

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Incorporated
Volume 34 • Number 6 • April 1996



APRIL FOOL'S ISSUE! NOT!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JUNE 30 - JULY 20 - Golden Trout Workshops. Backpack camp at 10,000 ft. near Mt. Whitney! Three one-week sessions of naturalist-interpreted camp. Enrollment is limited, so reserve early! To receive this non-profit organization's brochure: write, Golden Trout Natural History Workshop, Inc., Attn. Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373 (909-798-3060), or call Tina Collins, locally (805), at 688-9712 or 682-7111 x 3672. Be there!

MAR. 30-APR. 02 - Western Regional Conference, at Asilomar, Monterey coast. Lee Moldaver, our President, will address a couple of workshops! Paul Keller, Jodi Rosenthal and Lauren DeChant will also represent us! Call 916-481-5332 for info!

APR. 06, SAT, 0700 - CASTLE CRAGS CONDORING! Meet at 7 am at Jack-in-the-box parking lot in the K-mart shopping center, Goleta - take 101 N- or S- bound exit for Storke Road, turn south, then left at light, 100 yards on right! Carpool to east of Santa Margarita, about 3 hours, to view recently released Condors. Bring food and drink for a long day. Scope useful. Primitive relief, toilets nowhere near, bring own paper... Dress warmly! Call Paul Keller 805-968-7804 for confirmation and details. Just do it!

APR. 13, SAT, 0800 - LAKE LOS CARNEROS. Meet Karen Bridgers (964-1316); another fine morning walk around the park to seek least bitterns, and spring passerines, late merlins, and other avian wonders. End at noon. One of the area and SBAS members' first land preservation victories! Check it out!

APR. 20-21, MAY 18-19, (both) SAT-SUN - The Kern Valley Festival: Celebrate the Bioregions. Birding festival centered in the Kern River Valley of the southern Sierra Nevada at the height of spring migration. 35 field trips, including Butterbred Springs and South Fork Kern River, owling, banding, artists' show, and much more! Call: Karen Phillips, Kern River Research Center, POB 990, Kernville, CA 93283 (619-378-2407), or call Kernville Chamber of Commerce, 619-376-2629. Indeed!

APR. 20-21, MAY 18-19, (both) SAT-SUN - Tri-colored Blackbird counts, sponsored by California Dept. of Fish and Game. Contact: Lyann Comrack, Coordinator, California Partners in Flight, Dept. Fish & Game, 1416 Ninth St., Room 1280, Sacramento, 95814 (919-657-4436; fax, 916-653-1019). Do it!

APR. 27, SAT, 0700 - Ocean Beach Park and La Purisima Mission, Lompoc area. \$5/car parking at the mission - please share gas and parking costs! Everett King (569-2307), long-absent leader, will conduct a half-day trip to this estuarine-riparian location on the coast at Vandenberg AFB. Meet at Carl's Jr. in 5-Points at 7 am to carpool. We may see willow flycatchers, known to nest in the area, peregrines, snowy plovers, and other

(ACTIVITIES CALENDAR continued on last page)

April Program

Friday, April 26, 1996
[Normal 4th Friday of the month!]

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

TO BE ANNOUNCED...



WHY?

**Last minute program
cancellation, and
No Program Chairman**

So-o-o - call the office 964-1468

or check local papers -

Santa Barbara News-Press

Santa Barbara Independent

See last page for announcement!

CONSERVATION REPORT

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE FISH! To the Good and the Faithful and Those-Who-Love Ice Cream:

Here is another chance to either insure yourself in fish Heaven or to qualify for a dish of your favorite ice cream.

Bad News: We Americans, super fishers that we are, have fished off our coasts at a rate that will no longer sustain their populations. To continue at our present rate will invite serious, and in some cases, total destruction of our fish resources. Unless we do something drastic, fish on Friday will be a thing of the past.

Good News: A start has been made, with legislation remedy most of the difficulties, over time. It is the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, which, as HR.39, has already passed the House in Congress. The legislation now works its way through the labyrinthine corridors of the Senate. But it may get lost there unless we send messages, loud and clear, that it has to pass.

The Fun Part: If you decide to sacrifice 20 minutes of your eternity to save the fish (and the fisherpeople!), here's how to do the job with our patented, no-brainer letter-writing method:

Take no more than 20 minutes, making no more than three points. Then, be sure to reward yourself at Rich's.

Write: Urge Senators Feinstein and Boxer to vote for the passage of S.39 (mention "The Magnuson Act") and ask that the following 3 provisions be included:

- 1 - Require that the regional councils stop over-fishing by using ecological and biological information to set limits;
- 2 - Require that each fishery management plan include measures to reduce/prevent by-catch of non-target and prohibited species; and,
- 3 - Protect essential habitats [plural] to insure protection of all life stages of fish governed by the Magnuson Act.

If the Senate passes S.39 with the above three provisions intact, and the fisheries, following the act, were re-built and managed for long-term sustainability, they should contribute 300,000 fishery-related jobs and 8 billion dollars to the national economic mix.

Now, aren't you feeling better already? And probably hungrier, too, about now. Just remember, no ice cream before you do your homework. That's what my Grandmother always said.
- Dave Wass (682-6962)



Environmentally Yours

Santa Barbara's Own Environmental TV

Keep up to date with the issues, politics, programs, the personalities, conflicts and dreams that shape our Santa Barbara environments. Watch today!

- "What Makes Urban Creeks Run So Fast" April 3, 8:30 pm
" 4, 5:30 pm
- "Ray Strong and Friends" April 10, *8:30 pm
" 11, 5:30 pm
- "We Watch to the Rescue" April 17, 8:30 pm
" 18, 5:30 pm

Cox Cable 17/KCTV Cox Cable 17/KCTV

Call Dave Wass, our resident Director, 682-6962

BATTLEFIELD

Annette de Knijf

Early in the morning I march down the hill at Ellwood Acres. I am armed with a shovel and clippers: my armor consists of hiking boots, gloves,, sun visor, and shades: I'm ready to do battle. I am part of a small band of warriors fighting to protect "our" wetland at the foot of Ellwood Beach Drive.

The enemy is easily identified: invasive alien plants. The Green Menace! How can a bunch of seemingly innocent and beautiful plants be a menace? Invasive aliens crowd our the native plants through competition: the invaders rob the soil of nutrients and the natives do not have any natural defenses against the invaders.

Ellwood Acres harbors many invasives: eucalyptus, curly dock, papyrus, and ox tongue. In the soft, cool light of morning all these plants are lovely. Over the summer, long-stalked flower heads of curly dock have changed from a pretty, pale pink hue to bloody rust. Ox tongue has sharp thorns, delicate tongue-shaped leaves, and sunny yellow-rayed flowers. Eucalyptus trees are especially noxious. They make the ground beneath toxic to most other plants.

Juncus, tule, frankenia, lemonade berry, toyon, clarkia, blue-eyed grass, and purple needle grass are some of the plants we attempt to protect. The frankenia has small, green, leathery leaves. Needle grass, subtly hued in purple and gold, hitches a ride on my clothing as I work, while the bright and cheery blue-eyed grasses sun themselves with heads upturned. The petals of clarkia are delicate and intricate. The stately, linear, dark green shafts of the tules look like so many exclamation points, stressing the union of sky and earth.

Not only do we destroy; we also create. By obliterating the alien weeds, we are giving the native plants a chance to grow. We also propagate native plants to build up locally decimated populations.

I have battled long for this wetland, in the muddy trenches, on the wind-swept slope, among the native grasses, golden in the sun. I have blisters, broken on the rough wood of my shovel, even through my leather glove, as I dug the tenacious roots of that most foul curly dock, the mud sucking at the root helping to hold it against my persistent pull. Pierced by the sharp thorns of ox tongue, I have bled on my gloves and on my shirt. I have bent and pulled, twisted and slashed, mangled and crushed, until my hands were raw, until my back ached, until the salty sweat stung my eyes. I have paid my dues. This land belongs to me! I have fought for it, protected it, and nurtured it.

And this land nurtures me: the soft wind, the diffuse light, the fresh, moist, green morning air, the plants and trees, the gentle flitting of butterflies, the contented buzz of bumblebees, the rapid zip of hummingbirds, the plaintive cry of the red-shouldered hawk. In the distance an egret soars, circles, and lands. A little tree frog, with lungs pumping hard, jumps to another limb. A huge yellow and black spider prepares breakfast.

A mutualism exists between the land and mankind; we benefit each other. My blood and sweat enable native species to re-establish themselves and thrive. These species in turn provide me with a sense of ownership, responsibility, and value. Each time I prepare my weapons and gird my armor, I know what I'm fighting for.

Join Annette and other eco-warriors every Saturday at Ellwood Acres. Call their general, Dave Wass, at 682-6962 for information about times.

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

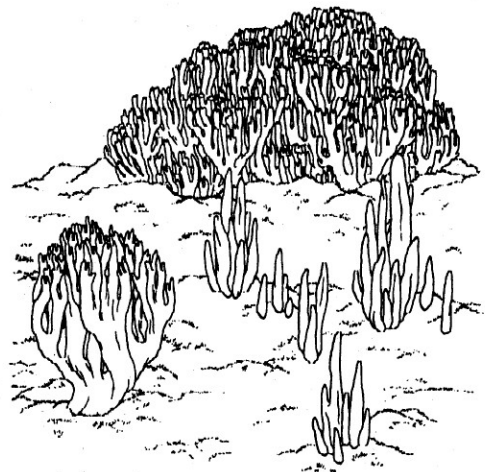
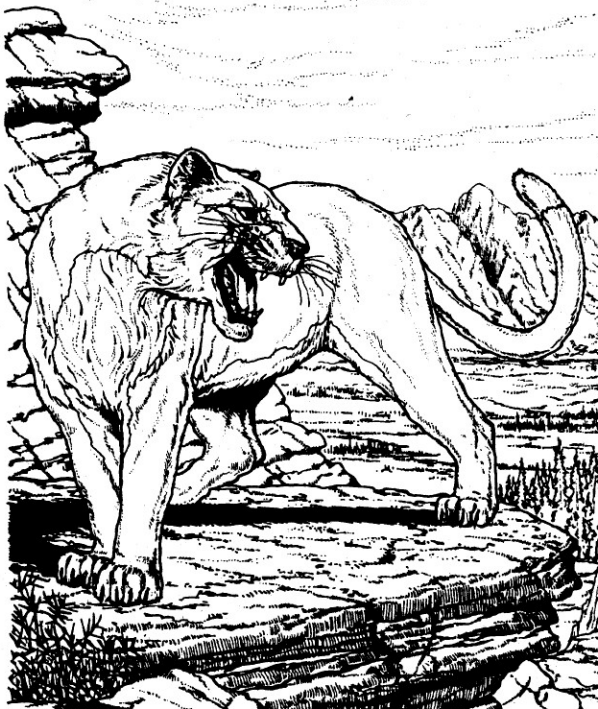
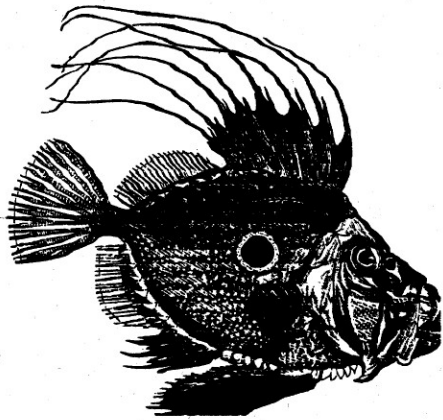
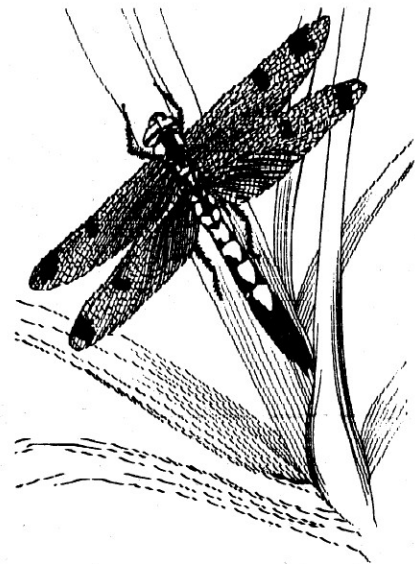
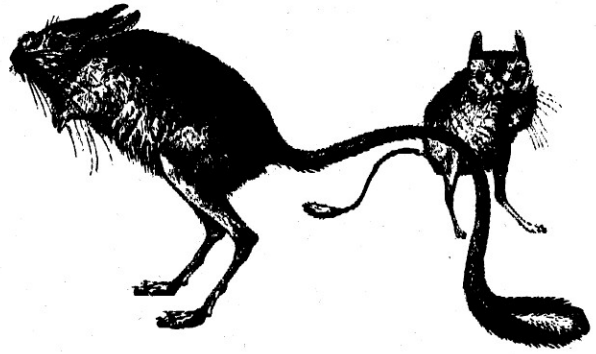
Governor. The Hon. Pete Wilson, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, or call 916-445-2843 (fax 916-445-4633).

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).

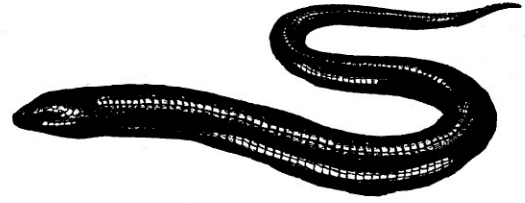
Santa Barbara Mayor and City Council. Call 564-5318 for info.



**"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. Seize the day, and all that.



**If you
think the
Endangered
Species Act
protects
only spotted owls,
think again.**

Jackie Buckley's leukemia is in remission thanks to medicines derived from the flower of the rosy periwinkle.

Half of today's medicines come from natural sources.

The Endangered Species Act is the best protection these sources have. But now the Act itself is in danger.

Tell Congress to save the law that saves lives. For more information about how you can help, call **(202) 547-9009**.



**THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
PROTECTS US**

© 1995 ESC

Please contact the Endangered Species Coalition at 1-202-547-9009 AND call and write your Congress-people!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Santa Barbara Audubon has much to be proud of this spring. Our part of a very generous outpouring of contributions for purchase of the Wilcox Property was \$2,500. Long-time Audubon sup-porter Sue Higman was instrumental in organizing the local SWAP group which produced the miracle. Chapter Vice-President Sally Walker showed leadership and vision in pushing us toward active participation. Margaret Eadington, principal Wilcox negotiator for the Trust for Public Lands, first came to SB in Spring of 1994 as a panelist at our "Coastal Preservation Conference". Our Board thanks and salutes all Chapter members who helped "Save the Wilcox Property".

Conservation is not, of course, about saving any one piece of land any more than environmentalism is about saving any one particular *marquee* species. While we cheer the Wilcox victory, we also applaud the imminent success of Wayne Ferren's efforts to achieve another of our long-cherished goals: full acquisition of key habitats of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. To the northwest, we are becoming active with the SB Land Trust and the Gaviota Coast Committee in voluntary, collaborative efforts to conserve as much as possible of the coastal farm, ranch and open space from Devereux South to Vandenberg AFB. Dave Wass, our tireless Conservation chair, has agreed to be our liaison in this vital, long-range preservation effort.

Audubon was also represented in a packed auditorium Saturday, February 24th, when we and the Lompoc chapter helped co-sponsor an all-day workshop by Allan Savory, director of the Institute for Holistic Land Management. Farmers, ranchers, government officials from all over California, three neighboring states, and Central America, attended this morale-boosting seminar by the internationally famous expert in Sustainable Agriculture, who re-emphasized again the "natural partnership" that should exist between true conservationists and genuine agriculturists. Congratulations to Duncan Blair, principal sponsor, and leader of SB County's Grazing Ecology Conference.

As we know, SBAS generally operates through smaller, more local activities. Book-end talks on Alaska birds and wilderness marked Feb/March, as Dr. Barbara de Wolfe recounted her research from 1935-65 at Farrand Hall, and explorer/field naturalist John Wengar offered a memorable slide show covering 1975-95 at the Faulkner Gallery two weeks later. Following those, Jeff Chemnick led another over-subscribed Lotusland trip, while chapter officers spent that day at Audubon's Central Coast Council meeting hosted by Patagonia, in Ventura.

IF the idea of more Faulkner presentations, or more non-Friday meetings appeal to you, please write or phone our office (964-1468)[or consider becoming Program Chairperson - ed.] IF you want to help staff **Earth Day Booth** downtown (Sunday, 21 April) for 1-2 hour stints, call the office with your time preference. IF you have an

idea for a special field trip not offered recently, please let Paul Keller know (964-1468/968-7804). IF you can volunteer a 2 or more hour shift at the office, please call in your name and preference, with phone number. IF you are ready to serve on next year's Board or any of our many fine committees, please let the Nominating Committee know by calling Jeff Chemnick (965-0895). Finally, I'm pleased to tell you: Ed Parkinson is finally doing well; Everett King's wife, Xiao-Li, has finally made it to California; and Dorin Mayes' leg is healing. All of them have asked me to thank you for your wishes, encouragement and prayers. I know we will see many of you at Asilomar. If you meet any politicians while we are gone, tell them you support our environment, and ask them to do the same. Thanks. - Lee

MISCELLANY



From the desk of the "Oversight Committee"
by Anon

Last month (seems so long ago), we published a drawing in the "program" box. It was a mod-ified white-crowned sparrow, executed by local artist-wildlife consultant Zev Labinger. A long-time member of SBAS, he has other fine work which he has given us to use in *ET* [eg, above]. We apologize for omission - shrunken nature of the punker sparrow obliterated signature clarity.

From the desk of the "Song Committee"
by Anon's cousin, *Who-knows*

In past years, several SBAS members compiled a list of little-known song titles for which we seek lyrics. These are not famous songs, so there may be no lyrics extant. Some titles for which we have not been able to obtain author or lyric information: "I'm an old cowbird from the rhea grand"; "In the stilt of the nightjar"; "Swanderful"; "Teal we ptarmigan"; "Wing low, tweet murrelet"; "The ani-veery shay waltz"; "Bufflehead won't you come out tonight?"; "I'm dreaming of a white pelican"; "Jack the snipe"; "Kiskadee dodo"; "Let your condor be your honeyguide"; "Thank heaven for little gulls"; "Loon reever"; "Owl be smee-ing mew in auk familiar [faces?]; "Ruff the magic robin"; "Pack up your trogons in an old kite bag"; and "Oh, myna papa". Some that still remain somewhat obscurer: "Yessir, that's my booby"; "When you pish upon a starling"; and, "Paraque, paraque, cygnette?" [an operatic work, it was probably composed by Joe Greenlet, better known as *Geo-tseepe* Verdin]. If you should have any information - or better still, lyrics - for these, or even author names, be sure to put the information where it will be safe. Course you could send a copy of same along to the editor of this fine news letter, and perhaps we will find space each month for a rousing chorus or two from "The little known birdists". Or, not...

ACTIVITIES (from page one)

migratory birds on and near the beach! Bring a lunch and plenty to drink; always, on coastal walks this side of the county, bring a coat in case of windy fog! Go for it!

MAY 11, SAT. - Spring Bird Migration Count! Call Joan Hardie, 964-4090 for details and forms. Happy birding!

JUN. 02, SUN. - OUR ANNUAL PICNIC! TBA in next ET.

JUN. 08, SAT, 0700. - Nojoqui Falls County Park. Meet at Carl's Jr. in 5-Points at 7 am to carpool - please share costs. Everett King will lead; call 569-2307 for directions. To end mid-afternoon, so bring some food. We'll see purple martins, northern parulas (?), maybe even a spotted owl or two. Come on!

FUTURE FUNDRAISING AND WORKSHOP

Please pay attention to your mail... In the next couple of months, you will receive an invitation to help support local conservation efforts! Be on the lookout for a Santa Barbara Audubon envelope with our Annual Giving appeal inside. It is *not* a renewal notice! Your generous contributions will enable SBAS to be involved in and give much-needed support to local preservation and restoration projects. Call Lauren DeChant, at 566-9314, Marketing and Fundraising Committee Chairperson, for details, or to become involved in these efforts.

Environmental Activists and Wannabes! A conference to come to prepare and empower you to win the Eco War. Hosted by Environmental Defense Center, SBAS, et others. Learn to talk to pro's and politicians, lobbyists - yea, even lawyers! Live-time experiences, role-playing. Call Dave Wass, 682-6962.

!!! PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON DESPERATELY NEEDED !!!

As you might have noticed on page 1, we had no program at press time. At the Board meeting in February, I asked for submissions from the Board by March first. This is *not* a criticism of those who worked diligently to provide calendar items from month to month - Lee has been several hats all year, for several years, and developed programs to date. The problem is we have only about 20 or so members who take on heavy responsibility, most of whom are *both* Board members *and* Committee chairpersons. At least 16 positions (including some not listed above) are held by 7 members of the Board. This does not serve SBAS well. So-o-o-... are there any of you 894 members who want some work? Program Chair requires work and a commitment to obtain speakers *at least three months* ahead of newsletter *delivery* date (5-6 weeks *after* my submission deadline)! We may need a new *Education Chair*. for next year as well, as Don may be on sabbatical.

Anyone anyone anyone interested?

- 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.

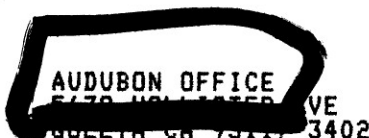
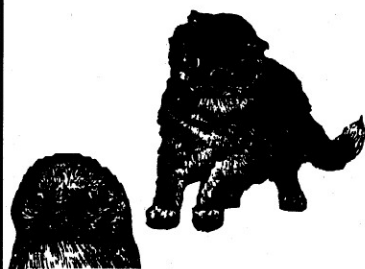
RARE BIRD ALERTS

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Los Angeles..... | 1-213-874-1318 |
| Monterey Bay..... | 1-408-375-9122 |
| Northern California/San Francisco..... | 1-415-528-0288 |
| N. California..... | 1-510-524-5592 |
| Morro Bay..... | 1-415-528-7128 |
| Orange County..... | 1-714-563-6516 |
| Sacramento..... | 1-916-481-0118 |
| San Bernardino..... | 1-909-793-5599 |
| San Diego..... | 1-619-479-3400 |
| S. Sierra/San Joaquin..... | 1-209-271-9420 |
| Southern California bird trips on line (case sensitive): http://www.audubon.org/audubon/SoCal.html | |

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

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