

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
Volume 41, Issue 2 October/November 2002



Watershed Restoration Update

By Darlene Chirman



Volunteers remove unhealthy avocado trees along Arroyo Hondo Creek, "liberating" the native plants that have naturally returned in the old orchard. Photo by Sam Chirman.

This has been a rewarding year for the volunteers and interns assisting **SBAS** with habitat restoration in wetlands and creeks. Our Goleta Slough restoration projects are nearing completion. Two years of installation of native plants along the slough margins of Tecolotito Creek has established a native plant community we hope will entice Belding's Savannah Sparrow and Pygmy Blue Butterfly to utilize the site. The Atascadero

Creek bike path project is completed. Our partnership with the Weed Management Area has eradicated Pampas grass from hundreds of acres of Goleta Slough. We have been watering the new plants at three sites this summer, given the dry year, and the plants are thriving.

We have assisted the Arroyo Hondo Preserve to initiate a riparian restoration project. An abandoned avocado orchard hugs the creek, home to endangered Steelhead trout. The avocado trees have served as "nurse trees," as perching birds dropped acorns and bay seeds, and defecated seeds from fruits of shrubs such as coffeeberry, bitter gooseberry and redberry. Young riparian forests are coming up under the old avocado trees. Volunteers have been removing the avocado trees and non-native weeds such as castor bean and fennel. Instant riparian forest is the result, seen in one day's work!

The Southern California Wetland Recovery project has awarded **SBAS** a grant of \$28,820 to restore a 1.25 acre section of slough margin along the north side of Devereux Slough. We will be working closely with **Dr. Cris Sandoval**, the Director of Coal Oil Point Reserve, to transform this wetland and transitional habitat to native species over the next two years. We hope you'll come out to help us! See the Restoration Schedule on page 4. When you drive by the southern edge of the slough, you can see the transformation from ice plant two years ago to the thriving native plant cover today. Audubon volunteers helped in that successful restoration.

SBAS joined the recently-created Mission Creek Restoration Partnership. We are looking forward to a major habitat restoration project on the grounds of the Museum of Natural History now in the planning stages. To highlight this project, and the high biodiversity and geologic history of Mission Creek, part of Creek Week this year (October 6-12) will be a "Mission Creek Expo" to be held at the Museum's Fleischmann's Auditorium on Wednesday, October 9.

Do participate in Creek Week this year, or come out to volunteer at the Restoration Workday. Celebrate our creeks and wetlands! Thanks to all who have made a contribution to improved wildlife habitat and water quality.

Save This Date!

Don't miss the fun!

The next Christmas Bird Count
will be on **Saturday, January 4, 2003.**
More information plus a sign-up coupon
will be in your next issue of
El Tecolote!



Eyes In Sky Update

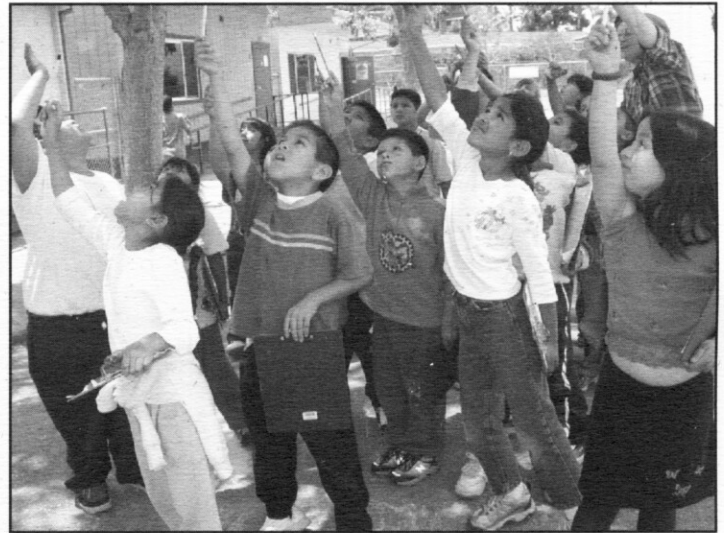
By Gabriele Drozdowski

Since January 2000, EYES IN THE SKY's wildlife messengers (five birds of prey native to our area) have presented 314 programs to over 10,500 Santa Barbara area residents. 192 of these programs took place in 38 local schools. Others took place at Earth Day, S.B. Museum of Natural History, the S.B. Botanic Garden, Community Environmental Council, Senior Centers, and the Alisal Guest Ranch.

Our birds' physical presence and unique stories of survival following conflict with human activities educate about the impacts of human actions - both good and bad, and build respect and understanding for local wildlife species and their habitats.

EITS has made a special effort to reach elementary school students in low-income neighborhoods where children have much to gain from connecting with nature. 107 of EITS' school presentations were provided free of charge to such schools.

This year EITS expanded with its new MEET YOUR WILD NEIGHBOR program, a five-week, state science-standard based series of lessons for students in low-income area elementary schools. Eight classrooms participated. The feedback from teachers and students was tremendous! This new school year EITS plans to offer this new program to 23 additional classrooms at Adams, Cesar Chavez, Cleveland and McKinley schools. If you would like to know more about MYWN or EITS, or want to schedule a school or community program with our birds, please call Gabriele at 898-0347 or e-mail pelican7@cox.net.



McKinley School students discover birds right in their own schoolyard! Photo by Gabriele Drozdowski.



Squirt, our Red-shouldered Hawk Ambassador. Photo by Dennis Fried.

Ready for Raptors?

A Family Afternoon of Fun and Learning

Co-sponsored by the **SBAS** and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Saturday, October 26, 1:00-4:00 pm

Spend an exciting afternoon at the Garden learning about the habitats and habits of hawks, owls, falcons. Meet live birds face to face, play a food web game, and make a raptor mask just in time for Halloween. Proceeds will benefit the school programs of the **SBAS** and the Botanic Garden.

Fee: \$40 per family of up to four, \$12 per extra person.

Leaders: **Gabriele Drozdowski, Sally Isaacson, Lindsay Rust.**

Nest Boxes for Kestrels, Screech Owls or Flickers

By Catherine Graham

There are too few natural nesting sites locally. Now is the time to situate one of our 12 available nest boxes on your property. Complete directions are included. There is a \$20 donation and profits benefit our school programs. For ordering, pick-up or delivery please call **Catherine Graham** at 682-1357.



"Service is the rent we pay for living. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time."

By Marian Wright Edelman

Santa Barbara Audubon Programs

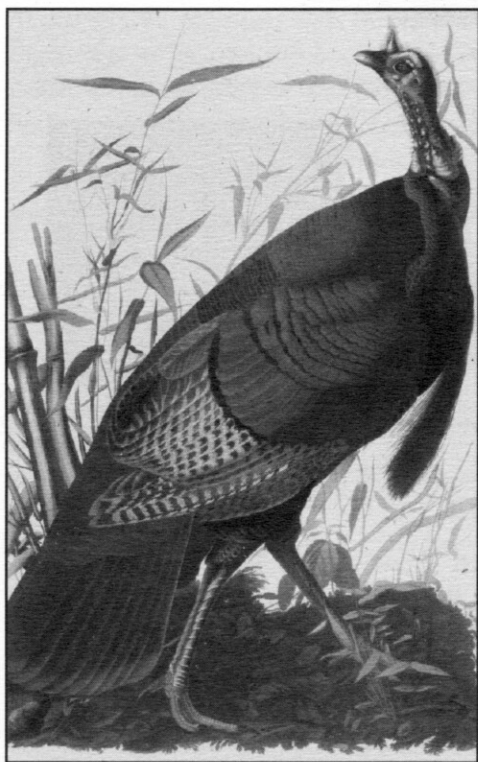
All programs, unless otherwise noted, will take place at Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara. Free on-site parking. All programs, unless otherwise noted, will begin at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7:00 pm, and are free to the public. SBAS members are encouraged to bring guests.

The Mono Lake Committee: In the Eye of the Storm!

Frances Spivy-Weber, Speaker
Wednesday, October 23

Located in California's spectacular Eastern Sierra, Mono Lake is an oasis in the dry Great Basin and a vital habitat for millions of migratory and nesting birds. Over twenty years ago, the Mono Lake Committee began working to protect Mono Lake from destruction, to heal the damage done in the Mono Basin, and to educate the public about the natural environment and wise water use. Since 1978, the Committee, working with the public and an extraordinary coalition of government agencies and non-profit groups, has brought negotiation, legislation, and litigation to Mono Lake's support and achieved a great deal in the fight process.

Please join **Frances Spivy-Weber**, Executive Director of Policy, as she updates us on the natural history and current struggles around Mono Lake. Her presentation features a lively video of Mono Lake and the work of the committee. For more information, see the Mono Lake Committee's website, <http://www.monolake.org/index.html>. Santa Barbara area libraries also carry books and articles on Mono Lake, its natural and political history.



Fall Exhibit at the Wildling Art Museum to feature Audubon Prints

In keeping with its mission to promote an understanding and appreciation of America's wilderness through art, the Wildling Art Museum will be showing the prints of our nation's best known artist-naturalist, **John James Audubon**. The exhibition, entitled "**John James Audubon: American Woodsman**," will continue through December 1. The exhibition will include approximately 23 original prints of North American birds and mammals studied, drawn and painted by Audubon. It will include hand-colored engravings of the Canada Warbler, White-Crowned Sparrow, California Condor, Black Billed Magpie, Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet. Some of these birds are now extinct, and so these works of art provide a unique record of their appearance.

The Museum is located at 2329 Jonata Street in Los Olivos (between Mattei's Tavern and St. Mark's Episcopal Church). Public hours are Wednesday through Friday 1-5, Saturday and Sunday 11-5. Admission is free. For more information please call 688-1082.

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, October 19, 5:00 pm



Target birds: Fall songbirds and migrants, waterfowl
Karen Bridgers, 964-1316, kbridgers@msn.com

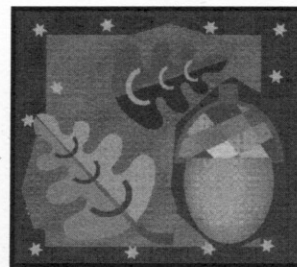
Take Los Carneros exit from 101 and proceed north on Los Carneros Rd to Stow House parking lot next to fire station.

Join Karen for an evening at Lake Los Carneros when Fall migration is at its peak. Karen will gear this trip towards beginners though all are welcome. We will first bird Stow House then work our way towards the dam circling the lake counterclockwise. Finish around sunset (6:24 pm).



Volunteer Restoration Opportunities for October and November

Santa Barbara Audubon is beginning a new restoration project at Coal Oil Point Reserve. You may obtain more information about this or the Tecolotito Creek Project by contacting the Volunteer Coordinator **Ken Owen** at islands@rain.org or 568-1507, or Project Manager **Darlene Chirman** at dchirman@rain.org or 692-2008. To sign up for Arroyo Hondo restoration workdays, contact the Land Trust Arroyo Hondo Volunteer Coordinator **Jane Murray** at ltvolunteer@yahoo.com or 684-4405.



Date	Time	Place	Contact
Sun, Oct. 6	9am-12:30pm	Arroyo Hondo Restoration Workday, bring a lunch	Jane Murray
Sat, Oct. 12	9am-12:30pm	Tecolotito Creek Restoration, Goleta Beach Park, first west lot, slough side	Ken
Sat, Oct. 19	8:30am-noon	Coal Oil Point Reserve, meet at Storke Road and Whittier Drive	Ken
Sun, Nov. 3	9am-12:30pm	Arroyo Hondo Restoration Workday, bring a lunch	Jane Murray
Sat, Nov. 16	8:30am-noon	Coal Oil Point Reserve, meet at Storke Road and Whittier Drive	Ken
Sat, Nov. 23	8:30am-12:30	Tecolotito Creek Restoration, Goleta Beach Park, first west lot, slough side	Ken

Guide to Birds of the Salton Sea

By Barbara W. Massey and Richard Zembal
Book Review – by Lee Moldaver



The Salton Sea is one of California's best and most popular birding areas. It hosts over 400 species, including many international migratory birds. The Salton Sea also serves as a crucial watering and feeding area along the International Flyway, linking Latin American wintering areas with summer forage and breeding areas in the western states and Canada.

Audubon members already know that the Salton Sea has become badly degraded over the last 50 years. By the 1980s and early '90s, the challenges facing the Salton Sea appeared so great that many feared that the sea was doomed. Thanks to inspired leadership by the late Sonny Bono, as the area's Congressman, and more recently by his wife Mary, the Salton Sea has become an Audubon California focal point for restoration efforts. International and multi-agency research consortia, including Audubon, are working to first stabilize the Salton Sea, and then implement a long-term recovery plan.

Anyone interested in the history, geology, hydrology, and, most of all, the glorious bird and wildlife of the Salton Sea area should consider adding the brand new **Guide to Birds of the Salton Sea** to your holiday shopping list. This 300 page labor of love by Barbara W. Massey and Richard Zembal is published by the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and dedicated to legendary Cal State Long Beach ornithologist and Salton Sea guru Charles Collins.

Amazingly, this lively well written guide appears to be the first modern full-length book to focus on the Salton Sea's natural bounty. At just \$24.95, equipped with sturdy covers and quick-reference appendices at the rear, this book would enhance the library of any California nature-lover or intrepid birder. Inquire at the LA Audubon bookstore, or by the internet at:

asdmprpress@desertmuseum.org

For a Friend Who Asked Why I Watch Birds



It has all the thrill of the hunt
and I am a hunter,
my trophy fragments of color
flashed on the retina,
each feather perfectly set.

I hunt for the source of song
deep in the crown of a tree.

It is condensed like poetry.

Focused so intently on the twig
aflame with a fleet thing,
each dash of light changes the view
and quickens the heart of the viewer.

Revealed in glances

from branch to branch, a wingbeat
of time, a dart in the air,
a parting of leaves and the bird
finally seen,
fuses song and light and movement
into grace.

This poem by **Sheila Goldburgh Johnson** is from her anthology, **Shared Sightings**. Sheila is a former **SBAS** Board Member. Her book would make a lovely gift for your bird-loving friends.

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 _____

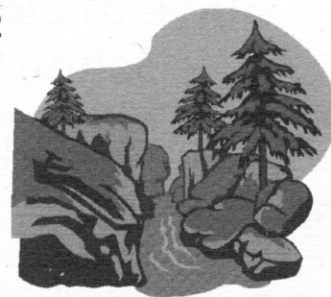
Phone _____

E-mail _____



Creek Week - October 5 – 12, 2002

Sponsored by the County & City of Santa Barbara,
and the South Coast Watershed Alliance



Saturday, October 5

- Creek Clean-up – details later

Sunday October 6, 9:00 am to noon

- Arroyo Hondo Preserve Habitat Restoration Party

Traveling north on Highway 101, the entrance to the Preserve is about 4.5 miles past Refugio Beach State Beach, and the next driveway after you see a concrete bunker-style building at the turnoff to Tajiguas Landfill. Mark a sharp right hand turn into the Preserve at the bottom of the hill immediately after Cal Trans call box # 101-412.

Description: Help restore the native habitats at the Preserve by removing invasive exotic plants. We'll work until lunch; after lunch you're welcome to hike the Preserve. Wear sturdy shoes and clothes, and bring work gloves, water and lunch.

Information: Please RSVP by calling the **Jane Murray**, Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, at 684-4405.

Monday October 7, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

- Native Plant Propagation

At the South Coast Watershed Resource Center, Arroyo Burro Beach, 2981 Cliff Drive, Santa Barbara. Call 452-7561 for more information. Sponsored by Growing Solutions Restoration Education Institute.

Description: Learn how to propagate native plants from seeds and cuttings, and take a plant home with you.

Tuesday, October 8, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

- Carpinteria Salt Marsh Tour

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park, south end of Ash Avenue in Carpinteria. Call 568-3546 for more information.

Description: Join **Wayne Ferren**, noted botanist and one of the driving forces behind the Carpinteria Salt Marsh restoration project, for a tour of the project and discussion of the ecosystem.

Wednesday, October 9, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

- Mission Creek Expo

Fleischmann Auditorium, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Call 963-0583, ext.155, for more information.

Description: The natural and human history of Mission Creek, as well as plans for the future, will be told through presentations, displays, and activities.

Thursday, October 10, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

- Rattlesnake Creek Steelhead Hike

Meet at the Rattlesnake Creek trailhead by following Las Canoas Road east from Mission Canyon Road, above Foothill Road. Call 568-3546 for more information.

Description: Join Urban Creeks Council member **Brian Trautwein** to learn more about steelhead trout as you hike up the creek to prime fish-viewing areas.

Friday, October 11, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

- Community Creek Week Reception

South Coast Watershed Resource Center, 2981 Cliff Drive (at Arroyo Burro Beach). Sponsored by the Community Environmental Council. Call 568-3546 for more information.

Description: The reception, which includes refreshments and live music, is a chance for community members to see the new Watershed Resource Center. This event also features a 7:00 pm presentation by the Chumash Maritime Association about cultural activities at the WRC.



Saturday, October 12, nothing scheduled to date.

Snowy Plovers and Awards

By Catherine Graham

The Annual Meeting of the **SBAS** was held in July at the Cliff House at Coal Oil Point. What a wonderful experience was enjoyed by those who followed the Snowy Plover Docent down to Sands Beach to see some of the 14 Snowy Plover fledglings. **Christine Sandoval**, Director of the Coal Oil Point Preserve, brought the members up-to-date on the many activities of the Preserve with much enthusiasm and optimistic expectations for the future.

Awards were received for great jobs well done by the following:

1. **David Wass**. As Conservation Chair Dave monitors many local issues and represents **SBAS** at many meetings. He also produces a COM 17 TV show, "Environmentally Yours."
2. **Catherine Graham**. As Education Chair for three years, Catherine helped **Gabriele Drozdowski** with the Eyes in the Sky program and its expansion. She advanced Audubon's recognition to the public and coordinated the building and sales of Kestrel nest boxes. (Please see page 2 to see how you can help with this project.)
3. **Gabriele Drozdowski**. Her incredibly innovative and splendidly received programs of Eyes in the Sky reached many students and adults. Of the 192 school programs, 107 were provided free to schools. Total number of students learning about birds and habitats was 4,275 and the total with the adult programs added up to 10,584 very appreciative people. Gabriele handles her wild birds with exceptional compassion and skill.
4. **Jennifer Stroh**. Jennifer is the first-year coordinator of the very successful Snowy Plover Docent Program at UCSB's Coal Oil Point Reserve. She has published an excellent Training Manual and Program for the almost 100 docents at the beach. Jennifer has also worked hard to write grants that have been providing much-needed continuous funding.
5. **Kendy Radasky**. Science Committee member Kendy has done a great job arranging for our judges and awards at the Science Fair held by the public schools. She was a coordinator with Jennifer, working with the fencing around the Snowy Plover nesting site to help protect the fledglings from dogs (who legally must be on the leash). ***For the first time in 30 years the Plovers nested and produced 14 fledglings at Sands Beach!***

The Annual Meeting of the **SBAS** is open to every single member and is always great fun with special surprises and delights, including a great potluck! Everyone is welcome, so next summer be sure to join the fun.



*Kendy and Jennifer discuss the Plover Docent Program at **SBAS** annual meeting.
Photo by Catherine Graham.*



*Snowy Plover Chick.
Photo by Beth Price.*



Annual Retreat

The new **Santa Barbara Audubon Society** Board gathered at **Kendy Radasky's** house for the annual retreat. The Board evaluated the previous year's goals and made plans for the upcoming year. Worthy of celebration was the phenomenal success of the Snowy Plover Docent Program and Gabriele's education programs.

Pictured left to right starting in the back row: **Lisa Sobczak**, Education; **Paul Keller**, Field Trips; **Dave Wass**, Conservation; and **Ginny Turner**, Secretary. Front row: **Bill Uomini**, Newsletter; **Lee Moldaver**, Membership; **Darlene Chirman**, Chairman; and **Kendy Radasky**, Science. Thank you Kendy for graciously offering your home as the meeting place, and thank you **Catherine Graham** for the photos.

Calendar of Events

Oct 5-12 Creek Week
 Oct 19 Lake Los Carneros Field Trip
 Oct 23 Mono Lake Program
 Oct 26 Ready for Raptors? Event

Art and Wine Thank You

SBAS wishes to thank the sponsors, donors and volunteers who helped make "An Afternoon of Art and Wine" a success: **Patti Jacquemain** and **Dave Gledhill** of **Mission Creek Studios**, **Joan Easton Lentz**, **Wild Birds Unlimited**, **Island Seed and Feed**, **Gelson's Market**, **Buttonwood Winery**, **Sunstone Winery**, **Cold Spring Tavern**, **Andora Hodgins**, **Kimberlee Rossi**, **Gabriele Drozdowski** and **Beth Price**. And to all the participants—we hope you had a wonderful afternoon at Creekspirit!

El Tecolote is published 6 times a year by the **Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.** 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 2002/June 2003

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

www.rain.org/~audubon

OFFICERS

<i>President:</i> Darlene Chirman	692-2008	dchirman@rain.org
<i>Vice-President:</i> Open		
<i>Secretary:</i> Ginny Turner		vt7@juno.com
<i>Treasurer:</i> Elizabeth Price	687-3966	earthpics@cox.net

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<i>Field Trips:</i> Paul Keller	968-7804	wrentit@verizon.net
<i>Programs Co-Chair:</i> Sylvia Curtis	682-8005	sylvaiayc@yahoo.com
<i>Programs Co-Chair:</i> Open		
<i>Conservation:</i> Dave Wass	683-0705	david.wass@gte.net
<i>Education:</i> Lisa Sobczak	683-2009	asobczak@ix.net.com
<i>Science:</i> Kendy Radasky	961-9378	kradasky@aol.com
<i>Membership Chair:</i> Lee Moldaver	682-2120	audubon@rain.org
<i>Newsletter:</i> Bill & Elaine Uomini	964-9401	eltecote@cox.net
<i>Publicity:</i> Natasha Carr	967-1383	
<i>At Large—Outreach:</i> Anna Nicholas	681-9141	ripacityfilms@earthlink.net
<i>At Large—Outreach:</i> Victoria Harvey	962-2009	mwright@silcom.com
<i>At Large—Outreach:</i> Christine Cowles	568-5370	ccltsbc@silcom.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS

<i>Membership database:</i> Patrick McNulty	967-9900	mcnulty@gte.net
<i>Webmaster:</i> Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@earthlink.net
<i>Nominating Committee:</i> Sally Walker	569-5388	walker@sprynet.com
<i>Eyes in the Sky:</i> Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	gabriele-d@home.com

<i>Hospitality:</i> Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690
<i>Rare Birds:</i> Karen Bridgers	964-1316
<i>Rare Bird Alert:</i> Recent Sightings	964-1316

Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Members are welcomed to attend. Call office to verify times. FAX: 967-7718. Cover art by Daryl Harrison.

El Tecolote

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

Dated material, please expedite
 October 2002

Non-profit Organization
 U.S. Postage PAID
 Santa Barbara, CA
 Permit Number 125



California Thrasher

or current resident

In This Issue... Watershed Restoration Update!