

# El Tecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY



May/June 1993

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## Audubon and His Friends

by Jere French

**H**AVE you ever wondered how the MacGillivray's warbler came to be so named? Or, for that matter, who MacGillivray was and how he came to merit this apparently permanent recognition?

Like Mac, most late 18th- and early 19th-century naturalists who roamed the American west in search of undiscovered (and thus unnamed) plants, insects, birds and mammals, came to adopt the polite convention of honoring one another with the common or scientific name of the thing discovered — after the precedent set by Sweden's authoritative taxonomist, Carl Linneus. There being no other regulatory bodies to prevent this activity, it now appears to us to have been a fair and lasting tribute to a colleague's achievement. It was the very least one might have come to expect, in light of all the difficulties and dangers regularly

encountered in the frontier wilderness — all done without university grants or government subsidies. As Peter Collinson once wrote upon being so anointed — by Linneus himself — with the scientific name for a wild mint, *Collinsonia*, "I have been granted a species of eternity."

In this way we have made the acquaintance of many an early biological wanderer of the California wilderness: William Hammond, Thomas Say, Thomas Nuttall, William Gambel, George Steller, William Hutton, to mention a few. Of course, not all birds, plants, insects and such were named for the deserving scientists who risked their lives among Indians and grizzlies in search of some shy songbird. Some designees probably never left the comfort of their urbane European society — as noted in names like Anna's hummingbird. Rene Lesson,

(Continued on page 4)

### May Program

Friday, May 21, 1993

Farrand Hall, SBNH Museum

7:45 p.m. Refreshments

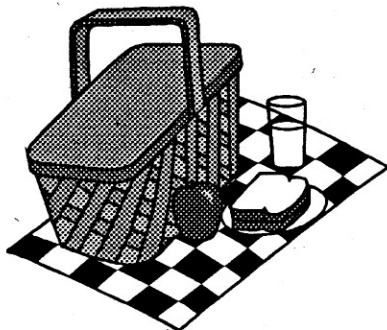
8:00 p.m. Slide Program

### "Members' Slide Show Night"

Here's your chance to share with other members those beautiful one-of-a-kind natural history slides that you have accumulated on trips to interesting places, near and far.

Sally Walker will take us to Costa Rica for some exotic bird viewing, Ron Hirst will show us birds of Germany and some good shots from Audubon's recent desert field trip, and Jim Greaves has promised slides of local rarities.

If you would like to contribute to this fun evening, give Elan Sutton a call at 683-1143 and sign up.



## Annual Picnic & Board Elections

Sunday, June 13, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join our last meeting before the summer break and celebrate with a festive barbeque lunch, games, socializing, and election of new board members for the 1993-94 year.

Marge Cappiello has arranged for us to enjoy the pretty Giorgio Park at 1027 San Marcos Road. To get there, exit Highway 101 at Turnpike Road, go north to Cathedral Oaks, then left on Cathedral Oaks to San Marcos Road, right on S.M. Rd to the park (about two blocks); look for the Audubon sign. Deadline for reservations is June 4. Please mail your reservation early, and use the coupon on page 2. Help conserve: bring your own plate, cup and flatware.

The next meeting and newsletter will be in September.

## Activities Calendar

### The Month of May: Goleta Library

The Goleta Library has reserved the lobby display case for an exhibit by the Audubon Society to run the entire month of May. Be sure to see this excellent display set up by Audubon Exhibits Coordinator **Nora Fiorella**.

### Saturday, May 8: Migratory Bird Day

Get out your binoculars and head for the hills or beach (or even your backyard bird feeder) and help count species for the North America Migratory Bird Census. For more information, call the Coordinator, **Joan Hardy** at 964-4090.

### Saturday, May 15: Birding Field Trip for Beginners

Nojoqui Falls Park near Solvang hosts a variety of birds such as yellow-billed magpies and nesting purple martins. Beginner birdwatchers are encouraged to attend; binoculars are provided. We will walk around the park, getting good views of the birds. Bring a picnic lunch. Meet leader **Ron Hirst**, Audubon Field Trip Chairman, (967-0138) at Jack-in-the-Box, corner of Storke Road and Hollister Avenue in Goleta at 8:00 a.m.

### Saturday, May 22: Santa Ynez River

This field trip will take you to some good birding spots along the lower Santa Ynez between Buellton and the ocean, including a controversial area where willow flycatchers nest. Picnic lunch at Ocean Park. Meet at Jack-in-the-Box, corner of Storke Road and Hollister Avenue in Goleta at 7:30 a.m. Return about 2:00 p.m. Leaders: **Mark Holmgren** and **Ron Hirst** (967-0138).

### Sunday, June 13: Annual Picnic

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Giorgio Park on Old San Marcos Rd.

## Conservation Notes

◆ Thank you, Jeff Harris. Jeff has retired this month after over a dozen years as the Senior Environmental Officer for Santa Barbara County. Recruited from the San Diego area by Al Reynolds, Jeff headed the D.E.R. Division of Resource Management until its elimination earlier this year, and was charged with local administration of the California Environmental Quality Act, a job he did ably. For yeoman service, Santa Barbara Audubon says Thanks.

◆ The aforementioned California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was drafted and approved by the voters nearly twenty years ago, giving us some of the finest conservation standards in the country. However, under cover of the current recession, anti-conservation forces are mounting a major effort to gut CEQA in the Legislature. Don't let it happen! Write Senator Gary Hart (1216 State Street, Santa Barbara 93101) or phone 966-1766, and Assemblyman Jack O'Connell (228 W. Carrillo, Santa Barbara 93101) or phone 966-2296 to support CEQA.

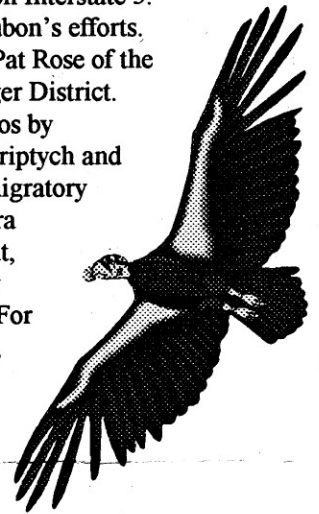
◆ Western Audubon has now sued Kern County on a CEQA issue (the San Emidio Ranch). Plans are to sidestep state law and turn verdant open space and endangered species habitat

(including that of the California condor) into an "instant city" of 60,000 people in the middle of nowhere, "Los Angelizing" the Kern County side of the Grapevine, on Interstate 5. Your chapter supports Western Audubon's efforts.

◆ Thank you, Nancy Sandburg and Pat Rose of the Los Padres National Forest, SB Ranger District. They have compiled (with great photos by Audubon's Jim Greaves) a diorama-triptych and narrated slide-show on neotropical migratory birds that spend time in Santa Barbara County, as a part of Partners in Flight, the international partnership to study and preserve migratory bird habitat. For Earth Day and our 30th Anniversary, Nancy and Pat have generously allowed us use of their materials.

◆ The News-Press' excellent article on Devereux Slough under siege reinforces the fragility of local wetlands, and the ambivalent predicament of UCSB, as both protector-custodian *and* developer. Don't be afraid to speak up for local wetlands; there's so little left, it needs our help.

— Lee Moldaver



## Annual Election Notice

At our Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic we will elect chapter board members for the 1993-94 fiscal year. At the same time, our members will vote on expansion of the Board from 11 members to 12 members to allow greater participation. Our Nominating Committee's recommended slate for Chapter Board Members for 1993-94 is:

**Jeff Chemnick, Jim Greaves, Ron Hirst, Everett King, Nancy King, Christina Lange, Dorin Mayes, Lee Moldaver, Don Rathbun, Sally Walker, David Wass, Bob Zeman.**

We will also vote for re-election of the Board Member for the Western region of National Audubon:

**George Ellman**, member of Madrone Audubon Society.

## Annual Picnic Reservation

Sunday, June 13th, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Please reserve \_\_\_\_ Tri-tips, \_\_\_\_ Vegetarian loaf  
Adults — \$7 each, Children — \$5 each  
Make check payable to:  
Santa Barbara Audubon Society.  
Mail with this coupon, before June 4, to:  
Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
5679 Hollister Ave, #5B, Goleta, CA 93117

## President's Message

Recent actions taken by your Board include a \$500 contribution to National Audubon Society toward litigation costs regarding the San Emidio Ranch Project, in order to protect a major wildlife corridor and the last remaining range for the endangered California condor.

Planning is underway for a census of our local breeding population of snowy plovers, which have just been listed as a

threatened species. Please call Ron Hirst (967-0138) if you would like to participate.

Chapter officers Lee Moldaver and Everett King traveled to Sacramento March 20 for a two-day state-wide Audubon meeting with chapter leaders, studying environmental issues and meeting with state legislators on those issues.

National Audubon Society has provided our chapter with a generous \$1,275 grant. These funds will be used to

update and publish a revised "Checklist of Birds of Santa Barbara County," which Paul Lehman and Joan Lentz are compiling, and will support our Audubon office and membership program as well.

Thanks to a generous donation from Mrs. Bruce Benedict, at our March meeting our chapter presented a much-needed spotting scope to Assistant City Parks Director Jeff Cope, for use by docents leading birding tours through the Andree Clark Bird Refuge.

Please join us on Sunday, June 13 at Giorgio Park for the annual members' picnic. This is our time to hear from you, celebrate what our chapter has accomplished this year, and enjoy the company of good people and old friends. Bring your family and come out for a fun time.

— Sally Walker

## An Enchanted Evening

The glow still lingers of celebrating our chapter's 30th Anniversary at the Wine Cask Restaurant on April 14. With luminaries like Peter Berle and John Borneman on hand to help us celebrate, the evening was a special time to reflect and recognize thirty years of volunteer leadership and conservation achievement.

We want to thank our members and many area friends for a generation of caring and sharing. Special kudos go to the outstanding Dinner Committee: Nancy King, Tomi Sollen, Lee Moldaver, Dorin Mayes and Don Rathbun, led by chair David Wass. Over the last several months they meticulously planned and executed every detail to make this evening special and memorial.

Thanks also go to: the Wine Cask for giving special consideration for refreshments at the dinner; Kinko's for expediting the printing of flyers and programs; Earthling Bookstore, Chaucer's Bookstore, and Barnes & Noble Bookstore for giving us display space in their front windows; and the Santa Barbara News-Press and The Independent for their detailed coverage of Mr. Berle's visit.

On the occasion of our 30th Anniversary, we received official congratulations from the U.S. Congress, the California Legislature, the County Board of Supervisors, and the Santa Barbara City Council. For these, we wish to thank Congressman Michael Huffington, Assemblyman Jack O'Connell, State Senator Gary Hart, Supervisors Tom Rogers and Naomi Schwartz, and Mayor Sheila Lodge.

Photos will be on display at the Audubon office, so drop by and relive the evening; you may order copies.

— Sally Walker



Peter Berle and Sally Walker present charter member award to Margaret Bolduan (left)

## Your Bequest Can Help

A bequest to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society is an excellent way to help our conservation efforts. This past year we were fortunate to receive a generous bequest from Waldo Alcott, a prominent local naturalist, of rare color slides of native plants and animals, for our public education program. A bequest from Samuel Silipo will help build our Endowment Fund to continue our local conservation and education efforts.

Although an attorney should be consulted in the drafting of your will, a model clause for bequests is set forth below:

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, a California public benefit corporation located in Santa Barbara, California, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (or set forth a description of property), to be used for the general purpose of said organization."

You may also name Santa Barbara Audubon Society to receive a percentage of your estate, or the residue of your estate after other specific bequests have been satisfied. You may also name Audubon as a contingent beneficiary, in the event that other beneficiaries predecease you.

For more information and assistance, please contact Santa Barbara Audubon Society, 5679 Hollister Avenue, #5B, Goleta, CA 93117, (964-1468).



**Audubon** (Continued from page 1)

the French hummingbird authority who named the Anna's for the Duchess of Rivoli in 1829, also named the blue-throated hummer for his wife, Clemence, *Lampornis Clemenciae*.

And some others, perhaps more deserving, have been honored repeatedly. Nuttall has two birds and two native California trees. Alexander Wilson — Audubon's predecessor in the bird illustration business — gets three birds and a genus for warblers (*Wilsonia*), and John Cassin, two birds and a magazine (*Cassinia*). And so we might logically conclude that the LeConte's thrasher and the LeConte's sparrow honor the same scientist — Dr. John LeConte. Only trouble is there were two Dr. John LeContes. The first (1818–1891) was a medical doctor from Georgia who operated a gunpowder factory during the Civil War and later emigrated to California where he taught science at the new university in Berkeley. He was its president in 1878–81. The sparrow is named for him.

His first cousin, Dr. John LeConte of Philadelphia — a friend of Audubon in 1825–83 — also a medical doctor, is recognized as America's foremost entomologist of the 19th century and president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The thrush is his.

But we're not finished with the LeConte family yet. John's brother — and John's cousin Joseph — was also a famous LeConte doctor, and is considered

to have been our first academically qualified zoologist, having given up a medical practice to study with Louis Agassiz at Harvard. After the Civil War, Joseph came to Berkeley with his brother (John, remember) to teach physics, chemistry and such, and also was made president for a short time in 1869.

Confused? So are the biographers who mix up all three LeContes in the several sources checked. It is apparent, however, that Joseph was to become the greatest naturalist of the clan. He made many treks across the uncharted Sierra Nevada in preference to dull classroom work, commenting in his journal on all the interesting things he encountered along the trail, before John Muir's arrival there. Through his many accounts he has left us with a precise record of the California mountain wilderness of his time. Oddly, no birds were named for him. It seems a shame.

A French tennis star, Henri LeConte, is not related, although he is often referred to as a veritable hawk at the net.

And William MacGillivray? He was a close associate of J.J. Audubon and helped to prepare the famous folio of American birds for publication in Great Britain. Audubon's thanks came, as we might expect, in the form of a name for a brilliantly feathered, elusive western warbler.

(Reprinted from *Chaparral Naturalist*, Pomona Valley Audubon Chapter, March 1993.)

**SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY****OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

President: Sally C. Walker .....	569-5388
Vice President: Lee Moldaver .....	682-2120
Secretary: Everett King .....	962-0883
Treasurer: Ben Berkowitz .....	687-6122
At-Large: Jim Greaves .....	682-4638
Conservation: Lee Moldaver .....	682-2120
Education: Don Rathbun .....	964-5521
Programs: Elan Sutton .....	683-1143
Field Trips: Ron Hirst .....	967-0138
Membership: Nancy King .....	964-4741
Hospitality: David Wass .....	682-6962
Publicity: Betty Bazzi .....	967-5200
Bird Refuge Census: Helen Matelson .....	966-3217
Rare Bird Reporter: Karen Bridgers .....	964-1316

Rare Bird Alert .....	(805) 964-8240
SBAS Office .....	(805) 964-1468

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday .....	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday .....	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday .....	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday .....	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday .....	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Special new member rate .....	\$23
Individual .....	\$35

Please send new member applications and *El Tecolote* subscriptions to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society, 5679 Hollister Avenue, No. 5B, Goleta, CA 93117.

**EL TECOLOTE**

Editor: Dorin Mayes ..... 683-1079

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Goleta, CA 93117



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