

# ETECOLOTE

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Incorporated  
Volume 34 • Number 5 • February-March 1996



## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Since this is a bi-monthly issue, we thought it prudent to lead off with the activities, subject to up-dates and additions. Call 964-1468!

NOTE FIRST ITEM HAS BEEN CHANGED SINCE LAST MONTH!

**MAR. 04, MON. 7:30-pm SPECIAL PROGRAM** "Alaska's Wilderness Lands" - Dr. John Vengar, noted field biologist at University of Anchorage, gives us a special program at **Faulkner Gallery** at the Santa Barbara Public Library. A free program highlighting his newest book. Top-notch field trip leader and researcher in Alaska, Vengar's words and images have been in *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, *Natural History* magazines, and numerous journals. Come one and all for this informative up-date on the fate of the last frontier of North America! Bring a friend!

**FEB. 17, SAT. 07:30 - VENTURA COUNTY GAME PRESERVE**, near Oxnard. A great trip! See ducks, shorebirds, bitterns, ibises, merlins, peregrines, other birds of prey, and occasional rare passerines. **Guy Tingos** will lead this trek from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge parking lot, promptly carpooling at 7:30 am. Back by noonish. Call Guy to ensure a ride **805-681-0026**, or to get directions to meet at the preserve.

**FEB. 23, FRI. 20:00** - Monthly program (see to right, above).

**FEB. 24, SAT. 9-4** - Grazing Ecology Conference, Goleta Valley Community Center. \$20 to attend. President's Message for details.

**MAR. 06, all day long!** Least Bell's Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo Working Groups meeting. Sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife, in Carlsbad, San Diego County. Call Loren Hays, Carlsbad office, if interested - 619-431-9440.

**MAR. 09**, Lotusland trip is full! Call Jeff Chemnick 965-0895 to reserve a waiting list spot. \$10 admission charged.

**MAR. 23, SAT 0730**, Trout Club. Rob Lindsay (964-9514) will lead this half-day trip, leaving from Carl's Jr. at 5-Points Shopping Center. Spring migrants and winter stragglers. Hosted by Susanne and Carroll Barrymore, residents of this private area. Bring a snack and water; as always, a coat in case of fog or rain.

**MAR. 26 Vote MEASURE A. Voter Approval Initiative.** A YES vote will allow voter approval of new oil and gas projects on the South Coast at sites *other than already designated processing sites* (Las Flores and Gaviota). The purpose of the initiative is to make the county and oil companies adhere to already zoned on-shore oil and gas processing sites. So, go vote!

**MAR. 29, FRI. 19:45** - Monthly program (see last/next ET's).

**MAR. 30-APR. 02** - Western Regional Conference, at Asilomar. Payment due by February 19! Call 916-481-5332 for forms!

...Continued on next page...

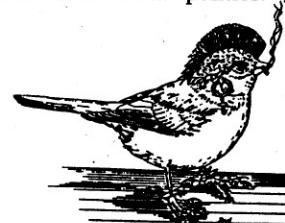
### February Program

**Friday, February 23, 1996**  
[Normal 4th Friday of the month!]

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

#### *Adventures of a Sparrow Watcher: the Light Side of Ornithological Research*

Professor Emeritus **Dr. Barbara B. DeWolfe**, at UCSB Dept. of Biology, will deliver a narrative of her life as an ornithologist. She teaches us how things have changed from her first research to the present. A retrospective of her 60 years in research will address the important works that Audubon encouraged. Come listen to a remarkable researcher as she tells us of the response of the public then and now to the idea that anyone would want to study little birdies. Learn how Audubon's cause grew from its fight to save the herons, through those early days of bird study, to its present world-wide, respected leadership role in environmental politics.



**Friday, March 29, 1996**  
[NOTE: 5th Friday of the month!]

Farrand Hall, SB Museum of Natural History  
NOTE: 7:25 pm. refreshments  
7:45 pm Program begins promptly

#### *Nature's Light*

**Jim Greaves** will present a program of his photos covering his years of plant collecting in Virginia to life-listing in California, his slides cover a gamut of images not often seen. Bring a friend, and a pair of binoculars to learn how to fall into a rabbit hole and awaken years later, wondering, "was it worth it; what next?"

## 1996 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

...continued from page 1...

**APR. 27. SAT. 7:00 - SURF**, near Lompoc. Everett King, our long absent leader (569-2307), will lead a half-day trip to this estuarine-riparian-marine location on the coast at Vandenberg AFB. Meet at Carl's Jr. in 5-Points at 7 am. See early willow flycatchers, known to nest in the area by June, or Peregrines, snowy plovers, and many migratory shore and water birds on and near the beach! Bring a lunch and plenty to drink; on coastal walks this side of the county, bring a coat in case of wind, fog!

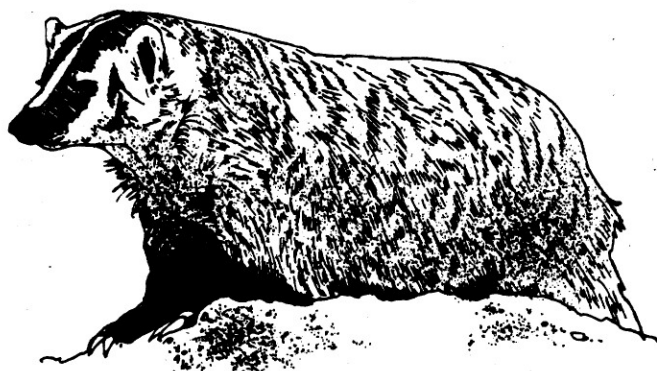
**JUN 08-15, 1996 - Convention '96 - National Audubon's "Charting the Future for Habitat Protection"**, convened in Washington DC to remind Democrat and Republican alike of the importance of life on earth and the land, air and water that sustain all of us! Attend, and let our one voice be clear: **OUR 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).

**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).

## NEW MEMBERS

**Welcome** to the following new members since last issue: Kim Chancey, Michelle Chavez, Margaret Dewey, Lynne Dozier, Judy Duchense-Peckha, Marge Elmes, and the La Cumbre Animal Hospital. We look forward to meeting you on field trips and at monthly meetings!

- Nancy King



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

**Santa Barbara second in state with 198 species!**

The 1995 CBC will go down as one of the most memorable. Despite windy conditions, backcountry road closures, and a year when bird numbers were down, intrepid birders garnered 198 species within the count area - including one of the most impressive list of rarities in all of California. A new high - 134 - birders joined in the foray.

This was not an easy day to count birds. Dawn brought pesky north winds below the canyons, along parts of the coast, and out on the ocean. Add to that the general lack of birds in the area this winter: low numbers of robins, waxwings, sparrows, and few montane species. Only 413 robins this year, compared to 5,000+ last year! Usually abundant yellow-rumped warblers were in near-record low numbers as well.

Rarities made up for some of that. The value of "staking out" rare birds proved itself - with the wind many were barely seen at all. While some were missed, perhaps none would have been found without prior knowledge of their whereabouts! White pelicans flying up the upper Santa Ynez drainage, white-faced ibis in Goleta Slough, common tern at Devereux, and several least bitterns. In addition to yet another black-throated green warbler, new for our count area were two extremely rare warblers in North America during the winter: hooded and chestnut-sided.

Individuals that re-appeared included a northern rough-winged swallow, common black-headed gull, zone-tailed hawk, hepatic tanager, and a yellow-bellied sapsucker

Of course, the near misses on count day upped the level of frustration during compilation. Northern pygmy owl was missed, due in part to a broken down vehicle and the wind; Eurasian wigeon just out of the circle. Many others joined this list of "count period" birds, a long one indeed, this year!

Still, the compilation dinner at the Museum of Natural History out-did itself in attendance this year. The feeling of pride and cooperation as we counted down the immense variety of birds will linger with us until next year, when, on JANUARY 4TH, 1997, we will again call on all of you to help with the count. 'Til then, our heartfelt thanks to each of you and Good Birding!

- Joan E. Lentz

**FOLLOWING IS THE LIST:** Included on the list are the numbers of the birds actually seen count day. Count period birds have an "X" in front of them. Additions to the "usually seen" species are appended at the end of list:

## 1995 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

## LOONS

- 51 Red-throated Loon  
30 Pacific Loon  
25 Common Loon  
30 Loon sp.

## GREBES

- 102 Pied-billed Grebe  
15 Horned Grebe  
35 Eared Grebe  
335 Western Grebe  
32 Clark's Grebe

## SHEARWATERS

- Northern Fulmar  
Black-vented Shearwater

## PELICANS

- 239 Brown Pelican

## CORMORANTS

- 303 Double-crested Cormorant  
56 Brandt's Cormorant  
6 Pelagic Cormorant

## HERONS

- 1 American Bittern  
37 Great Blue Heron  
49 Great Egret  
57 Snowy Egret  
X Cattle Egret  
9 Green Heron  
59 Black-crowned Night-Heron

## SWANS, GEESE &amp; DUCKS

- 35 Canada Goose  
2 Wood Duck  
62 Green-winged Teal  
209 Mallard  
91 Northern Pintail  
X Blue-winged Teal  
68 Cinnamon Teal  
600 Northern Shoveler  
32 Gadwall  
148 American Wigeon  
4 Canvasback  
146 Redhead  
33 Ring-necked Duck  
Greater Scaup  
40 Lesser Scaup  
276 Surf Scoter  
White-winged Scoter  
1 Common Goldeneye  
68 Bufflehead  
8 Hooded Merganser  
40 Common Merganser  
30 Red-breasted Merganser  
260 Ruddy Duck

## NEW WORLD VULTURES

- 155 Turkey Vulture

## HAWKS

- Osprey  
31 White-tailed Kite  
12 Northern Harrier  
16 Sharp-shinned Hawk  
25 Cooper's Hawk  
67 Red-shouldered Hawk  
105 Red-tailed Hawk  
2 Golden Eagle

## FALCONS

- 69 American Kestrel  
5 Merlin

## QUAIL

- 219 California Quail  
1 Mountain Quail

## RAILS &amp; GALLINULES

- 1 Virginia Rail  
7 Sora  
5 Common Moorhen  
2,115 American Coot

## PLOVERS

- 164 Black-bellied Plover  
202 Snowy Plover  
42 Semipalmated Plover  
281 Killdeer

## STILTS &amp; AVOCETS

- 16 Black-necked Stilt  
American Avocet

## SANDPIPERS

- 14 Greater Yellowlegs  
196 Willet  
1 Wandering Tattler  
5 Spotted Sandpiper  
61 Whimbrel  
2 Long-billed Curlew  
143 Marbled Godwit  
12 Ruddy Turnstone  
25 Black Turnstone  
405 Sanderling  
3 Western Sandpiper  
103 Least Sandpiper  
1 Dunlin  
73 Long-billed Dowitcher  
14 Common Snipe  
X Red Phalarope

## JAEGER, GULLS &amp; TERNS

- 1 Pomarine Jaeger  
Parasitic Jaeger  
130 Bonaparte's Gull  
1,012 Heermann's Gull  
114 Mew Gull  
394 Ring-billed Gull  
798 California Gull  
7 Herring Gull  
1 Thayer's Gull  
553 Western Gull  
6 Glaucous-winged Gull  
Black-legged Kittiwake  
Caspian Tern  
62 Royal Tern  
148 Forster's Tern  
149 Black Skimmer

## AUKS &amp; MURRES

- Common Murre  
Cassin's Auklet  
Rhinoceros Auklet

## PIGEONS

- 623 Rock Dove  
246 Band-tailed Pigeon  
X Spotted Dove  
445 Mourning Dove  
Common Ground-Dove

## CUCKOOS

- 5 Greater Roadrunner

## OWLS

- 3 Barn Owl  
1 Western Screech-Owl  
20 Great Horned Owl  
X Northern Pygmy-Owl  
1 Burrowing Owl

## SWIFTS

- 58 White-throated Swift

## HUMMINGBIRDS

- 1,027 Anna's Hummingbird  
1 Costa's Hummingbird  
Allen's Hummingbird  
1 Selasphorus sp.

## KINGFISHERS

- 18 Belted Kingfisher

## WOODPECKERS

- 351 Acorn Woodpecker  
Red-naped Sapsucker  
9 Red-breasted Sapsucker  
52 Nuttall's Woodpecker  
33 Downy Woodpecker  
12 Hairy Woodpecker  
245 Northern Flicker (Red-shaft.)  
Northern Flicker (Yel.-shaft.)

## TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

- 264 Black Phoebe  
32 Say's Phoebe  
1 Tropical Kingbird  
1 Cassin's Kingbird

## LARKS

- Horned Lark

## SWALLOWS

- X Violet-green Swallow

## JAYS &amp; CROWS

- 2 Steller's Jay  
468 Scrub Jay  
1,624 American Crow  
3 Common Raven

## CHICKADEES &amp; TITMICE

- 3 Mountain Chickadee  
293 Plain Titmouse

## BUSHTITS

- 2,336 Bushtit

## NUTHATCHES

- Red-breasted Nuthatch  
25 White-breasted Nuthatch

## CREEPERS

- Brown Creeper

## WRENS

- Rock Wren  
32 Canyon Wren  
131 Bewick's Wren  
49 House Wren  
1 Winter Wren  
16 Marsh Wren

## DIPPERS

- American Dipper

## OLD WORLD WARBLERS &amp; THRUSHES

- 6 Golden-crowned Kinglet  
625 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
92 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
60 Western Bluebird  
Townsend's Solitaire  
141 Hermit Thrush  
413 American Robin  
Varied Thrush  
218 Wren

## THRASHERS

- 110 Northern Mockingbird  
98 California Thrasher

## WAGTAILS &amp; PIPITS

- 67 American Pipit

## WAXWINGS

- 250 Cedar Waxwing

## SILKY FLYCATCHERS

- 4 Phainopepla

## SHRIKES

- 26 Loggerhead Shrike

## STARLINGS

- 930 European Starling

## VIREOS

- 103 Hutton's Vireo

## WOOD WARBLERS, TANAGERS &amp; SPARROWS

- 150 Orange-crowned Warbler  
1 Nashville Warbler  
Yellow Warbler  
2,438 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)  
71 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)  
4 Black-throated Gray Warbler  
101 Townsend's Warbler  
Hermit Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
2 Black-and-white Warbler  
128 Common Yellowthroat  
1 Wilson's Warbler  
1 Summer Tanager  
6 Western Tanager  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Black-headed Grosbeak  
X Rufous-sided Towhee  
129 Rufous-sided Towhee  
584 California Towhee  
17 Rufous-crowned Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
81 Lark Sparrow  
1 Sage Sparrow  
64 Savannah Sparrow  
19 Fox Sparrow  
153 Song Sparrow  
52 Lincoln's Sparrow  
4 Swamp Sparrow  
6 White-throated Sparrow  
247 Golden-crowned Sparrow  
1,015 White-crowned Sparrow  
552 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)  
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)  
1 Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed)

## BLACKBIRDS &amp; ORIOLES

- 220 Red-winged Blackbird  
2 Tricolored Blackbird  
163 Western Meadowlark  
470 Brewer's Blackbird  
41 Brown-headed Cowbird  
1 Orchard Oriole  
X Hooded Oriole  
2 Northern Oriole (Bullock's)  
Northern Oriole (Baltimore)  
1 Scott's Oriole

## FINCHES

- 127 Purple Finch  
1,507 House Finch  
1 Pine Siskin  
189 Lesser Goldfinch  
17 Lawrence's Goldfinch  
89 American Goldfinch

## OLD WORLD SPARROWS

- 160 House Sparrow

## ADDITIONAL SPECIES:

- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Red-necked grebe         | 1 Common tern                  |
| 3 Amer. white pelican      | 3 Chaetura swifts, sp.         |
| 3 Least bittern            | 1 Yellow-bellied sapsucker     |
| 5 White-faced ibis         | 1 Eastern phoebe               |
| 1 Snow goose               | 1 N. rough-winged swallow      |
| 1 Ross' goose              | 1 Chestnut-sided warbler       |
| 1 Black scoter             | 1 Black-throated green warbler |
| 1 Zone-tailed hawk         | 1 Hooded warbler               |
| 1 Peregrine falcon         | 1 Hepatic tanager              |
| 1 Lesser yellowlegs        | 1 Great-tailed grackle         |
| 1 Common black-headed gull |                                |

## Additional Count Period Birds:

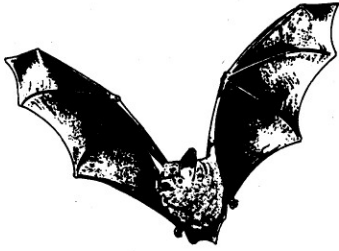
- X Greater white-fronted goose  
X Eurasian wigeon  
X Ferruginous hawk  
X Barn swallow

GRAND TOTAL: 198



# "I move with a motion that is not my own"

- the story of a year-long bird count -



- by Bill Hintze

During the 1994 Santa Barbara Christmas Bird count, the idea came to me: why not visit a particular section of a nearby creek every day and record numbers and species seen... Nobody birds there; it's a promising area - who knows what might turn up! Besides, I'd always wondered exactly what shape a migration has: which species come through first; do some come in waves while others flow at a more constant rate; how will fall present a profile different from spring? I wondered what birds would be found breeding along the creek. And then there were my "problem" species. How could I have lived in Santa Barbara for two years and still not be aware of Hutton's vireo? Why had I never even seen MacGillivray's warbler? And that's just *two* sources of frustration!

Well, I got answers to those questions - plus more than I had imagined. It can be best summarized by saying that I developed into a different kind of birder - from restless chase-and-identify-the-bird *watcher*, I became a quiet wait-and-become-intimate-with-one *observer*.

So, how did it happen? Well, rather simply, in order to count all the birds in a spot, you must stand there and let them come to you. And if you do that, and if you put some effort into it, you start to really learn behavior and vocalizations in a new, more intimate way. And, do you learn how limited the guide books are! Hutton's vireo, the former problem species, is discovered to have a really varied repertoire - not just the rising "zweet" the books mention!

And, did you know that birds often sing absent-mindedly to themselves in a very soft, almost inaudible voice? I've caught robins and three kinds of warblers (yellow, Wilson's and orange-crowned) in this act. Very endearing! Perhaps even more interesting are the skittery songs of newly-minted males. They come out with some of the oddest renditions of adult song imaginable as they cannot decide whether they should go up or down in pitch, trill or sing a clear note, put in pauses or leave them out. And in this regard, Bewick's wren surely takes the cake! Of course the adult song is extremely varied already, but at least it has variations on definite types. In the young males, however, these types are only present in the most inchoate ways. You only hear snatches of them as the bird goes on its merry way singing who knows what! Perhaps it knows it doesn't have things quite right since it doesn't sing with the loud, full-throttle, assertive adult voice, but with a soft, quavering one - when persistent! - instead. So cute!

While on vocalizations, let me admonish you to check them all out. For example, one day I heard a buzzy rasp and thought "must be a Bewick's wren". Nope. It turned out to be a begging juvenile Hutton's vireo! [nearly missed last spring's male black-throated green warbler at Barka Slough the same way! - ed.]

Fairly early on, when I was still trying to *pat* things in place, my attention turned to white-crowned sparrows. I had never tried to learn their vocalizations. After all, why bother? The birds are too abundant to be worth studying, right? And I knew their basic song to beyond the point of exasperation. But,

one day I noticed movement on the ground under some bushes where I had seen white-crowns frequently. And a loud chip. Well, assuming I knew what was there, I almost walked right past, but was I glad I didn't! If I had, I would have missed my very first MacGillivray's warblers and the only ones I'd see on the creek in the entire spring migration! (Don't laugh, experts ...) The lesson here is that you have to know the common species in order to know when somebody new is in town.

And now there are new mysteries. Why do the house wrens leave during the summer and where do they go? Ditto for plain titmouse. Why do the song sparrows stop singing abruptly and then resume after a pause of a couple of weeks? Why did I never see orange-crowned warblers feeding young even though there are always adults around? How come there have been so few golden-crowned sparrows so far this fall? But you can see these are completely different *kinds* of questions than my initial ones!

And then there are the rarities. As a friend said, the number of rarities found is directly proportional to the number of observer-hours in the field. The birds are there; you just have to get out and find them. And, I guess the best that came my way was a late spring red-eyed vireo - and on the same day a male indigo bunting! But it was also a thrill to see a mid-summer Lawrence's goldfinch on the coastal plain, a Thanksgiving day Pacific-slope flycatcher, and in September a couple of northern waterthrushes, an American redstart, and a clay-colored sparrow...

In conclusion, let me say a bit more about what reward ensues when you give up the chase-and-identify way of life. In a nutshell you go beyond the people-centered view of life, with its endless, restless striving and worrying. And you let yourself melt away as the rhythms of different lives wash over you. Indeed, if you're quiet enough, the birds even come to you from time to time - sometimes out of curiosity. How cute that a Wilson's warbler came within a couple of feet, seemingly because he couldn't believe what he was looking at! And some approach just because they don't notice you: Lincoln's sparrows are skulkers? What about the one that came almost to my feet while feeding obliviously along the bank one October morning? Or that yellow warbler nonchalantly preening itself a few feet away with spread tail so I could see all the complexity of its beauty in full sunlight... And so you might come to feel joined to - perhaps even in partnership with - those earnest little lives, and through them with that bigger life that joins us all. One of life's greatest pleasures, it seems to me, is to learn to move with a motion that is not our own - but that nonetheless flows through us and informs our very being.

A sense of place. Very important. In our world of unceasing movement, of cars and TV, people often feel a desire for what some call being centered. Well, this it is - at least in part. After a bit, you start to feel really connected to this place you go every other day - so much so in fact that birding elsewhere can lose its charm. The impulse to go see that rarity at the bird refuge pales in favor of such seemingly mundane considerations as how many migrating warbling vireos will be on the creek today, are the Swainson's thrushes still under their elderberry bush - and still singing! - or have they left Goleta behind for this year? Is the Nuttall's woodpecker who showed up in August - the first one I'd seen on the creek - still hanging around...? In fact, it became quite addicting for awhile, and I had to fight the impulse to spend more time than I should nearly every day!

I hope I've interested some of you enough to undertake your own similar projects. If I have, let me plead with you to keep records - turn copies over to Mark Holmgren at UCSB (893-4098) or to Joan Lentz (969-4397). If you'd like to see how I kept records, I'm at 967-8941, or e-mail 6500wyh@ucsbuxa.ucsb.edu. I'd enjoy hearing from you!

## "FEEDBACK" - THE READERS' WRITE COLUMN of SHORT messages...

### 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.

### CONSERVATION REPORT

The easiest and most satisfying 20 minutes of your February - how to write your first conservation letter for 1996.

By now you have mastered the basics of writing to your political reps, and know well that the essence of the art can be encapsulated in the following four principles:

1. Spend only 20 minutes on it.
2. Keep it simple, don't make more than three main points.
3. Avoid signing computer-generated, "generic" messages.
4. Reward yourself for a job well done. A scoop of ice cream.

This month's 20 minutes of fun and folly: "Big Sugar versus the Everglades"

Big Sugar - subsidized by the Federal government and controlling Florida by liberal donations to compliant politicians - helped push through the Florida State Everglades Forever Act, a bill which ironically *weakens* Florida state's water quality standards.

Florida's own Senator Graham (D) backed off demanding that Big Sugar pay its fair share of funds necessary to pay for Everglades restoration (about 2¢/pound). While back in the trough, Big Sugar is stalling the process which would lead to reforming the sugar subsidy program.

What to do: Have a good laugh, this scenario is so bad it is marvelous! Besides, if you don't laugh, you could cry!

After you've had your emotional fit, write a short letter to your congressperson and your senators urging them to support an assessment of 2¢/pound on Big Sugar to clean up the Everglades pollution and to restore ecological health to the Everglades ecosystem.

No matter which flavor you order at Rich's Ice Cream parlor, be sure to ask for no more than a single scoop. Ordering double is an act of self-destruction, and may enhance the sugar cartel's hold over the alligators. - Dave Wass

### Challenge to Audubon: Preserve Wilcox Property

For years, many in Santa Barbara have dreamed of preserving this 67-acre parcel above Arroyo Burro (Hendry's) Beach, the last remaining coastal open space within the City of Santa Barbara. After three failures to obtain the 2/3 vote needed, we have a chance as the landowners now seek to sell at an unbelievably low price - \$3.5 million, far below past markets! The time is at hand, opportunity knocks, and the preservationists are out in force raising funds at an alarmingly fast pace!

Under leadership of the Trust for Public Land, a non-profit organization in San Francisco, and local chapter of Small Wilderness Area Preserves, Inc. (SWAP), half the total purchase price has been raised. In addition, there are several grants pending that, if approved, will bring in an additional \$200,000 to \$700,000.

The sprawling Wilcox property ecosystems support such species as monarch butterfly roosts, and 78 bird species, including white-tailed kites, great horned owls, and red-shouldered hawks. Lurking in the estuary that the park and Wilcox share are the recently federally listed endangered tidewater goby, a small estuarine fish.

SBAS Board of Directors will have considered a level of support by the time you read this, and we are asking that members find some change to contribute as well - the Board will match a certain amount of member contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Please send your tax-deductible contributions to SWAP, POB 91160, Santa Barbara, CA 93109-1160. Call 965-2120, the Wilcox Hotline, for information. Please let your Board know of your commitment so that we may match it!

- Sally Walker

### EDITOR'S NOTES

#### VOTE YES - MEASURE A - MARCH 26, 1996

#### LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST - UP-DATE 1996

The January 26 meeting was a success. Jim Youngson and Nancy Sandburg informed us there will be new ways of operating Paradise. We still hope it will not become Paradise Lost during the ensuing debates in Congress!

\$

#### CAMPAIGN REFORM: The environmentalist's dilemma

Consider, that if the present governing classes succeed in banning "PAC's" (groups of individuals, like you and me who have no singular power, but united, considerable), a major victim of such reform will be our own interests - namely the saving of animals and plants that don't vote and have no "legal standing" unless some judge decides it - most judges are either politicians (they run for office) or political appointees with elitist tenure. The current alternative is to have one's own money - the only proof of one's effectiveness in campaigning determined by the buying of advertising - to wit, the fiasco, Steve Forbes, promoting a one-man show with no visible support other than his own ego! Obviously, no one person can do battle with the forest and mining and cattle interests, sugar growers who mine the last of the Everglades' water, or the other miner-water purveyors, who exist solely for the developers' convenience. If water is not power, then birds do not fly. Campaign reform that seeks to de-unite people of common interests, ultimately will lead to a ruthless ruling class of care less autocrats and bankers. Tyrants silence their opponents by making it hard for them to speak - our cause is strong, but our political base is weak, with billions of dollars arrayed against us! PAC's were formed to level the playing field. Think on it. Until next month.

- 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.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

For Audubon members, a month is built around tours, hikes, lectures, and special birding opportunities. For other civilians, however, February is built around the "4 key dates", Washington and Lincoln's birthdays, Valentine's Day, and Groundhog Day. Please see the earlier article on Wilcox property. And, don't forget to attend John Vengar's FREE slide presentation, March 5th.

As we consider the huge stature of America's earlier political leaders - Washing and Lincoln, for instance - and recall that it was Lincoln who first worked with Congress to create "national parks", I feel obliged to let you know that we received a wonderful memo from our Congressperson, **Andrea Seastrand**. She explains that she, too, is "supportive of the environment".

She has supported tree plantings, the Wilcox property, and continuing a ban on new off-shore oil development. I mention this, since it has also been reported that she *favours significant* amendments (ie, *weakening*) of the Clean Air, Clean Water, Pesticides Control, and Endangered Species Acts. Also, she supports efforts to open the Arctic National Wilderness to prospecting, mining, timber harvesting, and oil development, and she favors major downsizing of the Environmental Protection Agency - *our* watch-dog agency that has seen to it that governments as well as individuals adhere to laws that have - so far - protected the *public trust* in the "people's wildlife".

Imagine the shape we'd be in if she did not "support the environment"! Thank goodness, Mrs. Seastrand is on our side...

An Orange County Auduboner, looking at the new California legislature, analogized that compared to new Speaker **Kurt Pringle**, "Willie Brown looks like John Muir." If that's true, I'm certain our hard-working friends, Brooks Firestone and Jack O'Connell will have a marvelously interesting 96 session.

In the vein of "thinking globally - acting locally", we are co-sponsoring, with the **Grazing Ecology Conference**, a special hands-on training session, Saturday, February 24th, from 9am-4pm, with famed land ecologist Allen Savory, head of the Holistic Land Institute. Conducted for \$20 at the Goleta Community Center, Savory will show working farmers and ranchers how field and crop rotation, used with a better mix of crops, and fewer pesticides, can make their operations *less* expensive, and *more* profitable. Duncan Blair, head of the Grazing Ecology Conference, is helping bring Mr. Savory to Santa Barbara. If you know anyone interested in the most up-to-date training in natural and organic livestock or growing patterns, please encourage them to attend (964-1468, for more information).

Finally, a **big valentine** to our friends and chapter members. Our spring Lotusland tour is sold out - in record time! The January program on Los Padres National Forest drew the largest audience for any program in two years - it was standing room only! The size and enthusiasm of our chapter is expanding dramatically. To really get into action, consider joining Audubon leaders and members from across the nation at Asilomar (by Monterey) for our biennial Western Regional Conference. The setting is fine, and the programs are even better!

- Lee Moldaver

Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.  
5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B  
Goleta, CA 93117

**DATED MATERIAL  
FEBRUARY 1996  
PLEASE EXPEDITE**

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Santa Barbara, CA  
Permit Number 125

**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.....	<b>still open!</b>
Field Trips: Paul Keller.....	968-7804
Membership: Nancy King.....	964-4741
Hospitality.....	<b>still open!</b>
Publicity: Lauren DeChant.....	566-9314
Bird Refuge: Rob Lindsay.....	964-9514
Rare Bird Reporter: Karen Bridges.....	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

