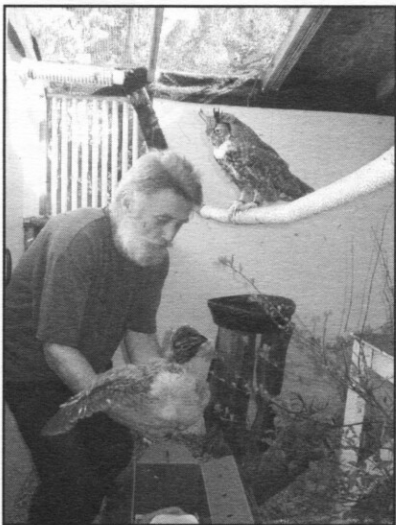
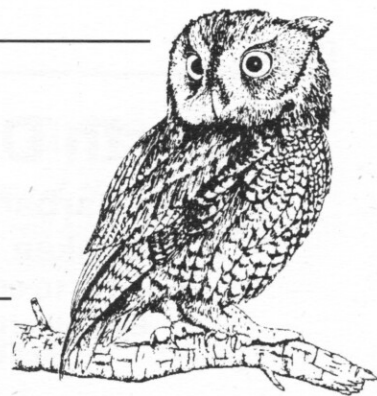


# El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.  
Volume 42, Issue 5

April/May 2004



## OWLS, OWLS, OWLS!

### Orphaned Owlet Arrives at EYES IN THE SKY

By Gabriele Drozdowski

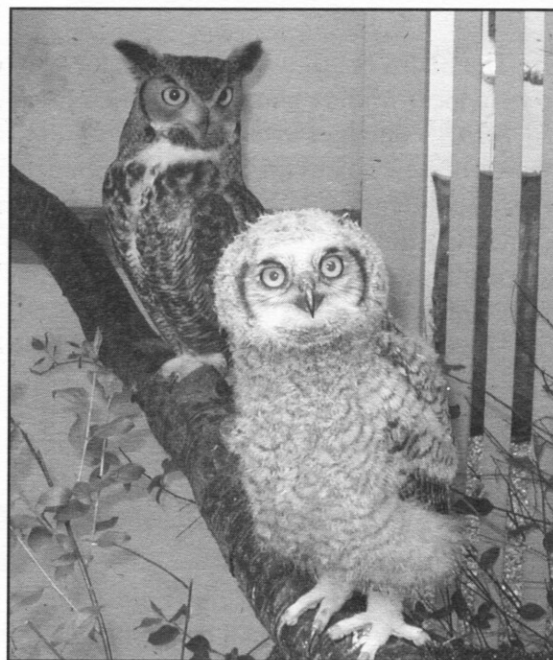
On March 9, Max received his first 2004 baby Great Horned Owl. Max, an imprinted Great Horned Owl, is too tame to be released back into the wild, but has turned out to be a capable and devoted foster-parent for 44 orphaned baby Great Horned Owls brought to us since 2000. All have been released back into the wild.

This year the first owlet arrived weeks later than in the years before, and Max revealed his growing mating and parenting urges by shredding newspapers into messy nests, romantically pursuing me, and bringing me increasing amounts of dead mice to show it was time for me to produce some baby owls.

When my husband Jim finally arrived with an owlet picked up in Granada Hills, Max recognized the pet carrier immediately (all past owl chicks arrived in such a device), and began making cuddling parenting sounds. One minute later Max offered food to the baby. But things were just a bit too exciting and new for her at that moment. One hour later we carefully peeked in and they were both sitting side-by-side, and all 3 (dead) mice were gone.

The fostering program is a joint venture between the Ojai Raptor Center and **SBAS EYES IN THE SKY**.

*Photos by Gabriele Drozdowski*



## Specialty Volunteers Wanted For EITS

- Are you a web page whiz who knows how to set up a shopping cart and webcam (for Max and baby owls)?
- Are you a carpenter or hobbyist who likes to build Western Screech-Owl/ American Kestrel nest boxes (we have the plans)?
- Are you a writer that has grant writing experience?
- Do you like hosting or organizing fundraisers for a great cause?
- Are you an illustrator interested in children's books?

If you are any or all of the above, please call me (Gabriele) at 898-0347 or 451-3059 or email me at [pelican7@cox.net](mailto:pelican7@cox.net).

## Earth Day 2004

Santa Barbara Courthouse  
Sunken Gardens

April 18, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
By Catherine Graham



**S**anta Barbara Audubon Society will have a special children's area where there will be fun for all ages.

- New giant puzzles to assemble
- The largest bird in the USA (in felt) - with story telling at 12:30, 2:30 and 4:00 pm
- Live raptor display at 11:30 am

The **SBAS** booth will offer ways for you to sign up to help local wildlife and preserve their habitat.

**SBAS's** Snowy Plover Docent Program will display photos of new chicks and will have sign-up information for those interested in this wonderful program.

Here is the question of the year. With our cooperation how many chicks will fledge this season, from April through September?

Let us help wildlife and its habitat EVERY day!

## SCAPE

Southern California Artists  
Painting for the Environment

La Arcada Open Air Festival

May 15 and 16, 11 am – 6 pm

**C**ome view and purchase works of local landscapes and birds by Santa Barbara's plein air artists, photographers and sculptors; and help **Santa Barbara Audubon Society** at the same time. **SBAS** will receive 40% of the sales!

The 3rd annual **SCAPE** show is one of Santa Barbara's major art events, and promises to be better than ever this year. **SCAPE** was founded in 2002 with the goal of raising money to preserve open space while promoting camaraderie among local artists. To date **SCAPE** has helped to raise over \$20,000 for local conservation organizations, while raising awareness of conservation issues.

**SBAS** will host a table at the event, offering information and art cards for sale. In addition there will be entertainment by local musicians, live painting demonstrations by local artists, and refreshments for sale.

SEE YOU THERE!



## Cleveland School Meets Wild Neighbor

By Gabriele Drozdowski

**T**eachers, students and a neighbor at Cleveland school discovered an injured owl on the school grounds. As fate has it, **Gabriele** and **Jim Walker** received the patient. Fortunately it only suffered from a concussion, and was able to be released back where it came from a few days later. The neighbor, who had participated in the rescue, immediately donated \$500 to Cleveland school for the purpose of the students learning more about the owls around their neighborhood.

Cleveland, in turn, called EYES IN THE SKY to see if we could once again do the 5-week Meet Your Wild Neighbor program for three third grade classrooms. Cleveland participated in the program last year. Unfortunately, given bussing costs, curriculum material expenses, etc., \$500 only covers one classroom. While we were trying hard to find a way to come up with a pared-down version so that all third graders could participate in some way, another owl angel stepped in and donated \$1,000 to cover the additional classrooms. That means every class will get a visit from Max, and each student will get a complete colored curriculum set to take home at the end of the 5-week lesson series. The curriculum sets are designed like a card game, and students who finish the course often begin teaching family members and friends how to play the "game" which teaches about the 12 most commonly seen/heard school ground and neighborhood birds.

# 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.



Muriel with Dove

## Earthwatch Adventures

Muriel Horacek, Speaker

Wednesday, April 28

**M**uriel Horacek will share some of her recent adventures as a participant in various Earthwatch Expeditions. These include: a bird migration project that started in Hungary and ended in Kenya, a program in Trinidad and St. Croix that monitored the nesting of 800-1000 pound leatherback turtles, an archeological dig in Peru, echidna and koala projects in Australia, and monkeys in China.



Tagging a Turtle

Muriel is a longtime Earthwatch participant and an avid birder. She started birding in the late 1980's in Florida and first joined an Earthwatch expedition in 1992 after moving to California. As a volunteer field rep for Earthwatch, she gives slide/talks to numerous private and public organizations, as well as presenting to school classes from kindergarten through high school science classes. She writes a newsletter that goes to over 2000 people in the greater Los Angeles area and staffs an Earthwatch booth at several travel shows in Los Angeles and Orange County. In addition, she finds time to go on several Earthwatch expeditions each year as well as to take occasional "birding only" trips.

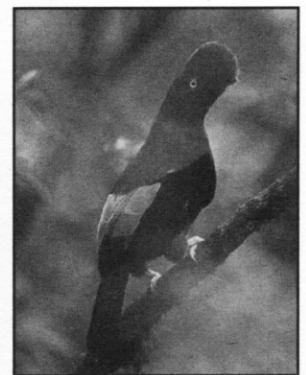
## It's All In The Family

An Illustrated Lecture By Dr. James F. Clements

Wednesday, May 26

**J**im Clements will present an overview of the interesting and diverse bird families into which the 10,000 species of birds of the world fall. Some will be familiar, others will be more exotic. His talk will be illustrated with his superb photographs taken during visits he has made to 132 countries over a half century of dedication to conservation issues in general and birding in particular.

Jim is best known as the author of *Birds of the World: A Checklist*. This monumental work, now in its fifth edition, is a compilation of the 10,000 species of birds of the world, their range, and over 20,000 subspecies. He is also the senior author of *A Field Guide to the Birds of Peru*, and last year finished *A Field Guide to the Birds of Yap Island*. A long time dedicated birder, Jim's life list exceeds 7000. **SBAS** was privileged to have Jim as a speaker two years ago when he presented on the Birds of Manu, Peru.



Cock of the Rock



Apamado Falcon



Sun Bittern

# 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.*



## Las Cruzitas Ranch, near Santa Ynez

**Saturday, April 10, 8:00 am**

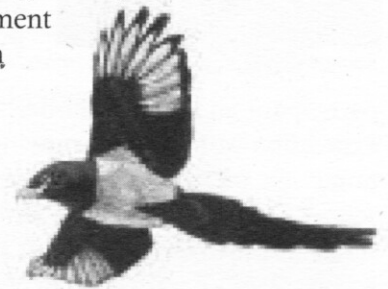
(at carpool place, drivers may appreciate gas money)

**Target birds:** Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Yellow-billed Magpie, Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, buntings, Lawrence's Goldfinch

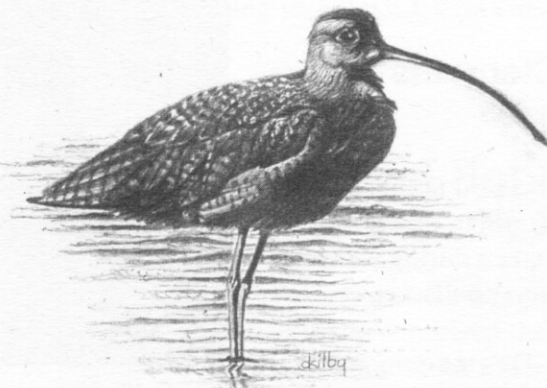
**Trip leader:** Cruz Phillips, 688-8233, cruzitas@aol.com, or better yet contact, Paul Keller, 968-7804, wrentit@verizon.net

Take 101 to the La Cumbre Rd exit in Santa Barbara. Go north on La Cumbre Rd and turn left into Five Points Shopping Center and park at Carl's Jr. (3925 State St). We need to carpool diligently for the drive to the ranch as parking is limited. Those who want to meet us at the ranch where we start birding at 9 o'clock take 154 to Armour Ranch Rd which is 4.2 miles west of Bradbury Dam, Lake Cachuma. Go north on Armour Ranch Rd 1.4 miles then turn right onto Happy Canyon Rd (1st right turn, sign may be missing) for 2.4 miles then right onto Alisos Ave. After 0.7 miles the pavement ends at a cattle guard. Continue 2.6 miles straight past 2 more cattle guards to the barn and park.

For the first 2 hours we'll bird about the ranch house. This involves very little walking. The dirt grounds may be too rough for wheelchairs but those with walkers should be fine. Then those up for an easy hike will bird the ranch while the others may either sit by the feeders or call it a trip. Bring plenty of water and a lunch as most of us will stay until early afternoon.



*Yellow-billed Magpie*



*Long-billed Curlew, by Daniel S. Kilby*

## Arroyo Burro Beach County Park

**Santa Barbara**

**Saturday, April 17, 8:00 am**

**Target birds:** Wintering and breeding birds of stream and shore

**Trip leader:** David Kisner, kisner@rohan.sdsu.edu

From Hwy 101 take Las Positas Rd south to Cliff Dr. Turn right and travel 1/2 mile to the park entrance on the left. We will meet at the east end of the parking lot, closest to Santa Barbara and farthest from the beach.

Wear walking shoes for trail and beach. We will bird along Arroyo Burro Creek and its mouth and the beach. We will also look at restoration efforts, and the botany and ecology in this interface zone between fresh, brackish and salt water. Trip over by mid-morning.

### 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>

## Figueroa Mountain Field Trip Report

By Abbey Carpenter

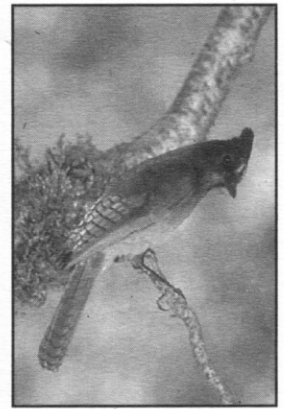
It is January 24 and I have just returned from my first local Audubon birding outing. It was led by **Dave Compton** and, from my perspective, co-led by **Paul Keller** who drove the car I was in. We went to Figueroa Mountain making stops along the way which I can't pinpoint since I've only been in the state three weeks. Wherever we were, we saw a nice variety of birds on this cold, blustery and occasionally damp day. As a new resident of California, I was fortunate to see four life birds: Yellow-billed Magpies, a California Thrasher, an Oak Titmouse, and Wrentits. The 14 of us, caravanning in four cars, saw Red-tailed Hawks, the melodious Meadowlark, TVs, a Ferruginous Hawk, Western Bluebirds looking sharp in their little vests, the ever-popular House Finch, and a familiar sight from my former home in central Arizona, the Western Scrub-Jay.

Traveling from site to site, Paul helped me learn the new flora of the area by pointing out live oaks, valley oaks, blue oaks (which grow at higher elevations), grey pines with their big chocolate cones, lace lichen, California holly (perhaps the name-sake of Hollywood?), golden cup oaks with their ping-pong size acorns, coulter pines, and big cone spruce. Of course, I was already familiar with the big pumpkin ponderosa pines; it was heartwarming to see them again.

Back to birds. We saw a flock of Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds, Crows, Ravens, White-crowned Sparrows, Acorn Woodpeckers, and Say's Phoebes with their mournful call. We heard a Bewick's Wren but were unable to see it. Let me rephrase that: Dave was able to identify the Bewick's Wren by its call. I have never birded with anyone with such an ear for bird vocalizations. What an added bonus to my experience!

Mark was in his own car up ahead of us on the mountain road and called back telling us where he'd seen a Rock Wren. We drove to the mile marker and, lo and behold, it was there! At the top of the mountain, additional birds we saw were a Steller's Jay, a White-breasted Nuthatch, a Dark-eyed Junco, a Pygmy Nuthatch (by sound only), and an Anna's hummingbird. Yes, those were singular sightings. Our competent leader was sorry to say that he believed that was the least amount of birds he'd ever seen there. I was not disappointed, however, but happy to be seeing a part of my new state.

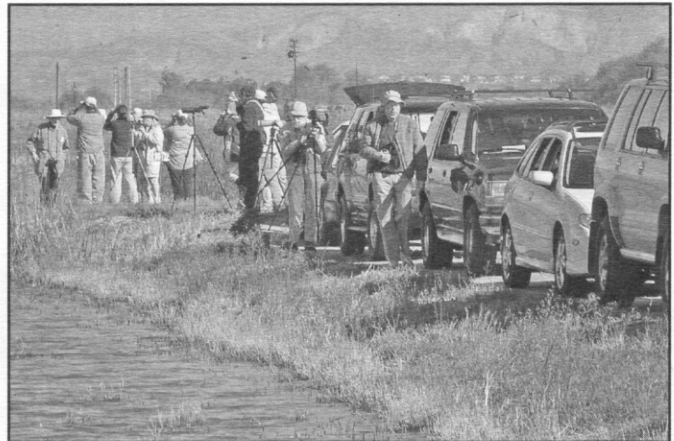
Heading homeward the lead car saw a bobcat and we all saw a colorful flock of Lesser Goldfinch and finally, an Osprey on a wire near Lake Cachuma. Thank you, leaders and fellow bird-spotters for an enjoyable day.



*Steller's Jay*

## Ventura County Game Preserve Field Trip

Photos by Roger Millikan



We saw a huge variety of wintering birds including the White-faced Ibis shown above. Ibises seemed to be everywhere on this spectacular early February field trip led by the knowledgeable **Paul Keller**. Thanks Paul for a great outing!

## April & May Volunteer Restoration Opportunities

**A**udubon helps recruit volunteers for habitat restoration for the Coal Oil Point Reserve and the Arroyo Hondo Preserve, as well as for the projects we manage: Goleta Slough Habitat Enhancement and one site at Coal Oil Point Reserve. Come help restore our local natural areas. To volunteer at Goleta Slough contact **Julie Love** at [jmlove818@hotmail.com](mailto:jmlove818@hotmail.com) or 453-4840. To volunteer at Coal Oil Point Reserve contact **Julie Love** or **Darlene Chirman** at [dchirman@rain.org](mailto:dchirman@rain.org) or 692-2008; or check our **SBAS** website at [www.rain.org/~audubon](http://www.rain.org/~audubon). To volunteer at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve please RSVP the Land Trust Volunteer Coordinator **Jane Murray** at [ltvolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:ltvolunteer@yahoo.com) or 684-4405.

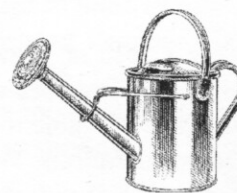


Date	Time	Place	Contact
Sun, Apr 4	9am-12:30pm	Arroyo Hondo Preserve, bring a lunch, hike afterwards if you like	Jane Murray
Sat, Apr 10	9am-noon	Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact for site	Julie Love
Sat, Apr 24	9am-12:30pm	Goleta Slough, contact for site	Julie Love
Sun, May 2	9am-12:30pm	Arroyo Hondo Preserve, bring a lunch, hike afterwards if you like	Jane Murray
Sat, May 8	9am-12:30pm	Goleta Slough, contact for site	Julie Love
Sat, May 22	9am-noon	Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact for site	Julie Love

## Max Introduces "Winged Migration" at International Film Festival

**A** special showing of **Jacques Perrin's** extraordinary movie "Winged Migration" was this year's "field trip to the movies". 3,000 lucky third graders from Santa Barbara area elementary schools were bussed to the Arlington theatre from all directions

A 20-minute introduction by **Santa Barbara Audubon EYES IN THE SKY** program director **Gabriele Drozdowski** and **Max**, the Great horned Owl was part of the showing. Before **Max** was brought on stage, **Gabriele** asked the children how many thought they knew the name of the bird that was about to come onstage. Nearly half of the hands in the large auditorium went up, and when asked if they could whisper the bird's name, hundreds of little voices whispered, "Max". **Max** in turn responded with hoots from backstage. **Max** has participated in over 300 school programs since the year 2000.



## Parade of Green Building

Saturday, May 1, 10 am – 5 pm

**T**wenty-two notable green buildings and gardens will be open to the public and will debut for touring in greater Santa Barbara. The buildings and gardens are designed, built and occupied in an environmentally conscious way.

The Parade Committee will again host a keynote speaker on April 30, Friday evening before the Parade. **David Orr**, chairman of the Environmental Studies Department at Oberlin College and an expert on green building principals, will be speaking at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Fleischmann Auditorium. This special event begins with a reception at 6 pm followed by Orr's lecture at 7.

Tickets to the Parade, including the lecture, are \$10. There is an additional charge of \$5 to attend a Sustainable Design lecture series at the Hayward Design Center on Saturday. The tickets are available through the Wake Center, 964-6853; the Schott Center, 687-0812; and livinggreen at 218 Helena Ave, 966-1319.

For more details and additional information, please call Parade Co-chair **Karen Feeney** at 963-0583 x122 or visit the website at [www.sustainabilityproject.org/](http://www.sustainabilityproject.org/)

## EITS Yard Sale

**E**YES IN THE SKY is planning a yard sale. It will take place on Saturday, May 15, from 9 am until 2 pm at 761 N. La Cumbre Road (near Foothill Road). Meet some of our birds and have a cookie.

You can help make this a success. If you have any items you would like to contribute please call **Gabriele** at 898-0347 or 451-3059, or email [pelican7@cox.net](mailto:pelican7@cox.net). We can pick up large items.



## Help Audubon Pass Clean Water/Wetlands Bill

**A**udubon California and many Audubon Chapters are sponsoring a major clean water and wetlands bill to fill in a huge gap created recently in the federal Clean Water Act. Senate Bill 1477, authored by Senator **Byron Sher** (D- Palo Alto), will require the State Water Resources Control Board to regulate fill and discharges into non-navigable, intrastate waters that are no longer federally protected. Those waters include California's seasonal rivers, streams and lakes, vernal pools, more than half of the state's wetlands, many of the streams and lakes in the Sierras, and the drinking water sources for more than half of all Californians.

Following a very narrowly worded Supreme Court decision in 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a "guidance" to its field offices that virtually eliminates federal protection for almost 20 million acres of sensitive wetlands and thousands of miles of streams. In response to overwhelming public and state opposition, the EPA dropped its formal rulemaking process to codify the change, but did not withdraw the "guidance" to its field offices to eliminate protection of these waters, in effect leaving the enormous and very dangerous loophole in place. Several states, including New York, Wisconsin and Ohio, have introduced legislation to fill in the gap.

California has as much or more at stake than other states. Because California receives most of its rain and snow during the winter, many of its streams and lakes are dry for much of the year. Many others are simply not navigable. Many of these wetlands provide pollution protection and additional sources for some or all of the

drinking water for more than 20 million Californians. These non-navigable waters are no longer provided the basic protections of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Clean water is essential to human health. It is also essential to California's economy. Many of these unprotected waters provide important flood and erosion control, water filtration, and habitat for fisheries, endangered species, and game species. In California alone, wildlife related activities add \$2.6 billion annually to the State's economy. The water filtration and flood control services provided by these unprotected waters save millions of dollars as well. And even the President's Office of Management and Budget found recently that pollution control laws save far more in public health dollars than they cost to implement.

Californians overwhelmingly support clean water protection and, not surprisingly, rank it as one of the State's biggest priorities. 80 percent are concerned about water pollution in California. 76 percent only drink bottled or filtered tap water. Water pollution, like most types of pollution, disproportionately affects low-income communities and California's most vulnerable populations: children, the elderly and those with impaired immune systems. But it affects us all.

Please help Audubon California and your Chapter to pass SB 1477 by contacting your state Senator and Assembly member and urging them to support SB 1477. You can find out who your state legislators are by going to [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org). To get their contact information go to [www.senate.ca.gov](http://www.senate.ca.gov) or [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov) and click on "legislators".

For more information, background materials, and sample support letters, go to [www.audubon-ca.org](http://www.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:*

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar of Events

Apr 10 Field Trip: Las Cruzitas Ranch  
 Apr 17 Field Trip: Arroyo Burro Beach  
 Apr 18 Earth Day  
 Apr 28 Program: Earthwatch Adventures  
 May 1 Parade of Green Building  
 May 15 & 16 SCAPE Open Air Festival  
 May 26 Program: It's All In The Family

## Wanted!

### Audubon Board Members

**S**anta Barbara Audubon is looking for energetic volunteers to help preserve local birds and habitat, and educate the public about birds and wildlife. Several positions will be open for the July 2004/June 2005 time period: Conservation, Science, Education, Field Trips, Programs & Outreach. So whatever your skills, we need you! Please contact President **Darlene Chirman** at 692-2008 or any current board member to find out what the positions entail.

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](mailto:eltecote@cox.net)

Submission deadline is the 10th of the month.

## SBAS - July 2003/June 2004

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

<http://www.rain.org/~audubon/>

### OFFICERS

<i>President:</i> Darlene Chirman	692-2008	<a href="mailto:dchirman@rain.org">dchirman@rain.org</a>
<i>Vice-President:</i> Lee Moldaver	964-1468	<a href="mailto:audubon@rain.org">audubon@rain.org</a>
<i>Secretary:</i> Susan Lentz	968-6011	<a href="mailto:salentz@cox.net">salentz@cox.net</a>
<i>Treasurer:</i> Ginny Turner		<a href="mailto:vtf7@juno.com">vtf7@juno.com</a>

### BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<i>Field Trips:</i> Paul Keller	968-7804	<a href="mailto:wrentit@verizon.net">wrentit@verizon.net</a>
<i>Programs Chair:</i> Mary Thompson	965-9995	<a href="mailto:marydee2@earthlink.net">marydee2@earthlink.net</a>
<i>Conservation:</i> Dave Wass	683-0705	<a href="mailto:david.wass@cox.net">david.wass@cox.net</a>
<i>Education:</i> Lisa Sobczak	683-2009	<a href="mailto:asobczak@ix.netcom.com">asobczak@ix.netcom.com</a>
<i>Science:</i> Kendy Radasky	961-9378	<a href="mailto:kradasky@aol.com">kradasky@aol.com</a>
<i>Membership:</i> Steve Ferry	967-5162	<a href="mailto:sjferry@cox.net">sjferry@cox.net</a>
<i>Newsletter:</i> Bill & Elaine Uomini	964-9401	<a href="mailto:eltecote@cox.net">eltecote@cox.net</a>
<i>Publicity:</i> Natasha Carr	967-1383	<a href="mailto:tahi4@cox.net">tahi4@cox.net</a>
<i>At Large-Outreach:</i> Christine Cowles	687-8633	<a href="mailto:ccowles@sblandtrust.org">ccowles@sblandtrust.org</a>
<i>At Large-Outreach:</i> John Walker	898-0347	<a href="mailto:johnskyw@hotmail.com">johnskyw@hotmail.com</a>
<i>At Large-Outreach:</i> Open		

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

<i>Webmaster:</i> Bobbie Offen	684-0160	<a href="mailto:bobbieo@earthlink.net">bobbieo@earthlink.net</a>
<i>Nominating Committee:</i> Sally Walker	569-5388	<a href="mailto:walker160@cox.net">walker160@cox.net</a>
<i>Eyes In The Sky:</i> Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	<a href="mailto:pelican7@cox.net">pelican7@cox.net</a>
<i>Snowy Plover Docent Prog:</i> Jennifer Stroh	880-1195	<a href="mailto:stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu">stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu</a>
<i>Hospitality:</i> Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
<i>Report Rare Birds:</i> Karen Bridgers	964-1316	<a href="mailto:kbridgers@msn.com">kbridgers@msn.com</a>
<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

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

*Dated material, please expedite*  
 April 2004

Non-profit Organization  
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*Red-naped Sapsucker*  
 Photo by Mike Collins

*or current resident*

**In This Issue... All about Max and his new orphaned owlet!**