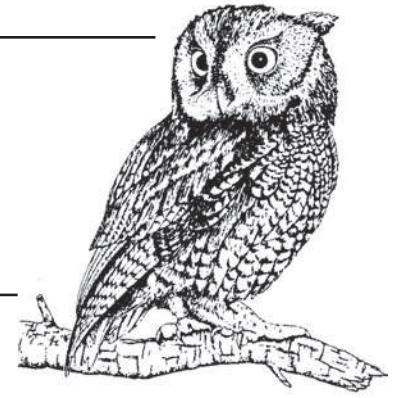

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
Volume 44, Issue 2 October/November 2005



Lead Ammunition Limits Condor Survival by Steve Ferry

The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) held a symposium on condors on Saturday, August 27, as part of the AOU annual meeting at UCSB. Condor biologists and field workers from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Peregrine Fund, the Ventana Wilderness Society, and others presented papers on the condor recovery program and on condor biology. Lead from ammunition was implicated as a factor that limits the long-term survival of the species.

There is no doubt that lead in the environment is being absorbed by condors that have been released. Numerous speakers at the symposium presented data regarding the extent that condors are absorbing lead. 40 – 60% of the condors released in Arizona had to be treated for elevated levels of lead in their blood. Similarly, 84% of condors tested in California showed elevated levels of lead. Treating condors for lead poisoning and providing lead-free food are very labor intensive activities which are not viable long-term management strategies. The long-term survivability of condors in the wild depends on reducing the amount of lead in the environment.

Some hunters have argued that there is insufficient proof that ammunition used in hunting is the cause of elevated lead levels in condors. The data presented



California Condor
Ventana Wilderness Society
Photo © Kevin Doxstater

in the symposium provides conclusive evidence that lead from ammunition is being consumed by condors. 94% of dead deer radiographed in Arizona were found to have lead fragments in their flesh. Lead levels in condors reach a peak during and after the deer hunting season. But perhaps the most convincing evidence came from a study by Dr. Don Smith of UC Santa Cruz. Dr. Smith's study showed that the lead isotopes found in condors after release in the wild match the lead isotopes in ammunition, rather than isotopes in natural sources of lead.

Of course, lead is not only harmful to condors; it is also detrimental to humans, eagles, ravens, hawks, and turkey

vultures. Adverse effects of lead on humans have been abundantly documented. Dr. Noel Snyder, a longtime condor researcher, pointed out in his remarks that the key to getting lead out of the environment is in stressing the effects of lead on humans. Photos shown at the symposium illustrated that tiny lead fragments scatter over a radius of many inches in the flesh of game animals killed by lead bullets. Hunters are consuming lead fragments and are probably suffering health effects from lead.

What can we as Audubon members do to get lead out of the environment? The first thing is to convince



hunters that eliminating lead ammunition is good for the environment and good for hunters' health. Copper bullets are a viable alternative to lead bullets, although they are currently not widely available and are more expensive. [See the Project Gudpile website at <http://www.projectgudpile.org/> for more information.] We can also encourage hunters to bury their gudpiles or carry shot game out of the field. Secondly, we can influence our political leaders to pass legislation that phases out lead ammunition. Assemblyman Pedro Nava has indicated a willingness to listen to concerns from all interested parties on the lead ammunition issue and craft effective and fair legislation.

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.

Condor Tales Lessons Learned From the Big Birds Sanford R. "Sandy" Wilbur Wednesday, October 26

Sandy Wilbur worked with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 34 years, including 15 years with the endangered species research and recovery program. From 1969 to 1981, he was the principal researcher and recovery team leader for the California Condor project. He was the lead author of the first condor recovery plan, and he wrote the captive breeding program that led to the recent condor recovery efforts. Our program is based on his recent book, "Condor Tales: What I Learned in Twelve Years with the Big Birds." Using color slides Sandy will describe some of the reasons that condors became endangered, and some of the complications that arose in the fight to save the birds



from extinction. With specific examples, he explains how endangered species recovery often involves a delicate interaction of science, sociology, and politics.

A native of Oakland, California, Sandy has lived in Gresham, Oregon since 1981. He retired from Fish and Wildlife Service in 1994, and since then has been enjoying a woodland hideaway in New Hampshire's "North Country," and writing books on wildlife, American history and religion. He and his wife Sally operate SYMBIOS, a publishing and environmental consulting business.





Santa Barbara's Tidepool Treasures

Genevieve (Genny) Anderson

Biological Sciences Department

Santa Barbara City College

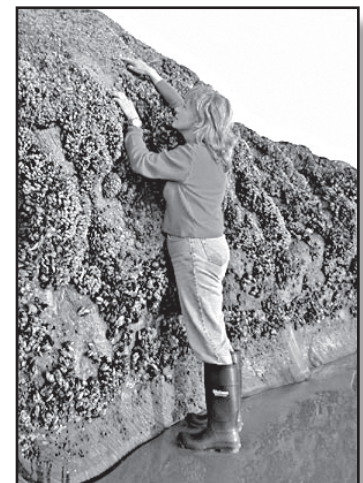
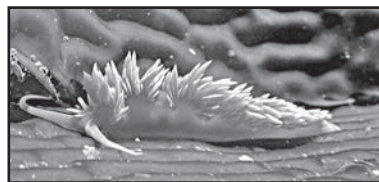
Wednesday, December 7

At low tide, Santa Barbara's rocky shorelines reveal wondrous creatures living in four distinct horizontal bands - often unnoticed by beachgoers. Each band experiences a different amount of dryness with the daily tidal cycle and has its own predictable assortment of common marine animals. Tiny and drab periwinkle snails, fingernail limpets and buckshot barnacles dominate the Splash Zone, above five feet. From five feet down to two and a half feet above sea level, mussels crowd out other species except a few gooseneck and balanus barnacles in the area called the High Tide Zone. The band from two and a half feet down to sea level, called the Mid Tide Zone, is covered, almost exclusively, by aggregating anemones. The last intertidal band, called the Low Tide Zone is below sea level and exposed to the air only a few times per month at the 'minus' tides. Sea stars hide here, often under the brilliant green surf grass. You can count on each of these species to be easily found within its horizontal band. The tales describing their adaptations to dryness, feeding and reproduction begin to explain the reason each species lives where it does and why.



Spectacular life forms lurk in the water right below the Low Tide Zone. These 'treasures' are most easily seen at minus tides and include crabs, octopods, sea urchins, sea hares, and the vividly colored sea slugs called nudibranchs.

Genny, who has taught Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography classes at Santa Barbara City College for over 30 years, will illustrate her program with images of the Santa Barbara tidepools and the individual species that can be found there. Even after 30 years, she still finds surprises with each tidepool excursion. Please join us in this exciting and beautiful journey to the California tidepools.



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.

CONDOR FIELD TRIP

**Saturday October 29, Meet at: 8:00am (car pool time)
Return mid-afternoon
SBAS members only - reservations required!
Driver's would appreciate \$10 gas & car wash money**

SBAS member **Steve Ferry** has again made the necessary arrangements for the **SBAS** members to visit the endangered California Condors at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge near Fillmore. We will meet at the Andree Clark Bird Refuge on Los Patos Way at 8:00am to car pool. We are limited to five vans or SUVs and 25 birders. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. We will return to Santa Barbara by mid-afternoon.

We will be led by U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel and have a good chance to see the condors soaring and feeding. The field trip is limited to **SBAS** members and reservations are required.

The last 12 miles of the journey from Fillmore are on a steep, rough, twisty, partially paved mountain road. Four-wheel drive is not required. We must have 5 birders to volunteer their van or SUV. Not much walking will be necessary as some of the condors' favorite spots can be seen from the road. Please call **Jack Sanford** (805) 566-2191 to make a reservation and state whether or not you can drive your vehicle to the site.

LAS CRUZITAS RANCH

**Near Santa Ynez
Saturday November 19, 8:15am (car pool time) - 2-3pm
Drivers would appreciate \$6.00 gas money**

Target Birds: Goldfinches, Buntings, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Phainopepla, Yellow-billed Magpie, Prairie Falcon, Nuthatches, Hummingbirds and maybe a Golden Eagle.

Trip Leader: Cruz Phillips, 688-8233, cruzitas@aol.com.

Car pooling is recommended as parking is limited. We will meet at the Five Points Shopping Center (3925 State St. Carl's Jr) at 8:15am. To meet us at the ranch take Hwy 154 to Armour Ranch Rd which is 3.3 miles west of Bradbury Dam (Lake Cachuma). Go north on Armour Ranch Rd 1.4 miles and turn right on Happy Canyon Rd. At 2.4 miles turn right on Alisos Ave. At 0.7 miles the pavement ends at a cattle guard. Continue 2.6 miles straight past 2 more cattle guards to the barn and ranch.

We will arrive around 9:15—9:30 am and bird near the ranch house for about 2 hours where there are a large number of feeders and bird habitat. Then we will take an easy walk around the general area and perhaps a tour of a canyon. Bring water, a snack and/or lunch if you would like. We will return to Five Points between 2—3pm.

Contact **Jack Sanford** by calling 566-2191 if you have any questions.

OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Restoration

*Audubon helps recruits volunteers for habitat restoration at the Coal Oil Point Reserve and the Arroyo Hondo Preserve. Come help to restore a creek or estuary while spending a morning in a beautiful bird habitat. Contact the Land Trust, Arroyo Hondo Preserve Volunteer Coordinator **Jane Murray** at ltvolunteer@yahoo.com or 684-4405. For Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact **Julie Love** at jlove@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 453-4840 or **Darlene Chirman** at dchirman@rain.org or 692-2008.*

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Jane Murray**

Sunday	October 2	9am-12:30
Sunday	November 6	9am-12:30

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Julie Love**

Saturday	October 15	9am-12
Saturday	November 19	9am-12

Bird Walks

Do you have a special birding location and would like to share?

We are always looking for people interested in helping coordinate or lead bird walks. If you have a suggestion or are interested in helping an meeting some fellow birders contact call **Jack Sanford** (805) 566-2191.

Field Trips

Do you have an idea for a field trip?

We are looking for suggestion for places to visit on our monthly field trips. If you have an idea and are not sure where or what to do next, or are interested in helping coordinate a field trip contact **Jack Sanford** (805) 566-2191.

Plover Project Docent Training

Training takes place at the Cliff House at Coal Oil Point Reserve, from 9am-1:30pm.

Training dates are:

October 1
October 22
November 5
No December training	

Training Schedule is:

Tour is 9-11am
Training is 11:30-1:30pm

Those interested should call **Jennifer Stroh** to register at 880-1195.

October 22
Snowy Plover Post-Breeding Season Bash!

Help us celebrate the '05 nesting success of plovers at Coal Oil Point Reserve. Potluck Party- The Cliff House, Coal Oil Point Reserve, 5pm. Reserve Director, **Dr. Sandoval**, and Docent Program Coordinator, **Jennifer Stroh**, will provide a brief presentation including final results and special achievements. For more info.: 880-1195

SBAS Needs Your E-mail Address

SBAS has e-mail addresses for many members. However, most long-term members joined before e-mail existed, so **SBAS** does not have their addresses. **SBAS** would like to modernize its contacts with its members by communicating via e-mail. We'd like to inform you of upcoming field trips, programs, volunteer opportunities, and action alerts for issues of local interest. To be added to the **SBAS** e-mail list, just send an e-mail message with the subject line, "Add + your name" to sjferry@cox.net. The **SBAS** e-mail mailing list will only be used for **SBAS** business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

Friday Bird Walks (Oct & Nov)

Join us on the first and third Fridays of each month at 8:30am - 10:30am., except as otherwise noted. Please call Bird Walk leader Jack Sanford 566-2191 if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.

Friday Oct 7 — Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park

Target Birds: Curlew, Dowitcher, Egrets, Godwit, Gulls, Herons, Raptors, Killdeer

If coming from the North on Hwy 101, take Linden Ave off ramp.

If coming from the South on Hwy 101, take Casitas Pass Rd off ramp and turn right on Carpinteria Ave. & left on Linden Ave.

Follow Linden Ave towards the ocean and turn right on Sandyland Rd.

Go to the end and the Nature Park is right there on Ash Ave.



Black Phoebe
by Kirsten Munso

Friday Oct 21 — Rocky Nook Park

Target Birds: Blackbirds, Bushtit, Woodpeckers, Phoebe, Vireo, Warbler, Wren

From Hwy 101 take Mission St. past the Mission. The road becomes Mission Canyon Rd.

Rocky Nook Park is on the right as you head towards the mountains.

Friday Nov 4 — Stevens Park (Please note this is the second Friday)

Target Birds: Raptors, Woodpeckers, Warblers, Phoebe, Wren, Kinglet, Towhee.

Take Hwy 101 to Las Positas Road off ramp.

Turn towards the mountains. Follow Las Positas Rd. until it becomes

San Roque Rd. Follow San Roque Rd. Turn left on Calle Fresno

Stevens Park is on your right.



Friday Nov 18 — Winchester Canyon

Target Birds: Kingbird, Kinglet, Raptors, Siskin, Woodpeckers, Titmouse, Towhee

Take Hwy 101 to Winchester Canyon Rd. exit

Take Winchester Canyon Rd. across Cathedral Oaks Rd.

Turn right on Winchester Rd. and left on Rio Vista Drive. Park near the open space area.

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 _____

Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve

Field Trip Report

Saturday, August 13

By Susan Lentz



Photo: Andy Lentz

On August 13, five members of Santa Barbara Audubon Society braved the light rain to view the birds at the Guadalupe Dunes. Three visitors from Oceanside actually came because they had seen the field trip announced on the **SBAS** website. Other members of the group had learned of the trip from the Dunes Center. Our leader, naturalist **Willie Richerson**, had scouted the beach for shorebirds earlier that morning, but couldn't do a thing about the early morning drizzle, which sometimes made viewing difficult. As we were setting out from the parking lot, we saw Sanderlings searching for mole crabs—the small ones not the three-inch long specimen that Willie showed us in the interpretive van at the end of the hike. On the beach Willie also searched the kelp piles to show us the beach hoppers that are another food of many shorebirds.

It took discussion, re-viewing and checking all the bird books in the group to decide that we were seeing Caspian Terns. A small flock of Heermans Gulls accompanied the huge numbers of California Gulls and Brown Pelicans on the sandbar across the mouth of the estuary. Glaucous Gulls completed the gull count. Double Crested Cormorants were in evidence. We cried for a “Joan Lentz” as we followed a pair of medium sized brown birds up the beach that we never were able to identify. We did better with the Least Sandpipers. Tree Swallows flew overhead. Beyond the surf we saw Harbor Seals and Dolphins.

We had seen the Plover crossing signs as we drove in, in the area where the dunes are trying to take back the road. But we didn't see the Snowy Plovers until we were back in the parking lot after our walk. Just beyond the South end of the lot, several plovers were rushing about—practically invisible except when they moved and even then often disappearing behind the tussocks of dune grasses. They were a nice finale to our morning at the Dunes.



Photo: Andy Lentz

Welcome!

SBAS extends a warm welcome to our newest members.

We look forward to seeing you at our programs and field trips. Thanks for joining!

Erin Arnold-Sciulli
Robert Bednash
Jennifer Bensinger
Christina Bollinger
Callie Bowdish
Erin Casey

Carol Entz
Dr. John W. Gaddis
Mr. Paul A. Gill
M. Hope
Jane Kuran
Emery V. Moore
Josie and Joel Mulder

Rodney D. Orr
Elizabeth Parrish
Jim Rasmussen
Gene A. Register
Scott Walker
Lindsley F. Wessberg

Calendar of Events

Check our website for any changes or late additions to our Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs:

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

Oct. 1	Plover Training
Oct. 2	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Oct. 7	Carpinteria Salt Marsh Bird Walk
Oct. 15	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Oct. 21	Rocky Nook Park Bird Walk
Oct. 22	Plover Training
Oct. 22	Plover "after-breeding season" bash
Oct. 26	Condor Tales Program
Oct. 29	Condor Field Trip
Nov. 4	Stevens Park Bird Walk
Nov. 5	Plover Training
Nov. 6	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Nov. 18	Winchester Canyon Bird Walk
Nov. 19	Las Cruzitas Ranch Field Trip
Nov. 19	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Dec. 7	SB Tidepools Treasurers Program

SAVE THE DATES

October 22

**Snowy Plover Post-Breeding
Season Bash!**

Information call 880-1195

**Christmas Bird Count
Saturday December 31**

SBAS - July 2005/June 2006

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

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

OFFICERS

President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008	dchirman@rain.org
Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	964-1468	audubon@rain.org
Secretary	Susan Lentz	968-6011	salentz@cox.net
Treasurer	Ginny Turner	964-6384	vtturner10@cox.net

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips Chair	Jack Sanford	566-2191	jacksanford@hotmail.com
Programs Chair	John O'Brien	962-7799	mlbm@cox.net
Conservation Chair	Julie Love	453-4840	jlove@lifesci.ucsb.edu
Education Chair	Patricia Malone	569-1993	pamalone@verizon.net
Science Chair	David Kisner	252-5036	d_kisner@cox.net
Membership Chair	Steve Ferry	967-5162	sjferry@cox.net
Newsletter Chair	Callie Bowdish	968-2857	cjbowdish@hotmail.com
Publicity Chair	Ben Shalant	448-4447	benjamin_shalant@antiochsb.edu
At Large-Outreach	John Walker	570-7864	johnlee@umail.ucsb.edu
At Large-Outreach	Julie Kummel	964-9444	jkummel@rain.org
At Large-Outreach	Natasha Carr	967-1383	tahi@cox.net

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster: Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbico@cox.net
Eyes In The Sky: Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	pelican7@cox.net
Snowy Plover Docent Prog: Jennifer Stroh	880-1195	stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu
Hospitality: Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
Report Rare Birds: Karen Bridgers	964-1316	kbridgers@msn.com
Hear Rare Bird Report	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.**

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