

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 34 • Number 2 • October 1995

Gleanings from here and there

Ellwood Acres wetland

Join Dave Wass et. al. Saturdays. Meet south end Ellwood Beach Dr., northeast of Ellwood Mesa, west of Ocean Meadows Golf Course. Help restore native plants to one small patch of Earth - see last *ET*, or call Dave at 682-6962.

Carneros wetlands

Efforts of the crew of Ellwood Acres is in stark contrast to that shown by owners of the former Carneros Wetlands. Long an item of dispute because of its 10± acres of *Salicornia* wetlands and willow thicket (the last remaining arm of Goleta Slough north of Hollister), the owner kept two non-native palms, reminder of 1 person's power. The thicket that covered the site was among the largest (if not the largest) on the coastal plain from Gaviota to the Ventura River. So, local habitat islands continue to shrink, spaced farther apart than our precious malls. Because of the low seasonal rainfall, and due to traffic on 101 and Hollister, for our relatively sedate native herpetofauna (lizards, frogs, snakes, turtles), such barriers might as well be galaxies apart!

Where once there stood

Where once there stood
perhaps a dozen stands,
the field now is plowed
and furrowed bare,
and only one of a dozen thousands,
still is there;
one thistle in the fence's shadow
thwarts the plan.

Being planted
just inside the fence's line,
it warns
where one may safely hide
a thousand more
may march in surging tide
where before
there had been but little sign.

© Violet Gray

Pins of Praise for Politicians

Barbara Boxer, at a recent local function, donned SBAS' new pin - after which she wore it everywhere that day! Call SBAS' office to find out how to get your very own pin! Take time to thank politicians who do the *right* thing for the environment! It does help to keep them aware of your views! *Remember* - representatives *need* to hear from every one, simply to let them know we exist or have concerns. You'd be surprised at how little it takes to change a vote! As per...

Brooks Firestone stood up to the anachronism of his party to courageously vote for wildlife, voted for OUR laws, and against those who would eviscerate the California environment. His was the vote in committee that killed unnecessary and reckless reforms of CEQA! Kudos to the man! Thank you Mr. Firestone! *Page 3 for addresses and phone numbers for those who wish to write to thank him!*

OPEN SPACES IN OUR OFFICE WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Desperately, we need five people to answer phones and questions, sort mail and help keep the office tidy! Please help; get involved in our daily routine! For hours of operation, see right hand column on page 4 of any *El Tecolote*!

HOSPITALITY is open! Job requires several hours per month, to ensure that friends at monthly meetings remain less hungry and are comfortable meeting new members. Someone(s) with great skills at organizing food and beverage needed!

PROGRAMS requires a little more work to make the meetings successful. Success at coordinating speakers ahead of

ET deadlines, ensuring space at the Museum of Natural History, and desire to provide interest for members' nights. Satisfaction is the pay for jobs well done!

Get to know the already-committed-to-the-cause over-achievers! Please apply! Call and WIN-WIN!



October Program

Friday 27 October 1995

[Note: this is *fourth* Friday of the month]

Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 7:30 pm. Refreshments 8:00 pm. Program starts promptly.

East Africa Journal - Kenya

Brad Schram will entertain and amuse us this month with the wisdom and wit he gained nature watching through the years. A former President of our chapter, now living in San Luis Obispo County, his travels have taken him from mundane, often exciting Death Valley spring vagrant chases, to faraway New Zealand, Irian Jaya, South America, and East Africa. Tonight, he will share his slides and memories of a 1992 jaunt to the mysterious continent nation of Kenya.



Bustard

There will be photos of mammals and birds typical of the region, interlaced among views of Kenya's engaging scenery. Come one, come all, to meet a good old friend and truly fine person, and enjoy some enchanted evening!

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ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Oct. 07, Sat. - Bay Area Audubon Council. SF Bay and Delta the theme. Call Dan Taylor 916-481-5332 for details.

Oct. 07-08, Sat.-Sun. - Last days, 1995 Kern Valley Vulture Fest. Call Kern River Research Center, 619-378-3343.

OCT. 14, SAT. 7 AM - GUADALUPE-NIPOMO DUNES PRESERVE Come to the best shore bird spot in the county at Santa Maria River mouth. Dress warmly (in layers!) - the weather may be cold! Bring lunch and water. Rob Lindsay will lead the trip. Meet at 7 am at the Jack-in-the-box on Hollister Avenue near Storke Road, or call Rob at 964-9514 for rain or weather up-date.

Oct. 20-22, 1995 - Central Cal. Audubon Council: Mariposa County. Call Bob Barnes for details 916-481-5332.

Oct. 24, 1995 - SB Botanic Garden library. Sheila Johnson's Shared Sightings book signing from 7:30-9:30 pm. Call SB Botanic Garden at 563-2521 for details.

OCT. 28, SAT., 8 AM - LAKE LOS CARNEROS fall birds. led by Karen Bridgers (964-1316). Stow House parking lot to enjoy Karen's expertise on her favorite area. If time permits, she'll lead us to more birds at **San Pedro Creek**.

NOV. 04, SAT., 6:30 AM - VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE. Meet 6:30 am, Hollister and Stork Jack-in-the-box. Opportunity of a lifetime to see inaccessible coastal and riparian areas. Call Mark Holmgren at 683-4045 to make **reservations by Oct. 31**. Bring lunch, layered warmies in case of wind/fog; trip over mid-afternoon. **I. D. required - permission to enter the base is required, so reserve your space early! No cameras or firearms. Let Mark know if you are NOT a U. S. citizen, so you can go with us!**

Nov. 04, Sat. - S. Cal. Audubon Council, hosted by Laguna Hills Audubon. Computer technology for Audubon editors, writers. Call Jill Shirley 916-481-5332 for details.

Nov. 09-12 - Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, Harlington, TX. Call Chamber of Commerce 800-531-7346.

NOV. 18, SAT. - HARBOR AND BIRD REFUGE. Call Rob Lindsay for time and details, 964-9514.

NOV. 18, SAT. - CENTRAL COAST AUDUBON COUNCIL, La Purisima Audubon, Lompoc. Ecotourism and Central Coast Birding Trail. Call John Ayres, President LPAS, 736-8312; or Bob Barnes 916-481-5332. **Note new date.**

A loving word

Take time to speak a loving word
Where loving words are seldom heard;
And it will linger in the mind,
And gather others of its kind,

Till loving words will echo where
Erstwhile the heart was poor and bare;
And somewhere on thy heavenward track
Their music will come echoing back.

- from Poems of the Heart, Richard Brooks, ed. ©1912

ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Dinner to honor:

Elizabeth Mann Bourges

President International Ocean Institute

Theodore Hesburgh

President Emeritus, University of Notre Dame

Reservations La Casa de Maria, 805-969-5031, or

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, 805-965-3443

Red Lion Inn, 03 November 1995, Admission \$75/person

Malheur National Wildlife experience: Virginia Puddicombe writes that she and husband Bob visited a Birding Elderhostel at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon this past summer. They had a marvelous experience, with "birds birds birds" every where! Sponsored by the Portland Audubon Society, they recommend this primitive experience for those birders over 60 who wish to make the 850 mile trip north of Santa Barbara. Their competent guide David Lukas would be willing to lead small groups of 8 or fewer in this or other Oregon areas. Call Virginia (969-1702) for details on the trip, or reaching Mr. Lukas.

PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

Deep Ecology for the 21st Century. Edited by George Sessions, this anthology of opinions by many influential environmental philosophers of our time, is published by Shambhala Publications, Boston, MA. "Deep ecologists" (Thomas Berry, Gary Snyder, among dozens) have their roots in Thoreau, Muir and Carson. They define our true relation to Earth: natural systems and elements have intrinsic value independent of utility to humans. I believe it was Russell Means, a Native American activist, who noted, "for the earth to live, Europe must die". By this he meant that exploitive capitalism is incompatible with the life-giving natural elements - for there to be profit, something must lose, and invariably it is Earth. For those involved in trying to live "ecologically", the political implications of deep ecology are basic. From insight into how leaders have failed to solve problems they created, to finding ways to clean up the messes of past and present "civilization", this book is a guide. Its articles will inspire both those who wish to know themselves in relation to Earth, as well as secret naturalists still hiding in closets. This book is a must read for those who want to do more than follow pied-eyed pseudo-environmental rhetoricians of failed capitalist ventures.

Flight Log, California Partners In Flight (PIF) newsletter, Spring 1995 issue was just published. Write Bob Barnes, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825, to get a copy and be added to mailing list, or call him at 916-481-5332.

La Tangara, PIF International Newsletter, a bi-monthly bilingual newsletter on international activities of PIF. Call or write Borja Mila, Redwood Sciences Lab., 1700 Bay-view Dr., Arcata, CA 95521, 707-822-3691, to receive it.

Citizen's Guide to Migratory Bird Conservation, by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in cooperation with NAS, EPA and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. \$5 buys a copy (\$2/copy in lots of 5 or more). Write CLO, 159 Sapsucker Wood Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October means Indian Summer back east, and Halloween all over. There have been several tricks, and a few treats since Audubon members came back to life this September. One treat is that our State Assemblyman, **Brooks Firestone**, cast a decisive vote to save the California Environmental Quality Act, in the face of enormous political pressure from his own party. Why not write him at POB 2698, Santa Barbara, CA 93120, and thank him for his help. And, another treat is that we made **Nancy King** re-enlist as Membership Chair for another year. A third treat is new board member **Lauren DeChant** using her New York marketing skills to take over as Publicity Chair; the trick is finding a way to thank **Betty Bazzi** for all her years of marvelous support to SB Audubon. Yet another trick was the sad news that personal duties and work compel **Joyce Pettersen** to step down as Hospitality Chair and At-large Board member. A treat was Vice-president **Sally Walker** again opening her lovely home for our annual Board and Committee orientation (so all the new people can rapidly become as stressed and confused as we veterans). A trick is that we are again short on money for the Audubon Adventures free nature readers for the schools, and we're short a couple of the signs we put up last year near Devereux Slough to protect the Snowy Plover habitat. A treat is that the signs are going back up, we're looking for more Audubon Adventures money, and **Dave Wass'** creek restoration/enhancement project is going great. A trick is that after 25 years of Earth Days, we still find our beaches and parks strewn with litter and debris; the treat is that each year so many Auduboners turn up at Coal Oil Point for the annual Coastal Clean-up Day, and 1995 was no exception. A trick is that while Brooks Firestone showed great courage saving our Environmental Act from damage in Sacramento, the 3 Musketeers of county development, Supervisors **Staffel**, **Urbanske** and **Graffy**, keep hammering away at our own CEQA guidelines, which carry out state mandates locally. A treat is that so many civic groups are starting to come forward to protest their action. Another treat is that we're following our powerhouse September **Jon Dunn** program in October, featuring **Brad Schram**, another famous SB Audubon alumnus. And on March 5, 1996, a nationally famous Arctic naturalist will be offering us a free "special program". The trick is to guarantee that each Auduboner who reads this newsletter tries to bring at least one guest to one of the lectures, so our attendance this year is a treat. One last treat this month would be the names of potential new Board members (we have a vacancy) and Office volunteers (we need several). We all send our Best Wishes to **Karl Weissman and his wife**, for her speedy recovery, and out congratulations to County super-planner **Dan Gira** (and **Victoria Greene**) on their marriage. Neotropical migrants do a lot of traveling October, so good birding, and have a Happy and Safe Halloween!

- Lee Moldaver

SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE !!

WHOM TO CALL AND WRITE

Oil/toxic Spills 800-852-7550; 1-800-69TOXIC; 1-818-551-2800; 911; 1-916-262-1816 (Sacramento Office of Emergency Services)

County Supervisors, The Honorable: Naomi Schwartz (568-2186), or Jeanne Graffy (568-2191), or William Wallace (568-2192), or Timothy Staffel (737-7700), or Tom Urbanske (346-8400), or write to: 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or call the switchboard (568-2190) for information and recording.

City Council, Santa Barbara, 564-5318 for Mayor and Members.

White House, The Hon. President Bill Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20500; or call comment line 1-202-456-1414, (fax 1-202-456-2461). Do not refer to him as "Mr. Bill..."!

Senate, The Hon. Dianne Feinstein, call 1-202-224-3841 (fax 1-202-228-3954); Hon. Barbara Boxer, call 1-202-224-3553 (fax 1-202-310-0980). Both at US Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

House of Reps, The Hon. Andrea Seastrand, US House of Representatives, Wash., DC 20515, or call 1-202-225-3601.

Governor, The Hon. Pete Wilson, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, or call 1-916-445-2843 (fax 1-916-445-4633).

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 your messages to the Capitol, or call 1-916-445-5405.

State Assembly, The Hon. Brooks Firestone, POB 2698, Santa Barbara, CA 93120, call 965-1994 (fax 965-2046). Capitol number is 1-916-445-8292 (fax 1-916-327-3518). SBAS for others!

AIDS AND THE TOBACCO SUBSIDY - Jesse Helms, a Democrat-turned-Republican, blames the AIDS epidemic on what he calls "disgusting behavior" of those who contract the disease that indiscriminately kills more people than any vector, *except* tobacco and alcohol. **Each year** the Feds spend **\$600 million** to subsidize disgusting tobacco growth - polluting our air, poisoning childrens' lives! Mr. Helms epitomizes the disgusting behavior embodied in those who bring ill-repute to our Federal government - which now garners little respect from the citizens it should protect. **It is time to end these rank, inferior, environmentally unwise subsidies** - which Helms and other venal people make a career inhaling from failed industries' tax-paid largesse. Send notes to tax collectors in Congress and the White House - ask them why this disgusting behavior is subsidized by your sweat. Also, send some dollars to the AIDS, American Lung and other associations seeking cures for these scourges. The life saved could be you. Money can't cure what ails Mr. Helms. - Jim Greaves

LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST - 683-6711

At present the Forest Service plans to "concession out" Figueroa Mountain and all areas along Paradise Road, at current intensity *only*. No plans *at present* to expand the use areas (number of camp sites, etc.). So, the relatively pristine nature of these areas *should* remain untrammelled by "highest and best use" minds. *At least for now...* The reason we bring this up is that these areas are among the heaviest used of Federal lands in our county, and yet they still provide a semblance of what native wild lands *used* to look like - before Los Angeles came to visit. **Contact the Forest Service** if you want to see them remain that way, safe, restored and managed for intrinsic, "natural values"! *Call now!*

DEVEREUX FIELD TRIP: Highlights of the day: an immature **Black tern**; the usual 4 **plover** species (50+ snowies); **23 Red-necked phalaropes**; and **NO** ducks.

WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW WHEN

- David Wass, Conservation Chair

What you're about to read is basically deceiving, fraudulent and paradoxical. I'll try to convince you that it is easy and in your best interest to regularly write to political figures about environmental matters!

Deceitful is the only word for encouraging you to do something that I find extremely difficult to do myself while telling you how easy it is. Three months ago, I decided to write one letter a week on a pressing environmental issue. With all the newsletters and magazines I get, it seemed like a simple task to just pick a subject from all those screaming for attention.

It wasn't. First, it was necessary to choose the issue. Then I had to re-search the subject enough to become somewhat conversant with its workings. Only then could I sit down at my word processor and put my nose to the wheel. The following two to three hours can only be described as chaotic, excruciating, exhausting, and nerve-rendering - and satisfying only for an instant - the instant I finished!

Now, about that fraud. Someday there'll be a law against people like me who lay a guilt trip on people like you, who are feeling your own guilt about not doing your duty for Mother Audubon. In a way, I suppose, I collect some extra points for doing your duty and somehow moving myself another inch ahead towards sainthood...

Come to think about it, this fraud part is really interesting. At one and the same time, I am making you feel unnecessarily guilty, myself falsely superior, and Mother Audubon is just shaking her head. I'm shaking, too.

About the paradox: trees are full of them. How can a person start out to do good (like me, a typical conservation chairman) and end up alienating so many nice people (like you)?

How can so many nice people, by doing nothing, hurt so many birds?

How can I "get you" to do anything? Remember, if you do it, you have been got - or had.

This whole thing is giving me a headache. The only way out of this back into the loving arms of Mother Audubon is to adopt the KISS plan - "Keep It Simple, Stupid".

This means that I will choose a subject to write about, three or four main points to talk about, a person or persons to send it to, and you will, if you feel like it, promise me to spend no more than ten minutes on scribbling out your version. If you can do it in under ten minutes, phone me for a special prize! Herewith, my subject de month:

Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act (ESA): This landmark piece of legislation is up for renewal, revision, or just plain evisceration.

The original law, still in effect, is one of the foundation blocks of America's body of environmental laws. It should be renewed as is. Only strengthening changes should be considered. The ESA: 1) protects threatened and endangered species; 2) protects their critical habitats; and, 3) makes delisting possible when listed species have been recovered to safe numbers.

Write a letter to your Congress person or Senator from the list on page 3 of this newsletter. If you have any questions or need a 32-cent stamp, or want an issue other than this one, phone me, Dave Wass, at 682-6962.

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President: Lee Moldaver.....	682-2120
Vice President: Sally Walker.....	569-5388
Secretary: Jodi Rosenthal.....	898-0722
Treasurer: Bob Zeman.....	964-5731
At-large: Rob Lindsay.....	964-9514
Ron Hirst.....	967-0138
Conservation: Dave Wass.....	682-6962
Education: Don Rathbun.....	964-5521
Programs: The Board.....	still open!
Field Trips: Paul Keller.....	968-7804
Membership: Nancy King.....	964-4741
Hospitality.....	still open!
Publicity: Lauren DeChant.....	566-9314
Bird Refuge: Rob Lindsay.....	964-9514
Rare Bird Reporter: Karen Bridgers.....	964-1316

RARE BIRD ALERT..... 1-805-964-8240

Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. Please call office to verify each date and time.

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.....	1-805-964-1468

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

El Tecolote

Editor: Jim Greaves..... 1-805-562-8521
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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.....	1-619-479-3400
San Francisco.....	1-415-528-0288
S. Sierra/San Joaquin.....	1-209-782-1237

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

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