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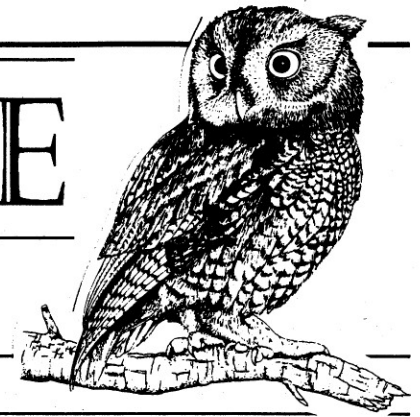
# EL TECOLOTE

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*Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Incorporated*

Volume 36 Number 1

September 1997



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## ECOTOURISM COMES TO SANTA BARBARA: CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST BIRDING TRAIL

*Jim Greaves*

Conceived two years ago, the California Central Coast Birding Trail (CCCBT) is nearing its debut. During the past year, brochures have been compiled with maps of the four counties along California's oft-overlooked central coast. Chapters involved (Conejo Valley, Ventura, Santa Barbara, La Purisma, Morro Coast, Monterey Peninsula, and North Cuesta) met nearly a dozen times, each sponsoring one or more of the meetings to ensure that the trail would come to fruition. The brochures will appear in a few months in motels, other tourist-oriented businesses, and nature centers throughout the region.

The purpose of the trail is to encourage a recognition of the value of birds to our lives and provide eco-tourism a boost in our region. To that end, brochures identify easily accessible areas in which birds unique to our region may be seen by locals as well as tourists. We hope also to encourage people who visit our coastal regions to recreate themselves. Each area included on a brochure will have a short list of some birds of each place, instructions on how to reach the location, and information unique to each site.

Every effort was made to keep the brochures general enough to entice the expert as well as the novice. Although not a "super-bird" effort, rare bird alert numbers will be listed for the compulsive among us. For example, Santa Barbara's brochure lists Goleta Beach as a good place to view cormorants and other water and shore birds unique to that location. Each brochure includes symbols for wheel-chair access, nearby food, phones, and other amenities, if any exist.

Modeled after the famed Texas Coast Birding Trail, which itself was spawned from a neophyte hummingbird festival, the CCCBT includes more than 100 locations in which the curious may view our unique coastal and pelagic birds and many common land birds, some of which are rare elsewhere. Included along the trail are well-

known areas like the Channel Islands, Morro Rock, and Point Mugu. While these areas appeal to national and international tourists, lesser known locations, such as Figueroa Mountain, Refugio Road, and Patterson Avenue are listed, giving the trail a uniquely local flavor as well.

Prior to the inception of the trail idea, chapters in four counties (Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura) lobbied for and won recognition from National Audubon for the uniquely different concerns of these coastal areas as distinct from northern, inland central, and southern California. With an eye to address these concerns, the Central Coast Audubon Council (CCAC) was formed and has gained an increasing presence among other councils.

The CCAC hopes to raise awareness — both locally and in Washington — of the uniqueness of the Central Coast. More than two dozen threatened or endangered species, many of which are birds, can be found here — in addition to the California Condor and Peregrine Falcon. Both the CCAC and the CCCBT should help to protect these species, while ecotourists hoping to experience the beauty and birds of the Central Coast will provide a boost to California's economy and may become advocates for preservation of places and thereby the birds that inhabit them.

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## PARTNERS IN FLIGHT IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

A PROCESS WHICH BEGAN IN EUROPE is currently happening in other parts of the world. This is the identification of areas important to birds. While millions of European tourists already plan their vacations to include visits to some of the less sensitive areas already on maps in Europe and elsewhere, areas as small as an isolated desert pond to preserves the size of Rhode Island have been identified in several U.S. states and Canada, and are currently being compiled in other states, including California.

A local candidate for submission is the Mono-Indian Creek, upper Santa Ynez River watershed. Located in the Los Padres National Forest, this is an area of about 160 square miles, extending from Gibraltar Reservoir to Big Pine Mountain in the north, eastward to Ventura County. It is the last area of its size in S. B. County with more than 100 land bird species breeding in close proximity to one another. Many of these birds are highly dependent on the water supplied by the Santa Ynez River and its tributaries. In the coming months, SBAS will be reviewing the forms submitted for sites throughout the state, as National Audubon, California Chapter hopes to have the first list compiled by winter.

### ENDANGERED SPECIES UPDATE LEAST BELL'S VIREO & CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER



In 1997, the population of Bell's vireos along the Santa Clara River increased nearly 35%. Over 180 juveniles were seen, about 65% of the estimated productivity, which was nearly double the 1996 total. Vireos continued to breed at Gibraltar Reservoir, but the population remains at a third the number found in the early 1980s.

Last year we reported on California Gnatcatchers in Ventura County. Two pairs raised 10 young that year in Moorpark. In spring of this year, 9 gnatcatchers were encountered, double the number found in spring 1996. While this augers well for the birds, development in Ventura, and especially in Moorpark, continues at a rapid pace, especially on the slopes upon which the gnatcatcher depends for its livelihood.

*El Tecolote* is published 8 times a year by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. Non-member price for an annual subscription is \$15 per year. Audubon members are invited to send announcements, letters, articles, photos, and drawings for consideration to:

Janet Eastman, Editor

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

5679 Hollister Avenue - Suite 5B

Goleta, CA 93117

(805) 964-1468 FAX: (805) 967-7718

Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month.

## HELP WANTED

WHOEVER THOUGHT that our chapter would have so many projects to do that it would have to seek out volunteers? But that is the case! Santa Barbara Audubon has really picked up speed in the last few years, and it is actually getting exciting just being around the people already involved. So if you would like to feel the excitement and sense the possibilities, read on.

**SNOWY PLOVER MONITORING** and public education project. Six months duration; 1-2 hrs. per week. Seven volunteers needed to work with Natural Reserve System personnel. To help, call Dave Wass at (805) 682-6962.

**BE AN AUDUBON YES! MENTOR** for high school juniors and seniors. Help them get involved in local environmental projects; 3-4 hrs. per month. Project term is school year. Three volunteers needed. Phone Catherine Graham at (805) 682-1357.

**HELP PLANT A WETLAND.** We have been doing it for 3 years now and are getting good at it. Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Term is as long as you wish. Ten volunteers needed. Phone Dave Wass at (805) 682-6962.

**IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS PROGRAM.** Identify significant bird habitats. Compile information concerning them for a state-wide study. Need intellectual types who are good hikers. Five volunteers needed. Time required - ask the leader, Jim Greaves, (805) 563-2905.

### Coastal Clean Up Saturday, September 20 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Please join us for our annual clean up of Devereux Slough and the Coal Oil Point beach area — part of the Coast Commission's state-wide effort to clean up our coast. Volunteers should meet at the West Campus parking area (101 to Storke Rd. to Slough Rd.) where parking stickers will be handed out along with canvas bags and record-keeping sheets. Gloves recommended. All ages are encouraged to participate.

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

# COMMON BUTTERFLIES OF CALIFORNIA

## SLIDE PRESENTATION

### BY BOB STEWART

Friday, September 19

Santa Barbara Public Library, Faulkner Gallery  
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; program at 8 p.m. Free.

Bob Stewart will speak about butterflies based on his recently published book "The Common Butterflies of California." It's not uncommon for birders to broaden their focus to include butterflies in their pursuit of winged wonders. In this presentation, Bob will give us a good overview of California's rich array of butterflies. Bob currently works for Marin County's Open Space District and has been an educator and naturalist for the past 30 years.

# WARBLER WORKSHOP

## WITH

### JON DUNN & KIMBALL GARRETT

Co-Sponsored by the  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
and the  
Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Friday, September 26

Doors open at 7 p.m. for book signing and social hour; program begins at 8 p.m.

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History,  
Farrand Hall

1226 Puesta del Sol  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Admission: \$5 per person; pay at the door

Fall migration is here and so are premiere birders Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett to help us sort through that bewildering group of birds, the warblers!

Jon and Kimball's book, "A Field Guide to the Warblers of North America" — scheduled to be published just in time for this workshop — promises to be the absolute last word on how to identify those colorful little birds that pass through Santa Barbara, primarily in spring and fall. If copies are indeed available, and we expect that they will be (hot off the presses), we will have books at the workshop, which Jon and Kimball will sign.

Kimball, currently Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and Jon, a bird tour leader for WINGS, have co-authored many articles about birding and field identification. Their collaboration began in 1981 with "Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution." Jon was also the major consultant for the National Geographic Society's famous field guide, The Birds of North America, which was completed in the mid-1980s and still stands as the best single volume available to North American birders to take into the field. Kimball, known as "The Bird Man of L.A. County," keeps all the records for that area, plus supervises the ongoing breeding bird atlas and other projects.

Don't miss this excellent opportunity to wise up on warblers!

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



☒ YES!

## National Audubon Society Membership Application

I want to join Audubon and help protect wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Special new-member rate of \$20

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to and send to:

National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 5100  
Boulder, CO 80321-1000

Local Chapter — Santa Barbara Audubon Society C13 7XCH



## FIELD TRIPS

### GUADALUPE-NIPOMO DUNES PRESERVE

#### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

AT THE SANTA MARIA RIVER MOUTH WEST OF SANTA MARIA

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 8:00 A.M.**

target: fall shore birds, shearwaters, jaegers; Chestnut-backed Chickadees

leader: Tom Rohrer (805) 898-0646

Carpool from Jack-in-the-Box parking lot at the corner of Storke Road and Hollister Avenue in Goleta (101 to Storke/Glen Annie exit); or meet at the preserve at 9:15 a.m. Take 101 north to Santa Maria and exit at 166 west; drive to beach parking lot. Bring shoes for sand and warm jacket. Scopes useful. Back by mid-afternoon so bring water and lunch.

### GOLETA SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT & GOLETA BEACH COUNTY PARK

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 7:00 A.M.**

target: shorebirds, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper

leader: David Kisner (805) 692-9792

From the south take 101 north to 217 then turn off to Goleta Beach County Park. From the north take 101 south to Fairview Ave. Go south (right turn) and follow main road, which involves bearing right onto Fowler Rd. and left onto Moffet Rd., and follow signs to Goleta Beach. Meet at eastern end of Goleta Beach County Park parking lot. Scopes useful Trip over before lunch.

#### *Planning Ahead ...*

### VENTURA COUNTY GAME PRESERVE IN OXNARD

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1998, 7:30 A.M.**

target: Virginia Rail, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbird

leader: Guy Tingos, (805) 681-0026

Meet at Andree Clark Bird Refuge parking lot. 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 on left. From the west, take 101 south to Los Patos off ramp (after Milpas exit) and turn right into refuge parking. Carpool from here. If you want to meet at the game preserve, call leader for directions and procedures. Trip over by noon.

*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.*

## YOUR FIRST FIELD TRIP? WELCOME!

FIELD TRIP SEASON BEGINS this month, and you may be asking yourself, "Would I enjoy going along on one of these bird outings? After all, I know nothing about birds. Would I fit in?"

After passing our bird trivia initiation exam ... just kidding! Bird knowledge not required — Audubon trips are dedicated to helping people enjoy observing birds. We only ask that you meet us at the advertised meeting place reasonably on time. (You can't miss us. We're the folks with the binoculars hanging around our necks.) Also, leave your pets at home, and only bring children who really want to watch birds with us. You might avoid clothes that are brightly colored or that flap violently in the wind so that you won't scare away our quarry. Binoculars are a must. Call the leader several days before the trip to arrange for a loaner pair if you can't get your hands on a pair yourself.

Sometimes a trip leader, trying hard to let everyone see some really rare bird, will insist that each put on his best quiet and courteous birding behavior - no unnecessary talking, no sudden movements like excitedly pointing at a bird, no tall people standing in front of short people, that sort of thing. Most leaders promote a decidedly casual atmosphere where we mix birding with lots of quiet chit chat. Most trips can be enjoyed by the beginning and the experienced birder alike. Occasionally a trip will be dedicated to beginners and focus on common birds, whereas the annual Christmas Bird Count requires a solid knowledge of common birds in order to find rarities. If you have questions about the suitability of a trip, call the leader.

Don't be embarrassed if when for the nth time you ask the leader, "What bird is that?" for the nth time the leader answers, "Ruby-crowned Kinglet." Birders know that you learn birds only through lots of repetition. All of which leads me to an observation. Your leader combines a solid basic knowledge of our birds with a passion for sharing his enthusiasm of birds with others. Most people who come to our field trips have the latter quality but may be unsure of their knowledge to feel comfortable enough to volunteer to lead trips. Your presence helps bolster their confidence when you ask them to identify a bird. People love to share their interests with others. And that is what Audubon field trips are all about. So come join us!

— Paul Keller

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! I hope all of you had a wonderful summer. A warm welcome to all new members who have joined Santa Barbara Audubon over the summer. I'd like to introduce our new Board members for this year; each of them bringing a wealth of expertise and knowledge to our chapter: Chris Walden, Treasurer; David Kisner, Membership; Sheila Golburgh Johnson, Publicity; Darlene Chirman, At-Large; and Don & Florence Stivers, At-Large. **THANK YOU** to our new Board members for their dedication and energy towards the chapter.

At our recent Annual Board Retreat & Orientation, I was extremely excited by the ideas and enthusiasm generated by our group. We discussed a multitude of projects and ways that Audubon can make a difference in the Santa Barbara community. The only time our enthusiasm was dampened was when we realized that to accomplish so much we would need more hands to help. In particular, our Conservation and Education Committees are faced with many challenges this upcoming year. I promised Dave Wass (Conservation Chair) and Elan Sutton (Education Chair) some assistance - so I am appealing to you for support. If you are interested in preserving Devereux Slough, one of California's last coastal wetlands and home to countless bird species; or educating the next generation of (hopefully) ecologically responsible Santa Barbarans, then you are a prime candidate to join us in some hands-on work! Please call me, Dave or Elan to get more information on how you can help us and the Santa Barbara environmental community.

Speaking of motivated volunteers - I was approached at our June program and at our Annual Picnic by two wonderful individuals who offered to help in any way they could. Unfortunately, I've lost the small slip of paper with their phone number amongst my stack of Audubon papers! I hope that Ron and Wilma read this and accept my apology. Ron & Wilma, if you're out there, please call me (566-9314) - we're ready to put you to work!

Looking forward to another enjoyable & successful year, Lauren DeChant

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

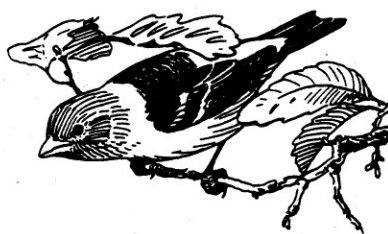
Santa Barbara Audubon Society extends a warm welcome to all new members. We look forward to seeing you at Audubon meetings and field trips this fall. We're glad you're part of the growing number of local supporters for Audubon's efforts to excite people about birds and the preservation of their habitat.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

R. Astonga  
Henry H. Bagish  
Angela Bell  
Miti Blagborne  
Tony Buyalos  
Mario Cervantes  
Mrs. Mary Connors  
Leslie Deardorff  
Mr. Mike Duncan  
Mrs. Roberta Eby  
Nils Froula  
Helen Fischer  
Ms. Catherine Graham  
Judith Harris  
Marian Jean  
Robert Kales

E. Kramer  
Mrs. Estelle Lassen  
Mr. Michael Lunsford  
Mr. & Mrs. James Maher  
Mrs. Beverly McCurdy  
Maria Mikhailas  
Donald E. Mitchell  
Mr. Joe Mookken  
W. Pennington, Jr.  
Randy Potts  
Ms. Trish Reynoso  
Don Schroeder  
Henry Schulte  
Stephanie Stark  
Jo Anne Thompson  
Chris Walden

## RARE BIRD ALERT

(805) 964-8240



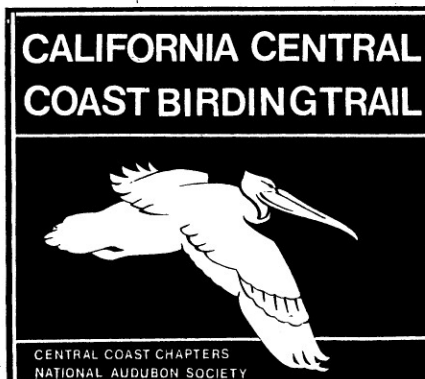
*Don't miss the*  
**Santa Barbara Horticulture Society**  
**Annual Plant Sale**  
featuring specialty nursery &  
hard to find (but easy to grow) exotic plants  
**Sunday, September 21**  
**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**MacKenzie Park**  
corner of State Street and Las Positas Road  
For information, contact Jeff Chemnick  
(805) 965-0895

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, September 5	Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes field trip
Thursday, September 11	SBAS monthly board meeting
Saturday, September 13	Goleta Sewage Treatment Plant & Goleta Beach County Park f.t.
Friday, September 19	Butterflies of California with Bob Stewart
Saturday, September 20	Coastal Beach Cleanup
Sunday, September 21	Santa Barbara Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale
Friday, September 26	Workshop on Warblers with Jon Dunn & Kimball Garrett

## CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST BIRDING TRAIL LOGO

IN ADDITION TO the brochure and map of the trail, a series of highway signs indicating sites along the Central Coast Birding Trail will display this logo to help those following the map find where they're going and to lure unwary travellers to investigate choice birding spots during their travels. Look for the signs this fall!



## SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers and Committee Chairs  
September 1997 - August 1998

### OFFICERS:

President: Lauren DeChant ..... 566-9314  
Vice President: Lee Moldaver.... 682-2120  
Secretary: Everett King..... 569-2307  
Treasurer: Chris Walden ..... 969-4256

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: Dave Wass..... 682-6962  
Education: Elan Sutton..... 683-1143  
Field Trips: Paul Keller..... 968-7804  
Newsletter: Janet Eastman ..... 969-3767  
Programs: Gage Ricard..... 967-3604  
Membership: David Kisner..... 692-9792  
Publicity: Sheila Golburgh Johnson 682-4618

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

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

### AT LARGE

Darlene Chirman ..... 692-3690  
Don & Florence Stivers ..... 967-3690

*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. FAX (805) 967-7718.*

*PEN & INK DRAWING ON COVER BY DARYL HARRISON*

## EL TECOLOTE

DATED MATERIAL — SEPTEMBER 1997

**Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.**  
**5679 Hollister Avenue — Suite 5B**  
**Goleta, California 93117**

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U.S. Postage PAID  
Santa Barbara, CA  
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