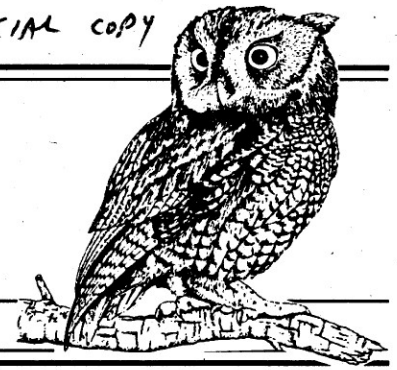


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 38, Issue 2

October/November 1999



MAPS 1999 Season Finale

by Kathleen Whitney

The first Santa Barbara Audubon Society's MAPS banding season concluded in the afternoon of August 1st. On that fateful day the loyal MAPS volunteers bid a tearful adieu to those early morning alarm clock awakenings, pre-dawn work calls, and the cheerful camaraderie of the bird banding station. Many of our tenacious and talented volunteers put in an eight-hour day at the MAPS station (beginning at 5 AM) and then went on to work a full day at their paid jobs (wow!!). From March until August, Audubon volunteers set up the MAPS station, tirelessly ran the net lines, extricated entangled birds from mistnets (we all quickly learned to dread finding Common Yellowthroats in the nets, those unsurpassed masters of the double-trammeled, spin-twist knot) and humored me while I droned on endlessly about molt, feather wear, and aging birds in the hand.



To date, we have captured 40 species of birds at the Atascadero Creek MAPS site. In total, 388 birds were banded and 44 banded birds were recaptured during this year's spring-summer banding season. The following species were captured and banded at Atascadero Creek between March 3 - May 1 (MAPS training sessions) and May 1 - August 1, 1999 (official MAPS banding season):

Mourning Dove ^B(1), Downy Woodpecker ^B(3), Willow Flycatcher ^M(5), Hammond's Flycatcher ^M(1), Pacific-slope Flycatcher ^B(3), Black Phoebe ^T(2), Ash-throated Flycatcher ^B(2), Northern Rough-winged Swallow ^T(2), Western Scrub-Jay ^B(8), Oak Titmouse ^B(1), Bushtit ^B(26/4), Red-breasted Nuthatch ^M(1), Bewick's Wren ^B(6/2), Swainson's Thrush ^M(9), Hermit Thrush ^M(2), Wrentit ^B(2), Hutton's Vireo ^B(3/1), Warbling Vireo ^B(8/1), Orange-crowned Warbler ^B(19/1), Yellow Warbler ^T(13), Yellow-rumped Warbler ^M(10), MacGillivray's Warbler ^M(1), Common Yellowthroat ^B(99/21), Wilson's Warbler ^B(14), Black-headed Grosbeak ^B(7/1), Lazuli Bunting ^T(1), Spotted Towhee ^B(6/1), California Towhee ^B(11), Song Sparrow ^B(39/8), Lincoln's Sparrow ^M(1), White-throated Sparrow ^M(1/1), Golden-crowned Sparrow ^M(5), White-crowned Sparrow ^M(1), Red-winged Blackbird ^B(21/2), Brown-headed Cowbird ^B(2), Hooded Oriole ^T(3), House Finch ^B(39), Lesser Goldfinch ^B(5/1), American Goldfinch ^T(1), House Sparrow ^T(1)

(/) - (number of birds banded/number of birds recaptured); ^B - bred on or immediately adjacent to the MAPS site; ^T - probably bred within 5 miles of MAPS site; ^M - migrant,

(Continued on page 5)



CALIFORNIA CONDORS

Reported Near Painted Cave!

Ten Condors and a Golden Eagle were reported to have been seen in the Painted Cave area in mid-September by a Painted Cave resident.

Jan Hamber, Condor Biologist at the Natural History Museum, said that condors easily travel great distances and might indeed have been seen at Painted Cave. A total of 49 California Condors have been returned to the wilds; 20 in our area, 20 in Arizona and 9 in Big Sur.

Thank You!

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society would like to express gratitude to the Goleta Sanitary District for their gracious cooperation with birders wishing to see the rare Curlew Sandpiper. The Curlew Sandpiper has since moved on, but thank you Goleta Sanitary District for your generous support of our local birders!

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First Annual CREEK WEEK EVENTS

Sunday, October 17 through Sunday, October 24

Plan now for special wetland and creek field trips and programs sponsored by the South Coast Watershed Alliance, its participating organizations, and Project Clean Water - City and County of Santa Barbara.

Sunday, October 17, 9:00 AM to noon

San Jose Creek Restoration Sites Tour/Restoration Plantings

Location: Meet at the Berkeley Road footbridge

Brian Trautwein to lead tour; restoration plantings to follow

Sponsors: UCC, SBAS, EDC; Darlene Chirman 692-2008

Monday October 18, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Cieneguitas Creek Tour given by Stephanie Langsdorf of UCC

Location: Meet at Vieja Valley School, 434 Nogal Drive

Sponsor: UCC; Stephanie Langsdorf 962-0996

Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 PM

Program: Audubon Bird Banding Study by Kathleen Whitney

Bioregionalism and the South Coast, by Michael McGinnis

Location: Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Main Library

Cosponsors: SBAS/CEC; Jennifer Ayers 963-0583 x149

Don't miss Kathleen Whitney's article on page 1!

Wednesday, October 20, 7:00 PM

Presentation on Creek Ecology by Britta Bierwagen & Chris Pyke

Location: TBA

Sponsor: S. B. Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology

Thursday, October 21, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

A Walk by the Creek - Devereux Lagoon/Creek

Location: Isla Vista Elementary School

Sponsor: Agua Pura Project; Luis Pinedo 568-3330



Friday, October 22, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Donation \$ 5.00

Community Reception sponsored by UCC/CEC

Location: Comm. Environmental Council, Gildea Resource Center

7:00 Steelhead Trout presentation; Craig Fusaro & Brian Trautwein

Saturday, October 23, 12 noon to 5:00 PM

"Fall in the Creek" Festival. Booths, music, kid activities and more!

Location: Oak Park

Organizers: Rachel Couch 685-3012; Darcy Aston 568-3546;

Alison Whitney 564-5574

Sunday, October 24, 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Historical/Birding Tour of Atascadero Creek and Flood Control

Restoration Site, led by Mark Holmgren. **See page 4, Field Trips!**

Location: Meet at Patterson Ave. bridge at Atascadero Creek

Sponsor: SBAS; Darlene Chirman 692-2008

Sunday, October 24

Creek Clean-up, various locations

Locations: Call Urban Creeks Council at 968-3000 for locations

Organizers: Stephanie Langsdorf 962-0996; Eddie Harris 962-8620

Devereux Slough Margin Restoration Project Coal Oil Point Reserve by Darlene Chirman

Santa Barbara Audubon began its volunteer assistance of the Coal Oil Point (COP) Enhancement Project funded by the Coastal Resources Grant Program on August 29, to restore the lagoon margin and protect **valuable bird habitat**. The Devereux Slough ecosystem is especially rich in bird diversity, and harbors sensitive bird species. Devereux Slough supports the western-most population of Belding's Savannah Sparrows, and large numbers of migrant and wintering gulls, ducks, terns and shorebirds utilize the open water, sand bars or mud channels.

The first part of the project is restoration and enhancement of a half mile of lagoon margin along the road to Coal Oil Point and Cliff House. This will buffer the slough from the road - protecting water quality from run-off and screening the slough from headlights. The present "Hottentot fig", or iceplant, is an African native plant which has invaded natural areas an unfortunately displaced native plants and provides poor wildlife habitat. The native salt marsh vegetation--such as Pickleweed and Frankenia, and Coastal sage scrub shrubs--such as Coast goldenbush, Suaeda, and California sagebrush provide food resources for several marsh-dependent butterflies, and foraging for Belding's Savannah sparrows.

Several Audubon volunteers assisted the Reserve staff in covering the iceplant along the lagoon margin with black plastic to kill the iceplant. Herbicides are not being used, as they might damage sensitive wildlife. When winter rains begin, several hundred native plants will be planted along the margin. The existing salt marsh plants are expected to creep up the banks once the iceplant has been eradicated.

The project will also provide a path along the lagoon margin, and improved parking turnouts with informational kiosks for birders. Audubon will assist in the design and content of these signs.

Other aspects of the Coal Oil Point Enhancement Project will improve access for birdwatchers during the seasons when the bird activity is highest.

Regular Restoration Volunteer Workdays will be held. Come out and help! You can make a valuable contribution, and have fun with like-minded folks in a beautiful setting. We'll be there October 10 and November 14. By November we should be planting. To volunteer or for more information, call Dave Wass, the Audubon Volunteer Coordinator for the project, at 682-3241, or contact the COP Resident biologist, Cris Sandoval at sandoval@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 685-0255.

SB AUDUBON FALL PROGRAM SERIES



All programs - unless otherwise noted - will take place at Farrand Hall,

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara. Free on-site parking.

All programs - unless otherwise noted - will begin at 7:30 PM (a change from last year). Doors will open at 7:00 PM.

All programs - unless otherwise noted - are FREE to the public; SB Audubon members are encouraged to bring friends and guests.

Wednesday, October 27th **JILL SHIRLEY, Speaker** **"The Birds of the Salton Sea"**

The Salton Sea, in southeast California, is a major oasis on the famed "International Flyway". Zillions of neotropical and other migratory birds stop there annually to feed and water on their journey. But the Salton Sea is one of the West's most endangered habitats, its ecosystem rapidly deteriorating due to pollution, neglect, natural forces. Audubon California has made saving the Salton Sea one of its top priorities.

Join naturalist and National Audubon Society California chapters coordinator Jill Shirley in a lively slide show/discussion on the birds of the Salton Sea, and why it's so important to save them.

Wednesday, November 17th **(note special date)**

GUY HAND, Speaker **"A Natural History of the Highlands"**

The highlands of Scotland and northern England were heavily forested for centuries. Still richly abundant with birds and wildlife, a new generation of conservationists is attempting habitat restoration of historic proportions. See the hills, lakes, forests and birdlife in this part of the United Kingdom as you've rarely seen them before.

Guy Hand is a former Brooks Institute student; Santa Barbara-based, but internationally known as a writer, photographer, and field naturalist. His work has appeared in Sierra Magazine, Audubon Magazine, and a host of others. Don't miss Guy Hand's article "The Tao of Wine" in the current National Audubon magazine.



The Santa Barbara Audubon Society and the UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center are co-sponsoring these two great conservation lectures:

Wednesday, October 6th from 5 - 7 PM

Lecture/Book Signing by GRAY BRECHIN
Author of "FAREWELL, PROMISED LAND"

The lecture will be held at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion in Santa Barbara. Admission is \$7.50. Reservations suggested: 893-3907. "Farewell Promised Land" is the story of the battles and losses of the landscape that once comprised the natural portion of the "California Dream."

Tuesday, October 12th at 7:30 PM

Lecture/Book Signing by AMORY LOVINS
Author of "NATURAL CAPITALISM"
Co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Institute

The lecture will be held in the McCune Conference room at UCSB Humanities and Social Sciences Building. Call 893-3907. The author discusses the book he co-authored with Paul Hawken, on the economics of the environment.



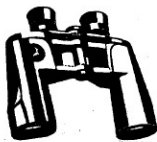
1999 Central Coast Birding Rally

The 1999 Central Coast Birding Rally hosted by La Purisima Audubon will be held October 15-17. It is open to birders everywhere and all Rally events are **free**. In addition to the Rally there will also be a reception, picnic, and birding tours!

A birding rally is a contest where teams of birders go from checkpoint to checkpoint in a given amount of time and identify as many birds as possible. Teams of four people each will choose one of three "arenas" in which to compete: **1. Lompoc Valley** which includes La Purisima Mission, Ocean Park/Surf Beach and the Waterfowl Natural Resources Area, VAFB, **2. Santa Maria Valley** which includes Oso Flaco Lakes, Waller Park, and Guadalupe Dunes Preserve/Santa Maria Mouth and **3. Santa Ynez Valley** which includes Lake Cachuma, Nojoqui Falls Park, and Hans Christian Anderson Park.

To register for this fun event and for more details please contact Dean Wineman in Santa Maria by phone 805 925-0304 or e-mail wino90@aol.com or visit the Rally web site, <http://homepages.go.com/~lpas/lpas.html>.

Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips



Everyone is welcome! These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird lovers. Binoculars are useful for the full enjoyment of birds, but if you don't have a pair please call the trip leader and we'll lend you a spare. All trips are free unless otherwise noted.

Lake Los Carneros, Goleta

Saturday, October 9th at 5:00 PM

Target: Fall song birds

KAREN BRIDGERS, 805 964-1316, kbridgers@msn.com

Take Los Carneros exit from 101 north on Los Carneros Rd to Stow House parking lot next to fire station. We will first bird Stow House then work our way towards the dam slowly circling the lake counterclockwise. Those who get off work late are welcome to catch up with us and join us late. Finish by 6:30.

If you've never been to Lake Los Carneros you must join Karen as she shows us around her favorite birding place at the beginning of fall song bird migration.

Atascadero Creek, Goleta

Sunday, October 24th at 8:00 AM

Target: Fall migrant song birds and wetland birds

MARK HOLMGREN, UCSB Museum of Systematics and Ecology (Call Darlene Chirman 805 692-2008 for questions)

Take 101 to Goleta and exit Patterson Ave south for 1.3 mi. to the bridge, just before the road veers left. Park on the dirt on either side of Patterson Ave between the bike path and the creek. Or ride your bike! Bring walking shoes and binoculars. No binoculars? Call Darlene for a loaner pair!

Mark will take us to the recently restored wetlands at the base of More Mesa then we will continue west along Atascadero Creek. We will look at past images of the area, human uses of the flood plain and look into the future of stream-side habitats. Trip over by 10:30 AM.

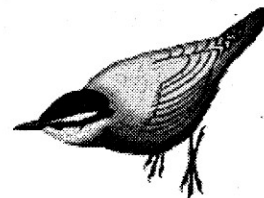
Devereux Slough, at UCSB West Campus, Goleta

Saturday, November 13th at 7:30 AM

Target birds: waterfowl, shorebirds, winter songbirds

ROB LINDSAY, 805 967-0835

From the north take 101 south to Glen Annie, Storke and take Storke Rd south, then turn left onto El Colegio Rd, then right onto Camino Corto Ln. From the south, take 101 to Los Carneros Rd south to El Colegio Rd and turn right. Turn left onto Camino Corto Ln. and drive south to the end. Turn right onto Del Playa Dr. and drive to the end and park on the street. Wear junk shoes for sand, tar and a walk around the slough. Bring water and dress in layers for fog, wind and sun. Scopes useful. Come see for yourself why the Santa Barbara Audubon Society has made preserving the habitat of Devereux Slough in the face of UCSB housing expansion its first priority this year.



Naval Air Station at Point Mugu near Oxnard Ventura County

Saturday, December 4th at 7:45 AM

Target birds: waterfowl, rails, egrets, shorebirds

PAUL KELLER, 805 968-7804, wrentit@gte.net

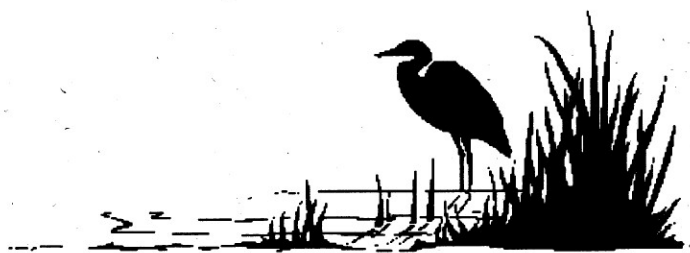
Sign up ahead of time is required due to a 25 person limit. However, we need at least 15 participants. Please do not cancel! This trip is listed early to give you plenty of time to make plans. Drivers may appreciate gas money.

We will carpool from the Bird Refuge Parking Area. The trip will begin at Mugu's Pizza across the Main Gate off Hwy 1 at Wood Rd at 9:00 AM. If you want to meet us at Mugu's Pizza please let me know. To reserve your space call me between Nov. 8 and Nov. 18. If you get my machine, EN-UN-CI-ATE CLEAR-LY AND SLOW-LY, spelling as necessary, your last name, first name, middle initial, social security number, phone number, and if you are under 18 years old, your age. You must be at least 12 years old. Cora Fields, Naval Base Public Affairs, will lead us about the base until about noon. Bring Photo ID, lunch, water, dress in layers for sun, fog, wind or showers. Scopes useful, cameras/video equipment not allowed.

More Great Field Trips

Other Audubon chapters offer interesting field trips too. You can visit the Website for Southern California Audubon Information to schedule birding trips all over Southern California. The purpose of this website is to provide interesting information about birding and other Audubon programs, including field trips, birding e-mail lists, and rare bird sightings in Southern California.

<http://socal.ca.audubon.org/>

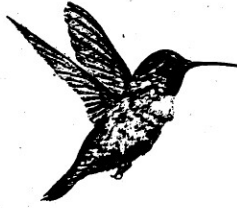


(MAPS Season Finale Continued from page 1)

not known to currently breed on the southern Santa Barbara County coastal plain (birds so designated were primarily banded prior to the beginning of the MAPS period).

Other species for which we collected sufficient evidence to indicate on-site nesting include: Green Heron, Mallard, White-tailed Kite, Cooper's Hawk, Great-horned Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, and Allen's Hummingbird.

Some of the more noteworthy accomplishments of this year's MAPS season include the confirmation of White-tailed Kite, Cooper's Hawk, Warbling Vireo and Wilson's Warbler as on-site breeders. Also of interest was



the nearly continuous presence of Willow Flycatchers on the MAPS site from mid May to mid June. Five of these Willow Flycatchers were captured and banded.

Overall, this first banding season was a resounding success and lots of learning and good fun was had by all! This MAPS banding season has been brought to you by the following awesome volunteers: **Morgan Ball, Kris Burnell, Darlene Chirman, Dave Compton, Michelle Fulton, Jessica Glatzer, Jim Greaves, Robb Hamilton, Mark Holmgren, Melissa Kelly, David Kisner, Don Schroeder, Maureen Spencer, John Storrer, Mary Wenzel, and myself.**

San Jose Creek Restoration Project Update by Darlene Chirman

Volunteers have participated in the monthly work days on San Jose Creek, sponsored by **Santa Barbara Audubon** and Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council. Tasks include planting native plants, removing invasive non-native plants, watering and weeding new plantings, and picking up trash. During the planting season, October to March, we planted oak understory with native grasses, hummingbird sage, snowberry and wood mint. A hillside was transformed from the ornamental Fountain grass to native bunchgrass plus monkeyflower and blue-eyed grass. Sandbar willow was planted to stabilize a creek bank, and Sycamore trees were planted to succeed storm-downed Eucalyptus trees. The volunteers have contributed to improved water quality and wildlife habitat. This year, we hope to expand the project with additional funding, to include school children and community groups in hands-on restoration.

Monthly work days are generally held on the last Saturday of the month. We meet at the Berkeley footbridge at Merida Drive at 9 AM and work until noon.

To tour the restoration sites, come out on Sunday, October 17th; meet at the Berkeley footbridge at 9 AM. Brian Trautwein of the EDC, formerly the Executive Director of Urban Creeks Council, will lead the tour, which will be followed by restoration plantings. This will be the monthly volunteer day, shifted from the usual last Saturday in honor of Creek Week.

Notes from Catherine Graham Education Chair



10 % Discount

Use your Audubon membership card for a 10% discount on merchandise at the Discovery Channel Store at Paseo Nuevo!

Volunteers

Small but important jobs are available for volunteers. Just call Catherine at 682-1357. **Thank you!**

Conservation Committee

The conservation committee will hold meetings on Oct. 6th and Nov. 3rd at 7:00 PM in Room 5 of the Goleta Valley Community Center. **All members are welcome!** Please call Dave Wass 682-6962 for more details.

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

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Oct. 6 | "Farewell, Promised Land" |
| Oct. 9 | Lake Los Carneros Field Trip |
| Oct. 12 | "Natural Capitalism" |
| Oct. 15-17 | Central Coast Birding Rally |
| Oct. 17-24 | First Annual Creek Week |
| Oct. 24 | Atascadero Creek Field Trip |
| Oct. 27 | "The Birds of the Salton Sea" |
| Nov. 13 | Devereux Slough Field Trip |
| Nov. 17 | "A Natural History of the Highlands" |
| Dec. 4 | Point Mugu NAS Field Trip |

Welcome New Members!

Santa Barbara Audubon Society extends a warm welcome to all new members. We look forward to seeing you at Audubon programs and field trips. We're glad you're part of Audubon's efforts to excite people about birds and the preservation of their habitat. Thanks for joining!

Margarete Cathcart

Vashte Doublex

Anne Drejet

James Finch

George Getty

Ronnie Glick

Judy A. Halvorsen

Mrs. Robert W. Hawes

Heidi Kirkpatrick

Craig Madsen

Christine Michel

Mike Moschitto

Donna Old

Helen C. Olson

Gayle Pinkham

Karen Roberts

Robert Roberts

Don Schroeder

Frank M. Sundin

Linda Thom

Mr. Frank Van Schaick

Robert L. Vior

N. L. Yiskis



El Tecolote submissions: tecolotesb@aol.com

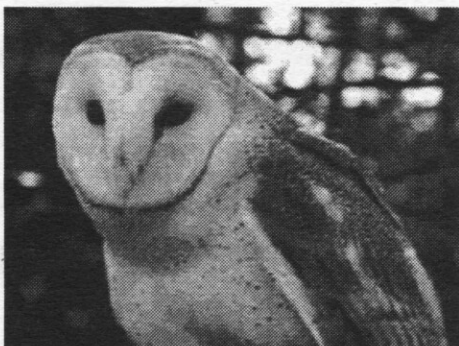
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In This Issue...

The awesome adventures of bird banders!

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

sbaudubon@silcom.com

July 1999 - June 2000

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| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|
| President | Darlene Chirman | 692-2008 |
| Vice-President | | |
| Secretary | Jim Greaves | 563-2905 |
| Treasurer | | |

Committee Chairs

| | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Conservation | Dave Wass | 682-6962 |
| Education | Catherine Graham | 682-1357 |
| Field Trips | Paul Keller | 968-7804 |
| Membership | Mary Wenzel | 685-5601 |
| Newsletter | Bill & Elaine Uomini | 964-9401 |
| Programs | Lee Moldaver | 682-2120 |
| Publicity | Sheila Golburgh-Johnson | 682-4618 |
| Science | Kathleen Whitney | 687-0842 |
| At Large | Morgan Ball Patrick McNulty Chris Walden | 968-0827 967-9900 969-4256 |
| HOSPITALITY | Don & Florence Stivers | 967-3690 |
| BIRD REFUGE | Sally Walker | 569-5388 |
| RARE BIRDS | Karen Bridgers | 964-1316 |
| RARE BIRD ALERT | Recent rare bird sightings | 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. Cover art by Daryl Harrison.