

# EL TECOLOTE



*Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Incorporated*

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## Farren Pretty Well: An Audubon Odyssey by Bill Hintze

We met, all nine of us, at 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning, May 5, at Hollister and Storke's scenic Jack-in-the-Box and were soon bound for the Goleta foothills -- Farren Road to be exact -- with visions of avian splendor dancing in our heads. Well, to be truthful, only some of the visions were of splendor — those featuring the dazzling lazuli bunting, blue grosbeak, oriole, and hummer. And the other visions? "Conspicuously unmarked buff face with plain buff ear coverts and no whisker marks; dark crown stripe; underparts buff, no streaking; flat head and long bill; short, sharp and narrow tail; voice a thin, buzzy trill, sometimes preceded by an introductory note (tic-zzzzzz)." And I hadn't thought anything was "conspicuous" about a grasshopper sparrow, much less "conspicuously unmarked!"

Those desiring bedazzlement had their moments, of course, the best occurring at the end as a male Costa's hummer performed its aerial display to the lady of his choice, oblivious to the presence of three awestruck birders only a few short feet away. As the happy hummers flew off together into the haze, one birder confessed to have thought "how romantic" and the rest of us -- the grimmer visaged seekers of the conspicuously unmarked? Well, after hearing tic-zzzzzz for the wearily 139th time within an hour without sighting a single flat head, nine sets of eyes found themselves gathered behind Farren's friendly barbed wire staring across 25 yards of grass into blooming mustard. Nothing. And more nothing. Visual nothing, that is.

Would it be all zzzzzz and no tic again today? Then, from one of the women, "Look! in the middle of that mustard plant! Yes..." And after the inevitable confusion of "Which plant?" and "I don't see it," we all saw it. Then Paul got serious and soon his 25x scope revealed all but the yellow in the bend of a wing

shimmering very conspicuously behind rising thermals. And our friend had so many more tic-zzzzzz in him that we all got two or three good looks each before he dropped down -- whether for sustenance or privacy he didn't say. We thanked him fervently.

There were a few unexpected rare visions as well: a white-throated swift, two ravens, a profusion of phainopeplas, and a singing lark sparrow who, remembering his manners, didn't punctuate his speech with his species' usual uncouth splats and blats. But by 11:30 all enchantment ended as we delivered ourselves into our respective impatient and every-hungry metal monsters -- until the next Audubon trip should release us from their maws once more.

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## Lee Moldaver: Final President's Message

After what seems like a few months, three years have passed. New energy, enthusiasm, and ideas in the person of new president Lauren DeChant are poised to renew our chapter. The baton I pass on to Lauren represents a very different Audubon from the one passed to me. Our national vision has been clarified and revitalized and a new strategic plan reemphasizes Audubon's traditional core values.

We've survived harsh recession and political turmoil the last few years. However, decades of environmental progress are under new attack as SB County's commitment to safeguard our wildlands is no longer solid and budget cuts threaten to keep *Audubon Adventures* out of the reach of many schools. I am confident that

Audubon will rise to these challenges facing it.

I would like to thank those past board members who have done so much for our chapter. Board members like Don Rathbun, who did slide shows for schools, clubs, and seniors between his world-wide bird-watching. Bob Zeman, who kept our books regular and balanced checkbooks while working full-time for Patagonia in Ventura. Jim Greaves, balancing fatherhood, field-naturalist work, and editing *El Tecolote* when nonpareil Dorin Mayes needed a break. Jeff Chemnick, matching knowledge, humor, and sense of adventure with his ardent conviction that Nature share her beauty free of charge. Where do you find a new Joy Parkinson, who's always there with wisdom and historical perspective? Or the

generosity of a Jerry Franklin, who decided SBAS needed an official chapter pin, then made it happen? Or of a Cathy Rose, who did not hesitate when our Land Preservation Fund needed a boost?

My last days as president have been spent seeking modern office equipment for our chapter, sending thank you notes to all who answered the call to help our Land Fund, and thinking grateful thoughts for the many who helped me through my tour. My one wish for the coming year is for a few more Audubon Office volunteers of the mettle of Karl Weissman, Tomi Sollen, and Jean Moseley. It is these volunteers who impart a human voice to Audubon. Thanks to everyone. See you out in the field, where I will try to sustain my glorious record for species misidentification.

### Saturday, September 15 9:00 a.m. to Noon Santa Barbara Coastal Commission Annual Beach Clean-up

SBAS has adopted the beach at Coal Oil Point north of UCSB to clean up as part of this yearly event. We'll meet at the parking area at 9 am, where parking permits will be handed out, for a morning of fun collecting debris from the beach. Snacks will be served to all volunteers. Please join us!



### Welcome to New Members

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society extends a warm welcome to all of our new members. We look forward to seeing you at Audubon meetings and field trips this fall. We're glad you're part of the growing number of local supporters for Audubon's efforts to excite people about birds and the preservation of their habitat. Thank you for joining:

Ms. Barbara Bette Bretz  
Mr. & Mrs. William Brummett  
Mr. C. Cagara  
Robert & Allison Coleman  
Jane Cosgrove  
James Forte  
Virginia Guess  
Arthur Hoff  
Susan Holmes  
Francesca Hunter  
Patti Jacquemain

W. P. Keller  
Sharon Liu  
Patrick Martin  
J. Martinez  
Anton Martinich  
Mrs. Helen M. McKee  
Rose M. O'Brien  
Joseph H. Pollock  
Linda Travis  
Boyd F. Vonkessinger  
Niki J. Zolotas

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

### Sparrow Identification Workshop with Jon Dunn

Friday, September 27, 1996

8:00 p.m. program; 7:30 p.m. refreshments

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History — Farrand Hall

1226 Puesta del Sol

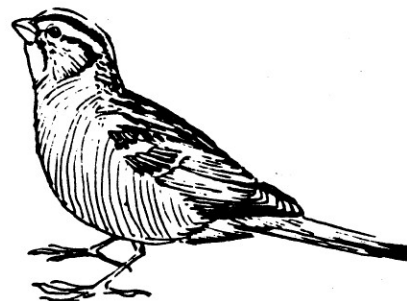
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Admission Fee: \$5.00

For more details, call the Audubon Office at (805) 964-1468.

JOIN US for this month's program when nationally known field ornithologist, bird tour leader, and author Jon Dunn will lead a workshop on *Sparrow Identification* for the Santa Barbara Audubon Society.

Jon will show slides and teach the fine points of identifying these little brown birds. A former resident of Santa Barbara, Jon was the major consultant for National Geographic's *Guide to the Birds of North America*. He also co-authored *The Birds of Southern*



*California* with Kimball Garrett and is compiling data on a soon-to-be published field guide to the warblers of North America.

The workshop should be of special interest to the serious birder. Bring your questions and sparrow encounter stories to share with the speaker and audience.

Admission fee will cover the cost of bringing Jon, an internationally-renowned educator, to Santa Barbara for this special 2 hour workshop.



## FALL FIELD TRIPS

**LAKE LOS CARNEROS, GOLETA**  
Wednesday, September 18, 8 am  
Don Rathbun (805) 964-5521  
Target birds: resident passerines  
101 to Los Carneros exit north on  
Los Carneros Road to Stow  
House parking lot next to fire sta-  
tion. Finish by 11:00 a.m.

**GUADALUPE-NIPOMO DUNES  
PRESERVE (THE NATURE CON-  
SERVANCY)** at the Santa Maria  
River Mouth west of Santa Maria  
Saturday, September 21, 7:30 am  
Rob Lindsay (805) 964-9514  
Target birds: fall shore birds  
101 to Storke/Glen Annie exit in  
Goleta. Go south on Storke Road  
to Jack-in-the-Box parking lot

near corner of Storke Road and  
Hollister Avenue. Car pool from  
there. Bring shoes for sand and  
warm jacket. Scopes useful. Back  
by mid-afternoon so bring water  
and lunch. *Drivers may appreciate  
gas money.*

**LAKE LOS CARNEROS, GOLETA**  
Saturday, October 12, 8:00 am  
Karen Bridgers (805) 964-1316  
Target birds: fall passerines  
101 to Los Carneros exit north on  
Los Carneros Road to Stow House  
parking lot next to fire station. Fin-  
ish before noon.

**DEVEREUX SLOUGH, GOLETA**  
Saturday, October 19, 7:30 am  
Rob Lindsay (805) 964-9514  
From the north take 101 south to  
Glen Annie, Storke and take Storke  
Road south and turn left onto El

Colegio Road, then right onto  
Camino Corto Lane. From the  
south take 101 to Los Carneros  
Road south past Hollister Av-  
enue to El Colegio Road and  
turn right. Turn left onto  
Camino Corto Lane and drive to  
the end and park on the street.  
Wear junk shoes because of tar.  
Scopes useful. Bring water.  
Trip over by 10:30 a.m.



*All field trips are open to the  
public. Unless otherwise noted,  
trips are free and reservations  
are not needed. If you need a  
loaner pair of binoculars for a  
trip, call the leader several  
days in advance.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, September 15	Annual Beach Clean-up
Wednesday, September 18	Lake Los Carneros Field Trip
Saturday, September 21	Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Preserve Field Trip
Friday, September 27	Sparrow ID Workshop
Saturday, October 12	Lake Los Carneros Field Trip
Saturday, October 19	Devereux Slough Field Trip

Thanks to generous  
members Land  
Preservation Fund lives!



MANY THANKS to members who contributed to SBAS' first Annual Giving program for our Land Preservation Fund. So far, we have received donations totaling \$3,500. These contributions show the dedication amongst Audubon chapter members to protect Santa Barbara's environment. The Board of Directors appreciates your generosity. Thank you!

*El Tecolote* is published 8 times a year by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. Non-member price for an annual subscription is \$10 per year. Audubon members are invited to send announcements, letters, articles, photos, and drawings for consideration to:

Janet Eastman, Editor  
525 Lorraine Ave.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
(805) 964-6486  
(805) 969-4423 FAX  
jeastman@silcom.com

Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month.

## SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers and Committee Chairs  
September 1996 - August 1997

### OFFICERS:

President: Lauren DeChant ..... 566-9314  
Vice President: Lee Moldaver.... 682-2120  
Secretary: Everett King..... 569-2307  
Treasurer: Annette de Knijf..... 962-1325

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: Dave Wass..... 682-6962  
Education: Elan Sutton..... 683-1143  
Programs: Gage Ricard..... 967-3604  
Field Trips: Paul Keller..... 968-7804  
Membership: Nancy King..... 964-4741  
Hospitality: Jay Bishop..... TBA  
Publicity: ..... TBA

BIRD REFUGE: Rob Lindsay..... 964-9514

RARE BIRDS: Karen Bridgers..... 964-1316

### AT LARGE

Ron Hirst..... 967-0138  
Rob Lindsay..... 964-9514  
Sally Walker..... 569-5388

*Officers and Committee Chairs meet the second Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. Please call the office to verify dates and times at (805) 964-1468.*

WESTERN SCREECH-OWN PEN & INK ON  
COVER © EILEEN J. GRAY

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