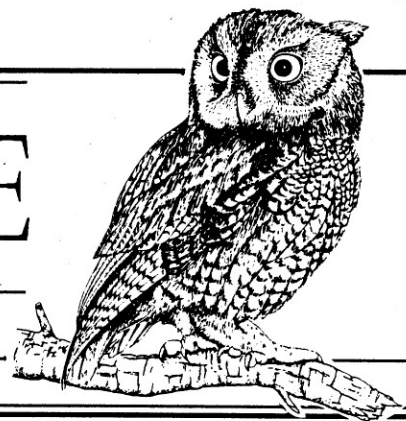


EL TECOLOTE

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Incorporated

Volume 35 Issue 8

May-June 1997



DEVEREUX SLOUGH THREATENED

A LETTER TO UCSB REGARDING THE WEST CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

The following is a letter sent to the UCSB Office of Budget & Planning on behalf of Santa Barbara Audubon Society by Board Member Ron Hirst. It is reprinted here for the consideration and information of all SBAS members.

In 1990 the Santa Barbara Audubon Society was involved in providing public testimony and written comments regarding the 1990 UCSB Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). We were particularly against the West Campus development next to the Coal Oil Point Reserve. We continue to be concerned with the West Campus development and the newly proposed North Campus housing.

Santa Barbara Audubon Society has reviewed the North & West Campus Housing LRDP Amendment of February 1997, had numerous discussions, and attended meetings regarding this LRDP. We attended and spoke at the recent UCSB Public Hearing regarding the LRDP.

Our primary reason for concern about the housing projects is that they are situated on or adjacent to unique and irreplaceable wetland and coastal habitat. West Campus abuts the Coal Oil Point Reserve and Devereux Slough -- home for numerous special wildlife and plant species. Any development that affects these is of extreme concern. In addition, the area immediately surrounding the Reserve is itself highly valuable wildlife habitat. Surrounding areas which you propose to build on are home to numerous species uncommon or rare to Santa Barbara. These areas also act as a buffer to help protect the Coal Oil Point Reserve and the species that reside there.

Areas where you propose to build are also highly valued by local residents and out-of-town visitors for their park-like nature. Hikers, bicyclists, bird-watchers, beach wanderers, surfers and many others use the areas surrounding the Reserve. Proposed housing projects would significantly and irreversibly alter land use patterns to the detriment of the plants, birds, wildlife and recreational users of the area.

There are many problems with the LRDP as it is currently written. We anticipate it will be a difficult process for you to produce a document that is technically correct, proposes an acceptable amount of housing that is located in appropriate areas, and that has the proper public review. You have our approval for the part of the plan that proposes to increase the size of the Reserve to include the hydrocarbon processing facility, the small dune pond near it, and the nearby fields.

The following points highlight some of our concerns with your

proposed project:

- (1) The document is written as an "Amendment" to the 1990 LRDP. The newly acquired North Campus property and the proposed developments there were not covered in the 1990 LRDP. Since a majority (80%) of the proposed development is sited on the new North Campus why is this an amendment and not deserving its own plan?
- (2) The document lists 57 Significant Impacts. Based on preliminary research by SBAS and the Environmental Defense Center we believe that a more realistic number is approximately 100 Significant Impacts. Many of these impacts are categorized as "Significant Unavoid-

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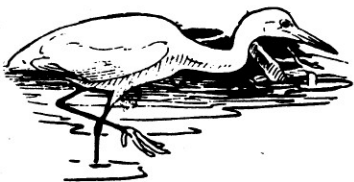
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able" and many are unmitigable. Examples of misclassified or neglected impacts are found in comments about the Phelps Ditch area, wetlands impacts, and bird foraging areas. There appears to be little understanding of the way in which species are using the habitats, a minimization of sedimentation/siltation issues, a lack of analysis of water quality in the creek and slough, and a minimization of effects of increased traffic. Mention of other nearby developments proposed and the possible combined impact of those with yours is omitted.

(3) One of the most egregious omissions from the document is that the Western Snowy Plover is not listed in your Impact Summary Table. This bird is a federally Threatened Species and a State Endangered Species. The colony of these birds that roam the edge of the project area numbers approximately 120 birds from September through April. The birds formerly bred in the area but ceased with increasing amounts of human disturbance in the 1980's. The placement of 513 housing units with 1,300 people plus dogs and cats within close proximity to this colony will have severely negative impacts on the Plovers. Why isn't the Snowy Plover colony mentioned in the Impact Summary Table?

(4) The Coal Oil Point Reserve is home to about 100 species of birds. Many of these birds, such as the Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Black-crowned Night Heron, and Snowy Egret depend on the Devereux Slough. Others such as the White-tailed Kite, California Quail, and Western Bluebird depend on the fields and brush surrounding the slough. The slough and its surroundings are critical habitat and unique remainders of a formerly extensive estuary which linked the Goleta and Devereux Sloughs.

(5) The area is visited by almost 300 species yearly. Species and numbers of birds found at the slough can be truly amazing. Waterbirds, landbirds, raptors, waders, gulls and more use the slough and adjacent lands. These birds include many species of ducks and shorebirds which are difficult to find elsewhere in Santa Barbara. In the winter it is not unusual for the Audubon Society to take a



field study group to the slough and to see ducks such as Gadwall, American Widgeon, Redhead and Green-winged Teal. At the same time there will be 8 species of gulls and terns and 12 species of waders and sandpipers. In the surrounding fields 4 species of raptors may be foraging as 5 species of sparrows flit through the brush. Colorful warblers, orioles, grosbeaks, kingbirds and woodpeckers perch in the trees. Occasionally Tundra Swans and California Least Terns visit the slough. We do not want to risk the already tenuous situation these birds face finding appropriate habitat and food in Santa Barbara County.

(6) Only a few coastal estuaries and fresh water coastal ponds remain in Santa Barbara. Coal Oil Point Reserve and its watershed are remnants of formerly widespread habitat. The reserve and surrounding habitat provide much needed places for birds to rest and nourish themselves during a rigorous migration. Placing developments in the fields and next to the wetlands could have serious impacts on the ability of the birds to sustain themselves. The habitat alterations, lights and activity both during and after construction will force the birds to leave. By placing so much development so close to the Coal Oil Point Reserve you will fulfill the prediction of one of the speakers at your recent public hearing - "you will create a reserve for the study of declining species."

(7) Devereux Slough is drowning from sediment washing into it from its north end. Some of the sediment is coming from the surrounding fields, many of which became highly degraded when the golf course was built. Some of the sediment comes from hills and farm lands far upstream. Placing more housing upstream of the slough risks more sedimentation. If the sedimentation continues as it has it is possible that the slough will not hold adequate water to sustain waterbirds in thirty years. What studies have been done recently to analyze the impacts of sedimentation on the slough and what recommendations have been made to reverse the sedimentation trend? What recommendations do you have to remove the alluvial fan that is expanding at the north end of the slough? Further sedimentation of this rare coastal wetland is unacceptable.

(8) The community extensively uses the area planned for development. The Isla Vista community, UCSB students, Santa Barbara and out-of-town birders, surfers, hikers, joggers, bicyclists, and horse riders use the planned development areas for recreation and enjoy its park-like set-

(Continued on page 5)

MAY PROGRAM
TREASURE ISLAND
MULTI-MEDIA
PRESENTATION
BY
ERNEST BROOKS, II

Wednesday, May 28

The President of Brooks Institute of Photography, Ernest Brooks II, will dazzle us with a multi-media presentation on his search for the perfect island on Earth. About the program, Mr. Brooks says, "It touches a philosophical statement that in essence reminds us of who we are and where we must walk. It is also a visual statement about the incredible light that encompasses the spectrum of our universe, and it is about each one of us in our world of conservation." Mr. Brooks is a noted professional photographer, educator, and ambassador for the industry who has won international acclaim for underwater photography and audio/visual presentations.



JUNE PROGRAM
CRANE RESEARCH AND
CONSERVATION

BY
MINI NAGENDRAN
DIRECTOR OF BIRD
CONSERVATION, NATIONAL AUDUBON
SOCIETY, CALIFORNIA

Friday, June 20

MINI NAGENDRAN, who is our new Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon, California, is an international specialist on cranes. There are 15 species of cranes, and 11 of these extremely charismatic species are now in trouble around the world. Mini has worked on six species of cranes in the wild, and two of the species that she has worked on are the most endangered of all — the Whooping Crane and the Siberian Crane. In her talk on *Crane Research and Conservation*, Mini will open our eyes to the beauty of these birds, their biology, the problems that hound these wetland obligate birds, the field techniques that include research and conservation efforts, the people who play a major part in all of these efforts, the international efforts that go into the conservation of these birds that don't know (political) boundaries, and the incredible challenges faced by the birds and those who try desperately to conserve them. Cranes date back to at least 38 million years and face maximum challenges during our time.

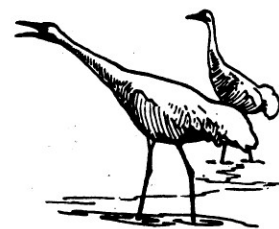
Mini has a Ph.D. in Zoology from North Dakota State, and has worked with USFWS International Affairs, The Wild Bird Society of Japan, and the International Crane Foundation. She is full of energy, has a great passion for birds, and possesses lots of charisma! This is a program for the whole family, and parents are encouraged to bring their kids, whom Mini particularly loves

All Audubon Programs are held at
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
Farrand Hall

1226 Puesta del Sol
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

8:00 p.m. Program
7:30 p.m. Refreshments

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



FIELD TRIPS

LAKE LOS CARNEROS, GOLETA

Saturday, May 17, 8:00 a.m.

Karen Bridgers: (805) 964-1316

Target: spring passerines

Take 101 to Los Carneros exit north on Los Carneros Rd. to Stow House parking lot next to fire station. Finish before noon.

EAST CAMINO CIELO, S. B.

Saturday, May 31, 7:30 a.m.

Rob Lindsay: (805) 964-9514

Target: spring migrants, chaparral residents, Mountain Quail, Black-chinned Sparrow, Bell's Sage Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow

Drivers may appreciate gas money.

Take 101 to La Cumbre exit in Santa Barbara. Go north on La Cumbre Rd. and turn left into Five Points Shopping Center and park at Carl's Jr. at 3925 State St. Car pool from here. Trip over before lunch.

FARREN ROAD (WEST OF GOLETA)

Saturday, June 7, 7:30 a.m.

Target: Costa's Hummingbird, kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak

Rob Lindsay (805) 964-9514

About a mile west of the Winchester Canyon Rd. exit off of 101. Turn right (left if coming from the north) to Calle Real. Turn left onto Calle real and go west about 300 yards to Farren Rd. and park. Bring water and shoes for lots of walking. Back by mid-morning.

MT. PINOS

Saturday, June 14, 6:30 a.m.

Target: Mountain Quail, White-headed Woodpecker, Calliope Hummingbird, Dusky Flycatcher, Western Wood-pewee, Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee, Cassin's Finch, Chipping Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee

Dave Compton (805) 965-3153

Meet at Andree Clark Bird Refuge. From the east take 101 north to Cabrillo Blvd. (left lane exit just past town of



Montecito). Take Cabrillo and turn right onto Los Patos Way and look for Bird Refuge parking on left. From the west, take 101 south to Los Patos off-ramp (after Milpas exit) and turn right into Bird Refuge parking. Car pool from here. Dave, who has no car and lives in downtown Santa Barbara, would be grateful to anyone who would offer him a ride to the bird refuge. Bring lunch, water, sun block, and dress for cold morning and warm afternoon. Leave Mt. Pinos by late afternoon. *Drivers may appreciate gas money.*

CARPINTERIA SALT MARSH RESERVE

Friday, July 18, 6:00 p.m.

Professor Wayne Ferren: (805) 893-2506

From Ventura take 101 north to Casitas Pass Rd.

Target: Light-footed Clapper Rail, shore birds
Go south and turn right on Carpinteria Ave. Drive west on Carpinteria Ave. to Estero Way (Apple St. on AAA map). Turn left and drive to gate. From Santa Barbara take 101 south to Carpinteria Ave. exit and take Carpinteria Ave. to Estero Way (1st right). Bring bag dinner if you like and perhaps insect repellent and join Wayne at picnic table at 6:00 p.m. or come later and join the group in the reserve. High tide is at dusk and may flush rails into view. Meanwhile, Wayne - the authority on the botany, natural history, and politics of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh, will share his knowledge. Those who wish to carpool may meet at the Andree Clarke Bird Refuge parking lot at 5:30 p.m.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE GIVES THANKS

ELAN SUTTON, Education Committee Chair, would like to give a special thanks to those who have volunteered their time to the committee by giving slide talks, slide shows, or input to the community this year upon request. They are:

Don Rathbun — Carrillo Rec Center; Jeff Chemnick — EF International; Peggy Boucher — Elementary Schools; Darlene Chirman — Four Seasons Garden Club; and Elise Melsher — Summer Volunteer. Thanks also to Miriam Polne-Fuller, Bridgette Lewin, and Dave Wass and to those who donated money to provide Audubon Adventures to local classrooms!



(Continued from page 2)

ting. The proposed development area is one of only a few urban boundary areas that has this character. Others include More Mesa, the Carpinteria Bluffs, and the Douglas Family Preserve. Those special properties enjoy tremendous community support in Santa Barbara. The proposed developments will radically alter the land use patterns the community has enjoyed for decades, and the project is antithetical to the mores of a large proportion of the community.

(9) Impacts listed in the LRDP are not sufficiently mitigated. One possible mitigation not mentioned is to contribute to a fund to restore portions of the property. A likely candidate for restoration is the South Site. Volunteer community groups could plant trees and native vegetation. The area could be restored and enhanced so that trees, bushes and grasses would provide wildlife habitat and enhance the quality of the area. It is adjacent to some of the most biologically valuable land and could become an extension of that habitat. Wildlife is more successful when it has larger contiguous areas to roam, hunt and breed. A \$200,000 fund might be adequate to restore the site. If it were restored it might become part of the Coal Oil Point Reserve. Will you consider supporting restoration of the South Site?

(10) Coal Oil Point Reserve and its surroundings are very rare coastal habitat. They are one of the last few percent of these type of lands in Southern California. This rare coastal land cannot be compromised. The area is more biologically significant than properties such as the Douglas Family Preserve, More Mesa, or the Carpinteria Bluffs. The Devereux Slough, Coal Oil Point Reserve, coastal beaches and foredunes, and coastal bird habitat must be preserved at any cost.

Sincerely,

Ronald Hirst
Santa Barbara Audubon Society



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON would like to present its slate of Board nominees for 1997-98. The slate will be voted on at the annual Meeting & Picnic on June 14. (See coupon below to attend.)

Lauren deChant - President
Lee Moldaver - Vice-President
Chris Walden* - Treasurer
Everett King - Secretary
Dave Wass - Conservation Chair
Elan Sutton - Education Chair
Paul Keller - Field Trip Chair
Gage Ricard - Program Chair
Jay Bishop - Hospitality Chair
Janet Eastman - Newsletter Editor
Sheila Johnson* - Publicity Chair
Dave Kisner* - Membership Chair
Darlene Chirman* - At Large
Don & Florence Stivers* - At Large

* New to the SBAS Board

SBAS is grateful to the following Board members for their service during 1996-97: Jay Bishop, Lauren de Chant, Annette De Knijf, Janet Eastman, Paul Keller, Everett King, Lee Moldaver, Gage Ricard, Elan Sutton, and Dave Wass. We bid a fond farewell and many, many thanks to departing Board members Sally Walker, Rob Lindsay, Ron Hirst, and Annette De Knijf.

AUDUBON ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

Sunday, June 8, 1997

Giorgi Park — North Old San Marcos Road

12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$8.00 per person

Please join us for food, fun, and a challenging round of Bird Brain!

Please fill out and return to the SBAS, 5679 Hollister Ave. Suite B, Goleta, CA 93117.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of people attending: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Vegetarian ☐ Meat (tri-tip) ☐



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 17	Lake Los Carneros field trip
Wednesday, May 28	MAY PROGRAM — <i>Treasure Island Multimedia</i>
Saturday, May 31	East Camino Cielo field trip
Saturday, June 7	Farren Road field trip
Sunday, June 8	SBAS Annual Picnic
Saturday, June 14	Mt. Piños field trip
Friday, June 20	JUNE PROGRAM — <i>Crane Research & Conservation</i>
Friday, July 18	Carpinteria Salt Marsh field trip

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Santa Barbara Audubon Society extends a warm welcome to all new members. We look forward to seeing you at Audubon meetings and field trips. 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!

Bobbie & Rom	Hettie Jenkinson	Meera Roy
Anthony	Virginia G. Johnson	Dorothy Smith
Martha B. Eaton	Ms. Mary Kass	Mr. James M.
John Ernest	Mrs. Cecilia Kendall	Stafford
Ms. Barbara Goll	Helen MacDonald	Susan & Mark Stegall
Mrs. Greenwood	Walt Matthews	William Uomini
Barbara L. Gutmann	James Moonier	Karl J. Weis
Dayna Harary	Gary Nielsen	Mr. & Mrs. Michael
Ms. Joan Hardie	Ms. Kristine Pilkington	B. Wray
Ms. Rose Ann Hill	Ms. Laura Price	

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers & 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	682-6926
Education: Elan Sutton	683-1143
Field Trips: Paul Keller	968-7804
Hospitality: Jay Bishop	969-2675
Membership:	
Newsletter: Janet Eastman	969-3767
Programs: Gage Ricard	967-3604
Publicity:	

BIRD REFUGE: Rob Lindsay	964-9514
RARE BIRDS: Karen Bridgers	964-1316

AT LARGE:

Ron Hirst	967-0318
Rob Lindsay	964-9514
Sally Walker	569-5388
Audubon Office	964-1468

RARE BIRD ALERT (805) 964-8240

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



PEN & INK DRAWING ON COVER BY DARYL HARRISON

EL TECOLOTE

DATED MATERIAL — MAY-JUNE 1997

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

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