

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Incorporated
Volume 34 • Number 4 • January 1996

HAPPY 1996! PLEASE VOTE!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONGRATULATIONS! To **Joan Easton Lentz** and **Karen Bridgers** and all the birders who (yet again) made our Holiday count so successful! To **John Ayres** who found a way to keep the Lompoc chapter alive, while moving the Vandenberg AFB "ponds project" forward. To **Glenn Olson** for being a finalist for president of the National Audubon Society, and getting a key leadership role in the newly re-organized, re-directed, and re-invigorated group. To **Dave Wass** for launching and leading our creek restoration project, while simultaneously chairing our Conservation Committee and producing "Environmentally Yours" on Cox Cable's KCTV-17. To **Dan Taylor** and **Jill Shirley** for creating an Audubon Central Coast Council, so chapters between Monterey and Camarillo no longer have to be pawns either of LA or the Bay Area's environmentalists. And, to **John McCaull**, our Audubon legislative liaison in Sacramento, who fights the good fight for conservation year round.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! (belatedly) to our Office Volunteers, **Karl Weissmann** and **Tomi Sollen**, who are there each week to answer questions and take calls, and to **Jean Moseley**, who has served so modestly and so well, and **Peggy Boucher**, our super-sub, who is there when it counts. And to **Randy Rossness**, **Marge, Rosalind**, and **Tim**, our landlords, helpers and hosts at the **Goleta Valley Community Center**, so helpful and friendly with all our chapter's needs. And to the entire crew at the **Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History**, who still host our programs at Farrand Hall and our Bird Count banquet at Fleishmann Hall.

SPECIAL THANKS! To all of the above. To **Paul Keller** for picking up **Jeff Chemnick's** mantle as Field Trip leader, and creating excellent programs. And to his leaders: **Rob Lindsay**, **Tom Rohrer**, **Karen Bridgers**, **Mark Holmgren**, **Don Rathbun**, **Ron Hirst**, and **Guy Tingos** - without whom the field trips would not be half as good. And to **Jim Greaves**, who is doing so well with the tough job of editing *ET*. And **Bob Zeman** who continues to keep our books and ledgers straight, and even finds time to be a guest speaker on his wedding anniversary! To our entire **Board**, who create extra hours in their lives to make our chapter stronger. And to those who directed and participated in the Bird Count dinner on December 30, especially **Tomi and Bob**!

NEW YEAR'S WISHES: Restored good health to **Ed and Joy Parkinson**. Full recovery of that broken leg for **Dorin Mayes**. All the paperwork finally approved, so **Everett King** can bring his lovely Chinese bride home. Health and safety to all Auduboners, everywhere. And, a "reward offered" for the safe return of the misplaced "environmental conscience" in Washington and Sacramento.

- Lee Moldaver



January Program

Friday, January 26, 1996
[Note: 4th Friday of the month!]

Farrand Hall, SB Museum of Natural History
7:30 pm. Refreshments
8:00 pm. Program begins promptly

Endangered Treasures of the South Los Padres

Jim Youngson and **Maeton Freel** will entertain us this month. Jim is a senior manager and Maeton is the Forest Biologist at the Los Padres National Forest in Goleta. A former staff member of Congressman Lagomarsino, Jim has recently joined the Forest Service. Formerly with US Fish and Wildlife, Maeton has been Forest Biologist since 1980. This show will introduce us to the workings of the service as well as the biota of the southern part of the Los Padres, that area we fondly call the back country. They will include a narrated slide show of the flora and fauna of the region and an update on how budget battles being waged right now could affect how forests locally and nation-wide are staffed and operated, and what effects these changes may have on wildlife. This will be an opportunity to find out more about the "concessioning" of the forest "wild" areas! Bring a friend and questions. Be prepared to be entertained and educated by Jim and Maeton, two local representatives of "big government" - fellow wildlifers, and our friends, our neighbors.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS We again have **900-plus** members! To the following new and transfer members since September 1995, a hearty **WELCOME!** **New:** Suzanne Ablitt, Claudia Armann, J. Bailey, Marie Baker, Lyda Clough, Richard Cofiell, Constance Crown, Jo Duffy, Ann Forster, Jay Fultz, Lorna Hedges, Jane Hieter, Sandra Hough, Andy Lentz, Carolyn McCleskey, Jack Nair, David Reed, Donna Schroeder, Sylvia Short, Dianne Skalnik, M. Skiold, Eric Stones, Leslie Taylor, Mollie Carrillo Walker, P. Weir, Mrs. Robert Zaratzian, and Lynda Zivic. **Transfers:** George Burtness, Lyn Lipscomb, L. McBean, and Sharon Tisdale. **Thank you** to those who joined, to those who re-new and/or upgrade expiring memberships, and to those who contribute their time to make this a healthy - growing - chapter. To all, thank you. Please attend our functions, and enjoy the wild friends we support! - Nancy King

1996 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Saturday, 8 am. each week - Ellwood Acres restoration. Come work for free with Dave Wass and his band of life givers! Call Dave 805-682-6962 for the latest up-date and information on location(s).

Jan. 20 - Figueroa Mountain, Santa Barbara County. Meet at 8 am at Carl's Jr. in 5 Points shopping center, 3925 State St. Carpool to the interior Santa Ynez Valley. Return by mid-afternoon. Bring lunch and water, warm jackets! Call Guy Tingos 805-681-0026 for weather information. Chance to see red crossbill, steller's jay, evening grosbeak, mountain bluebird, and other interior goodies!

Mar. 09 - Lotusland, Montecito, Santa Barbara Co. \$10 to attend, reservation required - call Jeff Chemnick 805-965-0895. Send check to SBAS, 5679 Hollister Ave., Suite 5B, Goleta, CA 93117 by Mar. 02. See the late Ganna Walska's 37 acre living museum of gardens, and enjoy good birding as well! Come join us for this rare visit!

June 8-15, 1996 - CONVENTION '96 - National Audubon's "Charting the Future for Habitat Protection", convened in Washington DC to remind Democrat and Republican alike of the importance of life on earth and the land, air and water that sustain all of us! Attend, and let our one voice be clear: OUR HEALTH IS NOT FOR SALE! Write for registration materials to: Audubon Convention Office, 4150 Darley Ave., Suite 5, Boulder Colorado 80303 (or, call 303-499-3622 or fax 303-499-0286).

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Feb. 23 - "Notes of a Sparrow Watcher". Dr. Barbara deWolfe will give a slide presentation of scientific and field highlights during her distinguished career.

Mar. 05 - Special FREE program date, Faulkner Gallery! "Alaska's Wilderness Lands", by Dr. John Vengar, one of the nation's top field trip leaders will narrate his slide show, with highlights of his latest book.

Mar. 29 - "Nature's Light". Board member Jim Greaves will present an evening of slides and narration covering his years photographing and studying wild things in Virginia and California.

LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST - UP-DATE 1996

Plans to "concession" the camping and day use areas along Paradise Road still exist. However, California Fish and Game and the State Constitution prohibit interference with access to hunting and fishing on major rivers and areas that are, or have been historically, available for such uses. News reports mistakenly said the plan called for a toll booth to collect moneys for access to all sections along Paradise Road under Forest Service jurisdiction.

Come to the January 26 meeting and meet Jim Youngson and Maeton Freel. *Access to Paradise remains. With the continued onslaught of visitors from the LA Basin, we can only hope it will not become Paradise Lost!*

PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

The Conscious Universe, by Menas Kafatos and Robert Nadeau, Profs. of Physics and English, respectively, at George Mason Univ., Fairfax, VA, wrote this well-organized book for us lay-persons. They tell a history of physics, from the "modern" physics at the turn of the century to recent search for a "theory of everything". Written for us (rather than mathematicians!), they illuminate the scientific theories argued by physicist-philosophers this century. Making no attempt to suggest that one "theory" is more correct than another, their writing is expository rather than evangelical. They explain the journey of discovery that faced John Bell, Albert Einstein, and other well-known and not so well-known physicists whose studies of atomic particles (the tiniest things known) have led us to the edge of the universe (what else is there?!). That the whole is greater than the sum of its parts takes on new meaning, since, as they note, our notion of the whole is curtailed by limits with which we can (or are willing to) see its parts. In studying atomic particles we find a reality (complementarity) for which our daily existence is unprepared - that there is, in fact, no single aspect of being to the things which constitute reality, nor of those things with which we obsessively surround ourselves! There is no mathematical formula that can explain pain, or love - or life itself. Science [technocrats] split the world in two "by substituting [as they cite Koyré] the world of quality and sense perception, the world in which we live, and love, and die, with another world - the world of quantity, or reified geometry, a world in which, though there is a place for everything, there is no place for man. Thus the world of science - the real world - became estranged and utterly divorced from the world of life, which science has been unable to explain - not even to explain away by calling it 'subjective' ... Two worlds: this means two truths. Or no truth at all. This is the tragedy of the modern mind which 'solved the riddle of the universe', but only to replace it by another riddle: the riddle of itself." Conclusions made by scientists about life can shape our perceptions of reality. *Humans* are the contemplators, without whom there would be no science!. Purchased from Library of Science Book Club, I rate this "a must" for your libraries!

- Jim Greaves

FALL FIELD TRIPS: Rancho Jocoso: unfortunately the stake out eastern phoebe was a no show. About 15 souls did enjoy a fine trip under Jeff's able direction anyway!

Vandenberg AFB: Mark led us to chipping and American tree sparrows, black oystercatcher, and black-vented shearwaters. A peregrine falcon pursued a kestrel, which it grasped talon to talon. The kestrel escaped, the action reminding us of the reasons we became nature watchers!

Lake Los Carneros: least bittern, snooping moorhen, and photographic view of a merlin eating dragonflies while ducks paddled and dabbled nearby. Under the careful eyes of Karen Bridgers, a good day for all who attended, a plethora of old and new nature-lovers!

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: SATURDAY, December 30, 200 species of birds were found by the usual hoard of 150-plus searchers and watchers. It was windy, and many stake out and expected species were missed! **See attached list in the next issue of ET for complete information.** A hearty **THANK YOU** to all who came and spent the day for this worthy event. And thank you Joan, Karen, Pat, and others who directed the fine day. A **special thanks to Bob and Tomi Sollen** for managing and directing the dinner and its clean-up afterwards!

Missed during this event were a yellow warbler, pygmy owl, and many montane birds that would have come down to the coast if we just hadn't had such gloriously good weather this winter! Keep on keepin' on after them boids!

CONSERVATION REPORT

Before you are engulfed by concerns and challenges of the new year, pause to look back on the year past to discern through the drifting smoke and charred debris what is left standing after one of the most tumultuous environmental years in Santa Barbara.

You may recall we started with Willy Chamberlin riding high, Mobil, Exxon and Molino raiding the coast for oil, Andy Caldwell making more noise than sense, and the Cement Barons waiting for the Association of Governments to hand them another sweetheart contract.

But the year did not end that way! Indeed not! Consider: UCSB Chancellor Yang refused a lease for "clear view".

The county planners stayed the course against Exxon, and refused them the right to ship oil through the channel to LA.

A brigade of petitioners, led by Cathy Duvall, obtained the necessary signatures to put the Voters Approval Oil Initiative on the March 26 ballot.

Molino Energy Co., saw the writing in the sand, seeks to place its slant drilling where it belongs - Gaviota consolidated.

Urged by Alex Pujo and Lee Moldaver, an army of citizens finally convinced the Association of Governments that there are indeed alternatives to "another concrete lane" through Montecito. And in a recent vote, the round-about at 101-Milpas may succeed.

After 25 years of sweat, the Army Corps of Engineers opted for a natural channel for lower Mission Creek, as it should be.

Nudged by the ubiquitous Lee Moldaver, the Gaviota Coast Preservation Project is on track, with funding from a CREF grant to secure a contract with the Land Trust to inform landowners of the options available to them for preserving lands undeveloped.

Activity for land acquisition for natural reserves reached a peak with projects aimed at the Wilcox, Sedgewick Ranch, the Ableman farm, and land next to La Purissima Mission.

To top it all off, Joyce Howerton, mayor of Lompoc, and an environmental advocate, has jumped into the race for fourth district supervisor against Tim Staffel. Stay tuned here!

And what of Willy Chamberlin? He finally lost by 12 votes in an epic (if not historic) vote recount showdown which went all the way to the state Supreme Court. While Bill Wallace was the eventual (18 months later!) winner, we must now find an able replacement for him, as he has chosen to retire at the end of term.

What does all this mean? First, maybe it means that every single vote counts and voters know what the environment is all worth. Second, maybe it means that, when the chips are down, a lot of that supposedly extinct species, the "concerned citizen", can grab their weapons of choice and fill the streets to fight the crucial battles. And, last of all, maybe it means the political system does work - if we work it!

I wish to express my thanks to all who helped make 1995 a truly remarkable year in local politics, and helped to maintain the real environmental ethic for which we fight daily. And to all the Ellwood Acre brigade - Thank you! - Dave Wass

"FEEDBACK" - THE READERS' WRITE COLUMN

STILL UNUSED!

Please send **SHORT** pieces to: Jim Greaves, ET Editor, POB 3035, Santa Barbara, CA 93130. You *must* be heard!! Seize the day, and all that.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Last year, I requested that readers contribute to ET. In the time since I have taken on this job, I have received only two rather long tomes from *non-director* members - both long enough to fill at least one full page in type this size. Unfortunately, my plea for "short messages" (see above box) has gone unheeded, and I have the two (still-to-be-edited) pieces that will eventually make it to print. And, I caught hell from one writer last year, because I did not print it verbatim, as it was submitted. I must remind you all that the job of editor is to edit. Funds for printing this newsletter are scarce - at least that is the message I receive monthly from the Board of Directors - to whom I am answerable. *El Tecolote* is the single largest expense we make each month, for which money must be raised - or investments spent. I am an environmental liberal/fiscal conservative, but in debt to my own eyeballs, so I can understand the frugality they express. My obligation is to inform you of events and print interesting facts for you. "Feedback" remains unused - do all 900-plus of you agree with me? Do you have concerns that you would like to discuss? Do you think we are on base in pursuit of habitat restoration instead of just birding? Would you like a debate on issues of dispute argued between and among conservationists and Congress? If so, write it down - briefly - explaining your position so the rest of us can get to know you! After all, this is *your* newsletter - not mine! **Organizations are only as strong as the members who participate.** - Jim Greaves

WHOM 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, (fax 202-456-2461).

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

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

Governor, The Hon. Pete Wilson, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, or call 916-445-2843 (fax 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 916-445-5405.

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

County Supervisors, The Hon. [pick one] Naomi Schwartz, Bill Wallace, Tim Staffel, Jeanne Graffy, Tom Urbanske (568-2190).

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

PHOTO AND BOOK NEEDS: Rob Lindsay is looking for quality slides of wildlife (mostly birds) for his teaching lectures. Call Rob at 964-9514. Also, call the Audubon office if you have slides or other donations to make to the library and/or slide file - 964-1468. Thanks.

DID YOU KNOW: We still have hundreds of SBAS pins (\$3.00), bumper stickers and bird checklists (\$1/each), and lots of information available in the office! T-shirts (\$5.00)! There is also a well-stocked library that used to go with us to monthly meetings - but because it is no longer stored at the Museum of Natural History, it resides, apparently little used, in our office under the watchful eyes of the small but dedicated volunteer staff of Tomi, Karl, Lee, Jean and Peggy. But, in order for these items to be most effectively useful, we need to staff the office more hours a week than currently [see "OFFICE HOURS" in box to right]. So, come on down and help us deplete our capital "assets" - we could use a boost to help with wish list projects for the coming year, including plants for restoration projects, stamps for the office, and paper for the fax machine!

Mark your calendar now and be a participant in the very important 1996 Convention program that will feature political action, birds, and skills training!



**National Convention '96
June 8-12**

The American University
Washington, D.C.

**Learning Labs
June 12-14, 15**

Chesapeake Bay &
Important Bird Areas in PA

Registration materials available January 1996

Audubon Convention Office

4150 Darley Ave., Suite 5
Boulder, CO 80303

(303) 499-3622 • Fax (303) 499-0286

American Ornithologists Union newsletter contains 100's of job descriptions throughout the year for all level environmental/wildlife careers. Travel the American continents or other foreign realms in search of riches beyond any available in the virtual fake reality of television/computer and other terminals! Many have a stipends to off-set living expenses. Most are seasonal and ideal for students you may know - or yourself, if you should be a student or involved with a mid-life crisis and desire a change from your present employment! Start with volunteer or paid positions in on-going avian/habitat studies. The 1996 summer employment descriptions are listed in the latest bulletin, now in the office for your convenience! Check it out - opportunity rarely comes more than once a lifetime to do something really great! See your office staff if you're interested!



Photo of pied-billed grebe - Jim Greaves

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

Directors meet the second Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to attend, but please call office to verify dates and time.
SBAS Office Phone number 1-805-964-1468

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 |

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 Ave., Suite 5B, Goleta, CA 93117.

El Tecolote

Editor: Jim Greaves 1-805-563-2905
POB 3035, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-3035

El Tecolote is published 7 times a year by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society. Members are invited to submit articles, announcements, letters, photos, and drawings for consideration. Copy deadline: 10th of the month preceding issue. Non-member subscribe for \$10 per year.

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 |

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**Dated Material
JANUARY 1996
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Santa Barbara, CA
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