Double-duty for Max
By Gabriele Drozdowski

Our education ambassador Max the Great Horned Owl has adopted a wild orphaned Great Horned Owl nestling. Max was introduced to the youngster on April 26 - safely inside a kennel placed in his aviary. This was to make sure Max wasn’t going to eat his new roommate. A day went by and it looked like Max was developing all the proper parenting responses. When the baby begged for food, Max dutifully grabbed a mouse, jumped on top of the kennel with it, and sat there waiting. When we finally opened the gate, Max fed the baby two mice right there. He’s been a devoted foster parent ever since, and the baby is growing huge (see photo).

Each spring many baby birds become orphaned or displaced for various reasons: tree trimmings, wind storms, sibling rivalry, clumsiness, etc. Max himself was such an orphan, but unfortunately he did not have the opportunity to be raised with other owls until it was too late. Max became imprinted onto the people who raised him, and therefore cannot be released into the wild. But although he himself was raised by humans Max can still properly parent an orphan such as this because the initial feeding instinct is stimulated not by personal experience but by the baby’s begging sounds. Max not only feeds the nestling but also role-models owl behavior. Currently he’s teaching how to tear food apart.

Unlike Max, this little baby has a very good chance of developing normally for eventual release back into the wild.

AND - Max still goes out into classrooms!

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A Wonderful Year of SBAS Education!
By Catherine Graham, Education Chair

It is time to thank those of you who have made contributions to our educational programs this year. Dave Wass has been doing a great job with his Environmentally Yours program on Channel 17. Unexpectedly I was a recent guest for SBAS. I hope many members and non-members tuned in.

Our first venture into the Science Fair was exciting. Congratulations to the four winners and thank you to the judges Kendy Radasky and Kathy Kefauver.

Ben Hitz and Don Rathbun presented excellent slide shows to school classes. Our students also enjoyed bird walks.

Earth Day was a great success. Thank you Kendy Radasky, Christine Steele, Lisa Ann Kelly, Julie Kummer, Dave Wass, Melinda Budin, Darlene Chirman, Lee Moldaver and Paul Shaw for helping to staff our table.

Thank you Jim Greaves, Rob Lindsay and others who have advised me and have been part of the education team this year. A special thank you is in order for Gabriele Drozdowski and her crew who care for our two educational birds.

Thank you everyone who donated money to Eyes in the Sky and Audubon Adventures. Because of your generosity many children became excited about birds, wildlife and their environment this year. Thank you Home Improvement Center for donating a gift certificate of $100 toward the construction of housing for two additional bird ambassadors.

Remember that everyone can contribute to education in small but important ways. You might want to bring your used Audubon and wildlife magazines to the Audubon office for distribution. You might want to put an environmental message at the end of your e-mail messages. And don’t forget our students next fall.

Editors’ Message
By Bill and Elaine Uomini

Thank you everyone for your submissions to El Tecolote! It has been exciting to work with you and great fun to see the submissions for each issue appearing in our e-mail or mailbox. We know it took you a great deal of time and effort to prepare an article or to gather information for a schedule of events or to take and submit a photograph. We appreciate it very much!

All of our readers are welcome to submit articles, photographs, drawings or information to El Tecolote.

2000/2001 El Tecolote Schedule
Deadline for submissions: August 10, 2000
September 10, 2000
November 10, 2000
January 10, 2001
(Bird Count included in this issue)
March 10, 2001
May 10, 2001

Arrival in your mailbox: September 1, 2000
October 1, 2000
December 1, 2000
February 1, 2001
April 1, 2001
June 1, 2001

Have a wonderful summer filled with friends, family and birds! The next El Tecolote will arrive in your mailboxes in September.

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!

Deana Blackwood
Julie Doppel
Rosemarie Fennell
Mr. Paul Flum
Diane Gait
Daniel Gira
Phillip Glenn
Samantha Green
Heidi Haynal
Steve Hovey
Thomas Piacentini
Connie Renteria Jr.
Emmet Sargeant
Richard Stearns
Mr. Charles L. Stratton
Sherman Vincent
Santa Barbara Audubon Society General Meeting

All Santa Barbara Audubon Society members are invited to a Special Program and Dessert Potluck and short business meeting for the election of the 2000/2001 Board in mid to late July. Members will be notified of the date, time and location. Election of the slate will be conducted by all SBAS members in attendance.

The position of Program Chair is open. This is a great opportunity for you to join the Board and participate in policy formulation. We also invite you to participate in the chapter by becoming an office volunteer or joining the Education, Conservation or Science committee. Our Board meetings will shift as of July to the second Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 PM, in the SBAS office in the Goleta Valley Community Center. All SBAS members are welcome.

Mountains to the Sea: Making the Connection

Thursday, July 13th, 7:00 PM
Location: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Fleischmann Auditorium, Free on-site parking.

Local experts and activists will take you on a journey from the ridgeline of the Santa Ynez Mountains, down the watersheds draining the mainland, to the coastline, through the Santa Barbara Channel, and out to the Channel Islands. Visual images, such as GIS imagery and slides of local landscapes and flora and fauna, will be a key component of the event.

In 1980 a 1,252 square nautical mile portion of the Santa Barbara Channel was designated the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. This sanctuary is of national significance because of its exceptional natural beauty and resources. More than 27 species of whales and dolphins use the sanctuary at least part of the year, as well as 5 species of pinnipeds, 60 species of birds and 23 species of sharks. The secluded and relatively undisturbed waters of the Sanctuary provide homes for several endangered species including the blue, humpback and sei whales, southern sea otters, the California Brown Pelican and the California Least Tern.

This event is sponsored by the Environmental Defense Center, the Center for Marine Conservation, the Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper, the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense, the Gaviota Coast Conservancy, the Conception Coast Project, and by SBAS.
Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

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

East Camino Cielo
Santa Barbara
Saturday, June 10th, 7:30 AM
Target Birds: Mountain Quail (to be heard but not seen?), Goldfinches, Black-chinned Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting
Rob Lindsay, 967-0835
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. We have 3 administrative passes, 1 for each of 3 cars, so no need to buy an Adventure Pass. However, we may need more than 3 cars so whether you drive or not, if you have a valid Adventure Pass, please bring it along. Dress in layers and bring water. Trip over before lunch. Find out why veteran birders love sparrows -- their songs have an unforgettable charm.

Thank You Field Trip Leaders!

SBAS would like to thank this year’s field trip leaders for helping us enjoy the birds! Thank you Karen Bridgers, Jeff Chemnick, Dave Compton, Wayne Ferren, Cora Fields, Jim Greaves, Ron Hirst, Mark Holmgren, Paul Keller, Rob Lindsay, Gene Lynch, Patrick McNulty, Gage Ricard and Guy Tingos. We appreciate your time, enthusiasm and expertise. You gave us a wonderful year of birding adventures!

If you would like to lead a trip in the future, please contact Paul Keller, Field Trips chair. Paul will no longer make the initial request because he does not want to burden our generous leaders with the awkward task of having to say no.

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Preserve
Carpinteria
Friday, July 28th, 6:00 PM
Target Birds: Clapper Rail, shorebirds, waterfowl, Belding’s Savannah Sparrow
Wayne R. Ferren, Jr., 893-2506 (office)

To get to the Preserve from Ventura take 101 north to Casitas Pass Rd. 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, the 1st right. Walk past gate, normally locked but open for this event, into the preserve. As you walk into the preserve notice a small kiosk on your right. You must fill out a release form which you’ll find in the kiosk. Also enter your name in the registry. Trip ends at dusk when we hope that the incoming tide will flush Clapper Rails into view. Come promptly at 6 PM with a sack dinner and relax at the picnic table or come anytime later and join us. Wayne, the Manager of the preserve, will share his knowledge of the ecology of the preserve which he was instrumental in creating. Bring a friend!

More Great Field Trips

Planning a trip within California? Want to do some birding? Other Audubon chapters offer interesting field trips too. You can visit this **Audubon** site to schedule birding trips and find out about other interesting programs in California.

http://www.audubon-ca.org/
California Central Coast Birding Trail Brochure

Sponsored by the National, California and Central Coast Audubon Chapters. Call the SBAS office, 964-1468, to receive a beautiful glossy brochure detailing 25 birding locations along the Central Coast Birding Trail.

Central Coast Birding Rally
Northern Santa Barbara County
October 6th - October 8th

"Birding Rally" is an event that puts teams of birders in competition with each other to identify the most species of birds within a specific area and time frame. We are fortunate that our neighbor to the north, La Purisima Audubon Society, will be hosting such an event this October. Please mark your calendar and save these dates. For more information contact:

Gene Lynch, (805)736-8889, grlynch@sbceo.org
Becky Hoban, (805)736-2347, bhoban@utech.net
Or visit online:
http://homepages.go.com/~lpas/rally.html

Volunteer Restoration Opportunities for June & July

Come out and make a tangible contribution to wildlife habitat and water quality improvement. It’s great fun!

For more information contact Darlene Chirman, 692-2008, dchirman@rain.org, or Stephanie Langsdorf, 571-8831, acorn@silcom.com. Rain cancels.

Descriptions of the restoration projects will soon be on our website.

National Audubon Society Membership Application

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

Special new-member rate of $20

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City _____________________________
State/Zip __________________________

Local Chapter - Santa Barbara Audubon Society C13 7XCH
Calendar of Events

June 10  East Camino Cielo Field Trip
July 13  Mountains to the Sea
July 28  Carpinteria Salt Marsh Preserve Field Trip

Santa Barbara Audubon Society
(805) 964-1468, sbaudubon@silcom.com
July 1999 - June 2000

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<td>Vice President  Patrick McNulty  967-9900</td>
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<td>George Roland  565-5778</td>
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Bill and Elaine Uomini, Editors
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
5679 Hollister Avenue - Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117
or e-mail: tecolotesb@aol.com
Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month.

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