

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
Volume 42, Issue 2 October/November 2003



Creek Week: October 4 – 12

A Celebration of our Local Watersheds and Ways to Enjoy and Protect Them

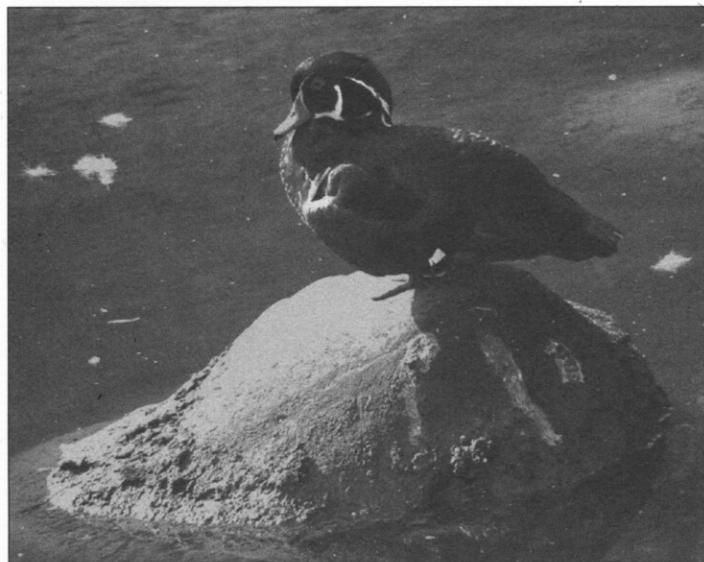
*Sponsored by the County & City of Santa Barbara
and the South Coast Watershed Alliance*

Saturday, October 4

- **Goleta Stream Team**

10:00 am to noon. Meet in the Kmart shopping center, Goleta, to travel to various creeks.

Description: Join Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper to gather water quality data to measure the health of the Goleta Slough watershed and identify sources of pollution. Contact **Leigh Ann Grabowsky** at 563-3377 or lag@sbck.org for more information.



Wood Duck at Atascadero Creek, photo by Roger Millikan

Sunday October 5

- **Arroyo Hondo Habitat Restoration Party**

9:00 am to noon. Traveling north on Highway 101, the entrance to the Arroyo Hondo 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 turn-off 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 Arroyo Hondo 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.

Wednesday, October 8

- **Speaking of Creeks Water Quality Forum: The Ocean Begins on Your Street**

5:30 pm – 7:30 p. Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Main Library. Call 568-3546 for more information.

Description: The forum will feature tools for community members to help improve creek and ocean water quality, an overview of city and county programs, and displays from local community groups, plus a chance to share your own ideas.

Thursday, October 9

- **Carpinteria Salt Marsh Tour**

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. 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.

Friday, October 10

- **Creek Week Community Reception**

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. South Coast Watershed Resource Center, 2981 Cliff Drive (at Arroyo Burro Beach). Co-sponsored by the Community Environmental Council. Call 568-3546 for more information.

Description: The reception, which includes free refreshments and live music, is a chance for community members to see the Watershed Resource Center. This event also features demonstrations of the watershed model, a puppet show, a display of native riparian plants, and activities in the water quality lab.

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Saturday, October 11

Creek Clean-ups

- **Sycamore Creek Clean-up**

9:00 am to noon. Meet at the entrance to the Santa Barbara Zoo, before entering the actual parking lot.

Description: Help clean up this lower section of Sycamore Creek. Garbage bags and water will be provided. Please bring work gloves and be prepared to get your feet wet.

Information: Call the Santa Barbara Zoo at 962-5339, ext. 46.

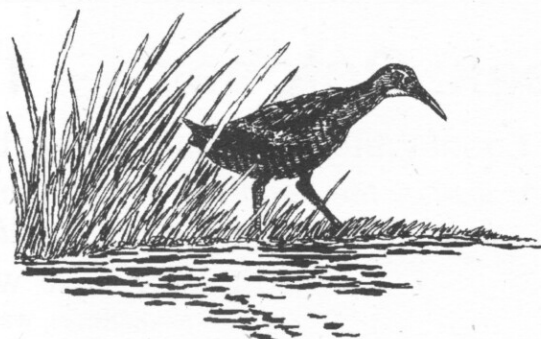
- **County Creek Clean-up**, location TBA

Sunday, October 12

- **Mission Creek Volunteer Restoration Project**

10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Meet at Museum of Natural History. Sponsored by the Urban Creek Council. Call 682-6113 for more information.

Description: Help restore Mission Creek's native habitat by planting native riparian plants on a slope across from the Museum of Natural History. Bring garden gloves if you have them, we'll have some gloves and tools. Refreshments provided.



Virginia Rail by Steven D Amato

Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve Field Trip Report

By Dave Compton



Santa Maria River Estuary, photos by Elaine Uomini

The August 16 field trip to the Santa Maria River estuary produced the expected hordes of Sooty Shearwaters (tens of thousands, quite a spectacular sight,) but little else of interest. With our escort, **Chris Barr** of US Fish and Wildlife, we were able to see most of the estuary, but in terms of shorebirds the trip was notable more for what we didn't find than for what we did. Red-necked Phalaropes were the most common shorebird in the estuary, with lesser numbers of Least Sandpipers, Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits, and Semipalmated and Snowy Plovers present. Two observers reported seeing a couple of Western Sandpipers, but I saw none the entire day. Add to this the complete absence of dowitchers, Black-bellied Plovers, Sanderlings, and yellowlegs, and you have a very strange trip. Conditions, incidentally, seemed excellent. The river has been flowing out to the ocean for the past week and there were plenty of mudflats, shallows, and margins for shorebirds to feed in.

In addition to the shearwaters, one Common Murre was seen just offshore. No shearwater species besides Sooty were detected, although several of us looked hard for something different.



Red-necked Phalarope

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.

Will The Sea Otter Return To Santa Barbara?

Steve Shimek, Speaker

Wednesday, October 22

Few people realize that Santa Barbara is in a "no-otter zone" — an area extending from Point Conception to the Mexican border where sea otters are not allowed by federal law.

Does this sound misguided? It is. Sea otters can't read the law and don't obey imaginary lines across the water. Since 1998 otters have been very slowly reoccupying their former range off the Santa Barbara coastline. But not everyone is excited to see them return.

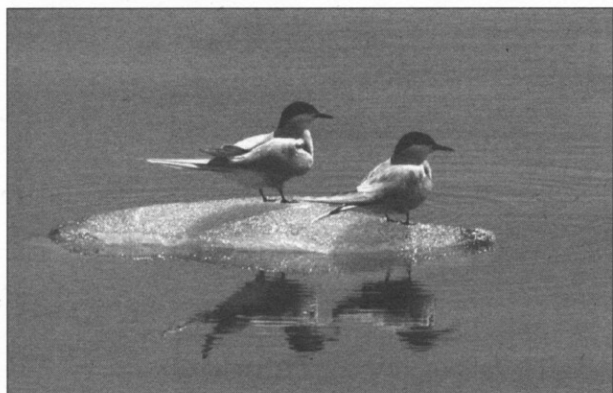
Sea urchin fishermen are infuriated that the US Fish and Wildlife Service is not enforcing the no-otter zone. The fishermen would like to see the otters rounded up and put back in northern California. Occasionally, otters have been found dead on Santa Barbara beaches, shot by vandals.

Through this multimedia program, presented by **Steve Shimek**, founder and executive director of **The Otter Project**, we will learn about the natural history of the sea otter, their near extinction and slow recovery, their relationships with fisheries, and their critical importance to the health of the marine environment.

The program will also explain the no-otter zone and how you can participate in the otter's return. Sometime this fall or winter the US Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to release the "DSEIS" (Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement). The DSEIS is expected to suggest abolishment of the no-otter zone. Public hearings will be held in Santa Barbara and Monterey and are expected to be contentious. The sea otter's fate along Santa Barbara's coastline will certainly hinge on public support.



Sea Otter, photo by Jeff Foott



Arctic Terns, photo by Bob MacLeod

dents have captured the awesome beauty of this great state in approximately 6,000 photographs of animals, birds, mountains and glaciers.

Whether you are an armchair dreamer or a seasoned traveler, whether you are an avid birder and/or a nature enthusiast, you are in for a special treat. Please join us as Bob and Pam share their beautiful photos and experiences in this magnificent land.

Alaska: Birds, Animals and Vistas

Bob MacLeod & Pam Strickland, Speakers

November 19

(note special date)

Bob and **Pam** have visited Alaska three times over the last 16 years and each visit has given them an even greater appreciation for America's true "Final Frontier." As avid nature photographers and birdwatchers, these Santa Barbara resi-



Feeding Frenzy, photo by Bob MacLeod

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.



Cooper's Hawk
by Kirsten Munson

Lake Los Carneros County Park

Goleta

Saturday, October 18, 4:30 pm

Target birds: Fall songbirds and migrants, waterfowl

Trip leader: Karen Bridgers, 964-1316, kbridgers@msn.com



Take the Los Carneros exit from 101 and proceed north on Los Carneros Rd to the Stow House parking lot next to the fire station. We will first bird around Stow House then work our way towards the dam circling the lake counterclockwise so wear walking shoes. We will finish around sunset (6:17 pm).

Join **Karen** for an evening at Lake Los Carneros when fall song bird migration may bring something unexpected. Karen will gear this trip towards beginners though all are welcome.

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve Field Trip Report

By Jack Sanford

Forty-five plus birders were treated to a very special field trip on Friday, July 11, from 6:30 until dark. Not only did **Wayne Ferren** give us a very informative and interesting account of the ecology and history of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve and the surrounding wetlands, but he told us we might be fortunate enough to see a Clapper Rail since 2 or 3 had been seen in the area. Well, lo and behold, just as the trip was coming to a close due to the sun set, **Rebecca Coulter** noticed a bird in the distance swimming in the water that she thought might be a Clapper Rail. Other experts identified it definitely as a Clapper Rail! To most of us it was just a dark image of a bird, even through a spotting scope. Much to our delight however, the bird flew to an area in the pickle weed about 25 feet from the road and everyone was able to view it closely. Although spotting scopes were not necessary to see and identify this bird, scopes brought every detail into sharp focus. It seemed as though the Clapper Rail was going to spend the night in the pickle weed as it never left.

We also viewed other birds of interest such as Belding's Savannah Sparrows, Willets, Great Blue Herons and their nests, Green Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, Snowy Egrets, Whimbrels and Least Terns.

I'm sure the entire group would like to give special thanks to Wayne for sharing his knowledge and time. Thank you Wayne, we really appreciate it.

Even though this trip included the bonus of the elusive Clapper Rail, all the Audubon field trips are special to me. The camaraderie and the knowledge of the leaders are great, and we always see something of interest that makes these field trips very special. The price is certainly right. Free! Join us on the next Audubon field trip.



This photo by Jack Sanford captures the magical moment when birders were treated to a wonderful look at a very special bird while the sun set on one side of the marsh and the moon rose on the other.

October & November Volunteer Restoration Opportunities

Come help restore our wildlife habitats at the Coal Oil Point Reserve or Arroyo Hondo Preserve. To volunteer at Coal Oil Point Reserve contact **SBAS** Restoration Volunteer Coordinator **Ken Owen** at islands@rain.org or 568-1507; or contact Project Manager **Darlene Chirman** at dchirman@rain.org or 692-2008; or check our **SBAS** website at www.rain.org/~audubon. To volunteer at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve please RSVP the Land Trust Volunteer Coordinator **Jane Murray** at ltvolunteer@yahoo.com or 684-4405.

A special Creek Week planting of riparian species along Mission Creek will be sponsored by the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership (of which **SBAS** is a member). Volunteers will be planting native riparian shrub and understory species to stabilize the slope about steelhead pools in the creek. To volunteer contact **Eddie Harris** of Urban Creeks Council at eharris@silcom.com or 962-8260.

Date	Time	Place	Contact
Sun, Oct 5	9am-12:30pm	Arroyo Hondo Preserve, bring a lunch, hike afterwards if you like	Jane Murray
Sun, Oct 12	10am-4 pm	Museum of Natural History, Planting Day	Eddie Harris
Sat, Oct 25	9am-12:30pm	Coal Oil Point Reserve, north shore, meet Storke Rd & Whittier Dr	Ken Owen
Sun, Nov 2	9am-12:30pm	Arroyo Hondo Preserve, bring a lunch, hike afterwards if you like	Jane Murray
Sat, Nov 8	9am-12:30pm	Coal Oil Point Reserve, north shore, meet Storke Rd & Whittier Dr	Ken Owen

Web Site!

Other Audubon chapters offer interesting field trips and events too! Visit this site to schedule birding trips and participate in events all over California:

<http://audubon-ca.org>



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:

National Audubon Society

Membership Data Center

P. O. Box 52529

Boulder, CO 80322-2529

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Calendar of Events

- Oct 4 - 12 Creek Week
 Oct 18 Field Trip: Lake Los Carneros
 Oct 22 Program: Will The Sea Otter
 Return To Santa Barbara?
 Nov 19 Program: Alaska: Birds, Animals
 and Vistas



Least Bittern by Daniel S. Kilby

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 2003/June 2004

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

www.rain.org/~audubon

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<i>Treasurer:</i> Ginny Turner		vtf7@juno.com

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<i>At Large-Outreach:</i> Christine Cowles	957-0086	ccowles@sblandtrust.org
<i>At Large-Outreach:</i> Open		
<i>At Large-Outreach:</i> Open		

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<i>Webmaster:</i> Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@earthlink.net
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<i>Eyes In The Sky:</i> Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	pelican7@cox.net
<i>Snowy Plover Docent Prg:</i> Jennifer Stroh	448-5943	fivefive55@hotmail.com
<i>Hospitality:</i> Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
<i>Report Rare Birds:</i> Karen Bridgers	964-1316	kbridgers@msn.com
<i>Hear Rare Bird Report</i>	964-8240	

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

El Tecolote

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 Goleta, CA 93117

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*Least Tern at Devereux Slough,
 photo by Mike Collins*

or current resident

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