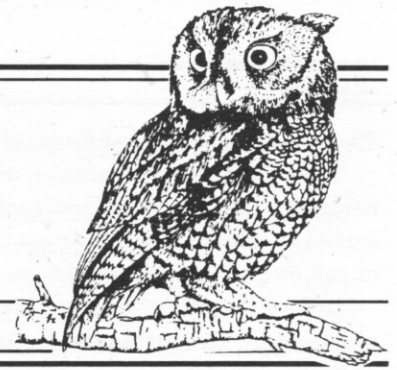


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 38, Issue 3

December 1999/January 2000



SB Audubon Society Acquires Education Ambassadors

by Gabriele Drozdowski



*Photo of Max a Great Horned Owl
by Gabriele Drozdowski*

After almost a year in the making, Santa Barbara Audubon Society has State and Federal permits to keep several live birds of prey for the purpose of environmental education. The effort, organized by Audubon member and long-time wildlife rehabilitator Gabriele Drozdowski, will give children the special opportunity to experience wild beings up close.

The birds we are featuring are individuals that can no longer survive in the wild. Max, a strikingly beautiful Great Horned Owl, fell from

his nest as a tiny baby, and was brought to Wildlife Care of Ventura County as the first Great Horned Owl nestling of the season. Because of the absence of other Great Horned Owls at that time, Max unfortunately became imprinted onto humans. Although great efforts were made to "wilden him up" by housing him with wild owls, Max still continues to think of himself as a human, and can therefore not be released into the wild. Ivan, a beautiful adult Red-tailed Hawk, was hit by a car while pursuing prey across a highway, fracturing a wing and detaching the retina in one eye. Both birds' calm and tolerant temperaments make them excellent candidates for this job. Children as well as adults will surely fall in love with them.

Max and Ivan will begin their ambassador duties in January, starring in a multimedia program "Eyes In the Sky: Hawks, Owls and Falcons of Santa Barbara."

The program will aid children in the proper identification of local raptors. It will inform them of the destructive effects certain human activities have on wildlife (poisons, pesticides, fishing line, cat and dog attacks, tree trimmings, car and window impacts, etc.), and the importance of habitat preservation. It will also offer them many constructive activities that will encourage peaceful and safe coexistence with local wildlife. The program will also stress that seeing these beautiful birds up close is a very special privilege, and that all wild animals do not make good pets.

(Continued on page 2)

1999 Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, January 2, 2000

by Joan Lentz

Please come help us count the birds during Santa Barbara Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count to be held Sunday, January 2, 2000! This is the 100th anniversary year of the Christmas Bird Count, so let's make it a special celebration of birds and birders!

On the evening of Count Day, please join us at the compilation dinner at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in Fleischmann Auditorium. The potluck dinner begins promptly at 6:00 PM and the compilation countdown at 7:00 PM. Please bring your favorite salad, main dish, or dessert to share. If your group includes out-of-towners, they may contribute drinks, bread, chips, etc. Please bring your own service.

(Continued on page 2)



Contents	Page
Education Ambassadors	1 & 2
Christmas Bird Count	1 & 2
Burrowing Owl Rescue	2
Audubon Programs	3
Education Notes	3
Field Trips	4
Restoration Activities	4
SBAS Joins SM Foothills Coalition	5
Calendar of Events	6

(Christmas Bird Count continued from page 1)

This year's count compiler will be Joan Lentz, assisted by Karen Bridgers and Joan and George Hardie. Chris Walden has graciously agreed to take participants' sign-ups. Please fill out the coupon below or call or e-mail Chris to sign up.

Before the count, you can help us by scouting your neighborhood or anywhere else within the Count Circle for the following interesting or unusual birds:

Cattle Egret
Blue-winged Teal
Greater Scaup
Mountain Quail
Common Moorhen
Virginia Rail
Black-necked Stilt
Lesser Yellowlegs
Long-billed Curlew
Common Snipe
Thayer's Gull
Greater Roadrunner
any owls
(other than Great Horned)
White-throated Swift
any non-Anna's Hummingbirds
Sapsuckers
(other than Red-breasted)



Horned Lark
any swallows
Rock or Winter Wrens
Common Raven
Phainopepla
Nashville Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Hermit Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
any tanagers
any grosbeaks
Lark Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Tri-colored Blackbird
any orioles
Lawrence's Goldfinch

PLUS: any montane species such as: Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire, Varied Thrush, Brown Creeper, Pine Siskin or Cassin's Finch.

If you see any of the above or know of any other interesting birds, please let one of us know. Thanks and see you at the Christmas Count!

Joan Lentz (805 969-4397) jelentz@rain.org
Karen Bridgers (805 964-1316) kbridgers@email.msn.com
Joan and George Hardie (805 964-4090) JHcynwren@aol.com

FOR SIGN-UP CONTACT:

Chris Walden (805 969-4256)
Walden@rain.org
222 W. Mountain Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93103



(Education Ambassadors continued from page 1)

Max and Ivan will also begin attending SBAS events so look for them in the future. Other ambassadors in the working are a young Red-shouldered Hawk, an American Kestrel, and a Western Screech Owl. We will keep you all informed. To find out more about SBAS education programs, visit SBAS website:

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/santabarbara>



Burrowing Owl Rescue by Gabriele Drozdowski

On October 3, Gabriele Drozdowski received a burrowing owl that workers from Petroleum Helicopter Inc. had flown to the mainland from offshore oil platform Harvest. The little owl apparently had landed there exhausted during an attempt to cross the channel. At 87g, almost half of normal weight, he had virtually no chance of survival. The owl, however, proved statistics wrong by rapidly gaining his weight and strength back. On Oct. 18th he was banded by Kathleen Whitney, and on the 19th he was released weighing 154g. **Happy travels, little owl!**



SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY 1999 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Sunday, January 2, 2000

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Preferred area: _____
Would like to work with: _____

Dinner ☐ Leader ☐ Feeder Count ☐

Please return to: Cris Walden, 222 W. Mountain Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93103 or call 805 969-4256 or e-mail Walden@rain.org

Santa Barbara Audubon Winter 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, December 15th

(note special date)

Kevin Lafferty, Speaker

"Endangered Snowy Plovers and the Coal Oil Point Ecosystem"

Snowy plovers and other threatened/endangered species can be found in the richly complex eco-system we call Coal Oil Point and Devereux Slough. Teeming with bird life, but immensely fragile, ocean, shore, dunes, wetlands and slough all come together in this part of the UC Ecological Reserve system. Receive this overview of one of the south coast's most popular birding areas through the eyes of one of its best field biologists.

Kevin Lafferty is a research biologist in UCSB's Marine Biology program, whose research area encompasses the Coal Oil Point Reserve. And, he is a terrific birder!

Wednesday, January 26th

Jane Hendron, Speaker

"The Condor Recovery Program"

The Condor Recovery program reflects both opportunities and challenges intrinsic to the Endangered Species Act. **Jane Hendron** of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will examine the history of the Condor Recovery Program, how the Los Padres Forest flock is doing and how other release areas are working.

In addition, a Remembrance of Robert Easton, Santa Barbara field naturalist, bird enthusiast, and Condor advocate, will take place.

Notes from Catherine Graham, Education Chair



Bring a Friend

The next time you grab your binoculars and head out the door, ask a friend to come along. You don't have to go far. Often our backyards and neighborhoods provide fruitful birdwatching. Usually I realize the most important part is asking my companion, "What do you wish to know about the birds around here?" Many people are not aware of the exceptionally diverse bird population found in the Santa Barbara area. It is more critical than ever to preserve and protect our rich wildlife habitat, and there is nothing like birding to acquaint people with our precious natural world. The SBAS office has brochures and extra copies of El Tecolote to give your friends more information.

Extraordinary Programs

SBAS offers slide show presentations that your group might enjoy. We have birding experts who will present a wonderful program at no charge.

Audubon Adventures

You can help a classroom of children begin a life of wildlife appreciation for only \$35.00 per classroom. SBAS underwrites the cost for some classrooms. However, we also encourage individuals and businesses to sponsor Audubon Adventure kits so that even more children can benefit. Audubon Adventures is a nature-study aid for 4th through 6th graders.

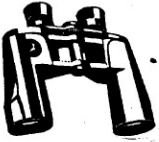
How to Get Involved

Call the Audubon office and leave a message, or call Catherine Graham at 805 682-1357 or visit our website for more information:

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/santabarbara>



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.

Figueroa Mountain Santa Barbara County

Sunday, December 12th, 8:00 AM

Target birds: montane birds such as Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, nuthatches

Dave Compton, 805 965-3153

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. Bring lunch and water; dress in layers for cold. We have 5 Educational Administrative Passes, so car poolers won't need an Adventure Pass. If you already have an Adventure Pass and don't wish to car pool, you might want to bring it along. Back by mid-afternoon. Bring your out of state friends along as we'll likely see Yellow-billed Magpies!



Santa Barbara Rare Birds (Bird Count Area)

Saturday, January 8th, 8:00 AM

Target Birds: Rare birds of the previous week's Christmas Bird Count

Paul Keller, 805 968-7804, wrentit@gte.net

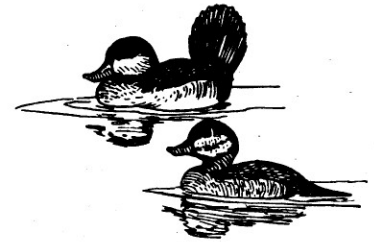
Take 101 to La Cumbre exit in Santa Barbara. Go north on La Cumbre Rd. and turn left into Five Points Shopping Center and park at Carl's Jr. at 3925 State St. Car pool from here. Priority will be to get permission to look for rarities on private property. Trip over before lunch.

Lake Los Carneros Goleta

**Sunday, January 23rd,
9:00 AM**

Target birds: waterfowl and winter passerines

Gage Ricard, 805 967-3604



Take Los Carneros exit from 101 north on Los Carneros Rd. to Stow House parking lot next to fire station. Wear walking shoes for a two hour stroll around the lake. Gage, a veteran of many SBAS bird trips, now leads her first for us, so why not make this trip your first as well? Or if you've birded the lake with Karen Bridgers last October come again to see what a difference a season makes! Scopes useful.



Ventura County Game Preserve

Oxnard, Ventura County

Saturday, February 5th, 7:30 AM

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

**Guy Tingos, 805 681-0026,
gtingos@west.net**

Carpool from Andree Clark Bird Refuge. If you want to meet us at the Game Preserve (private and normally off limits) take Hwy. 101 to Camarillo. Exit Las Posas and go south to Hueneme Rd. and turn right. Go west and turn left on Casper Rd. About a mile after the left bend on Casper Rd. turn right into the game preserve and park by the green bungalows by 8:15. Bring water and snack. Scopes useful. Trip over by noon.



Volunteer Restoration Opportunities for December & January

Date/Location/Contact

Come out and do something to improve our creeks and wetlands, and provide better wildlife habitat. It's great fun! For more information, contact Darlene Chirman at 692-2008 or Dave Wass at 682-6962. Rain cancels.

Sat. Dec. 11th, 8:30 AM-12, Coal Oil Point Reserve, call Dave for site.
Sun. Dec. 12th, time TBA, Pampas Grass removal, call Darlene for site/time.
Sat. Dec. 18th, 9:00 AM-12, San Jose Creek, Berkeley footbridge, call Darlene.
Sat. Jan. 8th, 8:30 AM-12:30, Pampas Grass/Planting, call Darlene for site.
Sat. Jan. 15th, 8:30 AM-12, Coal Oil Point Reserve, call Dave for site.
Sat. Jan. 29th, 9:00 AM-12, San Jose Creek, Berkeley footbridge, call Darlene.

SBAS Joins the San Marcos Foothills Coalition

By Darlene Chirman

The San Marcos Foothills is a 377-acre site formerly proposed as the Bridle Ridge development of 75 luxury homes. The San Marcos Foothills Coalition is negotiating with the owner to secure this site as a preserve for natural resource protection and public open space. **Santa Barbara Audubon Society** joined the Coalition when the owner agreed to hold off on a new development proposal in order to give the coalition a chance to raise the money to purchase the property.



This remarkable site includes oak woodlands and riparian habitats, coastal sage scrub, and possibly the largest continuous native bunchgrass grasslands in the area. The site's habitat complexity nurtures 12 species of hawks and falcons. It is home to **Burrowing Owls, White-tailed Kites, Grasshopper Sparrows**, and many other valuable species of animals, plants and lichens. The latest bird

count for the property is 119 species, according to UCSB ornithologist **Mark Holmgren**. With the headwaters of Cieneguitas and Atascadero Creeks, and several freshwater seeps and wetlands, water is available year-round for wildlife. There is a connection with Los Padres National Forest, providing a wildlife migration corridor.

You can learn more about the site and the efforts to preserve it on the San Marcos Foothill Coalition website at:

<http://www.sanmarcosfoothills.org>

Contributions will be matched by a Challenge grant from the Goleta Valley Land Trust. We urge you support the Coalition's efforts to preserve this unique site. Please send your tax-deductible donation payable to the San Marcos Foothills Coalition at P.O. Box 30412, Santa Barbara, CA 93130.

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!**

B. Barnette	Janelle Krier
B. R. Bertrando	Allegra Lewis
Pamela Brooks	Sylvia K. Lohi
Debby Burns	Cindy M. Luby
Donald Calamar	Yolanda Marquez
Patricia T. Chamberlin	Teri McCaffrey
Dr. Judith Cardinal	Andrew Michrina
John W. Carson	Pamela Miller
Mario Cervantes	Judy Molle
Jeanne Chase	Tina Pankau
John & Betty Chipko	Elinor Peterson
Peggy M. Cooke	Berlyn Pierce
Jill Dominique	Alicia Proctor
Patricia M. Duffy	Patricia Reilly
Helen Eck	Daryl H. Rutherford
Ann B. Eldridge	Leonard Schoen
Evelyn L. Flint	Dorothy Smith
Lucienne Gordon	Sierra Spaulding
Guy Hand	Janet Taylor-Schoepp
Daniel Cicourel Hanley	Jean Teufen
Fred C. Heidner	Sandy Vanocur
Walter E. Hopmans	Lynne L. Widiner
Carolyn James	M. Michelle Woodhouse
Carol G. Koutz	



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

Dec. 4	Point Magu NAS Field Trip
Dec. 12	Figueroa Mountain Field Trip
Dec. 15	"Endangered Snowy Plovers"
Jan. 2	Christmas Bird Count
Jan. 8	Rare Bird Field Trip
Jan. 23	Lake Los Carneros Field Trip
Jan. 26	"The Condor Recovery Program"
Feb. 5	Ventura Game Preserve Field Trip

Thank you!

Thank you **Chris Walden** for doing such a fine job as our Treasurer! We appreciate all of your hard work!

Welcome Board Members!

SBAS is delighted to welcome our new board members. **Linda Thom** will be our Treasurer, **Lisa Kelly** and **George Roland** our At Large board members, and **Patrick McNulty** is moving from At Large to Vice President. Thank you everyone for joining!

SBAS website:

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/santabarbara>

El Tecolote submissions:

tecolotesb@aol.com

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

sbaudubon@silcom.com

July 1999 - June 2000

Officers

President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008
Vice President	Patrick McNulty	967-9900
Secretary	Jim Greaves	563-2905
Treasurer	Linda Thom	964-5929

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 George Roland Lisa Kelly	968-0827 569-1714
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.

El Tecolote

Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
5679 Hollister Avenue - Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

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In This Issue...

Find out how you can be part of the 100th Annual Christmas Bird Count!