

# El Tecolote



Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.  
Volume 53, Issue 1

August—September 2014

Celebrating 51 Years of  
Conservation and Advocacy!

## How Is Our Chapter Doing? by Co-Presidents Steve Ferry and Dolores Pollock

Last summer we took up our chapter's reins so capably held for 12 years by **Darlene Chirman**. We'd like to report on our busy year.

We hired a part-time book-keeper and are on the verge of hiring a part-time executive director, steps that Darlene completely endorses. With our 1200 members, numerous activities, and leadership role in local conservation, we need support. Interestingly, **Jan Hamber** who sat on our first Board 50 years ago, reports a Board member suggested the idea at that time. We believe the time has come to move our chapter to the next level.

Our educational wing, Eyes in the Sky (EITS), had a strong year. Donations increased. The first EITS Open House at the Natural History Museum was a success. We returned to underserved elementary schools with Max and our Meet Your Wild Neighbor program. Thirty-five volunteers work tirelessly to bring the joy of wild birds to young and old. **Gabriele Drozdowski** was named a 2013 Local Hero by the *Santa Barbara Independent*.

On the conservation front, our 15 member Conservation/Science Committee reviewed project after project, always advocating for birds and their habitats. Meetings with officials and letters to government entities, too numerous to count, are summarized on our website. We pushed for bird-wise decisions at Ocean Meadows Golf Course, Paradiso del Mare, Village at Los Carneros, and Cuyama Solar, among others. We continued with our Tree Swallow nest box and White-tailed Kite Monitoring programs and with restoration projects. Year-long restoration efforts by **Jan Oetinger** and her Bucket Crew at Lake Los Carneros were recognized by the City of Goleta at their Council Meeting on July 15.



*Bobbie Offen (center) honored for 14 years of service to Santa Barbara Audubon as Webmaster and Treasurer. Presented with pastel of Coal Oil Point by Chris Chapman at Bobbie's last Board meeting in June. Shown with Steve Ferry and Dolores Pollock. Photo credit: Julia Kosowitz*

On other fronts:

- We welcomed new board and chapter members and said farewell to others as they left the area or retired after years of diligent service. Of those, **Bobbie Offen**, retiring treasurer, stands out.
- With generous donations, we updated our website--visit and enjoy!
- We continued our popular birdwalks and field trips—thank you, **Jack Sanford**, and trip leaders.
- Our CBC had the highest number of participants in the nation (275) and second highest number of species (222).
- Our second Birdathon was enjoyed by 77 participants and

brought in needed funds--think about joining in the fun next April.

- Our rescued raptors welcome visitors daily at the Audubon Aviary.
- Renowned birder **Jon Dunn** visited for two days and presented an evening program.
- We're working with local government officials to protect trees and other habitat, especially for breeding birds.
- The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History continues its strong and welcoming support of SBAS.

At their annual retreat, the Audubon Board set these goals: Strengthen conservation, science, advocacy, and education; develop and recruit chapter leadership; expand fundraising to further our mission; make the work we do more visible in the community. With your help, we're making great progress!

In the coming year, look for a CBC4Kids—we're planning that now.

Thanks for all your support for Santa Barbara Audubon!

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.

# The Lake Los Carneros Bucket Brigade

by Janet Oetinger

In late winter 2013, several Audubon volunteers, working under Darlene Chirman's direction, planted two habitat restoration areas at Lake Los Carneros, at either end of the footbridge, with a variety of carefully-chosen native plants. But with very little rain that spring, the young plants seemed unlikely to survive the dry season without help. Darlene had retired and left for Portland and funding for the project had run out, so eight of us constituted ourselves as the Lake Los Carneros Bucket Brigade to try to keep the 100+ plants alive with hand-watering until fall rains came. We expected to water monthly from Aug. to September.



Nancy Tobin, Paula Phillips, Barbara Wagner, Susan Mohun, Kathi Backus, Steve Metsch and Diane Kirchner among the canyon sunflowers, clematis, Santa Barbara honeysuckle and other native plants in the restoration area. Photo: Jan Oetinger

Well, we know what happened then—or didn't happen, more accurately. With the deepening drought we have been watering (and weeding) almost monthly for more than a year now and expect to continue into this fall. Our original group of 8 is all still together, really dedicated volunteers, and have been assisted by 6 others over this unexpectedly long project.

Not all our plants have survived. Gophers certainly took a toll as did the drought. But many are still alive and some even seem to be thriving. Survivors include Santa Barbara Honeysuckle, Canyon Sunflower, elderberry, clematis, Lemonade Berry, Little-leaf Redberry, Blue-eyed Grass, Giant Wild Rye and Penstemon. We

have been delighted to find native "volunteers" also coming up, even in this most difficult year. These include Coyote Brush, California live oak, Nightshade, Ragweed, Tarplant and Telegraph weed.

Every time we go out, we are heartened and delighted by the tenacious natives. If we can just get a decent rainy season, these plants will really take off and we can do some infill planting to replace those that didn't make it. We hope these areas will give visitors some idea what Los Carneros once looked like as well as improved habitat for the birds and other native animals.

The Audubon volunteers who hatched this project were Paula Phillips and Jan Oetinger. They were joined by Barbara Wagner, Nancy

Tobin, Susan Mohun, Kathi Backus, Diane Kirchner, and Don Blackwill, and later by Steve Metsch, who made big improvements in our water delivery system. Dexter Braden and Ron Nichols also helped out, as did restoration biologists Jonathan Applebaum, and Aaron Kreisberg, and even Darlene herself. Thanks to all for true dedication and enthusiasm.

Appreciation was expressed for the Audubon Bucket Brigade team for their volunteer work at Lake Los Carneros during the July 15th meeting of the Goleta City Council.



From left: Jan Oetinger, Steve Ferry, Paula Phillips, Lee Moldaver, Steve Metsch, Mayor Michael Bennett of the Goleta City Council. Photo: Valerie Kushner



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# 2014 Annual Membership Meeting

## Stow Grove Park

By Judy Hogan

SBAS' Co-Presidents Dolores Pollock and Steve Ferry welcomed over 50 people at this fun Annual Membership Meeting and Get-Together held under the shade trees at Stow Grove Park on Saturday, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>. We were especially delighted to have Jan Hamber and Jim Mills (who were on the 1st Audubon Board 51 years ago!) in attendance along with several new members. Dolores and Steve summarized this past year's accomplishments and plans for the future before presenting the Slate of Officers who were approved by vote for the next fiscal year. While selecting from the many hors d'oeuvres and finger foods that filled one table and overflowed to a 2<sup>nd</sup> one and listening to the foot-stomping rhythms from Glendessary Jam's old-time music, many friends caught up on news, swapped stories, had some laughs, and set dates for the next birding adventure. Thank you to the volunteers who took care of the event set-up/clean-up details and to all of you who attended and made this an enjoyable time with old and new friends. Happy Birding!



Audubon Board (l to rt): Steve Ferry, Margo Kenney, Nancy Keltner, Richard Figueroa, Andy Lanes, Lee Moldaver, Steve Beal, Julia Kosowitz, Kris Mainland White, Dolores Pollock. Not pictured: Kristie Maingot, Jack Sanford



Karen Schroeder and Andy Lanes



Gabriele Drozdowski of EITS



Glendessary Jam provided music for the occasion



Steve Ferry

### Openings

#### Sign on to help our Chapter!

**Programs chair**—Schedule & host our free monthly programs at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

**Conservation chair**—lead Audubon's work to protect birds and their habitat

**Development committee**—Organize events & raise money

**Backup for webmaster**—Help maintain our website.

**Assistant Membership chair**—Help maintain our membership information.

**Layout designer for El Tecolote**

For more information contact Dolores or Steve at [President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](mailto:President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org)

**Save The Date**  
**Eyes in the Sky Annual Open House**  
**Sunday, October 19**  
**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Please join us for the Eyes in the Sky**  
**Open House at the beautiful Santa Bar-**  
**bara Museum of Natural History!**

# Santa Barbara Audubon Programs

## The Pacific Flyway: Superhighway in the Sky

Wednesday, September 24, 7:00 p.m.

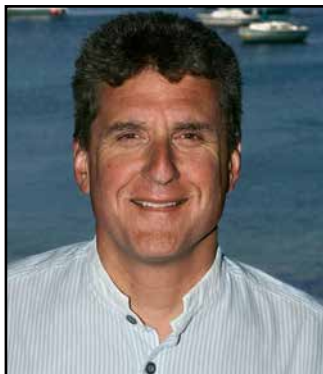
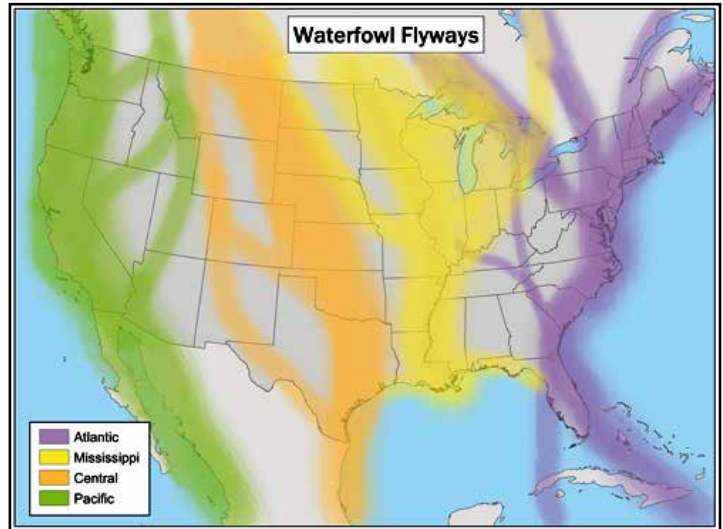
### Michael Sutton

Vice President, Pacific Flyway for National Audubon Society

Michael Sutton will present a talk on The Pacific Flyway. The Flyway is an aerial superhighway stretching nearly 10,000 miles from Alaska to Patagonia. It encompasses fewer U.S. states and more Globally-Important Bird Areas than any of the other three flyways in North America. Each year at least a billion birds of some 350 species travel the Flyway during their annual migrations, north in the spring to their nesting grounds and south in the fall to their winter homes.

But this represents only a fraction of the birds that used the Flyway a century ago. Some species, such as the Black-footed Albatross and Least Tern, are in serious trouble. Even many common birds, such as the Western Sandpiper, have become far less abundant. Habitat loss, water diversion for agriculture and development, diminishing food resources, and climate change all threaten the birds of the Flyway.

To combat this alarming trend, Audubon has been working for nearly 110 years to safeguard birds and their ecosystems in North America and beyond. Join Audubon Vice President Michael Sutton for an evening to celebrate recent victories on behalf of birds and discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead along the Pacific Flyway.



**Michael Sutton** is a social entrepreneur and conservation leader who currently serves as Vice President, Pacific Flyway with the National Audubon Society. He serves as a member of Audubon's National Leadership Team and oversees Audubon's conservation programs including a \$20 million budget and more than 100 professional staff in California, Washington, and Alaska.



*Butte Sink Wildlife Management Area in northern California provides habitat for hundreds of thousands of waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway, especially in winter.*

*Credit: Mike Peters/USFWS*

All programs will take place at Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara. Free on-site parking. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. All programs begin at 7:30 p.m. and are free to the public. SBAS members are encouraged to bring guests.



# Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

## Audubon Field Trips

Audubon Field 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.

## Oso Flaco Lake Field Trip

### “Lake to the Ocean”

**Saturday, Aug 23, 2014 (7 a.m. car pool time) 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.**

**Target Birds:** Freshwater and saltwater 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 alongside the Big 5 store at 7 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 through 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.

## Field Trips/Bird Walks Do you have an idea?

We are always looking for suggestions 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 at 805-566-2191 or [bird-sandtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:bird-sandtennis@hotmail.com)

## More Mesa Field Trip

**Saturday, Sept 20, 2014**

**8:00 a.m.- 11 a.m.**

**Target Birds:** Songbirds and Raptors

**Trip Leader:** Jack Sanford

**Directions:** Take Hwy 101 to Patterson Ave off-ramp. Go south on Patterson Avenue (towards the ocean). Cross Hollister Avenue, stay on Patterson. As the road turns left there are horse stables on the left. Just past the end of the stables there is a green gate (can be difficult to see) on the left side of the road. We will meet at the green gate. Parking is along the same side of the road as the gate.

## Meet Your New *El Tecolote* Editor



Betsy Mooney with Ivan, Red-tailed Hawk.  
Photo credit: Coni Edick.

My name is Betsy Mooney and I am your new editor. When I saw the opening for editor of *El Tecolote*, I realized I'd discovered an opportunity to combine two of my favorites—birds and words! My love of nature, especially birds, led me to be a handler for Eyes in the Sky. I've been with the program for two years and love every minute of my time with the raptors, helping to educate the public that “birds matter”.

I grew up in Pennsylvania, with a backyard and woods filled with birds and other wildlife, but have made my home in Santa Barbara since 1981. I enjoy being near the beach and mountains. My hobbies are birds, writing, photography, and reading.

For the past six years I've been tutoring writing at SBCC, and I also teach basic medical classes at our local Business College. I have a nursing degree and previously worked in the medical field.

I look forward to meeting all of you and enjoying birds walks together!

# Friday Bird Walks

## Lake Los Carneros Bird Walk

**Friday, August 8, 2014 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Waterbirds, Songbirds

**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

**Friday, August 22, 2014 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)**

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

**Directions:** If coming from the North on Hwy 101 take Linden Avenue off-ramp. If coming from the South on Hwy 101 take Casitas Pass Rd off-ramp and turn right on Carpinteria Avenue & left on Linden Avenue. Follow Linden Avenue towards the ocean and turn right on Sandyland Road. Go to the end of Sandyland Road to the Nature Park Entrance and we will meet here.

## Toro Canyon Park

**Friday, September 12, 2014 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Songbirds, 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> road on your left). Proceed on Toro Canyon Road 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.

## Honda Valley Open Space

**Friday, September 26, 2014 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)**

**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.

Please contact Bird Walk leader **Jack Sanford at 566-2191** or **birdsandtennis@hotmail.com** if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.

## Welcome

*Santa Barbara Audubon Society extends a warm welcome to our newest members. We look forward to seeing you at our programs and field trips.*

*Thanks for joining!*

Joanne Ando  
Gregory Armstrong  
Samantha Arthur  
Debra R. Brandon  
Paul Crawford  
Kathryn H. Dinkin  
Rodney Durham\*  
Christina Eliason  
Susan Ferguson  
Mrs. W. M. Holcombe  
Mark & Lisa Jones\*  
Bruce & Michelle Kendall\*  
Andrew J. Kroes  
Patricia Leads  
Melissa Lovinger Owen

Kathleen McGuinness\*  
Robert Miller  
Robin Montz  
Gail Pine & William Spencer\*  
Barbara Simon  
Denise Stevens  
Cynthia Stoddard  
Kate Thompson  
Irene Toporkov  
Cherie Topper\*  
Jennifer Van Walden  
Leah Walls  
Ted Waniuk

\*Chapter-only Member



**Condor Kiosk - Jan Hamber** tells us there's now a Kiosk on Hudson Ranch Road next to the Bitter Creek Refuge sign--check there for updates on the wild condor population and maybe even see a free-flying condor. Visit the Friends of Condor website: <http://www.friendsofcondors.org> for more information.

# Volunteer Opportunities

## ARROYO HONDO PRESERVE

Contact: **Sally Isaacson** at 260-2252 or  
volunteer@sblandtrust.org

Habitat Restoration

Sunday Aug. 2 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Sunday Sept. 6 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Trail Maintenance

Saturday Aug. 16 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Saturday Sept. 20 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

For COPR Trails Restoration contact:

**Tara Longwell**, at longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 805-893-5092

For Audubon Slough Restoration contact:

**Aaron Kreisberg** at akberg90@gmail.com or 714-552-8392

Restoration projects are from 9 a.m. to Noon.

**Please contact Tara or Aaron for restoration dates in August and September.**

## CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION

San Marcos Foothills and other areas

For dates, places and more information Contact:

**Linda Benedik** Volunteer Coordinator at  
805-448-6203 or volunteer@cirweb.org

## PLOVER PROJECT DOCENT TRAINING

Training takes place at the West Campus Conference Center at Coal Oil Point Reserve

**Training dates:**

**Please contact April Price for August and September training dates**

Those interested should contact: April Price, COPR, conservation specialist at 893-3703 or copr.conservaion@lifesci.ucsb.edu

## SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON RESTORATION AT LAKE LOS CARNEROS

Audubon will host United Way Volunteers at Lake Los Carneros September 20th, other volunteers are welcome and encouraged to attend! Please contact **Aaron Kreisberg** at akberg90@gmail.com or 714-552-8392 for meeting location and time.

### 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.

## Eyes in the Sky Needs Volunteers

The location is the Audubon Aviary at the SB Museum of Natural History, a beautiful "back yard" where lots of birds flutter about.

EITS needs more volunteers to open up the aviary's shutters for our raptors so they can get visual stimulation and fresh air more hours during the day. Shifts are between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and can either be 1.5 hours or all three hours. Volunteers will also educate visitors about the birds.

EITS is also looking for afternoon volunteers to be trained to handle, care for, and present the birds to visitors. Hours are from 1:30 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. once or twice per week. We also need someone with crowd-sourcing experience to help with our first effort this Fall.



## Join Tecolote Circle And Help Insure Santa Barbara Audubon's Future

Connect our community with nature, now and for generations to come. For more information contact President@santabarbara-audubon.org

### Audubon Society Membership Application

#### Option 1: Local Chapter-only Membership

**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: C4ZC130Z

**This is my choice of membership!**

**Please do NOT share my contact information.**

**Introductory \$20** (NAS subsequent-yearly memberships are \$35/year.)

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

For more information on these options please go to our website at: [www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](http://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**

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

**OFFICERS**

Co-Presidents	Steve Ferry	967-5162	President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
	Dolores Pollock	681-8661	President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	964-1468	audubon@rain.org
Secretary	Kris Mainland White		Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Treasurer	Steve Beal	964-8503	Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

**BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Field Trips	Jack Sanford	566-2191	birdsandtennis@hotmail.com
Programs	Open Position		Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Conservation	Open Position		Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Science	Richard Figueroa	626-824-9782	Science@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Education	Andy Lanes	805-674-3994	Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Membership	Julia Kosovitz	450-5392	Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Publicity	Kristie Maingot	562-619-4633	Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Development	Open Position		
	Margo Kenney	963-3011	Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Birdathon	Gayle Hackmack		sbbirdathon@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Eyes in the Sky	Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Newsletter	Betsy Mooney		Newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Webmaster	David Levasheff	967-8767	Webmaster@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Hospitality	Teresa Fanucchi	705-3796	Hospitality@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Santa Barbara County Birding			<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sbcobirding">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sbcobirding</a>

Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month September thru Aug.. 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

Aug.	2	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Aug.	8	Bird Walk: Lake Los Carneros
Aug.	16	Arroyo Hondo Trails
Aug.	22	Bird Walk: Carpinteria Salt Marsh
Aug.	23	Field Trip: Oso Flaco Lake

### September

Sept.	6	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Sept.	12	Bird Walk: Toro Canyon Park
Sept.	20	Field Trip: More Mesa
Sept.	20	Arroyo Hondo Trails
Sept.	24	Program: The Pacific Flyway
Sept.	26	Bird Walk: Hidden Valley Open Space

### Reminder:

**No program in August  
Programs resume in September**

Printed on recycled paper.

