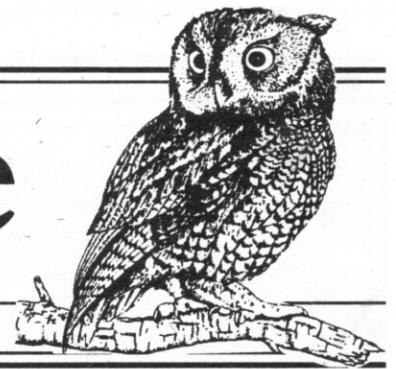


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 40, Issue 6

June/July 2002



Dedication Ceremony Goleta Slough Habitat Enhancement By Darlene Chirman

Supervisor **Susan Rose** assisted **SBAS** President **Darlene Chirman** in dedicating a sign on the Atascadero Creek Bikeway to the volunteers and funders of a habitat enhancement project that has been underway since 1999 in the Goleta Slough Management Area. The bikeway site, which is the most accessible to the public, was selected for the sign. Six sites have been the subject of invasive plant removal targeting Pampas grass, Castor bean and iceplant. Native plants appropriate to the different plant communities (salt marsh, coastal sage scrub and riparian) have been planted. This project will help our native plant communities, wildlife habitat, and water quality. **SBAS** would like to thank the land-owners of these sites—the County of Santa Barbara, the University of California at Santa Barbara, and the Southern California Gas Company. The Gas Company has cooperated with these activities—allowing access, providing water, permission to collect seeds and cuttings for local plant material to grow the plants for installation. Thanks to **Growing Solutions** for growing the site-specific plants and some site maintenance.

The funding has been from several sources—initially the California Exotic Pest Plant Council, for a Goleta Slough Pampas grass removal and education program. The Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) of Santa Barbara County

(Continued on page 7)



Susan Rose and Darlene Chirman at Dedication. Photo by Sam Chirman.



Four orphan Great Horned Owls. Photo by Gabriele Drozdowski.

Max, the Incredible Owl By Gabriele Drozdowski

EYES IN THE SKY's ambassador Max, the Great Horned Owl, can never go back into the wild. He was found on the ground as a tiny nestling, and, lacking exposure to other owls during a critical growth period, became "imprinted" onto his human caretakers. When I acquired him at about 8 months of age, little did I know I was to become his "mate." This fact revealed itself during his first winter. Every time I looked at him he would hoot at me, complete with hooting posture. It took me a while to figure out what was going on, but I eventually got his message, when he jumped on a high shelf, began shredding newspaper and doing a circle dance while calling me softly. Then he began offering me mice. Trying not to offend him I learned how to hoot back. Now, four years later, Max

firmly believes I am his mate, and the cycle, which lasts from November to about the end of April, repeats itself each year. Great Horned Owls mate for life, and can live up to 35 years in captivity.

(Continued on page 2)

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That's why it's hard to believe that Max is also a devoted foster parent to countless young orphaned and displaced baby Great Horned Owls. When we received another tiny orphan owl early in the season three years ago, we were concerned that it would become imprinted as well, so we placed it in Max's aviary (safely in a cage), so she could see Max. The baby began begging for food almost immediately, and Max, first looking agitated, eventually jumped to his food dish, picked up a (dead) mouse, and tried to stuff it through the cage wire.

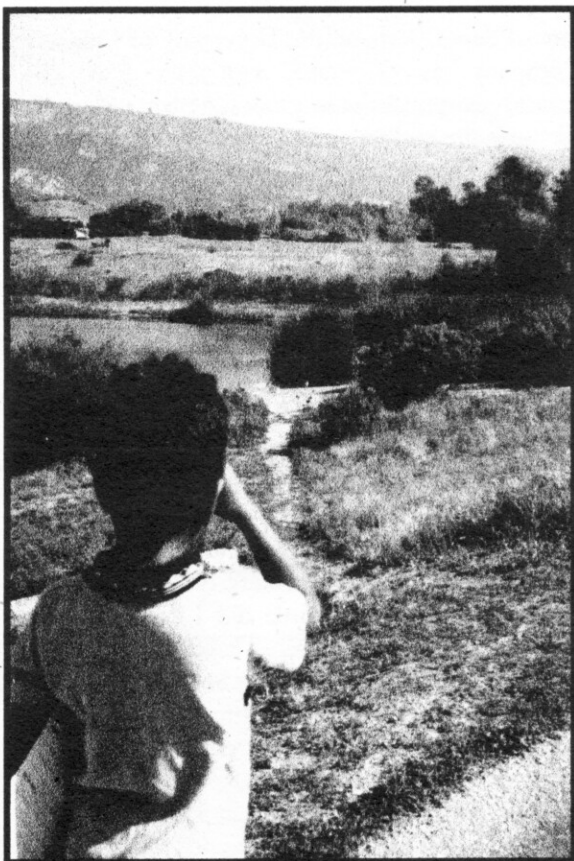
When we finally dared letting the baby out to be with Max (we were afraid he'd eat his new roommate), he immediately took it "under his wing." Last year Max raised 11 orphans, and this year he's at number 14 at this time. Seven of them have already gone on to "college," that is flight and live-food-training in a large aviary located in Ventura. Currently he cares for SEVEN babies. Four of them are shown on page 1. None of the babies he has raised have become imprinted, and all get released back into the wild. Both Max and the babies benefit from this arrangement. Although an unconventional family arrangement, it assures Max of a maximum quality captive life. His parental duties do not keep Max from fulfilling his educational responsibilities. He averages 3 to 4 programs per week as well. What a guy!

EYES IN THE SKY has four ambassadors: Great Horned Owl Max, Red-tailed Hawk Ivan, Red-shouldered Hawk Squirt, and Peregrine Falcon Sedona. Because of conflict with human activities, all can no longer survive in the wild, and have joined us as education ambassadors. It costs about \$60.00 per month to feed each one. If you would like to sponsor one of them, you can send a donation to **EYES IN THE SKY**, 761 N. La Cumbre Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93110. Make the check payable to **Santa Barbara Audubon Society**, and write the name of the bird you'd like to sponsor in the "memo" and we will mail you an 8x10 color photo.

EYES IN THE SKY

Receives Santa Barbara Foundation Grant

By Gabriele Drozdowski



Young McKinley School Naturalist exploring the wonders of Lake Los Carneros. Photo by Gabriele Drozdowski.

SBAS received \$10,000 for its **EYES IN THE SKY** education program. The funds go towards a part-time salary for the program's director, **Gabriele Drozdowski**, and to create a five-week series of science lessons for 8 first and second-grade classrooms at McKinley Elementary school, where 94% of all students come from low-income families, and fewer opportunities exist for nature experiences. The series, called **MEET YOUR WILD NEIGHBOR (MYWN)**, educates the children about 12 of their most commonly seen and/or heard wild neighbors including Anna's Hummingbirds, Scrub Jays, Rock Doves, House Finches, Brown Pelicans, and Great Horned Owls.

The lessons combine a visit from Max, the Great Horned Owl, two field trips, and a special set of curriculum cards that match state science curriculum subjects. The students play a game of matching clue cards to species picture cards while learning new vocabulary and science classifications.

The first trip is a schoolyard birdwatch, complete with clipboards and species check list. Students also learn about harmful and helpful actions affecting urban and other wildlife. The second field trip is to Lake Los Carneros, where children experience first-hand the beauty and biodiversity of a natural habitat. Teacher and student enthusiasm is overwhelmingly positive. We wish to thank **Santa Barbara Foundation** for making this program possible. **THANK YOU!** The benefits to the students will surely last a lifetime.



Education News

By Catherine Graham

Earth Day a Huge Success!

Everyone had a great time on Earth Day as you can see from these photos. Max did his job making friends for Audubon. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated.



Kendy and Max discuss owl behavior with future Audubon member. Photo by Elizabeth Price.



Kendy, Hayley and Max at Earth Day Celebration. Photo by Elizabeth Price.

Special Treat

One day in early March I had a wonderful phone call. Rick Mexico, Biology teacher at Junta School in Buellton, was calling on behalf of his 7th grade class and their reports on birds. Each student had accepted his challenge to make a life-size model of their chosen bird—even a condor! “Would you like us to bring the models to show at the March monthly meeting?” he asked. I said sure and they also joined the Board at the Thai restaurant, Our Choice, before the meeting. A great time was had by all. We enjoyed this addition to our program!

Science Fair Awards

It was with great pleasure that SBAS awarded two prizes, both to Goleta Valley Junior High students. **FIRST PRIZE** went to **Andrea Gaines** for her timely and well-thought-out study on “Plover Preferences.” **Anna Haring** won **SECOND PRIZE** for her project “It was Just a Day at the Beach or Slough.” Congratulations to all students who entered and especially to our winners.

Kestrel Nest Boxes

American Kestrels, cavity nesters, are suffering from a shortage of nest sites. SBAS has a new supply of Kestrel nest boxes, \$35, or kits, \$20. Directions are included. To get yours call Catherine at 682-1357.



National Audubon Society Membership Application

(new members only)

Includes membership in National Audubon & Santa Barbara Audubon Society (C13 7XCH) and subscriptions to Audubon magazine & El Tecolote, the SBAS newsletter

☐ \$20 Introductory Membership

☐ \$15 Senior (62+) or Student

Make check payable to:

National Audubon Society

Mail to:

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

5679 Hollister Ave., Suite 5B

Goleta, CA 93117

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Santa Barbara Audubon Programs

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 p.m., doors open at 7:00 p.m., and are free to the public. SBAS members are encouraged to bring guests.



"Sedgwick Reserve, UC Natural Reserve System"

Dr. Michael Williams, Speaker

Wednesday, June 26th

Dr. Michael Williams, Reserve Director, will give us a colorful overview of the Sedgwick Reserve, the newest addition to the University of California's Natural Reserve System (1996). The Reserve encompasses 9.2 square miles on the southern slopes of the San Rafael Mountains, in the lush Santa Ynez Valley 35 miles north of Santa Barbara. The site contains diverse vegetation, major portions of two watersheds, a variety of localized wetland habitats and at least one Middle Chumash

habitat site between 1,500 to 2,000 years old.

Several research and special programs are on-going at the Reserve. Research programs include: oak regeneration; study of native grasses; study of soil nutrient flow; and a floristic survey. Special programs include: environmental monitoring through photo-monitoring, bird inventories and stream-water analysis; field instruction for numerous university courses; and outreach programs to K-12 schools, natural history groups, and partnerships with local museums, Botanical Gardens and Natural History Societies.

Mike's informative and lively slide presentation will highlight the diverse flora and beauty of the rolling hills and fields, as well as the many activities and research conducted at the Sedgwick Reserve. For details on the Reserve and its activities, please go to: <http://nrs.ucop.edu/reserves/sedgwick.html>

Summer Fun at the Annual SBAS Potluck and Get-together!

Saturday, July 20th, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Cliff House, Coal Oil Point, Goleta

(Note special time and place)

This year our annual meeting will be held at the Cliff House on UCSB's West Campus. This meeting promises to be a treat for SBAS members, families, friends and prospective members. Come and enjoy the fantastic view of the Santa Barbara Channel.

Special tours will include updated information on Coal Oil Point, its Snowy Plover population and protection; and the coastal dunes with their rich dune vegetation and southern coastal scrub habitats. The tours will be from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will be led by volunteers from the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and Coal Oil Point Natural Reserve Snowy Plover Public Education and Docent Program. Please wear comfortable shoes for walking on sand.

Please bring a light dish (appetizer, snack, dessert) to share with others. Stove and refrigerator are available and drinks will be



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Santa Barbara Audubon Society Slate of Nominees, 2002-2003

Officers

President	Darlene Chirman
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary	Ginny Turner
Treasurer	Elizabeth Price

Board Members & Committee Chairs

Field Trips	Paul Keller
Programs Co-Chair	Sylvia Curtis
Programs Co-Chair	Vacant
Conservation	Dave Wass
Education	Lisa Sobczak
Science	Kendy Radasky
Membership Chair	Lee Moldaver
Newsletter	Bill & Elaine Uomini
Publicity	Natasha Carr
At Large-Outreach	Anna Nicholas
At Large-Outreach	Victoria Harvey
At Large-Outreach	Christine S. Cowles

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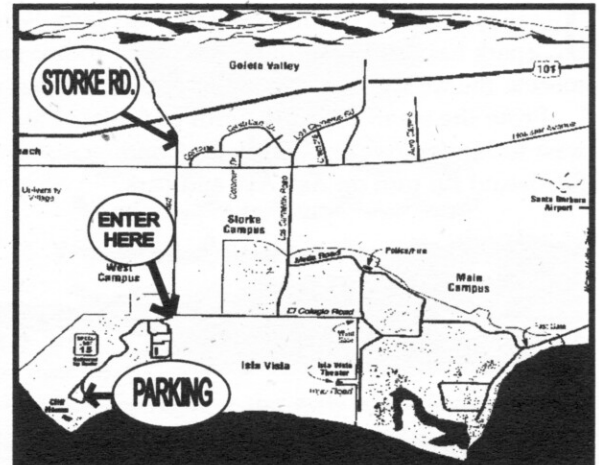
provided by **SBAS**. We will also have a lively group game to play, suitable for kids and grownups, and information updates on **SBAS** activities and initiatives.

The annual **SBAS** Board election (please see slate on previous page) will round out the afternoon.

For more information on
SBAS and Snowy Plover protection see:
<http://www.audubon.org/bird/watch/snp/snp.html>

The **Coal Oil Point Reserve** page is:
<http://nrs.ucop.edu/reserves/coaloil.html>

Note: Free parking passes will be available at the dirt parking lot near Cliff House at the end of Devereux Drive. To get to Cliff House from Highway 101 take Storke Road exit and drive south towards the ocean. Storke Road forks at El Colegio. Take the right fork and follow it all the way to the end and park in the dirt parking lot and pick up your free pass.



Have you been looking for a way to make a difference? **SBAS** is looking for a Programs Co-Chair and a Membership Chair so that a current board member could move to Vice-President. Please contact **Darlene Chirman**, 692-2008 or **Sally Walker**, 569-5388, for more information.

How a Bird Hatched Two Birders

By Elaine Uomini



Phainopepla in Sabino Canyon.
Photo by Elaine Uomini.

A few years ago on the Winter Solstice, I was surprised to see a little visitor eating a persimmon in our back yard. He was so intent on the ripe fruit that he didn't bat a red eye when my dh ("dear husband" in internet talk) joined me on the patio. Neither of us had ever seen anything like this bird! He was glossy iridescent black with red eyes and a little crest that was tipping over backwards in the light rain. Every so often he emitted a soft "wee-oo". Altogether he was one of the most enchanting exquisite little beings we had ever seen, but we had no idea what he was. Our only bird book had no picture of this wonderful bird. After frustrating dead ends, we finally called **Karen Bridgers** who immediately and graciously told us that we had seen a male *Phainopepla*, and yes, there was a pen-and-ink drawing of a *Phainopepla* in our old bird book after all.

Many of you can probably identify with the way we rushed to buy binoculars and bird books. We discovered what all birders know—that there is a fascinating parallel universe of birds and all you have to do is step outside to peek into it.

Every now and then, on our birding expeditions, we'd catch a glimpse of another *Phainopepla*, and each time I felt a special gratitude to this little bird for leading us into birding. But these peeks at the *Phainopepla*, unlike our first encounter, were fleeting and at a distance. Until Arizona that is!

Thanks to urging from birder friends, we finally visited southeastern Arizona last month. No amount of hyperbolic description prepared us for what we saw—Vermilion Flycatchers, Red-faced Warblers, Pyrrhuloxias, Gila Woodpeckers and Cactus Wrens galore. But imagine my delight when we got to Sabino Canyon, outside of Tucson, and were literally surrounded by *Phainopeplas*—perching, eating mistletoe, catching bugs, mating, nest-building. Sabino Canyon was *Phainopepla* paradise!

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.

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park Carpinteria

Saturday, June 15th, 8:30 a.m.

Target birds: White-tailed Kite, Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other breeding birds of the marsh
Jack Sanford, 566-2191, jacksanford@hotmail.com



Enjoy the birds of this new park with **Jack Sanford**, a resident of Carpinteria, who is leading his first trip for **SBAS**. The park has drinking fountains and rest rooms and is small and open so you can catch up with us if you come late. We will meet at the well-marked Nature Park. Trip will last a couple of hours.

From the south take 101 north to Casitas Pass Rd and go south to Carpinteria Ave and turn right. Take Carpinteria Ave west to Linden Ave and turn left. Continue south on Linden Ave to the end and turn right on Sandyland Rd. At the end of Sandyland Rd turn on Ash Ave and park.

From the north take 101 south to Linden Ave and go south to the end and turn right on Sandyland Rd. At the end of Sandyland Rd turn on Ash Ave and park.

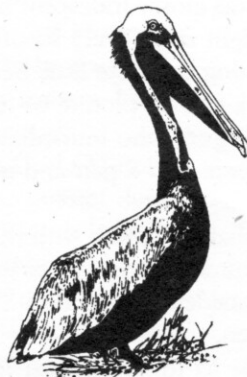


Lake Los Carneros Field Trip April 13th Trip Report By Jack Sanford

Beautiful day, beautiful people and beautiful birds; you can't beat a combination like that. As usual **Karen Bridgers** did an excellent job of leading us around the Stow House and then slowly circling Lake Los Carneros. She patiently identified over 35 species of birds and explained various interesting facts about them. **Paul Keller**, the **SBAS** field trip coordinator, accompanied Karen and brought along his spotting scope for all us to share. Thanks Paul. The bird walk began at about 5 p.m. and returned just before dark. Lake Los Carneros is such a wonderful birding area that if you missed the field trip you should take a walk around the area on your own.

One of the more unusual sights we saw was a "V" formation of seven Snowy Egrets and one Great Egret. Here is a partial list of the birds we saw: Red-tailed Hawk, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Crow, Cedar Waxwing, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Bullock's Oriole, American Robin, Hooded Oriole, Lesser Goldfinch, Anna's Hummingbird, Purple Finch, Cliff Swallow, White-tailed Kite,

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Santa Cruz Island May 4th Trip Report By Paul Keller

Weather cooperated for last Saturday's **SBAS** trip aboard the *Truth to Prisoners*. We had room for about 20 more passengers, so here's what you 20 missed. On the way to SCI, Sooty Shearwaters were fairly common. Also a couple of Pink-footed Shearwaters gave good looks to all. Leader **Dave Compton** was perhaps the only one who saw the harbor porpoise. Near the island we chased a blow that lead us to a male and two female orcas, representing a rare sight for Santa Barbara waters. These killer whales allowed for close approach. We left them behind only after the photographers were content. Closer to Prisoners' most saw a fly-by pair of Pigeon Guillemots. We also saw Cassin's Auklets and Xantus's Murrelets.

Ashore at Prisoners' the novelty of seeing Island Scrub-Jays soon wore off. We also saw Pacific-slope Flycatchers, perhaps representing the *insulicola* subspecies, as well as Allen's Hummingbird. Many had scope views of a Bewick's Wren representing a subspecies restricted to the Channel Islands.

Again aboard the *Truth*, we headed east following reports

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(Continued from page 1)

granted **SBAS** \$15,500 in March 2000. This project is now completed and the sign installation was the final task. **SBAS** would like to thank the County and two other funding sources: the Shoreline Preservation Fund, of the UCSB Associated Students, for internships, volunteer recruitment and project management; and the Garden Club of Santa Barbara for native plant purchases.

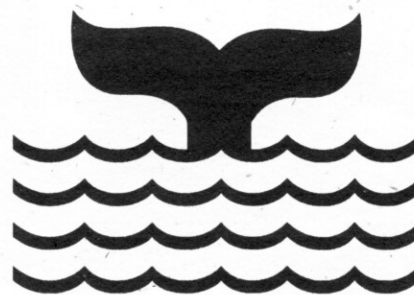
SBAS continues to work on the Tecolotito Creek site near Goleta Beach Park. Planting is completed on this site as well. We will be watering our new plants, after such a dry "rainy" season, and weeding until the end of the year. We are also partners with the Weed Management Area of Santa Barbara County for additional Pampas grass control in Goleta Slough.

Many Restoration Interns for **SBAS** have worked on these sites in the last three years, and also volunteers from the University and the community. This volunteer service demonstrates the community's commitment to stewardship of our natural areas. Thanks to everyone who has helped! If you would like to learn more about the projects or volunteer on continuing projects, visit the **SBAS** website at <http://www.rain.org/~audubon/> or call **Darlene Chirman** at 692-2008.

(Continued from page 6)

Ruddy Duck, Double-crested Cormorant, Bufflehead, American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Yellowthroat, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Red-shouldered Hawk, Great-tailed Grackle, Great Blue Heron, Brown-headed Cowbird, Song Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Sora, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, American Kestrel, Canada Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Red-winged Blackbird

It doesn't get any better than this! Join us on the next **SBAS**'s field trip—a great way to put new spring in your step, a smile on your face and a renewed spirit from the wonder of it all.



(Continued from page 6)

of blue whales. Throughout the early afternoon we had repeated good looks at Xantus's Murrelets including one which two birders saw that looked to be of the *hypoleucus* subspecies. Chasing their tell-tale tall spouts, we came in the midst of three blue whales, that kept us happy for most of an hour. One birder saw a minke whale leap out of the water several hundred meters away, never to reappear. On the way back to SEA Landing, most of us managed to see the Rhinoceros Auklet and the Northern Fulmar as well as some remaining by-the-wind sailors.

Volunteer Habitat Restoration Opportunities for June & July

Restoration work in Goleta Slough has been completed on several sites. The primary site for continuing plant maintenance is Tecolotito Creek, where we will be once a month. We continue to recruit volunteers for Coal Oil Point Reserve and the Arroyo Hondo Preserve restoration efforts. Both are areas of high biodiversity in plant species, plant communities and bird and wildlife species. For more information contact **SBAS** coordinator **Megan Snover**, 964-9986, megansnover@hotmail.com; or Coal Oil Point Reserve coordinator, **Cris Sandoval**, 893-5092; or Arroyo Hondo Reserve-Land Trust, 966-4520; or **Darlene Chirman**, 692-2008, dchirman@rain.org.

Descriptions and directions are on the **SBAS** website: www.rain.org/~audubon/

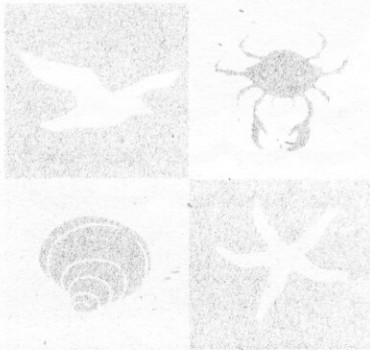
Date	Location	Contact
Sunday, June 2, 9:00am-12:30pm	Arroyo Hondo Preserve—bring a lunch!	Land Trust
Sunday, June 9, 8:30am-12:30pm	Tecolotito Creek—Goleta Slough	Megan
Saturday, June 22, 8:30am-noon	Coal Oil Point Reserve	Cris
Sunday, July 7, 9:00am-12:30pm	Arroyo Hondo Preserve—bring a lunch!	Land Trust
Saturday, July 27, 8:30am-12:30pm	Tecolotito Creek—Goleta Slough	Megan

Calendar of Events

June 15	Carpinteria Salt Marsh Field Trip
June 26	Sedgwick Reserve Program
July 20	Annual SBAS Potluck & Get-together

Volunteers Needed!

Want to lead a bird walk? You don't need to be an expert; you only need a desire to share your enthusiasm about birds. For more information please contact **Paul Keller**, 968-7804, wrentit@verizon.net.



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**. Members are invited to send announcements, letters, articles, photos and drawings for consideration to:

SBAS, Bill and Elaine Uomini, Editors

5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

or e-mail: eltecote@cox.net

Submission deadline is the 10th of the month.

SBAS July 2001/June 2002

(805) 964-1468, audubon@rain.org

www.rain.org/~audubon/

Officers

President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008	dchirman@rain.org
Vice President	Satie Airame	965-0895	satie.airame@noaa.gov
Secretary	Ginny Turner		vturner@juno.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Price	687-3966	earthpics@home.com

Board Members/Chairs

Conservation	Dave Wass	682-6962	david.wass@gte.net
Education	Catherine Graham	682-1357	
Field Trips	Paul Keller	968-7804	wrentit@verizon.net
Membership Chair	Lee Moldaver	682-2120	audubon@rain.org
Newsletter	Bill & Elaine Uomini	964-9401	eltecote@cox.net
Programs	Sylvia Curtis	682-8005	sylviayc@yahoo.com
Publicity	Sheila Golburgh-Johnson	682-4618	chtodel@gss.ucsb.edu
Science	Kendy Radasky	961-9378	kradasky@aol.com
At-Large-Outreach	Christine Cowles	568-5370	ccltsbc@silcom.com
At-Large-Outreach	Victoria Woodard-Harvey	965-6355	mwright@silcom.com
At-Large-Outreach	Anna Nicholas	681-9141	ripacityfilms@earthlink.net

Appointed Positions

Eyes In The Sky	Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	pelican7@cox
Hospitality	Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
Membership database	Patrick McNulty	967-9900	mcnulty@gte.net
Nominating Com.	Sally Walker	569-5388	walker160@cox.net
Rare Bird Alert	Recent rare bird sightings	964-8240	
Report Rare Bird	Karen Bridgers	964-1316	kbridgers@msn.com
Webmaster	Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@earthlink.net

Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Members are welcome to attend.

Call SBAS office to verify dates and times. 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 by Joanie Dawson.

or current resident

In This Issue...

Summer Fun at the Annual SBAS Potluck and Get-together!