
 Richard Haggard
 Robert Schwarz
 Ross Payson
 Sally Johnson
 Sherry L. Baker
 Stephen Holland
 Susan D'Arbanville

Susan Dempsay
 Susanne Tobey
 Tara Brown
 Wendy Holtzman
 Zoe Stevens
 Kenneth Hartoch*
 Margaret Sherriffs*
 Richard Kentro*

* Chapter Only Members

Friday Bird Walks

Join us on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 8:30-10:30 a.m., except as otherwise noted. 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

Oct. 8

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

Oct. 22

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

Nov. 12

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

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.

Winchester Canyon

Nov. 26

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 on your left.

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**.

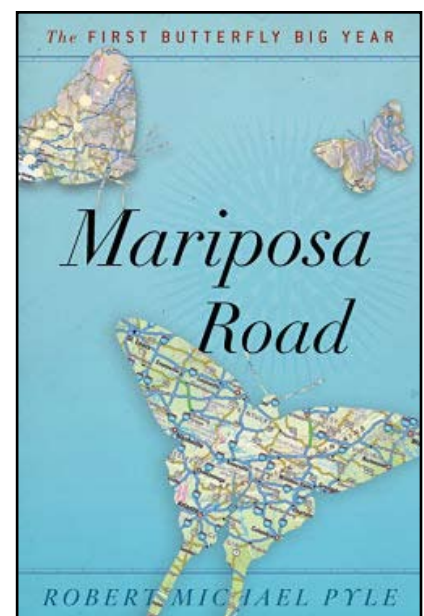
An Evening with Robert Michael Pyle. November 13, 7p.m.

Santa Barbara Entomologists announce a talk and book signing of *Mariposa Road* by Robert Michael Pyle at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

Mariposa Road: The First Butterfly Big Year is part road-trip tale, part travelogue of lost and found landscapes, all good-natured natural history, *Mariposa Road* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 9/27/10) tracks Bob Pyle's journey across the United States as he races against the calendar in his search for as many of the 800 American butterflies as he can find.

Saturday, November 13, 2010, 7:00 p.m. \$5.00 per person admission, advance seating reservation or purchase at the door.

For more information or to make a reservation please call the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden at 805 682-4726 ext. 102.



OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Habitat Restoration

*Audubon helps recruit volunteers for habitat restoration at the Coal Oil Point Reserve, the Arroyo Hondo Preserve and Lake Los Carneros. 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** at longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 252-4903. or **Darlene Chirman** at President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or 692-2008. For Lake Los Carneros contact **Julie Kummel**, 805-403-3203*

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Jane Murray**

Sunday October	3	9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sunday November	7	9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Tara Longwell**

Saturday October	23	9 a.m.-12 noon
Saturday November	13	9 a.m.-12 noon.

LAKE LOS CARNEROS

Contact: **Julie Kummel**

Saturday October	23	9 a.m.-12 noon
Saturday November	27	9 a.m.-12 noon

Plover Project Docent Training

Training takes place at Coal Oil Point Reserve

Training:

October	23
November	13

Training Schedule: . . 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with lunch

Those interested should call for more information at
(805) 893 3703

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.

Audubon Society Membership Application



Local Chapter-only Membership

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*
- * Member applications received between:
 - January and June will renew 6/30 of the following year.
 - July and December will renew 12/31 of the following year.

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



National and Local Membership

Santa Barbara Code: COZC130Z

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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

My special interests: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

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

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 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
 Goleta, CA 93117

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 (805) 964-1468, Info@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
<http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org>

OFFICERS

President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008	President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	964-1468	VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Secretary	Liz Muraoka	743-3314	Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Secretary	Lisa Ostendorf	683-1225	Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Treasurer	Bobbie Offen	220-6522	Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips	Jack Sanford	566-2191	FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Programs	Elliot Chasin	253-2473	Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Conservation	Steve Ferry	967-5162	Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Education	Ann Steinmetz	680-2638	Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Science	Niels Johnson-Lameijer	617-3513	Science@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Membership	Julia Kosowitz	450-5392	Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Newsletter	Marlene Mills	964-8525	Newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Publicity	Adam Lewis	967-7213	Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Development	Julie Kummel	403-3203	Development-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Development	Dolores Pollock	681-8661	Development-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Development	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	893-3703	Plovers@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Hospitality:	Nancy Rohrer	687-7587	Hospitality-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Science Advisor	Don Schroeder	403-2090	ScienceAdvisor@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

For Rare Bird information go to sbcbirding online directly or through the SBAS chapter website at [SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org).

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>

August

Oct.	3	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Oct.	8	Hidden Valley Park Bird Walk
Oct.	22	Rocky Nook Park Bird Walk
Oct.	23	Devereus Slough Field Trip
Oct.	23	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Oct.	23	Plover Training
Oct.	23	Restore Lake Los Carneros
Oct.	27	Program: Bats

Nov.mber

Nov.	6	Las Cruzitas Ranch Field Trip
Nov.	7	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Nov.	12	Stevens Park Bird Walk
Nov.	13	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Nov.	13	Robert Michael Pyle talk
Nov.	13	Plover Training
Nov.	26	Winchester Canyon Bird Walk
Nov.	27	Restore Lake Los Carneros

December

Dec.	1	Program: Alexander Wilson
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