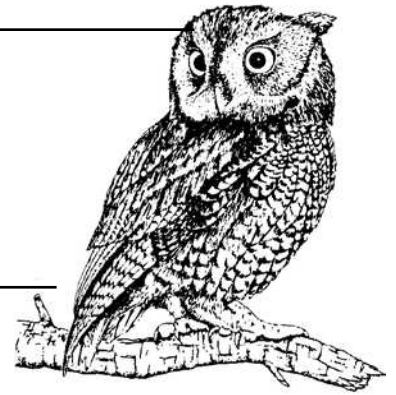


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 46, Issue 5

April — May 2008



EYES IN THE SKY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Eyes in the Sky (EITS), now in its eighth year, has been busy making a difference in the Santa Barbara community. EITS presents five native wild birds of prey to children and adults throughout our community. Ms. Drozdowski, the program's director, and a group of dedicated volunteers, offer scientific information, stories of encounters between wildlife and humans, and a personal glimpse into the lives and natures of our wild neighbors.

OUR SPECIAL SPECIES AMBASSADORS:



MAX—Santa Barbara's famous Great Horned Owl. Almost everyone in Santa Barbara has by now either seen or heard of Max, an owl that was found as a tiny chick on a trail and raised by humans without exposure to other owls until it was too late. He

now believes he's one of us. He has chosen Ms. Drozdowski as his mate, and together they have raised 67 other orphaned Great Horned Owlets over the past 8 years.

A devoted foster-dad, Max dotes over these orphans, becomes their role model, and prevents them, in turn, from identifying too closely with humans. All 67 stayed wild and, once grown, were released back into the wild.

Last year Max, in a freak accident, got away. For 13 long days the whole community, from news media to schoolchildren, birding groups, and residents throughout the Santa Barbara area, looked for its famous owl. Thirteen days later, a couple who had read the front-page News Press article, located him on a pine tree in their back yard, and minutes later a weak, starved Max literally flew back into Ms. Drozdowski's arms.



IVAN



TECOLITA



KACHINA



SKY

IVAN—a Red-tailed Hawk—has been with EITS as long as Max, almost 10 years. He was hit by a car while hunting a ground squirrel running across the freeway. He sustained permanent wing damage and is blind in his left eye.

TECOLITA—a Western Screech Owl—also was hit by a car and is now blind as a result.

KACHINA—an American Kestrel—is another victim of impact with a car resulting in irreversible wing damage.

SKY—a Red-shouldered Hawk. Once again: impact with a car, and permanent wing damage.

All five are no longer able to survive in the wild on their own. They are kept under licenses from the California Dept. of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

EITS VOLUNTEERS

EITS volunteers come from all walks of life, from UCSB students, to engineers, teachers, disabled, Native Americans, biologists, graphic artists, and three SBAS Board members. Most have never worked with birds before, but find the work rewarding enough to continue volunteering for years, and our birds greatly benefit from the personal care and attention they receive. Several of our past volunteers have gone on to make working for wildlife their fulltime passion as biologists,



Max with Owlet

wildlife rehabilitators and educators.

Last year these wonderful people logged over 2,250 hours or 43 hours per week. Thank you, EITS volunteers: **Fred, Betty, Coni, John, Dave, Snowfox, Julie, Margo, Patty, Holly, Suman, Terri, Reanna and Elliot.** Life is never the same after experiencing the privilege of caring for and closely

interacting with these magnificent birds.

Please call Gabriele at 898-0347 to find out more about becoming a volunteer with EITS. (Vegetarians are welcome, although our birds will still insist on eating meat only.) If directly working with birds doesn't appeal to you, but you would like to get involved in other ways, we can always use help in classrooms, with fundraisers, or with publicity.

EITS PROGRAMS

To date EITS has presented over 750 programs to an estimated audience of 23,000 community members, the majority taking place in 29 different elementary schools between Santa Ynez and Carpinteria. Last year alone we presented 170 programs to approximately 4,500 people.

Since its beginning, EITS has made a special effort to reach students in low-income/low performing elementary schools, where few opportunities for wilderness experiences or field trips exist. To date 220 of our programs have been provided free of charge to such schools, including McKinley, Cleveland, Adams, Cesar Chavez, Harding and Franklin elementary schools.

EITS presents three types of programs:

- Informal interactive programs with one or more birds at public places, such as the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (SBMNH), the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (SBBG), parks, etc. Individuals or small groups and families can come up close, admire the birds, and ask questions. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, between 2 and 4 p.m., you can visit us at SBMNH for a close-up encounter with our birds.
- Formal one-time, one-hour presentations at schools and for organizations.
- Meet Your Wild Neighbor (MYWN), a teacher-acclaimed 5-week science series that includes live bird visits, colorful curriculum packages that meet or exceed state science curriculum standards, two field trips, and pre- and post-assessment tests. The learning curve is high.

EITS networks extensively with other local non-profits and organizations, and has presented programs at Earth Day, SBBG, Watershed Resource Center, Santa Barbara Foundation, Environmental Defense Center, Santa Barbara Wildlife Care

Network, International Film Festival, UCSB, Boys and Girls' Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, preschools, summer camps, senior centers, public libraries, and the Alisal Guest Ranch.

EITS supports itself through program fees, fundraisers, private donations and foundation grants, from organizations such as **Morris Mayer Kaplan Foundation, Santa Barbara Foundation, High Tide Foundation, Audubon California,** and the **Coastal Fund.**



Max in the class room.

School yard bird walk.



SAVE THE DATE! "Feather the Nest"

Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Second Annual BENEFIT AUCTION

Sunday, June 29, 2008 2 – 5 pm



At the lovely Creekspirit Retreat
in Mission Canyon

Live & Silent Auction
Live Birds of Prey - Music - Wine & Hors d'oeuvres
Shuttle Parking

California Audubon Honors Assemblyman Pedro Nava



California Assemblyman Pedro Nava receives award presented by Glen Olsen, Executive Director Audubon California and Graham Chisholm, Director of Conservation Audubon California.

Photo © Bob Hamber

Audubon California honored Santa Barbara Assemblyman Pedro Nava and three others for their efforts to protect and restore the California Condor. The celebration was held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on February 28, 2008.

Nava recently pushed through important legislation that creates vital new protections for the California Condor, ensuring the continued recovery of one of the state's signature species from the brink of extinction.

"With AB 821, Assemblyman Nava told the rest of the world that California is not going to stand by and watch this glorious bird fall back to the brink of extinction," said Glenn Olson, executive director of Audubon California. "Through his advocacy, he raised awareness of the Condor's plight to new levels and returned California to the forefront of the conservation movement."

The Ridley-Tree Condor Conservation Act (AB 821), authored by Nava, effectively bans the use of lead ammunition in areas inhabited by the California Condor. Condors frequently feed on animal carcasses left behind by hunters, and ingest dangerously high levels of lead from ammunition. It is estimated that roughly 30 Condors have perished in this manner in the last 10 years.

"The Condor is an integral part of California's natural heritage," said Nava, whose legislation was approved by the Legislature in September of 2007, and signed by the governor in October. "I am deeply thankful to Audubon California not only for this recognition, but also for all of the work it put into assuring passage of this vital legislation."

Audubon California also honored the husband-wife team of Noel and Helen Snyder. In the early 1980s, Noel Snyder was chosen as co-leader of the initial Condor Recovery Team jointly established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and



(l to r) Glen Olsen, Executive Director Audubon California; Assemblyman Pedro Nava, Jan Hamber, Noel Snyder, Helen Snyder, Graham Chisholm, Director of Conservation Audubon California; and Jesse Grantham, US Fish & Wildlife Service.

the National Audubon Society. Both biologists, Noel and Helen have co-authored several books on birds, including Condors and North American raptors.

Janet Hamber was also honored for her longtime service to Condor conservation. Also a trained biologist, Hamber first joined the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum's Condor efforts in the mid-1970s and has been involved in field work ever since. Working as a volunteer since the 1980s, Hamber's many hours in the field have been invaluable to the overall recovery effort.

"The California Condor's recovery over the last two decades is directly the result of the hard work and dedication of people like Noel and Helen Snyder, and Jan Hamber," said Olson. "We owe these people a great debt of thanks."

The celebration was held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on February 28, 2008.

Article Courtesy of Audubon California.



*California Condor
Photo: Bruce Straits.*

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.

This is the last of the SBAS programs on climate change

The Climate Crisis

How will it affect our lives and the of nature

Dr. Lee Hannah,

Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, UCSB

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

The climate crisis has captured the public's attention. We're all worried about how it will affect our lives. And what about the lives of the diverse species we share our planet with? A recent study suggests that a rise of just 2 degrees in Earth's temperature over the next 50 years could wipe out tens of thousands of plant and animal species around the planet, even in remote places far away from human activity. Hannah will discuss his research into the many ways that life on our planet could be thrown out of balance, and the strategies that conservationists are using to protect biodiversity.

Hannah, a Climate Change Biologist, is a senior researcher at the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science (CABS). He has authored many articles, and co-edited a major book on climate change published just last year. The book, *Climate Change and Biodiversity*, was recently honored by Choice magazine, which included the work in its list of "Outstanding Academic Titles" for 2005.

Hannah's work has taken him around the world, from Hawaii to Madagascar, Brazil, and South Africa, and his research has focused on the connections between global climate change and its affects on plants and animal diversity. His work represents a vital link between the worldwide issue of climate change and the local implementation of practical conservation techniques.



Between Science and Magic

The Continuing Search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

David Pereksta,

Assistant Field Supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker has been shrouded in mystery and disbelief for over a century. Some call it the "Grail Bird", while others call it the "Lord God Bird", but whatever you call it, it is one of the most prized birds sought by birdwatchers. David Pereksta will take us on a journey through the tragic and misunderstood history of this magnificent bird. Pereksta will chronicle the history of its decline through the 1800s, the rediscoveries and apparent extinction in the first half of the 20th century, the litany of unconfirmed sightings and evidence through the latter half of the 20th century, the most recent rediscovery in 2004, and his own participation in Cornell University's search for the "Lord God Bird" in 2006 and 2007. If you do not believe the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still exists, you may need to reevaluate!



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 for details or questions.*

Rancho La Vina
4455 Santa Rosa Road
(Between Buellton & Lompoc)
Saturday April 26, 9 a.m. -12 noon
(8 a.m. at car pool location)

Target Birds: Spring migrants, songbirds, woodpeckers, etc.

Leader: Jared Dawson

We will car pool at 8 a.m. from the parking lot near Carl's Jr. in the Five Points Shopping Center off State Street. (\$6 gas money to drivers.) We will take Hwy. 101 north to Santa Rosa Rd. off-ramp just before Buellton. We will park and meet at 4455 Santa Rosa Road at 9 a.m.

Bring water and a snack and wear shoes that are comfortable for some leisurely walking. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful. Enjoy ranch owner Jose Baer's generous hospitality in allowing us to bird his ranch.

Nojoqui Falls County Park
Saturday May 17, 9 a.m.-12 noon
(8 a.m. at car pool location)

Target Birds: Yellow-billed Magpies, Purple Martins, Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Barn Owls, vireos, towhees, woodpeckers and orioles.

Leader: Rob Lindsay – capnbob@sbceo.org

We will car pool at 8 a.m. from the parking lot near Carl's Jr. in the Five Points Shopping Center off State Street. (\$6.00 gas money to drivers.) We will take Hwy. 101 north to the Nojoqui Falls turnoff (the obscure turnoff just after the large truck parking area).

We will hike to the falls (an easy walk) and then bird the entire park. If you plan on meeting us there, we will park and meet at the parking area nearest the falls at 9 a.m. Bring water and a snack or stay longer and bring lunch.

Tecolote Circle

Become a member of the Tecolote Circle of Santa Barbara Audubon, by donating \$1000 or more in cash, appreciated securities or a bequest to our Endowment Fund. The income from invested contributions provides ongoing support for our chapter core programs, such as Eyes in the Sky and the Snowy Plover education program. Of course, donations of any size are welcome! For more information, call 964-9444 or contact any board member.

Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges Trip Report By Jared Dawson



Nothing will escape them!

Photo: Jeff Hanson.

The Audubon-sponsored field trip to the southern San Joaquin Valley on February 9-10 was a great success! We had 18 enthusiastic birders and fabulous weather that was quite mild for this time of year. Jack Sanford was our leader.

After we set up our tent sites or RV's in Colonel Allensworth State Park, we walked around the area as a group, enjoying great views of Burrowing Owls. On an interesting historical note, we were in the midst of a reunion of families that had roots in this all-African-American farming town that the park commemorates. Allensworth was founded by the Colonel in 1908, making this year the centennial celebration.

Later that afternoon it was time to motor over to the nearby Pixley NWR to experience the Sandhill Cranes coming in to roost at sunset. As impressive as these dramatic flyovers were, the some 3,000 cranes foraging in the fields that we saw on the way over were equally awesome. The other noteworthy bird of numbers there that evening were thousands of White-faced Ibis that were also coming in to roost, in great wheeling spirals.

The next morning we went over to the Kern NWR for several hours of birding, enjoying a wide range of waterfowl along with many other birds. There were very large numbers of Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks. Some of the group saw a Red-tailed Hawk kill an American Bittern by taking off its head, and earlier had flushed another off of a mangled coot. Most unusual was an early migrant Swainson's Thrush, along with a few Tree Swallows. Numbers varied but all saw somewhere around 75 species for the trip.

Friday Bird Walks

*Join 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 if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.*

Ennisbrook Nature Trail Friday, April 11, 2008

Target Birds: Nuthatches, Common Yellowthroats, Townsend's Warblers, Spotted Towhees, etc.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to the Sheffield Drive turn off. Follow Sheffield Drive, and turn left on San Leandro Lane (first left). The nature trail is located on right side of road past the white picket fence near a pump house. We will park and meet near the entrance gate.

Tucker's Grove and Kiwanis Meadows Friday, April 25, 2008

Target Birds: Cooper's Hawks, Towhees, American Robins, Lesser Goldfinches, etc.

Directions: From Hwy. 101 exit at Turnpike Road. Turn north towards the mountains on Turnpike. Cross Cathedral Oaks Rd. and enter San Antonio County Park (Tucker's Grove). We will park and meet near the playground/restroom area.

Family Bird Walk Report

By Patty Malone

Twenty-five grown-ups and children went on a fun Family Bird Walk at Lake Los Carneros early Sunday, November 18, 2007. We enjoyed looking at leader Jack Sanford's interesting collection of bones, feathers, nests and owl pellets, then strolled around the lake to look for birds. Lots of eyes made for lots of sightings, which included a Turkey Vulture, American Coots, Ruddy Ducks, an American Kestrel, an American Robin, Red-winged Blackbirds, Scrub Jays, a Great Blue Heron, a Double-crested Cormorant, Black Phoebe, White-crowned Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and more. A Red-Shouldered Hawk flew by just as we were finishing our walk. Thanks to **Jack Sanford** for being our amiable and informative guide, and to all the parents who came out on a chilly morning to explore nature with their children.



*The next generation of birders.
Photo: Patty Malone*

UCSB Campus Lagoon Friday, May 9, 2008

Target Birds: Grebes, Herons, Dowitchers, ducks, Godwits, Plovers, etc.

Directions: Coming from the south on Hwy. 101, take the Ward Memorial Blvd. exit. Take the Goleta Beach County Park exit and follow sign to the park. Park at the west end of the Goleta Beach parking lot (nearest the UCSB campus).

Coming from the north on Hwy. 101, take the Fairview Ave. off-ramp and head towards the ocean. Fairview Ave will turn into Fowler Rd. Turn right into the Goleta Beach County Park. We will park and meet at the west end of the Goleta Beach parking lot (nearest the UCSB campus).

San Jose Creek & Open Space Friday, May 23, 2008

Target Birds: Hummingbirds, woodpeckers, songbirds, etc.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to the Patterson Ave off-ramp and turn north towards the mountains. Turn left on Parejo Drive (the second street from Hwy. 101). Follow Parejo Drive to the end (at Merida Drive and San Jose Creek). Turn right on Merida Drive. We will park and meet at the end of Merida Drive.

Point Mugu Naval Air Station

Report

by Jeff Hanson

By 9 a.m., our limit of 25 birders had gathered outside the main gate, ready for another once-a-year birding opportunity. **Martin Ruane**, the Station's Natural Resource Manager, assisted by **Jennifer Gold**, started our 3 1/2 hour tour with stops along the west side. Ruane and his team are also enhancing breeding opportunities for the endangered Snowy Plover, Least Tern, and the light-footed Clapper Rail. This includes predator management, habitat restoration, and invasive plant control. We noted that many of the Ruddy Ducks and Avocets are coming into their breeding plumage. We then went to the mouth of the lagoon for more ducks, gulls, shorebirds, and a large gathering of Brown Pelicans. There was a large colony of Harbor Seals basking in the sun as well. They had just produced the first of about 50 pups for the season. Our last stop was at the viaduct over the lagoon, and nature had saved the best for last! Highlights included Brant, Black Scoter, Northern Pintail and Horned Grebe. We tallied 62 species for the day.

Our special thanks go out to **Martin Ruane**, and to the staff and management of Point Mugu NAS. As always, the untiring efforts of **Jack Sanford** and **Peggy Kearns** are greatly appreciated.

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 or 684-4405. For Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact **Tara Longwell** for site at longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 252-4903. or **Darlene Chirman** at dchirman@rain.org or 692-2008.*

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Jane Murray**

Sunday April 6 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Sunday May 4 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Tara Longwell**

Saturday April 5 9 a.m.-12 noon

Saturday May 17 9 a.m.-12 noon

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 jdawson@silcom.com. The **SBAS** e-mail mailing list will only be used for **SBAS** business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

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:

April 5

May 3

Training Schedule:

Tour is 9-11 a.m.

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

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

Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival
April 30 - May 6, 2008 Weldon, Kernville,
Wofford Heights, California
<http://kern.audubon.org/bioregion.htm>

You are invited to the Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival which is held annually at Audubon's Kern River Preserve in Weldon and Circle Park in Kernville.

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 _____

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!

Mr. Francis G. Preston
 Ms. Shari LaGreau
 Mr. Louis Ratzesberger
 Ms. Connie Trider
 Marla Mercer
 Laune Bentson-Kouth
 Ms. Priscilla Colman
 Mr. Norman Fisher
 Ms. Ruth Floyd
 Lindsay McGee
 Ms. Terese Stassinis
 Ms. Helga R. Carden
 Mr. Lowell Miller

B. Fall
 Ms. Mary Christensen
 Ms. Sonia Guravitz
 Mr. Vernon Mesick
 Mr. Ted Shreve
 Mr. Duane Aasted
 Mr. Robert Fargey
 Ms. Ginger Peterson
 Ms. Wendy Welkom
 Mr. Harrison Lingle
 Ms. E M. Atkins
 Wei I. Dai
 Mac & Nancy Robinson

Kathy Foltz
 Jesse Feinstein
 Sallie Shahid-Saless
 Rob Denholtz
 Lydia Deems
 Toni Stuart
 Vickie Daniels
 John & Dorothy Warnock
 Ms. Muriel R. Taggart
 Ms. Lydia J. Benedict
 Mr. Allen Cohen
 Ms. Barbara Masin
 Ms. Nanette Panizzon

Ms Mary Lee Hopkins
 Ms. Carol Palladini
 Ms. Karen Roberts
 Joyce Mohun
 Mr. John D. Milton
 Ms. Melinda Staveley
 Mr. Ben King
 T. Dion Warren
 Michael J Allen
 Laura Garwood

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/>

Apr. 5	Plover Training
Apr. 5	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Apr. 6	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Apr. 11	Ennisbrook Bird Walk
Apr. 23	Program: "The Climate Crisis"
Apr. 25	Tucker's Grove Bird Walk
Apr. 26	Rancho La Vina Field Trip
May 3	Plover Training
May 4	Restore Arroyo Hondo
May 9	UCSB Lagoon Bird Walk
May 17	Nojoqui Falls Field Trip
May 17	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
May 23	San Jose Creek Bird Walk
May 28	Program: Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

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
Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

SBAS - July 2007/June 2008

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

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

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Treasurer	Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@cox.net

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Programs Chair	John O'Brien	962-7799	mlbm@cox.net
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At Large-Outreach	Dolores Pollock	681-8661	dolorespollock@earthlink.net
At Large-Outreach	Margo Kenney	963-3011	margo@margokenney.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster: Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@cox.net
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Hospitality: Sylvelin Edgerton	964-1658	sylvelin@verizon.net
Nancy Rohrer	687-7587	rohrer_n@yahoo.com
Report Rare Birds: Karen Bridgers	964-1316	k.bridgers@cox.net
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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El Tecolote

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

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