

# El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.  
Volume 34 • Number 1 • September 1995

## A Saturday Morning at Ellwood Acres

“Don’t you *dare* bring any of that mud in here!” Chris yelled as she opened the door. Then she smiled.

The first thing you see is the swaying of the eucalyptus. Each branch of every tree has its own rhythm and pattern. And somehow all the different movements work, like a magnificent ballet. The leaves add accents with a palette of flutters and twists. It seems these trees’ wonderful dances are made to soothe our minds and emotions, to refresh our vision. Maybe our anxieties can be recycled into the trees...

Down on the palustrine flats where russet-hued curly dock clings doggedly against man, Allan and Annette discuss the relative merits of digging out the dock or merely clipping the seed-heavy stalks.

“Allan, you’ll take forever trying to dig out all those plants. At this rate you will have to slave out here for forty hours a week instead of three.”

“That may be true, but when I finish, those dock will be done too. Meanwhile, your job will never end, it will just keep growing back.”

The patient Annette holds her tongue, while Allan continues his monologue on the latest techniques for removing dock. She saves her energy for work, at which she is amazingly efficient, despite her fragile build.

On the north bank, Brenton, with Iris riding high in a carrier on his back, explains his plan for bringing in native plants propagated from local gene pools and placing them where their forebears once grew before driven out or choked by renegade aliens. “Where we are standing is perfect for blue-eyed grass and purple needle grass. And maybe some coastal sagebrush. Up in the eucalyptus grove behind we can start some lemonade berry and perhaps poison oak...”

“What do we need poison oak for!?” Dave exclaimed in horror, “we have enough problems already.”

“Well, you can’t beat it for keeping kids out. Besides, it’s gorgeous in fall.”

“Brenton, you have a twisted mind, but do make a lot of sense - sometimes.”

Brenton chuckled and continued his tour. “If you look down there where all the dock has been removed, you can see the frankenia is starting to flourish and the juncus is coming back. The tules in the middle look healthy, and maybe we can transplant a few to enlarge their domain.”

Dave, trying to lay claim to some competency, blurted out, “Willows, that’s something we have enough of!”

Brenton was kind as usual. “Yes, after we put in a few hundred more, you may be right.”

Chastened, Dave accepted his fate and decided to remain quiet and listen more. That is hard for him.

“On the south side of the line of willows over there is a good spot for some cottonwoods, and maybe five or six sycamores. And up there on the side of that slope over there is a great location for oaks.” Dave had to admit that Brenton had the feeling and the touch. This silence was paying off!

Iris began to stir and give directions to her father about her needs. Like the good papa he is, he waved goodbye to Dave and headed up the bank and through the grove to his apartment on top of the hill.

Catherine saw Dave approaching. She was working alone this morning because she could get more done when she didn’t have to jabber. She had prepared a special breakfast that morning for everybody - blueberry pancakes, fruit compote, sourdough toast, and hot coffee. Every plate was cleaned, and conversation was as bright and hearty as the morning sun. That made her feel alive. Good way to start a day, or morning, at Ellwood Acres, or a life.

When Dave arrived at her side, she was ready for him. She had always been quick to speak, and besides, she had good ideas.

“Dave, with planting season coming up, we could use more people, to propagate and plant and finish this weeding. Eight people just are not enough.”

Dave caught her off guard. “You know, Catherine, I think you are right, for the

(see *Wetlands* p.3)



## September Program

**Friday 29 September 1995**

[NOTE: this is the 5th Friday!]

Farrand Hall, SBMNH, \$4 admission  
7:30 pm. Refreshments  
8:00 pm. Program

### On the Field Identification of Shorebirds

Nationally known bird expert, Jon Dunn, will present slides and a workshop on the identification of shore birds. Using a slide/lecture format, he shares his knowledge of shore birds of our coast.

Jon was a major consultant in the publication of the “National Geographic Guide to the Birds of North America”. He also leads birding tours around the world, and co-authored “The Birds of Southern California”.

A former resident of Goleta and Santa Barbara, Jon is currently co-authoring a book for Houghton Mifflin on the warblers of North America, and returns for a brief stint of shore-birding. This is an ideal time to learn these birds, as many of them have been migrating south since June, some reaching a peak in October. Some rarities, like sharp-tailed and the more common pectoral sandpipers, may be seen during September and October in our remaining local wetlands and stream corridors.

Bring binoculars to appreciate feather details Jon will describe. Afterwards, meet Jon and enjoy more refreshments, and mingle with other members, old and new.

water, water everywhere but not a drop worth drinking

Western Screech Owl ©Eileen J. Gray, past President, SBAS

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

**Sept. 09** - Devereux Slough bird walk. 3 pm. at west end of Del Playa in Isla Vista. Wear junk shoes for tar! Rob Lindsay will lead this low tide trip. For rain or other info, call Rob at 964-9514.

**Sept. 11** - Adult Ed birding classes begin, each 8 sessions. Call at 687-0812 for details. Nominal fees may be charged.

**Sept. 22-24** - Western Bird Banding Assoc., Albuquerque, NM, Rio Grande Nature Center. For more information: Catherine Sandell, 8101 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM 88012.

**Sept. 23** - Tucker's Grove Park bird walk. Meet at 0730 am. at east end of parking. Bring water and snack. For info or rain cancellation, call your leader Tom Rohrer at 968-3627.

**Sept. 30, 1995** - Saturday only. SB Horticultural Society plant sale, MacKenzie Park, at State and Las Positas. A rare chance to find unusual plants from a variety of vendors. Call 965-0895 for info.

**Oct. 14** - Santa Maria River mouth shore birds. Rob Lindsay will lead this trip. **When?** See next issue for info, or call Rob at 964-9514.

**Oct. 21-22, 1995** - Central Cal. Audubon Council: **Where?** See next issue, or if impatient to know, call 916-481-5332.

**Oct. 24, 1995** - SB Botanic Garden library. Sheila Johnson's Shared Sightings, from 7:30-9:30 pm. [See details to right, or call SB Botanic Garden 563-2521]

**Oct. 28** - Lake Los Carneros fall birds. Karen Bridgers will lead trip. **When?** See next issue, or call Karen at 964-1316.

**Nov. 11-12, 1995** - Central Coast Audubon Council, hosted by La Purisima Audubon: **Where?** See next issue, or call John Ayres, President LPAS, 736-8312.

### NATIONAL AUDUBON PICKS NEW PRESIDENT

Effective July 1, John Flicker, 46, Florida State Director of the Nature Conservancy, was picked to succeed Peter Berle as President of National Audubon. We wish them both well in their new assignments.

### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE MOVES IN VENTURA

The Ventura U. S. Fish and Wildlife office has moved. It is now at: 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003; phone is a local call: 805-644-1766 (fax 1-805-644-3958).

### LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST - PRIVATIZED?

Local recreation spots at Figueroa Mt. and along Paradise Road will be turned over to one or more concessionaires in the coming months. For info or a bid packet, call 683-6711. Stay tuned on this developing matter - access to the back country may be impaired by these "ideas".

All that is necessary for evil to prevail is that good people do nothing.

## PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

**Shared Sightings.** SBAS member Sheila Golburgh Johnson, with articles in The LA Herald Examiner, Child Life, Bird Watcher's Digest, France Today, and The Rotarian, will celebrate the end of five years' work with the publication of her anthology containing the work of many talented Santa Barbara poets, as well as nationally known writers like Gary Snyder and Macklin Smith. No less a luminary in his own write, Roger Tory Peterson endorsed this volume, stating, "Everyone who is obsessed with birds should read these poems." Designed by local artist Katy Peake, this volume is published by Daniel & Daniel Publishers, Inc., of Santa Barbara. A publication party and reading will be held **Tuesday Oct. 24, 1995** from 7:30-9:30 pm. in the library of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. *Come celebrate!*

**FALL FIELD TRIPS:** September and October in Santa Barbara are the most exciting for fall bird watching. In those 6-8 short weeks of migration, most rare species found in the county have been sighted at one or more hot spots noted in past *ET*'s. Thus, it is important for those who love birding to "get out of the house!" If interested in or you know of other areas in which to bird, frog, snake, or any other "animal", call your board or other members, check the trip list, raise your binoculars and see!

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COUNT:** Mark your calendar and start taking notes; stock those feeders! You never know which vagrants may stay to be added to the list Dec. 30!

**BIRDING CLASSES:** SB Adult Ed, intermediate and novice; all are 8 sessions, start week of Sept. 11. Call **Adult Ed. 687-0812**, Fred Emerson (682-4726), Joan Lentz (969-4397) or Mark Holmgren (893-4098) for details. Nominal fees charged.

**PHOTO NEEDS:** The Education Committee seeks quality "rejects" or other original wildlife slides for the program file. Donations are tax deductible until flat tax rules take effect! Call the office at 964-1468 if you have any to give, or know of sources willing to donate to our efforts. Thanks.

*click - whir - click - whir - click - whir - click - beep-beep-beep*

### WHO TO CALL AND WRITE

White House, The Honorable President William Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20500; or call comment line 202-456-1414, or send fax 202-456-2461.

Senate, The Hon. Barbara Boxer (202-224-3553) or Dianne Feinstein (202-224-3841), US Senate, Wash., DC 20510.

House of Reps, The Hon. Andrea Seastrand, US House of Representatives, Wash., DC 20515, or call 202-225-3601.

State Senate, The Hon. Jack O'Connell, 228 W. Carrillo, Suite F, Santa Barbara, CA 93101; call 966-2296 (fax 966-3707) - they will fax letters or local faxes to the capitol office number, or call him at 916-445-5405.

State Assembly, The Hon. Brooks Firestone, POB 2698, Santa Barbara, CA 93120, or call 965-1994 (fax 965-2046). Capitol no's are 916-445-8292 (fax 916-327-3518).

## "FEEDBACK" - THE READERS' WRITE COLUMN

"The meek shall inherit the earth, but not its mineral rights."  
- J. Paul Getty

Beginning with the next issue (October), we will publish letters from members on environmental matters (or copies of letters that members sent to politicians or newspapers). Please send short messages to: Jim Greaves, ET Editor, POB 2036, Goleta, CA 93118-2036. You *must* be heard!!

Seize the day, and all that.

## EDITOR'S MESSAGES

**DORIN MAYES** - For the past several years, Dorin has brought you news of the chapter. Last year, he chose to step down. His efforts were a boon to the society, and he will be sorely missed! This past summer, he broke a leg impairing his ability to walk for the entire summer, and he still requires many months of therapy to heal. We wish you the best and a rapid recovery. The birds are waiting!

**DEFINING PRINCIPLES** - wild life communities, ecosystems, habitats, niches, and fish-and-game... The first battles for our non-game wildlife may have been lost, long ago, when hunters and gatherers decided what parts of nature were of value and which were expendable. Misinterpretation of religious precepts is the basis upon which most people find the proof for the stupid things they do. No religion advocates the total slaughter of any species or the habitats upon which it depends. Most of our own benighted settlers only wanted the grizzlies and wolves "gone" from *their* midst - though there still are those hell-bent to see that none survives...

**GOVERNMENT NON-SOLUTIONS TO DISASTERS** - We are only one of many environmental organizations concerned about - in love with - the many wildlings that surround us. *They rely on us for protection.* We should do more than factor in only "the stupid economy". That is no solution to the daily assaults that destroy weak creatures and their flimsy homes - wrought invariably by monstrous "pans", skip-loaders and "cats". If Clinton wants to "end welfare as we know it", *get business out of the trough!* The final days of *this* battle are in full swing. Urge all politicians to take the side of life and oppose bad laws, and stop the greedy efforts that destroy *our* water, *our* air and *our* wildlife. No matter what the cost to capitalism, or the next elections, **write now IS the time!**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES** - Three decades ago, Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" warned of DDT's effects on wildlife. Her purpose was two-fold: inform us of damage we inflicted on hapless creatures, and warn us not to do the same to ourselves. Today we are met again with those issues as the power-mongers, Congress, the White House and Gov. Wilson argue over silly semantics. The bottom line for all *should* be: all people and animals - *all life in fact* - requires water and air to survive. Dirty, poison, or degrade those elements, and so will be your life. It is that simple. Please write Congresswoman Seastrand (previous page for Washington address, or call 202-225-3121); call the Governor (916-445-4633); tell them *even Republicans breathe air and drink water.* Ask if they *really* believe the cumulative effect of 100's of *new* poisons is "better" than DDT, or that degrading habitats for man and beast is a "good" thing to encourage. Remind them that many of us environmentalists are Republicans too! - Jim Greaves

## PRESIDENT AND EDITOR'S PLEA

The Honorable **Brooks Firestone**, sitting on the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee, is *the* key vote on whether or not the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (**mandated by a vote of the people**) will continue to guide state and local management of our threatened and dwindling natural resources. **Phone and fax him**, urging him to **vote NO on SB-1180**, an odious reform bill that would gut state environmental laws protecting fish and wildlife and *their* dwindling habitats and food from being further ravaged by human populations and developments. Mr. Firestone's Santa Barbara number is: **805-965-1994** (fax 965-2046); Capitol number is: **916-445-8292** (fax 916-327-3518).

**CALL OR FAX YOUR COMMENTS TODAY!**

**BIRDS' NOTES:** The first modern record of breeding wood duck on the South Coast was at Lake Los Carneros in July, a female and 6 chicks. Northern parula again at Nojoqui, but breeding was not confirmed. A singing black-throated green warbler, Barka Slough in May; rufous-necked stint, Santa Maria River mouth in July; the usual willow flycatchers at Buellton to Surf. Hutton's, warbling, solitary, and least Bell's vireos were east of Gibraltar Reservoir. Santa Clara River least vireo population expanded, and male with young at Ventura River mouth in July was new coastal breeding location. Yellow warblers and warbling vireos re-populated Paradise Road from Red Rock to White Rock. Cowbird control works! Phainopepla were everywhere in June, raising young in Upper Oso Camp in July. Vermilion flycatcher pair was at New Cuyama, behind the fire station. Third summer for male indigo bunting at N. VAFB. A chestnut-sided warbler and an American redstart were along the South Coast in June. Out of range sightings of condors were unconfirmed - any photos?

click - whir - click - whir - click - whir - click - beep-beep-beep

Have you read *Deep Ecology for the 21st Century*? Edited by George Sessions, it is on sale at Crown. To be reviewed in October ET.

(Wetlands, continued from p.1)

first time [it was more like the fiftieth!]. We could easily use a dozen more. But how do we find people who would enjoy spending three to four hours on a Saturday morning working hard restoring a beat-up wetland? Isn't that asking too much of people who have better things to do - like watching TV, or lying around on the beach or getting their mileage on the freeways?"

The sage in Catherine cajoled her petulant friend. "You know, you've done a good job so far, Dave, but maybe you need to be more imaginative in your outreach. Isn't there some way you could give them a feel of what it is like out here, how it smells, what your dream is? Gosh, you could talk about eucalyptus and how wonderful it is to watch them when the wind is blowing. Did you ever think of that?"

For the second time today, Dave was shocked into silence. A very unusual experience! Finally, he stammered. "I didn't know anybody else thought about eucalyptus as other than a giant weed. You are *amazing!*"

Catherine pressed her advantage. "You are amazing too, Dave.

(see Wetlands, p.4)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's funny, but since our chapter takes a summer hiatus, we get back to work *right after* Labor Day. With the addition of 5 outstanding new Board members, that work will be fairly easy: Lauren de Chant, Jim Greaves, Paul Keller, Rob Lindsay and Jodi Rosenthal. The word "new" is metaphoric since Rob was a past President and Jim served twice before. Many of you know Paul (Field Trips) from general meetings and field trips. Readers of *ET* know Lauren came from New York to manager NAS' compost and recycling project, and like many before, fell in love with the place and moved here! Some of you met Jodi at our Holiday Bird Count potluck, or know her from her work at the CEC, Earth Day, or the Committee for the 25th Anniversary of the UCSB Environmental Studies Department. Welcome! The down-side to all this is the loss of other terrific people. The newsletter looks different because Dorin Mayes, who edited so well for so long decided to take a break - first from the newsletter, then his leg! Dorin's getting better, and I know the messages from members and friends have (and will) cheer him up. But we miss him! Nancy King, who offered her talents for many years, is threatening to take time off as Membership chair, but we hope that after a blissful summer, she may change her mind. Jeff Chemnick has his passport on over-drive, and is pursuing three trips. Losing Jeff is unacceptable, but he *has* promised one heck of a show - if we can pin him down long enough during his weeks in town. Observers of land-use battles in Goleta know Marie Dornan is still busy, and we wish her the best. Those who remember their first child's "terrific twos" know why Mindy Gottsegen needs more time with her son and her consulting business. We thank all those retiring souls for their unique contributions and willingness to serve in these tough economic times. Good luck to all!

- Lee Moldaver

(Wetlands, continued from p.3)

Just tell them about all its ordinariness and all its wonder. To paraphrase an old friend, 'those who have ears will hear'."

Chris watched the workers straggle up the hill with shovels, and clippers, and barrels of cuttings. She had prepared tea and coffee and the table was set with crackers, cakes and fruit. She always slept late on Saturday, but got up in time to prepare refreshments for weary wetlanders after their morning labors. She stood at her view window and looked out at the grove of trees. The sun had finally burned the fog away. The eucalyptus were sparkling in the noonday brightness. The seductive swaying was a potion, and, smiling to herself, Chris slipped into a reverie.

Oaks marched across the distant hillside bordering the wetland. Globelike sycamore trees and towering cottonwoods stood regally on banks of a stream that emptied into lush tules and rushes. Elderberry, toyon and lemonade berry blossomed vigorously amongst the oaks. On the east bank was a field sparkling with purple needle grass and dotted with blue-eyed grass. An egret lifted from the far end of the wetland, stroked through the air, wings arching - then suddenly fluttered to land among the tules.

The first arrival's foot clumped loudly on the bottom stair. Other dreamers were here. Chris opened the door and called, "Don't you dare bring any of that mud in here on your shoes!" Then she smiled.

- Dave Wass

To help with SBAS' wetland restoration project, call Dave at 682-6962. Be there!

See award-winning "Environmentally Yours", KCTV, Cox Cable 17, every other Thursday, 5:30-6:00 pm. **NEW** schedules begin September 11. Produced by Dave Wass, a crew of dedicated volunteers, and directed by Liz Burke, it's **MAR-R-velous!**

Call KCTV at 963-3893 for exact dates

## SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President: Lee Moldaver	682-2120
Vice President: Sally Walker	569-5388
Secretary: (open)	
Treasurer: Bob Zeman	964-5731
At-large: Rob Lindsay	964-9514
Ron Hirst	967-0138
Jodi Rosenthal	898-0722
Lauren de Chant	566-9314
Joyce Pettersen	967-2741
Conservation: Dave Wass	682-6962
Education: Don Rathbun	964-5521
Programs: (open)	
Field Trips: Paul Keller	968-7804
Membership: Nancy King	964-4741
Hospitality: (open)	
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

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon., Tue., Thurs.	11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesday	11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Friday	11:00 am to 2:00 pm
SBAS Office Phone number	805-964-1468

### MEMBERSHIP

Special New member rate	\$20
Individual renewing	\$35

Please send *only* new member applications and *El Tecolote* subscriptions to the office at: 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite B, Goleta, CA 93117.

### El Tecolote

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### RARE BIRD ALERTS

Los Angeles	1-213-874-1318
Monterey Bay	1-408-375-9122
Northern California	1-415-528-0288
N. California	1-415-524-5592
Morro Bay	1-415-528-7128
Orange County	1-714-563-6516
Sacramento	1-916-481-0118
San Bernardino	1-714-793-5599
San Diego	1-619-435-6761
San Francisco	1-415-528-0288
S. Sierra/San Joaquin	1-209-782-1237

Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

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