

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

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Very Special Birds

W E IN CALIFORNIA are fortunate to have hummingbirds to watch practically all year round. These tiniest of the world's birds are found only in the Americas. They are iridescent, active, valuable pollinators, insect predators, and have a great appeal for most people. They catch the eye of even non-birders:

Hummingbirds have many unique qualities. Their incredible ability to maneuver in flight allows them to move up, down, backwards, forwards, upside-down, and sideways. They can hover, but never soar. Flight muscles represent 25-30% of a hummer's body weight, more than other strong fliers whose flight muscles represent approximately 15%. Unlike other birds, which generate power on the down stroke of the wing, hummingbirds generate power on the up stroke as well.

Contrary to appearances, hummers do not necessarily fly faster than other birds. Their average speed is similar to birds such as mockingbirds and robins. Why, then do they appear to fly faster than other birds? Hummingbirds achieve top speed immediately upon take-off, rather than building up speed as others do. Also, their rapid wing beats - approximately 500 beats per second during normal flight - and their small size and maneuverability add to the illusion.

Being tiny and warm-blooded hummingbirds lose and gain body heat very rapidly. Yet they maintain an average body temperature of 105°F. A hummingbird has a heart rate of approximately 480 beats per minute at rest, 1,200 beats per minute when active. To provide fuel for their tiny bodies and high-energy lives, hummers

need to sip nectar and feed on insects about every 15-20 minutes throughout the day.

Some flowers have specifically evolved to attract and provide nourishment for hummers. This evolutionary arrangement is not because of altruistic motives. Hummingbirds serve to transfer pollen from plant to plant, providing the benefit of cross-pollination.

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Hummingbirds' incredible ability to maneuver in flight allows them to move up, down, backwards, forwards, upside down, and sideways.

Western Regional Conference April 4-7, 1998

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN hundreds of other bird lovers, nature enthusiasts, and environmental activists at the National Audubon Society's 1998 Western Regional Conference April 4-7 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula in Pacific Grove, California. Interactive workshops, inspiring speakers, exciting field trips, and stimulating discussions will focus on this year's theme, "Adventures in Bird Conservation: A Century of Audubon Accomplishments."

Confirmed speakers include celebrated wildlife artist and conservationist Robert Bateman; renowned birder and author of the *Peterson Guide*

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Very Special Hummingbirds

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Hummers will drink from a flower of any color that has a good supply of nectar available. you can take advantage of hummingbirds' relationship to plants to attract them to your yard by planting trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers that meet their needs for food and shelter. Your garden can be more beautiful and enjoyable when visited by hummers.

Human development has encroached upon natural habitats. Hummingbird gardens can help replace lost habitat and promote preservation of our hummingbirds and other native wildlife. The best way to attract hummingbirds is through planting a carefully designed hummingbird garden to eliminate the need for feeders. If you wish to use a feeder, please keep it scrupulously clean. The feeder should be washed and the sugar water changed every three or four days as bacteria and molds can easily accumulate and harm the birds.

There is no need to buy expensive prepared nectar substitute as it is easily and cheaply made in your own kitchen. The best mix is one part sugar to three or four parts water. Bring the mixture to a boil to thoroughly dissolve the sugar, and then cool. Honey is not advised as it can encourage growth of bacteria and molds. Most feeders have red on them already, so red food color is unnecessary.

What hummingbirds might you expect to

see regularly in California? By far the most common species, in most locations, is the Anna's hummingbird. It stays year-round in California. It is one of the earliest of all birds to nest, sometimes nesting as early as December.

The Allen's hummingbird migrates to coastal lowlands, mountains, and suburban gardens to nest and raise its young. The rufous hummingbird migrates through our coastal and mountain areas going to and from nesting locations in northern California and into Oregon. South-bound migratory Allen's and rufous move through the mountains visiting flowers during late June and July, heading south of our border to winter.

Black-chinned hummingbirds are widespread summer visitors in many parts of California, preferring brushy oak canyons, riparian woodlands, agricultural areas bordered with trees, and suburban gardens. The Calliope is the smallest hummer found in California, breeding in mountain meadows and canyons, often near streams. Costa's hummingbirds are found in dry shrubby habitats in the southern part of the state, and in a few places stay all year long. The broad-tailed hummingbird can be found in the breeding season, east of the crest of the Sierra and in the mountains near the Nevada border.

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A hummingbird has a heart rate of 480 beats per minute at rest and 1,200 beats per minute when active.

1998 Western Regional Conference April 4-7

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to *Advanced Birding* Kenn Kaufman; and distinguished photographer and naturalist Arnold Small. Three speakers will be on hand to sign books. Other scheduled highlights include a special retrospective of this century and a 100th birthday party celebrating a century of the life and work of Hazel Wolf.

The conference also offers field trips to some of the most beautiful landscapes and bird-rich habitats in North America. Highlights this year include a pontoon boat ride through Elkhorn Slough and the ever-popular pelagic trip.

Young people are welcome to participate in age-appropriate youth programs, one for ages 3-12 and another for ages 13-17. Special activities and field trips are scheduled for each age group.

To register, contact Audubon California at (916) 481-5332 (555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825) or by email at jjacobs@audubon.org.



March Program & Early April Lecture

March 25: Wednesday
California Birds:
The Last 50 Years

Dr. Arnold Small
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.
program at 8:00 p.m.
at the Santa Barbara Museum of
Natural History, Farrand Hall
Co-sponsored by the S.B. Audubon
Society and the S. B. Museum
of Natural History
Free

PHOTOGRAPHER AND AUTHOR Dr. Arnold Small will present a superbly illustrated presentation on California birds -- especially noting the changes, for good or ill, of their status and distribution. He will also cover birding as a hobby and sport, new techniques, and leaders in the field of birding, especially in California.

Prior to his presentation and immediately following, he will be available to autograph copies of his newest book, *California Birds: Status and Distribution*, which can also be purchased at the program.

April 3: Friday
Birding Santa Barbara
County: The Glory Days
Past and Present

Paul Lehman
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.
program at 8:00 p.m.
at the Santa Barbara Museum of
Natural History, Farrand Hall
Co-sponsored by the S. B. Audubon Society
and the S. B. Museum of Natural History
Admission: \$5

SPEND AN EVENING with former Santa Barbara resident Paul Lehman as he recounts through slides and anecdotes some of the highlights of birding in our county. During his tenure in Santa Barbara from 1974 to 1994, Paul was a lecturer at UCSB, taught bird classes locally, and wrote the definitive book on *The Birds of Santa Barbara County*. He was the editor of *Birding* magazine from 1987 to 1997 and currently leads bird tours for *Wings*. He and his wife, Shawneen Finnegan, an expert birder and photographer, reside in Cape May, New Jersey.



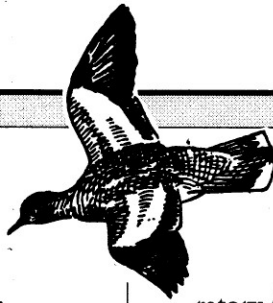
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Celebrates the *Year of the Bird*

DURING 1998 the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History will celebrate "the beauty, diversity, and importance of birds" through a variety of bird-related activities such as field trips, lectures, and a new exhibit, "Hunters of the Sky." The museum, which co-sponsors many programs with Santa Barbara Audubon, has its earliest roots in ornithology. Museum founder, William Leon Dawson, "believed that the secrets of life would be discovered through the study of bird eggs."

Some of the activities to be offered are Paul Lehman's lecture (see above right), a live appearance of an Andean Condor in April, and field trips to Lake Cachuma and Florida's Everglades. The "Hunters of the Sky" exhibit, featuring birds of prey, will open at the end of May.

For more details on how the museum plans to pay homage to our avian friends this year, please contact Sue Lafferty, the museum's director of Public Programs, at (805) 682-4711.





Spring Field Trips

RANCHO JOCOSO, east end of Lake Cachuma
Saturday, March 7, 1998, 7:00 a.m.

Target: Common Goldeneye, Wood Duck, Lewis's Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, American White Pelican, Mountain Bluebird
Leader: Jeff Chemnick (805) 965-0895

Meet at Carl's Jr. at 3925 State Street and car pool from there. Take 101 to La Cumbre exit in Santa Barbara, go north on La Cumbre and turn left into Five Points Shopping Center and park at Carl's Jr. Bring water. Back before lunch.

VERTEBRATE COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, Santa Barbara

Friday, March 13, 1998, 6:00 p.m.

Study skins of shorebirds and other species that you request

Leader: David Kisner (805) 692-9792

From the north take 101 to Glen Annie/Storke exit and go south on Storke Rd. to the end. Turn left onto El Colegio Rd. and go east into the UCSB main campus. Bear left onto Ocean Rd. then turn right onto University Rd. At the East Gate bear left onto Lagoon Rd. and turn right into Lot 1 and park.

Walk west to Noble Hall (544), go to the 2nd floor and as you walk west the Vertebrate Collections will be on your right. Bring your field guide if you have one, pen and paper for notes. Beginning birders, you have the opportunity to see field marks "in the feather" and in your hand. Experienced birders already know the value of study skins for sharpening field identification skills. We should finish up by about 8:00 p.m. Practice your honed skills on living birds on tomorrow's field trip.

CAMPUS LAGOON AND VICINITY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, Santa Barbara

Saturday, March 14, 1998, 8:00 a.m.

Target: Shorebirds and others

Leader: David Kisner (805) 692-9792 or kisnerd@silcom.com

Follow the directions of yesterday's trip to the Vertebrate Collections except instead of turning right into Lot 1, continue south on Lagoon Rd. and turn left into Lot 6 and park in the southern end of Lot 6 by the Marine Biotechnology Labo-

ratory (555). AAA Santa Barbara and vicinity F-5, DeLorme p. 89 A-6. Scopes useful. Dress in layers. Those that joined Dave at the Vertebrate Collections last evening may wish to bring their notes. Trip over before lunch.

TROUT CLUB, off San Marcos Pass
Saturday, April 4, 1998, 7:30 a.m.

Target: Spring foothill migrants, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, hummingbirds, sparrows, orioles. Susanne hasn't heard the Northern Pygmy-Owl in months, but we can hope. Leader: Tom Rohrer (805) 898-0646

Take 101 to La Cumbre exit in Santa Barbara and meet at Carl's Jr. at 3925 State St. Car pool from there. Trip over by mid-morning. Bring snack and water. Trout club residents Susanne and Carroll Barrymore will be our hosts for this normally off-limits area.

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.

LAKE LOS CARNEROS, Goleta

Saturday, April 25, 1998, 8:00 a.m.

Target: Spring migrants

Leader: Karen Bridgers (805) 964-1316 or kbridgers@msn.com

Los Carneros exit from 101 north on Los Carneros Rd. to Stow House parking lot next to fire station. AAA Santa Barbara and Vicinity C-4, DeLorme p. 89 A-6. Finish before noon.

California Central Coast Birding Trail Brochures

Sponsored by the National Audubon Society California & the Central Coast Audubon Chapters

THEY'RE HERE! Beautiful glossy brochures detailing 25 birding locations along the Central Coast Birding Trail. Call the Audubon office (805) 964-1468 to receive a copy today.

Local Audubon Board Member Named to New California Board

LEE MOLDAVER WAS NAMED to the newly formed Audubon California Board by the NAS and the Audubon California director. Santa Barbara Audubon's own vice-president was then elected its first vice-president. The board as originally constituted has 11 members from throughout California.

The main goal of the new board — which will be meeting in Santa Barbara on Saturday, June 13 — is to help integrate all of California Audubon education, conservation, and public outreach programs on unified themes for urban, rural, and wilderness habitat. It also advises the National Audubon Society president on California conservation and policy issues and supports the work of Audubon California office in Sacramento.

Congratulations, Lee!

Welcome New Members

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON Society extends a warm welcome to all new members. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming Audubon programs 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:

Jay Bishop
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks Davis
Cameron & Kate Evens
Ms. Rita A. Gronhovdr
Roger & Pat Hallin
Eva Kirkpatrick
Claudia Knudson
J. Marvin

Miss Susan M Petronio
Karen Vonsomogi
Grant Weyburne



Oak Woodland Forum April 11 & 18, 1998

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON Society and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden will co-sponsor an all-day field trip and afternoon forum in April to draw attention to the value of oak tree woodlands in Santa Barbara County and throughout the state.

APRIL 11 — OAK WOODLANDS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY including Sedgwick Reserve field trip with Bob Haller, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; free but limited to 30; call 692-2008 for details and to reserve a space.

APRIL 18 — OAK WOODLAND FORUM at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Native Oaks and Oak Communities of Santa Barbara County, John Evarts, editor *Oaks of California*

Grazing Management to Promote Oak Regeneration, Joseph Morris, Rancher

Mitigating for Lost Oak Trees, Rosi Dagit, Conservation Biologist, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

Gardening with Oaks, Carol Bornstein, Director of Horticulture, SBBG plus

Habitat Values of Oak Woodlands - a Statewide Perspective, panel discussion

The forum will take place at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Fleischmann Auditorium, 1-5 p.m. Call 964-1468 or 682-4726 ext. 102 for more information.



National Audubon Society Membership Application



Yes!

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

Special new-member rate of \$20

Make check payable and send to:
National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 5100
Boulder, CO 80321-1000

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____

Local Chapter — Santa Barbara Audubon Society C13 7XCH

Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 7	Rancho Jocoso field trip
Friday, March 13	UCSB Vertebrate Collection field trip
Saturday, March 14	UCSB Lagoon & Vicinity field trip
Wednesday, March 25	March Program: <i>California Birds - the Last 50 Years</i>
Friday, April 3	Paul Lehman: <i>Birding in California</i>
Saturday, April 4	Trout Club field trip
Sunday-Tuesday, April 4-7	Western Regional Conference, Asilomar, California
April 11 & 18	Oak Woodland Field Trip & Forum
Sunday, April 19	Earth Day
Saturday, April 25	Lake Los Carneros field trip
Wednesday, April 22	April Program: <i>Marine Mammals of the Santa Barbara Channel</i>
Saturday, April 25	SB Audubon at SBBG Garden Club Row

Santa Barbara Audubon Society Officers & Committee Chairs 1997-98

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	964-1468
Membership	David Kisner	692-9792
Programs	Gage Ricard	967-3604
Publicity	Sheila Golburgh Johnson	682-4618
BIRD REFUGE	Rob Lindsey	964-9514
RARE BIRDS	Karen Bridgers	964-1316
AT LARGE	Darlene Chirman	692-2008
	Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690
RARE BIRD ALERT	<i>Lists rare birds sighted recently.</i>	964-8240

Officers and Committee Chairs meet the second Thursday of the month. Members are welcome to attend. Please call the Audubon office to verify dates and times (805) 964-1468; FAX (805) 967-7718.



Santa Barbara
Audubon Society
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Goleta, CA 93117

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In This Issue...

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