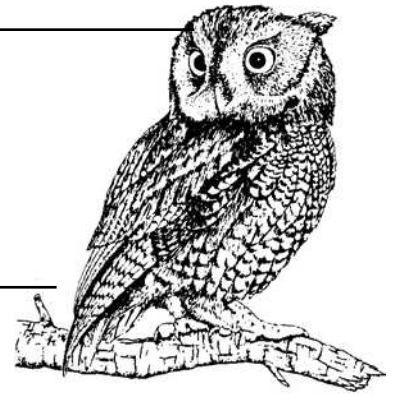


# El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 45, Issue 1

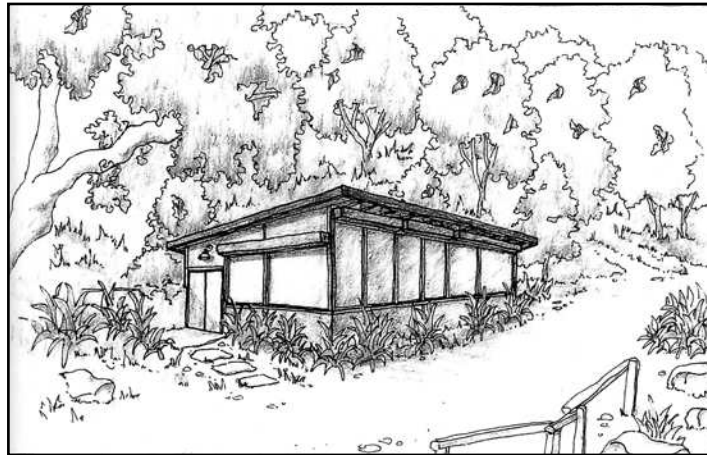
August/September 2006



## The MAX Project (Museum Aviary eXhibit project)

By John O'Brien

Since the year 2000, when the Santa Barbara Audubon Society's (SBAS) wildlife education program Eyes in the Sky (EITS) began, the program has operated from **Gabriele Drozdowski's** residence. Six birds of prey are housed and cared for there, and are featured in wildlife education programs throughout the Santa Barbara Community. The birds include Max, a Great Horned Owl; Ivan, a Red-tailed Hawk; Sedona, a Peregrine Falcon; Kachina, an American Kestrel; and Tecolita, a Western Screech Owl. Our sixth bird, Sky, a Red-shouldered Hawk, is not quite ready for public encounters yet.



*Architectural drawing of the Mews.*

All six birds are, for different reasons, no longer able to survive in the wild. Max, the Great Horned Owl—the “star” of the program—has been seen by over 6,000 students in over 20 local schools. Max not only wows students and adults with his good looks, but he also thinks Ms. Drozdowski is his mate, and serves as an excellent foster-parent to orphaned Great Horned Owlets. He has raised 61 owl chicks over the last seven years, all of which were released back into the wild.

EITS gives both one-time presentations and a popular five-week science series called “Meet Your Wild Neighbor” which teaches 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders about the birds in our community. Schools that have participated in the series include McKinley, Adams, Cleveland, Orca and Laguna Blanca.

EITS' volunteer docents come to Ms. Drozdowski's residence daily to care for the birds and take them on informal outings into the community.

Two of the regular outing stops are the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (SBMNH) and the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens. Our birds' presence

became very popular with visitors, and soon we were being scheduled for regular programs at the SBMNH.

In 2004 the SBMNH's Executive Director, Dr. Karl Hutterer, brought up the possibility of housing our birds at the Museum. We would be provided with a location on the Museum's campus, and SBAS would continue to care and handle the birds and run the program. The benefits

for the Museum would be an enhanced educational experience for visitors to the Museum through regular and more frequent on campus EITS programs, while the benefits for SBAS would be permanent and secure housing for the birds in a beautiful setting with much greater public exposure.

Last year the plans began to evolve as SBAS and SBMNH signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that laid out the commitments and responsibilities of both parties. With the birds being housed at the Museum and the requirement to present a larger number of programs on campus in addition to the normal EITS off-campus commitments the need for the number of trained volunteer docents grew tremendously. Immediately after the signing of the MOU, fundraising efforts began to aid in the recruitment



*Max*

and training of new volunteers and to cover the cost of the construction of the new permanent aviary structure.

In December 2005 Santa Barbara Foundation (SBF) approved a two-year grant of \$32,750 for an expansion of the volunteer docent program at the Museum. Community members have the opportunity to learn to work with and care for the birds of prey, and to present the birds to museum visitors. The first training class under this grant was conducted in early 2006 and graduated 15 new volunteer docents. A second class is scheduled to begin on Sunday, August 6, 2006 and will run for four consecutive Sundays. If you are interested in becoming an EITS volunteer, please contact Gabriele at 898-0347.

In addition to the SBF grant for volunteer training we received \$12,500 from a private donor for use towards the start of construction of the aviaries.

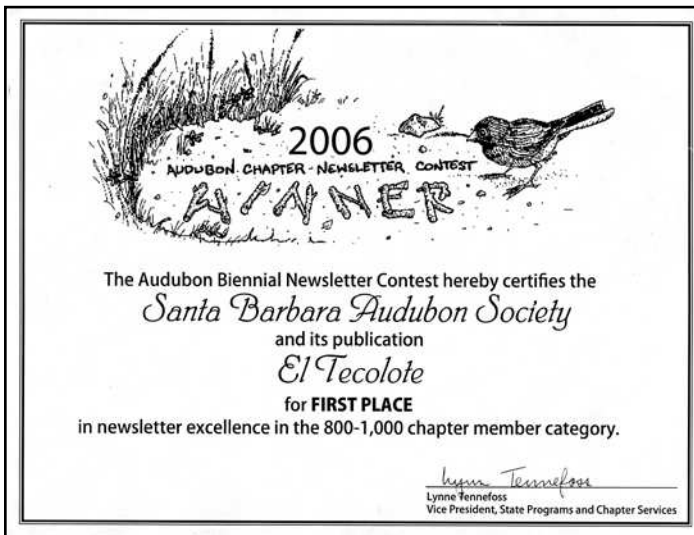
With the architectural drawings now in our hands and construction bids beginning to be collected, fund raising efforts are continuing, and we ask the community to help us make this great project a reality.

## Tecolote Circle Donor Appreciation October 1

**T**ecolote Circle members please save the morning of October 1 for a special experience. We'd like to invite you to a private farm on Rincon Creek. **Joan Lentz** will lead a bird walk along the creek, we'll have a visit from **Eyes in the Sky** birds of prey, and brunch will be provided. You will receive an invitation.

*Members of Tecolote Circle have made donations or bequests of \$1000 or more to the Endowment Fund of Santa Barbara Audubon. If you'd like to become a charter member in time for the October 1 event, please contact Julie Kummel at 964-4944.*

## ET Receives First Place Award



**C**ongratulations to everyone involved with the production of El Tecolote and a special thanks to Bill and Elaine for their work in setting the standards.

## Checklist: Birds of Santa Barbara County by Dave Compton and Joan Lentz

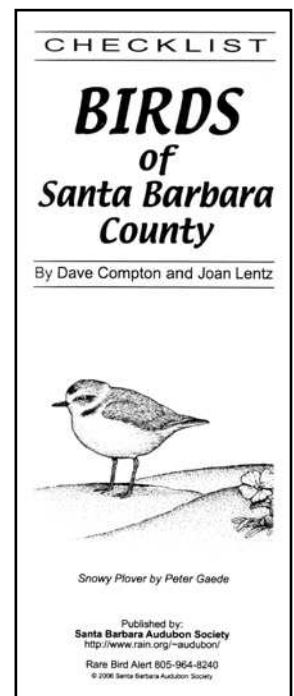
*Updated 2006—last published in 1993*

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

### The Uncommon Common Loons of the Morro Estuary

Henry Pontarelli

President of the Morro Coast Audubon Society

&

Darwin Long

Head field biologist of the Biodiversity Research Institute

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

There are five species of loons in North America (genus, *Gavia*); Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Arctic Loon, and Yellow-billed Loon. Arctic Loon and Yellow-billed Loon sightings are very rare in this area. These birds breed, migrate and winter north of the Canadian border and into the Arctic. The Common Loon's range is the widest of all five species. The Common Loon breeds on inland lakes from southern New York State through the lower Great Lakes / St. Lawrence Seaway along the Canadian-American border to the West Coast.

The last reported Loon nest in the state of California (Common, Red-throated, Yellow-billed or Pacific) was on Lassen Lake in the 1960s. Loons disappeared as a breeder from Oregon and Idaho at the same time. Up to the late 1800s loons bred as far south as Lake Tahoe, the lower elevation Sierra lakes as well as Shasta and Lassen.

The predominant species on the Morro Estuary is the Common Loon, providing a wintering ground to the juveniles and adults (adults will return to the breeding ground at the end of March).

We see and hear what appears to be a different bird on Morro Bay during the winter than in Minnesota, Washington State, Montana or Wisconsin in the summer. But deep down this is the same bird answering the same rhythms of migration, molt, choosing a mate, rearing young, hunting, avoiding predators and carrying the same genes of a species that is over 9 million years old.



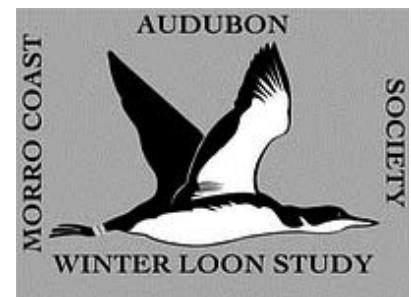
Common Loon  
Drawing by Julie Zickefoose



Common Loon, breeding plumage, Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Michigan 8/2/05

The study of loons on the Morro Bay is being conducted by **Darwin Long**, head field biologist of the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), aided, along with a host of others, by **Henry Pontarelli**, current president of the Morro Coast Audubon Society. Henry is serving as a field tech and administrator for the Winter Loon Survey on Morro Bay.

Please come join Darwin and Henry for an exciting and informative presentation that addresses general loon ecology, behavior, migrations, adaptations and population ecology. We will also learn more specifics on the genetics, habitat use, plumage progression and toxicology of wintering loons on the Morro Estuary and coastal California.



## Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

*Everyone is welcome! These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird watchers. 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. Please contact **Jack Sanford** (805) 566-2191 [jacksanford@hotmail.com](mailto:jacksanford@hotmail.com) for details or questions.*

### Rancho Guadalupe Dunes "Summer Bird Life" Sunday, August 27, 2006, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. (7 a.m. car pool time)

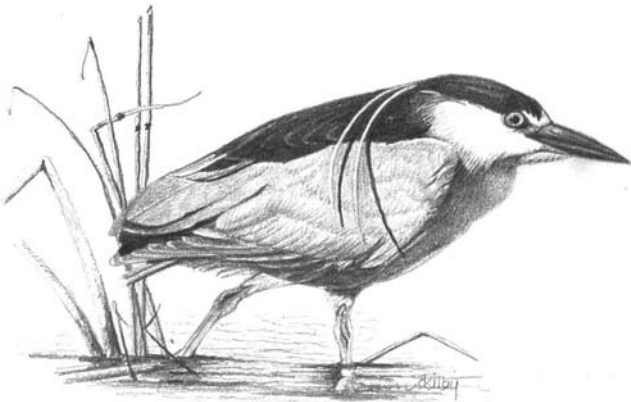
Target Birds: Shorebirds

Trip Leader: Dunes Center Docent Naturalist **Willie Richerson**

Cost: \$6.00 to car pool drivers

We will be joining Guadalupe Dunes Center Naturalist **Willie Richerson** for a leisurely stroll at the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. We will view both migratory and resident shorebirds along the beach and the Santa Maria River Estuary with Mr. Richerson sharing how these birds use our land. Dress in layers, and it is recommended that you bring water and a snack.

We will meet at the Kmart parking lot in Goleta at 7 a.m. and car pool to the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve. If you would like to meet us at the dunes at 9 a.m., take Hwy. 101 north to Hwy. 166 (Main Street. exit in Santa Maria) and head west towards the Guadalupe Dunes parking lot. You will cross Hwy. 1 and continue on Hwy. 166 for 7 additional miles.



*Black-crowned Night-heron Artist Daniel S. Kilby*

### Oso Flaco Lake "Wonder of the Dunes" Sunday, Sept 10, 2006, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. (7 a.m. car pool time)

Target Birds: Fresh water and salt water birds plus Northern Harriers and Wrens

Trip Leader: Dunes Center Docent **Ken Wolf**

Cost: \$6.00 to car pool drivers + \$5 entrance fee per car (unless you have a State Park Pass)

We will be joining Guadalupe Dunes Center Docent **Ken Wolf** who will lead a leisurely 2 mile walk

across the Oso Flaco Lake bridge and follow the boardwalk trail to the ocean. We will learn about this rare and unique ecosystem while spotting birds and enjoying the beauty of the area.

We will meet at the Kmart parking lot in Goleta at 7 a.m. and car pool to the Oso Flaco Lake parking area. If you would like to meet us at the lake at 9 a.m. take Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 166 (Main Street exit in Santa Maria) and head west towards the town of Guadalupe. Turn right at the Hwy. 1 intersection and go thru the town of Guadalupe. Travel 3 miles to the Oso Flaco Road. Turn left on Oso Flaco Road and proceed 3 miles to the parking lot. Dress in layers and bring water and a snack.

### Field Trips/Bird Walks Do you have an idea?

We are always 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.

## Friday Bird Walks

**J**oin us on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 8:30-10:30 a.m. Please call Bird Walk leader **Jack Sanford** 566-2191 or email at [jacksanford@hotmail.com](mailto:jacksanford@hotmail.com) if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.

### Lake Los Carneros

Friday, August 18, 2006 (Note: 3rd Friday)

Target Birds: Water birds, songbirds

**Directions:** From Hwy. 101 take the Los Carneros off ramp. Head towards the mountains. (Stow House is on the right). Turn into the driveway between the fire station and the park. We will meet in the parking lot behind the fire station.

### Toro Canyon Park (new bird walk)

Friday, August 25, 2006

Target Birds: Songbirds, raptors

**Directions:** From Hwy. 101 take exit #90 (Padero Lane off ramp coming from the north and Summerland off ramp from the south). Turn towards the mountains and turn right on Via Real. Turn left on Toro Canyon Road (2nd street on your left). Proceed on Toro Canyon Road until you reach the park sign on your right. Turn right and follow the road to the park. Enter the park and follow the park road to the end parking lot. We will meet there. We will bird the loop trail (1 mile slightly uphill) and then the park.



*Song Sparrow. Louis Agassiz Fuertes  
Cornell University Library.*

### Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park

Friday September 8, 2006

Target Birds: Curlews, Dowitchers, Egrets, Godwits, Gulls, Herons, raptors, Killdeers

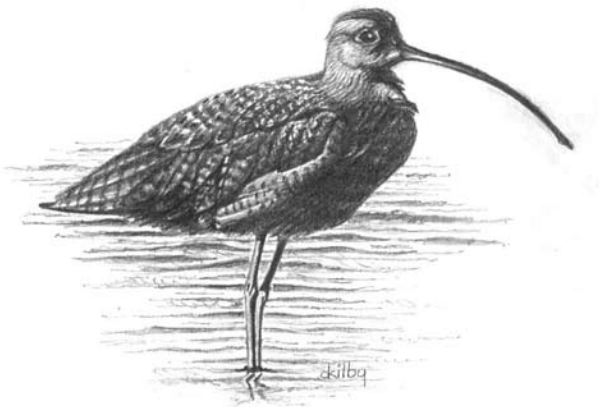
**Directions:** If coming from the North on Hwy. 101 take Linden Ave. off ramp. If coming from the South on Hwy. 101 take Casitas Pass Road off ramp and turn right on Carpinteria Ave. and left on Linden Ave. Follow Linden Ave. towards the ocean and turn right on Sandyland Road. Go to the end. The Nature Park is there on Ash Ave. We will meet at the entrance to the park nearest the restroom.

### Honda Valley Open Space (new bird walk)

Friday September 22, 2006

Target Birds: Unknown

**Directions:** From Hwy. 101, take the Carrillo Street exit. Turn toward the south (away from downtown). Turn left onto Miramonte Drive. (It is only on the left and almost at the top of the hill.) We will park on the street and meet several hundred yards into Miramonte Drive. From there we will bird a loop trail around the open space.



*Long Billed Curlew Artist Daniel S. Kilby*

# May 27, 2006 SBAS Hollister Ranch field trip report by Jeff Hanson

All photos by Jeff Hanson.



*Juvenile Nuttall's Woodpecker*

grassy hill, or down on the creek, we logged Warblers, Vireos, Wrens, Quail, Phoebe, Hawks and Hummers, to name a few. We then made our way back to the cars, and headed for Drakes beach, which was very windy. With our scopes, we saw a Pigeon Guillemot, our rare find of the day, out there with Grebes, Gulls, Cormorants and Brown Pelicans. A visit to the nearby pond got us more Hooded Orioles, and a glimpse of a pair of cute-as-the-dickens baby Coots! Before we knew it, it was time to go. We logged 45 species for the trip. While the numbers were down due to wind, a great time was had by all!

Our special thanks go out to the **Hollister Ranch Association** and **Ms. Wendie Kruthers** for their generosity, and to Guy Tingos and Jack Sanford for leading this delightful trip.

For the first time this year, this writer headed out on a SBAS field trip without the threat of rain! As in previous years, we had a full compliment of 25 birders for this once-a-year opportunity. We had an uneventful, but windy drive up the splendid Gaviota coast. We then made our way through the pastoral ranch properties to the historic ranch headquarters, now the clubhouse. After receiving an enthusiastic welcome from our hostess, **Wendie Kruthers**, we gathered up our gear and immediately began. The local field and oak woodland netted us Towhees, Bluebirds, Thrashers, Finches, Swallows, Flickers, Starlings, Sparrows, Jays, Orioles and Woodpeckers. We enjoyed long looks at a pair of Nuttall's feeding their juvie. We then crossed Bulito creek and hiked up the canyon a short distance, where we noted that it was quite windy. Having the great advantage of looking up a



*Trekking above Bulito creek*

## 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

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# OPPORTUNITIES

## Volunteer Habitat Restoration

*Audubon helps recruit 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](mailto:ltvolunteer@yahoo.com) or 684-4405. For Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact **Julie Love** at [jlove@lifesci.ucsb.edu](mailto:jlove@lifesci.ucsb.edu) or 453-4840 or **Darlene Chirman** at [dchirman@rain.org](mailto:dchirman@rain.org) or 692-2008.*

### ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Jane Murray**  
 Sunday August 6 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 Sunday September 3 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Julie Love**  
 Saturday August 5 9 a.m.-12 noon  
 Saturday September 16 9 a.m.-12 noon

## Plover Project Docent Training

Training takes place at the Cliff House at Coal Oil Point Reserve, from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### Training dates:

August ..... 5  
 September ..... 2  
 October ..... 7

### Training Schedule:

Tour is ..... 9-11 a.m.  
 Training is ..... 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

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

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## SBAS Needs Your E-mail Address

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](mailto: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.

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## TGIF at the EDC—Friday, August 11, 5:30-7:30

Food and Drink, Music, Live Birds and Raffle

\$10

Supports EDC'S activities on behalf of SBAS

## 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!

Richard Amsel  
 Dr. Linda Andrews  
 Mrs John S. Bailey  
 Ada Marie Bowers  
 Mark Brickley  
 Aileen B. Campbell  
 Pam Caswell  
 Ms. Carol Cranney  
 Sharon Cullings

Elizabeth Cunningham  
 Scott Durfor  
 David Eldridge  
 Steven Faulstich  
 The Gamo Family  
 Miss Katherine Gross  
 Ellen A. Hamilton  
 Margo Kenney  
 Peggy Lubchenco

Tobin Master  
 Ms. Evangeline Mc Fadden  
 Julie & Bruce Morrow  
 Allan Morton  
 James V. Nash  
 Noreen A. Price  
 Joyce Renz  
 Dixie Royer  
 Elaine Rymills

Patti O. Sim  
 Carole M. Sneathen  
 Paula Steinmetz  
 Lynda Stuart  
 Mr. Elliott E. White  
 Mare Wilde  
 Bruce Willard

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**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/>

- Aug. 5 Plover Training
- Aug. 5 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- Aug. 6 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Aug. 18 Lake Los Carneros Bird Walk
- Aug. 25 Toro Canyon Park Bird Walk
- Aug. 27 Guadalupe Dunes Field Trip
- Sept. 2 Plover Training
- Sept. 3 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Sept. 8 Carpinteria Salt Marsh Bird Walk
- Sept. 10 Oso Flaco Lake Field Trip
- Sept. 16 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
- Sept. 22 Honda Vally Open Space Bird Walk
- Sept. 27 Program: Loons of Morro Estuary
- Oct. 1 Telecote Circle Appreciation
- Oct. 7 Plover Training

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**, Andy Lentz, Editor  
 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B  
 Goleta, CA 93117

or email: [sbasnews@cox.net](mailto:sbasnews@cox.net)  
 Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

**SBAS - July 2006/June 2007**

(805) 964-1468, [audubon@rain.org](mailto:audubon@rain.org)  
<http://www.rain.org/~audubon/>  
*Pending election on July 23, 2006*

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Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	964-1468	<a href="mailto:audubon@rain.org">audubon@rain.org</a>
Secretary	Susan Lentz	968-6011	<a href="mailto:salentz@cox.net">salentz@cox.net</a>
Treasurer	Ginny Turner	964-6384	<a href="mailto:vtturner10@cox.net">vtturner10@cox.net</a>

**BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Field Trips Chair	Jack Sanford	566-2191	<a href="mailto:jacksanford@hotmail.com">jacksanford@hotmail.com</a>
Programs Chair	John O'Brien	962-7799	<a href="mailto:mlbm@cox.net">mlbm@cox.net</a>
Conservation Chair	Julie Love	453-4840	<a href="mailto:jmlove818@hotmail.com">jmlove818@hotmail.com</a>
Education Chair	Patricia Malone	569-1993	<a href="mailto:pamalone@verizon.net">pamalone@verizon.net</a>
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At Large-Outreach	Margo Kenney	963-3011	<a href="mailto:margo@margokenney.com">margo@margokenney.com</a>

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Webmaster: Bobbie Offen	684-0160	<a href="mailto:bobbieo@cox.net">bobbieo@cox.net</a>
Eyes In The Sky: Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	<a href="mailto:pelican7@cox.net">pelican7@cox.net</a>
Snowy Plover Docent Prog: Jennifer Stroh	880-1195	<a href="mailto:stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu">stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu</a>
Hospitality: Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
Report Rare Birds: Karen Bridgers	964-1316	<a href="mailto:k.bridgers@cox.net">k.bridgers@cox.net</a>
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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