

# El Tecolote



Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.  
Volume 51, Issue 1  
Aug-Sept 2012

## Audubon Expands Habitat Restoration By Darlene Chirman

The last issue of El Tecolote provided an update on the chapter’s restoration at Coal Oil Point Reserve, the Cape Ivy Removal and Coastal Poppy Enhancement Project. That project will continue for another year. However, Santa Barbara Audubon has been awarded two new grants for habitat restoration as well.

National Audubon offers several grant programs funded by Toyota. In this final year, we applied for and were awarded a “Volunteer Days” grant of \$7000, to continue the Cape Ivy eradication at Lake Los Carneros. The current project is managed by Channel Islands Restoration, and many Audubon members have volunteered to plant natives, maintain the planting sites, and remove Cape Ivy. That grant is about over and Audubon will continue the effort. We are supposed to recruit 150 new volunteers to work, in six events. We’ve scheduled a workday on United Way’s “**Day of Caring**” **September 15**. Come out and help if you like. Other workdays are not yet scheduled, so check the website or Audubon’s Facebook page, or let me know if you’d like to be notified by email.



The Wetland Recovery Project’s Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program has awarded Santa Barbara Audubon \$24,400 to eradicate the remaining iceplant on the margins of Devereux Slough, and plant natives in these sites. This project, which is a priority for Coal Oil Point Reserve, should be ready to begin tarping iceplant by fall.

If you’d like to help, or to learn more about the projects, contact **Darlene Chirman** at **President@SantaBarbara-Audubon.org** or **692-2208**.

## Santa Barbara Audubon Board of Directors 2012-2013

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**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.**

# ANNUAL MEMBER PICNIC

## JUNE 24, 2012

By Judy Hogan

At the Arroyo Hondo Preserve picnic area, in the shade of the sycamore tree canopy, 65+ members and guests enjoyed the Annual Picnic and Membership Meeting. Glendessary Jam's toe-tapping music and some easy-to-sing-along "oldies" added to the festivities. The grill masters (Sam & Bill) kept the fire going for meats and ears of corn and the many potluck vegetables, salads, entrees and desserts filled our plates. As the shade disappeared a slight breeze helped to keep us cool.

Thank you to all who participated in the raffle! Over \$3,100 was contributed toward Aviary repairs. John Vallee won the one week stay at a private Oregon cabin (donated by Julie and Marc Kummel) and Margo Kenney won the case of wine (donated by Los Cinco Locos).

During the brief Annual Meeting, President Darlene Chirman thanked the Board members who are "retiring" (Adam Lewis, Marlene Mills, Sean Herron) and the slate of Board candidates for this next fiscal year were introduced and elected by vote of the SBAS membership present. Darlene also recognized the many volunteers who have collectively contributed over 10,000 hours of service this year on committees (Field Trips, Programs, Conservation, Education, Science, Membership, Newsletter, Publicity, Development) and participation in SBAS' projects (Snowy plover, White-tailed kite, Eyes in the Sky) on behalf of SBAS' mission to connect people with birds and nature through education, science-based projects and advocacy.

As tables were being cleared and dishes washed, Don Schroeder, Ph.D.-Ornithology, SBAS Science Advisor, graciously allowed us to watch as he banded, weighed and recorded data on three baby Black phoebe chicks before they fledge. Don has for many years been involved in field studies of several bird species and was deluged with questions from the captivated audience. What a treat to have watched Don at work and know these fluffy chicks will be contributing data to benefit the next generation of Black phoebe.

This next year is our 50th Anniversary Year. We hope all SBAS members will participate in the special celebratory events (to be announced later this year) and, in the interim, that we will see you at one of SBAS' regular events and programs.



Dozens of Audubon members and friends enjoy the annual Picnic at Arroyo Hondo on the Gaviota Coast.



Up: Hand of Science Advisor **Don Schroeder**.  
Down: President **Darlene Chirman** as she presents awards, and acknowledges volunteers.

Photos by Liz Muroaka

# Museum Aviary Operating Again

By Lee Moldaver, VP and John O'Brien

After some sleuthing, the mystery of the Mews at the Natural History Museum has been solved, and all but one of our beloved birds are back at their new home in the Museum's Mission Canyon campus.

Turns out that the new gravel installed on top of the newly installed concrete floors had minute amounts of fine dirt and clay mixed in with it and thus was trapping moisture, and the damp environment became an unanticipated breeding area for various types of fungi. Red-tailed hawk "Ivan" and Peregrine falcon "Kisa" both began showing symptoms of illness. Unfortunately, one serious form of illness, Aspergillosis, is a fungus-caused illness that captive birds are very vulnerable to. It shows no symptoms until it has progressed, so all birds were moved while a remedy to the situation was put into action:

Half of the gravel was removed and the remainder washed to remove all dirt and clay, then bleached and rinsed with clean water, and left to dry out for several days before the birds were returned. To prevent any further fungus growth, new aviary cleaning protocols were also put into place.

Ivan, our oldest bird, remains under observation a bit longer, as he was the first to show symptoms.

Audubon offers its appreciation to everyone involved in diagnosing the situation and helping fund the corrective measures. A special thanks to Lalo Mora and Enviroscaping for donating labor to the cleaning project, and keeping our special partnership between EITS and the Museum healthy and thriving.



By Liz Muroaka

Did you know that Santa Barbara Audubon Society is on Facebook? Please **LIKE** our page to be in the loop with announcements and invitations to programs, field trips, bird walks, and other special events. We also welcome you to share your bird photos, questions, and comments. If you wish to learn more about our conservation and preservation projects check out our Facebook page and website.

For those of you who are not yet members of Facebook, it is free to sign up at [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com) to step into the world of social networking where connecting with friends and relatives is easily done by becoming their Facebook "friend."



## Lend a Hand, Build a Community!

On Saturday, September 15, 2012, United Way of Santa Barbara County will hold its 21st Annual Day of Caring. This volunteer event kicks-off United Way's Community Campaign that raises pledges to support a local network of health, human, and community building services. At 8 a.m. volunteers gather at the Ben Page Youth Center and enjoy a breakfast and a kick-off rally. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. volunteers help local non-profit agencies with "hands-on" work assignments. Projects varied between landscape work, planting, painting, habitat restoration and office work. The work that was done in just four hours is equal to more than \$275,000 worth of improvements to the Santa Barbara Community!

## September 15

Channel Islands Restoration and Audubon will be working together to restore Lake Los Carneros.

For information contact Channel Islands Restoration Volunteer Coordinator Dee Hamby at [volunteer@cirweb.org](mailto:volunteer@cirweb.org)

El Tecolote is a free publication published 6 times a year by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., 5679 Hollister Ave. Ste 5B Goleta Ca 93117

Members are invited to send announcements, letters, articles, photos and drawings for consideration to:  
SBAS, Laura Domingo Newsletter Chair  
5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B  
Goleta, CA 93117  
or email: [newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org)  
Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

# Santa Barbara Audubon Programs

On **Wednesday, September 26**, at 7:30pm in the **Museum of Natural History's Farrand Hall, Michelle Berman**, associate curator of vertebrate zoology, will be giving a presentation about the plight of **cetaceans** (whales and dolphins) of Santa Barbara County. . Please come and join us as we explore the lives of whales, dolphins, and porpoises inhabiting our waters and dive into their biology and behavior.



Photo by Callie Bowdish

Photo Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Michelle is the Assistant Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. She received her B.S. from Colorado State University where she first gained marine mammal experience during a summer internship at Moss Landing Marine Laboratory in Monterey Bay, California. She completed her Masters work studying lipid metabolism in fasting Steller sea lions at the University of Central Florida. She is currently the California Marine Mammal Stranding Network's central coast stranding coordinator for cetaceans. Michelle's main research interests include examining cetacean natural history and epidemiology as well as studying anatomical and physiologically adaptations to their environments. Through presentations at international scientific conferences, regional society meetings and boat-based natural history tours, Michelle has educated people from all age classes and backgrounds on marine mammal natural history, anatomy and physiology. In addition to coordinating the marine mammal stranding response at the museum, she curates regional mammals, marine mammals, reptiles and amphibians for the museum's research collection.

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.

# 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 [birdsandtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:birdsandtennis@hotmail.com) for details or questions.



Wrens by Kirsten Munson

## 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. [birdsandtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:birdsandtennis@hotmail.com)

## Oso Flaco Lake



Wrens by Kirsten Munson

### “Lake to the Ocean”

**Saturday Aug 25, 2012 (7 am car pool time) 9am-11:30 am**

Target Birds: Fresh water and salt water birds plus Northern Harriers and Wrens  
Trip Leader: Jack Sanford

Cost: \$8.00 to car pool drivers + \$5 entrance fee per car or park outside the entrance.

We will be walking a leisurely 2 mile walk across the Oso Flaco Lake bridge and follow the boardwalk trail to the ocean. We will view 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 7am and car pool to the Oso Flaco Lake parking area. If you would like to meet us at the lake at 9 am 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. Turn left on Oso Flaco Road and proceed 3 miles to the parking lot. Dress in layers and bring water and a snack. Please contact Jack Sanford at 566-2191 if you have any questions.

## Rancho Guadalupe Dunes



Plover by Kirsten Munson

### “Wonder of the Sand Dunes”

**Saturday Sept 15, 2012 (7 am car pool time) 9am-11am**

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 from 9am to 11am. We will view both migratory and resident shorebirds along the beach and the Santa Maria River Estuary. Dress in layers and it is recommended that you bring water and a snack.

We will meet at the 5 Points Shopping Center (Carl's Jr) at 7 am and car pool to the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve. If you would like to meet us at the dunes at 9am, take Hwy 101 north to Hwy 166 (Main St. exit in Santa Maria) and head west towards the Guadalupe Dunes parking lot. You will cross Hwy 1 and continue on Hwy 166 for 7 additional miles. Please contact Jack Sanford at 566-2191 if you have any questions.

# Friday Bird Walks

## Lake Los Carneros Bird Walk

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**Friday August 10, 2012** (8:30am-10:30am)

Target Birds: Water birds, song birds

Directions: Take Hwy 101 and exit Los Carneros off ramp. Head towards the mountains (Stow House on the right). Turn into the driveway between the fire station and the park. We will meet in the parking lot behind the fire station.

## Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park

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**Friday August 24, 2012** (8:30-10:30)

Target Birds: Curlew, Ducks, Teals, Egrets, Godwit, Gulls, Herons, Raptores, Killdeer

Directions: If coming from the North on Hwy 101 take Linden Ave off ramp. If coming from the South on Hwy 101 take Casitas Pass Rd off ramp and turn right on Carpinteria Ave & left on Linden Av. Follow Linden Ave towards the ocean and turn right on Sandyland Rd.

Go to the end of Sandyland Road to the Nature Park Entrance and we will meet here.



Ducks by Kirsten Munson

## Toro Canyon Park

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**Friday September 14, 2012** (8:30am-10:30am)

Target Birds: Song birds, raptors

From Hwy 101 take exit #90 (Padero 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 Rd 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 end parking lot. We will meet there. We will bird the loop trail (1 mile slightly uphill) and then the park.



Peregrin Falcon by Kirsten Munson

## Honda Valley Open Space

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**Friday September 28, 2012** (8:30 - 10:30)

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. We will park on Miramonte Drive and meet just a short distance from the first driveway on your right. From there we will bird a loop trail around the open space.

Join us on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 8:30-10:30am, **except as otherwise noted**. Please call Bird Walk leader **Jack Sanford 566-2191** or email at [birdsandtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:birdsandtennis@hotmail.com) if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.

## 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!

Martha Aubin  
Nina Damast\*  
Mary & Steve Dombek  
Shirlee Flohr

Andy Lanes\*  
Karen Martin\*  
Cheri Mattucci  
Allan Scholl\*

Jeff Simeon\*  
Barbara Wagner  
Teresa Wagner  
Ruth Walton

\*Chapter Only Membership

# Opportunities

## Volunteer Habitat Restoration

### ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Sally Isaacson**  
 Sunday August 3 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 Sunday Sept. 8 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

**Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon**

Date	Restoration	Contact
August 12	COPR Trails	Tara Longwell
Sept. 15	COPR Trails	Tara Longwell

### CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION

Sept. 15 Lake Los Carneros w/ SB Audubon

Contact: Volunteer Coordinator Dee Hamby at volunteer@cirweb.org  
 Please consult their website or Sarah on restoration projects including Lake Los Carneros, San Marcos Foothills, Santa Barbara Zoo, Carpinteria Creek, Anacapa Island and others.  
 Their website is: www.cirweb.org

Audubon helps recruit volunteers for habitat restoration; come help to restore a creek or estuary while spending a morning in a beautiful bird habitat. We now have a new Audubon-managed project at Coal Oil Point Reserve as well. Contact Darlene Chirman at President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or 692-2008. Contact Coal Oil Point Reserve: Reserve Steward Tara Longwell at tara.longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 893-5092. Contact the Land Trust for Arroyo Hondo Preserve: Volunteer Coordinator Sally Isaacson at 260-2252 or volunteer@sblandtrust.org

### 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.

## Plover Project Docent Training

Training takes place at the West Campus Conference Center at Coal Oil Point Reserve, from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

### Training dates:

August ..... 11  
 Sept. .... No Training

### Training Schedule:

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

Those interested should Contact: April Price, COPR Conservation Specialist at 893-3703 or copr.conserva@lifesci.ucsb.edu

## Audubon Society Membership Application

### Option 1: Local Chapter-only Membership

- Membership is for a FAMILY!
- Memberships initially received between October 1st and March 31st: Renewals Due December 31.
- Memberships initially received between April 1st and September 31st: Renewals Due June 30.
- This is my choice of membership!
- Cost: \$25 Annually.

Make check payable to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society

### Option 2: National and Local Membership

Santa Barbara Code: C2ZC130Z

- This is my choice of membership!
- This is a Senior/Student membership.
- Please do NOT share my contact information.

**Introductory \$20, or \$15 for senior/student; \$35 annually thereafter.**

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

For more information on these options please go to our website at: www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or call (805) 964-1468

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## We have changed the layout for El Tecolote

Please let us know how you like it dropping a note on Facebook -www.Facebook.com-, send your comments to NewsLayout@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org, or calling Darlene Chirman 692-2008.

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**OFFICERS**

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Secretary	Rachel Saputo	732-673-1171	<a href="mailto:Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Treasurer	Bobbie Offen	220-6522	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>

**BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Newsletter	Laura Domingo	679-1662	<a href="mailto:NewsLayout@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">NewsLayout@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Field Trips	Jack Sanford	566-2191	<a href="mailto:FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Programs	Susan Vaughn	403-7046	<a href="mailto:Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
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Science	Andy Lanes	674-3994	<a href="mailto:Science@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Science@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
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Development	Julie Kummel	403-3203	<a href="mailto:Development-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Development-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Development	Margo Kenney	963-3011	<a href="mailto:Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Webmaster:	David Levasheff	967-8767	<a href="mailto:Webmaster@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Webmaster@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Eyes In The Sky:	Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	<a href="mailto:EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Hospitality:	Teresa Fanucchi	705-3796	<a href="mailto:Hospitality@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Hospitality@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Science Advisor	Don Schroeder	403-2090	<a href="mailto:ScienceAdvisor@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">ScienceAdvisor@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>

**Rare Birds sbcobirding** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sbcobirding>

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

August 3	Restore Arroyo Hondo
August 10	Los Carneros Bird Walk
August 12	Restore Coal Oil Point: Trails
August 24	Carpintera Nature Park
August 25	Oso Flaco Lake Field Trip
August 12	Restore Coal Oil Point: Restoration

September

Sept 8	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Sept 14	Toro Canyon Bird Walk
Sept 15	Restore Lake Los Carneros
Sept 15	Guadalupe Dunes Field Trip
Sept 26	Cetaceans Audubon Program
Sept 28	Honda Valley Bird Walk

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