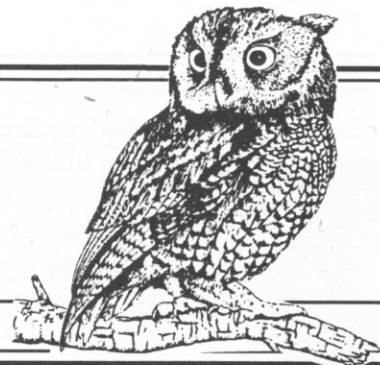


# El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 39, Issue 5

April/May 2001



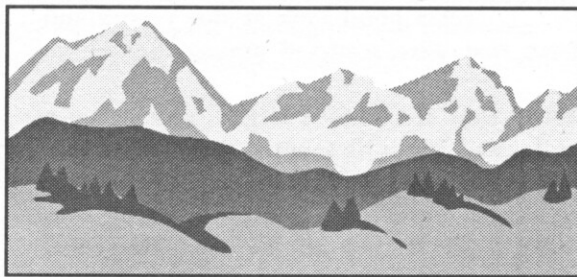
## DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN Read About These Recent Great Field Trips!

### Ventura County Game Preserve Feb 3rd Trip Report By Linda & Peter Beuret

This was our first trip to the Preserve. The trip was led by **Guy Tingos** and included 50 to 60 enthusiastic birders. We observed a roosting Barn Owl in a palm tree at the headquarters and got a good look at Tricolored Blackbirds and a nearby Kestrel.

We compressed to 4 to 5 people per car to drive the dikes of the Preserve. The Preserve Manager told us it was probably the worst duck hunting season he had seen at the club. He thought ducks were only about one fourth of their usual numbers. For us, however, there were numerous wonderful birds to be seen. Two exciting highlights were a female Vermilion Flycatcher and a Peregrine Falcon on the hunt.

The weather was hot and sunny. We stopped frequently and took advantage of the many scopes people had brought. Some of the species we saw were: Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, White-faced Ibis, Sora, Killdeer, Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Black-necked Stilt, Northern Harrier, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Black and Say's Phoebe, Western Meadowlark, Bushtit, Orange-crowned warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Mockingbird, House Finch and Song Sparrow.



### Las Crucitas Ranch Feb 17th Trip Report By Kathy Rindlaub

Cold, windy and worthwhile! The backdrop of the snow-covered San Rafael Mountains reminded our group of Santa Barbarans that real winter does come to Southern California. Cruz Phillips and Paul Keller led our small group around the Las Crucitas Ranch. We were welcomed, and inspected, by Cruz's three dogs and an 8-year-old doe she raised from a fawn. This is a perfect trip for beginners, or for those who can't walk very far. Feeders of all kinds surround the ranch house, ensuring close-up views and sounds of our more common winter birds such as the House Finch, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrow, Lesser and American Goldfinch, Oak Titmouse and Anna's Hummingbird. Additional feeder visitors included a Great-tailed Grackle, Juncos, Pine Siskin, Nuttall's Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch. Band-tailed Pigeons, Northern Mockingbirds, Western Bluebirds, Scrub Jays, and Mourning Doves also frequent this



(Continued on page 2)

### Lone Star Ranch March 3rd Trip Report By Jack Sanford

The weather was a little chilly and threatening but as the morning progressed the sun broke through with no sign of rain and it turned out to be another great birding field trip. Jeff Chemnich, our leader, told us we had a good chance of seeing a Lewis's Woodpecker and boy oh boy did we see a Lewis's Woodpecker. It perched on a couple of different tree limbs right in front of us where we could get a good look at it even without binoculars or spotting scopes although we put those on it too. We studied it, took pictures of it (we will have to check

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(Las Crusitas Ranch Field Trip Reprt, continued from page 1)



friendly enclave.

Turning to the surrounding fields we saw many Western Meadowlarks, Yellow-billed Magpies, California Quail and Lark Sparrows. A herd of more than a dozen mule deer was spotted feeding nearby.

A short run in the cars took us to a fence line with standing dead weeds that harbored sparrows. They stayed down, out of the wind, so we didn't get a good look at the Vesper and

Savannah Sparrows that were scattered among the White-crowns.

We moved on to look for Golden Eagles, walking up a canyon that was burned about five years ago. The eagles, which often roost in this canyon, had sought other shelter during the recent storms. Persistence paid off however, with a view of a Golden Eagle floating on the wind. Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, Swifts (Vaux?) and Turkey Vultures also were in the air in the late morning.

We drove to one additional site (usually reliable for Vesper, Savannah, and Grasshopper Sparrows) but the birds stayed down. Better luck in better weather. Male and female Northern Harriers were working the fields farther east.

Leaving Las Crusitas Ranch, we had another great view of Northern Harriers and Blackbirds and Starlings scouring a plowed field.

We all would like to thank Cruz for her generosity in welcoming us to her home.

(Lone Star Ranch Field Trip Report, continued from page 1)

with Susan to see how they turned out), admired it and relished it. What a great sight it was. That indeed was the highlight of our field trip although we did see 37 other bird species including some great views of Western Bluebirds and we all loved it. Thanks to Paul Keller for getting permission from Lee Carr, the owner of the Lone Star Ranch. It is a beautiful ranch that extends to the shores of Lake Cachuma. One of the hands told us that just yesterday he saw a Golden Eagle swoop down and capture a ground squirrel. We should have been there yesterday! Not really since we did see quite a number of great birds although not as many ducks as Jeff thought we would. The weather and the high water may have had something to do with that. There were 17 birders in our group and we carpooled from Five Points to the ranch. We hiked the trails for 3 hours and were back in town for lunch. I played a little tennis in the afternoon and that completed another great day in Santa Barbara.

**38 visually verified:** Acorn Woodpecker, American Coot, American Crow, Anna's Hummingbird, Bald Eagle, Black Phoebe, Bufflehead, Bushtit, California Towhee, Clark's Grebe, Common Raven, Dark-eyed Junco, Double-crested Cormorant, Eared Grebe, European Starling, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Great Blue Heron, House Finch, Lewis's Woodpecker, Marsh Wren, Northern Flicker, Northern Harrier, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Osprey, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruddy Duck, Savannah Sparrow, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Turkey Vulture, Violet-green Swallow, Western Bluebird, Western Meadowlark, Western Scrub Jay, White-crowned Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler.



## Upcoming Events

By Catherine Graham, Education Chair



### Earth Day

Sunday, April 22nd  
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunken Gardens of our Court House

You are invited to enjoy sharing the many activities of Audubon by visiting our double booth and talking to folks. Our wild bird ambassadors, Max, the Great-horned Owl and others will be around the booth much of the time. They are so respected by those who have seen them. Pass the word please and have fun!

Lisa Ann Kelly is scheduling shifts. Call her from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM to set up your sharing time. And thanks!

### Science Fair

Thursday, April 26th  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

& 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Santa Barbara County  
Education Auditorium  
4400 Cathedral Oaks Road

Enjoy and learn at the Science Fair. You will find some Audubon winners. Take a youth with you. You will both be glad you went!



### Birdathon

May 12th to 19th

National Audubon is again sponsoring the Birdathon. Last year \$1,000,000 was raised for our new centers, for Audubon Adventures in our schools, and much more. This year's Birdathon will be bigger and better than ever. Join the project and pass the word. To find out how you can participate

call: 1 (800) 647-BIRD

or Email: [birdathon@audubon.org](mailto:birdathon@audubon.org)

or visit our website:

[www.audubon.org/bird/birdathon](http://www.audubon.org/bird/birdathon)



## Santa Barbara Audubon Spring Program



*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** and doors will open at 7:00 PM.*

*All programs, unless otherwise noted, are **free** to the public. **SBAS** members are encouraged to bring guests.*



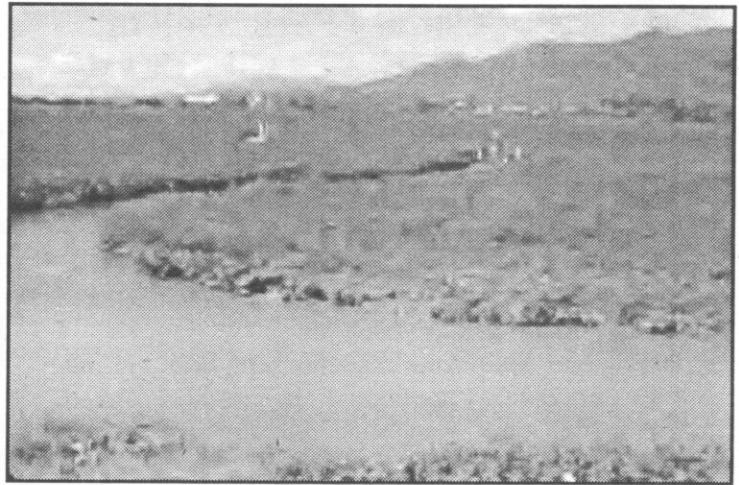
### "Confessions of a Restorationist: 15 Years of Lessons Learned"

**Wayne Ferren, Speaker**  
**Wednesday, April 25th**

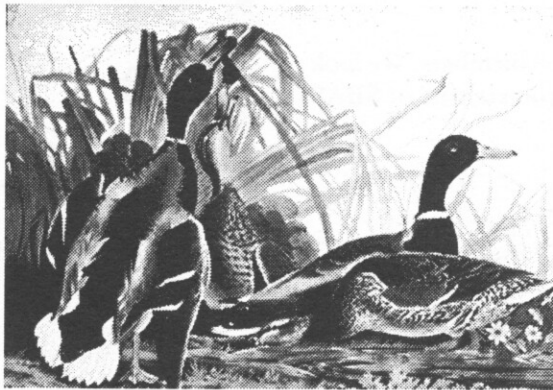
**T**hrough slides and discussion, Wayne gives us a close up view of the issues, the controversies, and the lessons still to be learned in planning, experimentation, and assessment of ecological restoration and enhancement.

**Wayne Ferren** is the Reserve Manager of the **Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve**, which includes 120 acres of wetlands and upland habitats of the 230 acre Carpinteria Salt Marsh. This estuary is home to various rare, threatened, and endangered animals and plants including the Light-footed Clapper Rail, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, Salt Marsh Bird's Beak and Salt Marsh Goldfields. Wayne is Associate Director of the UC Santa Barbara Natural Reserve System, which manages 7 of the 34 UC Reserves. He is also Executive Director of the Museum of Systematics and Ecology, a natural history museum at UCSB specializing in systematics and ecological studies, habitat management, environmental impact analysis and planning, and restoration ecology.

Mark your calendars for this illuminating presentation with a wide range of wonderful visuals.



*Photo of Carpenteria Salt Marsh by Sean Anderson*



### "The World of John James Audubon Revealed in Art, Letters and Diaries"

**Dr. Richard Johnson, Speaker**  
**Thursday, April 26th**

**Sponsored by the SB Museum of Natural History**

Admission: Museum members \$6; non-members \$8

**C**ome celebrate the life of John James Audubon on the 216th anniversary of his birth with selected dramatic readings in word and verse from Audubon's journals, letters exchanged with his wife, Lucy, and the poetry of Robert Penn Warren. If you know Audubon only as a great artist, this presentation will open new vistas of Audubon's many sides: the romantic dreamer, the loving, yet neglectful husband, the kaleidoscopic observer of frontier life, and the self-invented "representative American."

Dr. Richard Johnson is a Professor of History at California State University, Pomona. He is well-known for his dramatic presentations of Alexis de Tocqueville, John Dos Passos, Abraham Lincoln and Ralph Waldo Emerson and has appeared on national television.

### More Great Programs and Field Trips

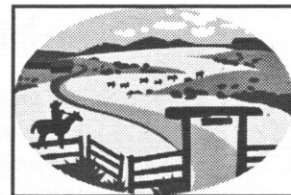
**P**lanning a trip within California? Want to do some birding? Other **Audubon** chapters offer interesting field trips too. You can visit this **Audubon** site to schedule birding trips and find out about other interesting programs in California.

<http://www.audubon-ca.org/>



## 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.*



### Lake Los Carneros County Park, Goleta

**Saturday, April 14th, 5:00 PM**

**Target Birds: Spring songbirds**

**Karen Bridgers, 964-1316, kbridgers@msn.com**

**T**ake 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. Finish before sunset (7:30 PM).

During mid April many wintering song birds are still in town and yet many neotropical migrants have arrived and are in full song. What better time to join Karen at her favorite birding patch?



### Hollister Ranch near Gaviota

**Saturday, May 19th, 7:30 AM**

(at mandatory carpool place)

**Target Birds: vireos, warblers, Lazuli Buntings, orioles and more!**

**Guy Tingos, gtingos@west.net**

**Reservation required due to limited space.**

*Drivers may appreciate gas money.*

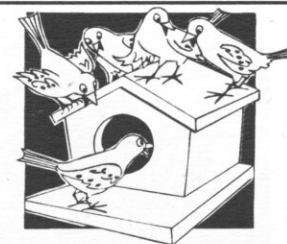
**T**ake 101 to Storke/Glen Annie exit in Goleta. Go south on Storke Rd to Jack-in-the-Box parking lot near corner of Storke Rd and Hollister Ave. Car pool from here. To reserve your space, leave your name with **Paul Keller, 968-7804, wren-tit@gte.net**, no later than Thursday May 17. Limit of 5 vehicles. If you are willing to drive, let Paul know how many people your vehicle can carry as well as its license plate state and number. Bring water and lunch. Trip over by early afternoon.

See the historic Hollister Ranch house while enjoying spring birding on this scenic part of the Gaviota Coast.

## Welcome New Members!

**S**anta Barbara Audubon Society extends a warm welcome to all new members. We look forward to seeing you at **SBAS** programs and field trips. We're glad you are part of **SBAS** efforts to excite people about birds and the preservation of their habitat.

**Thanks for joining!**



Ms. Lesley J. Alexander  
Elena J. Anderson  
Jill Barnitz  
Dr. Ruth Bar-Shalom  
Saralynne Boch  
Karen Bridgers  
Cecilia Brown  
Suzan B. Bryant  
Charles Burggraf  
Dr. Judith Cardinal  
Jean E. Carroll  
Maria-Luisa Carroll  
Aquila Chase  
Margaret Chase  
Keith Clarke  
Carolynn D'arcy  
Nina & Ken Delgato

Lance Derrickson  
Mary Dillon  
Ms. Lillin Dusebout  
David Ellsworth  
Luther Fleming  
Laura J. Freeburg  
George Funterman  
Garcia Family  
Gill Family  
Elizabeth Grace  
Ms. Leslie Grund  
John Hanavan  
Julie & Nels Henderson  
Robert M Hooper  
Vonda Husted  
Kevin Johnson  
Mr. Duane Jones

Monica Koegler-Blatton  
Margaret Lafon  
Lehua R Marking  
Yvonne Marlin  
Jana Mcfadden  
Janet Miller  
Ms. Florence F. Mithoefer  
Maryanne Morrison  
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Jenny Nan-Hui  
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Joe Rajkovich  
Dar Roberts  
Phila Rogers  
Inge Rose  
Lisa Rozsa

Cristina Sandoval  
Kathleen D. Schepanovich  
Jan Schienle  
Sheila O. Snow  
C. Tagles  
Susan L. Taylor  
Tina Thuren  
Cheryl Tomchin  
Brian Trautwein  
Michael J. Treman  
Karen Vanhorn  
James Villanueva  
Marianne Wampler  
Sue Weingartner  
Priscilla Whittaker  
Carl Williams  
Nicky & Jason Young

## Volunteer Habitat Restoration Opportunities for April & May

Come out and make a positive contribution to improve our creeks and wetlands—great places to work with good company. For more information contact **Darlene Chirman**, 692-2008, **Dave Wass**, 682-6962, **Stephanie Langsdorf**, 886-3181 or **Liz Mason**, 966-2958. Rain cancels. Descriptions of the restoration projects are on **SBAS** website.

Date	Location	Contact
Sat Apr 7, 9:00 AM-12:00	Tobano Hollow, Mattoral Way & Ribera Rd	Call Liz
Sun Apr 8, 8:30 AM-12:30	Goleta Slough-Atascadero Creek Bikeway, Patterson & bikepath	Call Darlene or Stephanie
Sat Apr 14, 8:30 AM-12:30	Goleta Slough-Tecolotito Crk, Goleta Beach & bikepath under 217	Call Darlene or Stephanie
Sat Apr 21, 8:30 AM-12:00	Coal Oil Point Reserve	Call Dave or Darlene for meeting place & directions
Sun Apr 29, 8:30 AM-12:30	Goleta Slough-Tecolotito Crk, Goleta Beach & bikepath under 217	Call Darlene or Stephanie
Sat May 5, 8:30 AM-12:30	Goleta Slough-Atascadero Creek Bikeway, Patterson & bikepath	Call Darlene or Stephanie
Sat May 19, 8:30 AM-12:00	Coal Oil Point Reserve	Call Dave or Darlene for meeting place & directions
Sat May 26, 8:30 AM-12:30	Goleta Slough-Tecolotito Crk, Goleta Beach & bikepath under 217	Call Darlene or Stephanie



### Goleta Slough Habitat Restoration

By Darlene Chirman

**S**BAS is actively involved in protection of and habitat restoration in Goleta Slough. The Belding's Savannah Sparrow is dependent on coastal marshes. This state-listed endangered subspecies utilizes pickleweed habitat for breeding, is a year-round resident, and forages in the native shrubs in the slough margins.

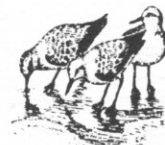
In March we received final permits so we can begin habitat restoration on a new project site just outside of Goleta Beach County Park. It includes the margin of Tecolotito Creek just across the slough from the western portion of the park, and on both sides of the creek north of Highway 217.

We have several goals for this restoration project. One is to establish another population of a special plant community of High Marsh plants—these plants live in a narrow zone that has infrequent tidal inundation. With human alterations of the margins of the slough, few such sites remain. However there is one shallow-sloped area on this site that is suitable, once the iceplant is eradicated. Our "reference site" or model is on adjacent property that contains these rare plant species, and have provided seeds and cuttings for propagation of plants for our site. Other goals are to provide foraging habitat for the state-endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow, and the nectar plants for the Pygmy Blue Butterfly, a marsh dependent species.

The Coastal Resource Grant Program (AB1431) funds this project for a total of \$33,890 for **SBAS**, including a \$5,000 match provided by the county. The same grant will fund County Park's restoration of the slough margin within the park.

**SBAS** is also assisting Santa Barbara County Parks with volunteers on the Tobano Hollow Open Space on San Antonio Creek in Goleta near Ribera Drive. This is a tributary in the Goleta Slough watershed.

We hope you'll come out and help with habitat restoration. We get in some birding while improving wild-life habitat. See the above schedule for the volunteer workdays; future dates will 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

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**

April 14	Lake Los Carneros Field Trip
April 25	"Confessions of a Restorationist"
May 19	Hollister Ranch Field Trip

**SBAS Board Openings**

Are you interested in serving on the SBAS Board of Directors for a year beginning in July 2001? Open positions are Secretary, Membership Chair, Program Chair, and At-Large. Commitment is attendance at monthly board meetings (second Wednesday evening) and some additional time, depending on the position and your interests. This is your opportunity to contribute to bird and wildlife education and conservation in our community. If you might be interested, and want to learn more, call Nominating Committee members Sally Walker, 569-5388, [walker@sprynet.com](mailto:walker@sprynet.com), or Jeff Chemnick, 965-0895, [jchemnick@prodigy.net](mailto:jchemnick@prodigy.net) or any board member.

**SBAS website:**

[www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/santabarbara](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/santabarbara)

*El Tecolote* is published 6 times a year by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. Non-member price for an annual subscription is \$15 per year. Please make checks payable to SBAS. Audubon members are invited to send announcements, letters, articles, photos and drawings for consideration to:

Bill and Elaine Uomini, Editors  
**Santa Barbara Audubon Society**  
 5679 Hollister Avenue - Suite 5B  
 Goleta, CA 93117  
 or e-mail: [tecolotesb@aol.com](mailto:tecolotesb@aol.com)

Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month.

**SBAS July 2000/June 2001**

(805) 964-1468, [audubon@rain.org](mailto:audubon@rain.org)

**Officers**

President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008
Vice President	Lee Moldaver	682-2120
Secretary	Mary Wenzel	685-5601
Treasurer	Ronald Adamson	564-8881

**Board Members/Chairs**

Conservation	Dave Wass	682-6962
Education	Catherine Graham	682-1357
Field Trips	Paul Keller	968-7804
Membership	Patrick McNulty	967-9900
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Programs	open	
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Science	Kendy Radasky	968-2297
At-Large/Web Master	Jim Greaves	563-2905
At-Large	Satie Airame	965-0895
At-Large	Sylvia Curtis	965-8814
Bird Refuge	Sally Walker	569-5388
EYES IN THE SKY	Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347
Hospitality	Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690
Rare Birds	Karen Bridgers	964-1316
Rare Bird Alert	Recent rare bird sightings	964-8240

*Officers and Committee Chairs meet the second Wednesday of the month. Members are welcome to attend. Please call the Audubon office to verify dates and times 964-1468; FAX 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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*Photo of Osprey at Cachuma Lake by Jim Greaves*

*or current resident*

**In This Issue...**

**Field Trip Adventures!**