On February 10, 2009, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved the Lompoc Wind Energy Project (LWEP). The project, which will be built by the Spanish company Acciona, includes 65 wind turbine generators (WTGs) producing about 1.5 MW each on 3000 acres of private grazing land in San Miguelito Canyon about 5 miles southwest of Lompoc. Each WTG will be about 400 feet tall from base to tip of blade, with blades about 130 feet long.

The approval of the LWEP is the culmination of approximately two years of effort by Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS), La Purisima Audubon Society (LPAS), Los Angeles Audubon Society (LAAS), and the Environmental Defense Center (EDC). EDC and the three Audubon chapters made extensive comments on the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Reports and had numerous meetings with County staff, the applicant, and their consultants. Among our many concerns regarding the project was the direct impact on birds. Although the wind turbines rotate very slowly, the blades are so long that the tips are moving at over 200 miles per hour! As a result of our efforts, the Biological Resources section of the DEIR was completely re-written and significant protections to the environment were added.

The County staff, at the urging of EDC and the Audubon chapters, inserted a requirement that parts of the project could be shut down if there were excessive bird mortalities. This provision was a major goal of the environmental groups. During a Planning Commission hearing in September, EDC and Audubon advocated for strengthening of the shutdown provision, a longer period of bird mortality monitoring, offsite land easements, and additional protection for burrowing owls. Our positions were supported by the Sierra Club, the Santa Barbara Community Action Network, and in part by the Community Environmental Council. Commissioner Cecilia Brown, a member of SBAS’s Conservation Committee, advocated for the environmental protection provisions. In the end, the Commission voted to extend the mortality monitoring and strengthen the shutdown provision.

The approval of LWEP is a significant environmental achievement. The project will produce enough clean energy to power about 50,000 homes. The reduction of greenhouse gases as a result of this project, if replicated across the country, will reduce global warming—a major threat to the survival of birds. And the protections added to the project as a result of the efforts of EDC, SBAS, LPAS, and LAAS ensure that the environmental impacts of LWEP will be significantly reduced.

We should recognize the long, sustained, and effective effort of those who worked on this project: Karen Kraus and Brian Trautwein of EDC, Steve Ferry of SBAS, Paul Keller (former SBAS Board member) and Tam Taffe of LPAS, Garry George of LAAS, and Mark Holmgren. Thanks also to Kris Burnell, former SBAS Science Chair, for her contributions.
Chapter-only Membership

Your board of directors has established a new form of membership in the Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS). Current and future members of National Audubon Society (NAS) are automatically members of SBAS, and this will not change. The new class is called “chapter-only” membership. It will replace the current ‘newsletter only’ category, which technically is not a full membership. The chapter-only membership will direct all subscription funds to our local programs. For all current members, your term of subscription will remain in effect just as before. For new members, or at time of renewal, a choice can be made to sign up for a chapter-only membership or the standard National Audubon membership (or both). All chapter-only memberships will come due on June 30th of each year. As a sign-up incentive, all new chapter-only sign-ups submitted before July 1, 2009 will have a term that ends on June 30, 2010, with re-subscriptions running annually after that.

The advantages of this change are several:
- A new choice for members to intentionally select their desired support of Audubon, either chapter-only or NAS + SBAS.
- Additional support for the vital programs and advocacy that have been a proud SBAS tradition within our local community (currently NAS keeps most of your dues after the first year)
- The new membership class, with a proposed flat rate of $25 annually, confers all of the rights of full SBAS membership, including voting rights. This rate, while greater than the NAS introductory rates, is $10 less than their re-subscription rate.
- We believe that by keeping the SBAS rate constant we will maintain a steadier membership base.

Please note that your local SBAS keeps its membership list private. We do not sell or share our names or addresses with any other organization or entity. With a chapter-only membership, you will no longer receive the Audubon magazine, unless you chose to sign up with NAS, but you should also no longer receive unsolicited mailings due to your name and address being sold.

Comments, positive and negative, received after the announcement in the last ET were all individually addressed and did not significantly alter the Board’s sense that this was a viable option. If you have questions please write or call the office, or email the Membership Chair at Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org.

Audubon Society Membership Application

Local Chapter-only Membership

This is a full membership to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, with all funds put to work locally.

Includes:
* a subscription to the local newsletter, El Tecolote
* new enrollments current through June 30, 2010
* subsequent membership dues on a July - June cycle

Does Not Include:
* National magazine, Audubon,
* distribution of your name to any other organization

The cost is $25 annually.

☐ This is my choice of membership!
Make check payable to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society

National and Local Membership

Santa Barbara Code: C9ZC130Z

This is the traditional membership offered by the National organization.

Includes:
* membership on both the local and national levels
* most of membership dues applied to national issues and advocacy
* both the national magazine, Audubon, and the local El Tecolote
* renewal notices from National organization
* your name may be distributed to third party advertisers

The cost for this introductory membership is $20, or $15 for senior 62+ or student.
(NAS subsequent-year memberships are currently $35/year.)

☐ This is my choice of membership!
☐ This is a Senior/Student membership.
☐ Please do NOT share my contact information.
Make check payable to: National Audubon Society

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: __________________ State:____ Zip: ____________
E-mail: __________________________________________

My special interests: ________________________________

Amount Enclosed: ________________________________

Mail to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society
5679 Hollister Ave, Suite 5B, Goleta CA 93117
Santa Barbara Audubon Programs

All programs will take place at Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara. Free on-site parking. All programs 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.

William Leon Dawson – a California Bird Pioneer
Ron LeValley
Wednesday, April 22, 2009

WILLIAM LEON DAWSON was the author of the two volume The Birds of Ohio (1903), The Birds of Washington (1909) and the monumental four volume The Birds of California (1923). Together with a group of prominent Santa Barbarans, Dawson founded the Museum of Comparative Oology, at first located in two outbuildings on his property on Puesta del Sol in Mission Canyon and based on his own extensive collection of bird eggs as well as collections of several members of the community. He traveled throughout California collecting information and photographs for his book. Dawson wrote with a flowery prose, full of humor, spirituality, and true love for the feathered beings. But he was also an incredible scientist and an amazing photographer.

Ron LeValley will offer readings from the writings of William Dawson illustrated by his own photographs and recordings. Dawson's writings are humorous, sad, spiritual, satirical and inspirational, and Ron's presentation and photography captures much of this feeling.

Ron LeValley has been photographing nature for over 40 years. He is a founding member of the Mendocino Coast Photographer Guild and Gallery at 301 North Main Street in Fort Bragg where his work can be seen. As a professional photographer, Ron has compiled an impressive collection (over 70,000 images) of wildlife photographs that he uses for presentations and publications.

One of Ron's outstanding attributes is sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with others.

On the causes and consequences of species extinction
Bradley Cardinale
Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Perhaps the most striking feature of our planet is its great variety of life. But loss of this biological diversity is one of the most pronounced forms of environmental change in the modern era. In this talk, Brad will discuss some of the causes of biodiversity loss, as well as the impacts that extinction has on society. He will begin with a global perspective, summarizing the results of two decades of experiments that have examined what species diversity 'does' for nature. Brad will then give examples from local habitats in the Santa Barbara area and end with a presentation of some of his own research that has focused on streams and rivers in California.

Dr. Bradley J. Cardinale is a member of the Department of Ecology, Evolution & Marine Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.
Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

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 4, 9 a.m. -12 noon
(8 a.m. at car pool location)

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

Leader: Paul Keller
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. ($8 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.

Special Field Trip for MEMBERS ONLY:
Wind Wolves Preserve (WWP)
Friday night, April 24; Saturday, April 25; and Sunday, April 26

Leader: Jack Sanford
This trip is for members only and is a first! It will be limited to 20 participants. You must either call or email Jack on or before April 15 to reserve a place. He must know if you plan on camping Friday and/or Saturday nights. The campground has no hook ups, only 12 sites, nice rest rooms, and no charge. The gate is locked at night so you will have to call Jack’s cell phone if you arrive after the gate is locked; Jack will have the combination and will be there both nights. Or you can just sign up for Saturday and not spend the night.

Although Jack has visited WWP before, this will be a first with a group so it will be an adventure—it is a great site. We will meet at the Trailhead parking lot on Saturday morning at 10:15 a.m. and hike and bird the main trail. Sunday we will hike and bird a lesser trail. We will probably leave after lunch on Sunday. By the way: we will not see any wolves! If you want to learn more about WWP go to www.wildlandsconservancy.org.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 166 (Santa Maria). Stay on Hwy. 166 to Maricopa and continue on Hwy. 166 to the WWP turnoff (13 miles from Maricopa). Look for the WWP sign on the right hand side of Hwy 166. The total mileage from S.B to WWP is approximately 155 miles.

Nojoqui Falls County Park
Saturday May 23, 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
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. ($8.00 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 at the top of Gaviota Pass).

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.
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 10, 2009

**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 24, 2009

**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.

UCSB Campus Lagoon
Friday, May 8, 2009

**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. 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 29, 2009.
Note: this is the 5th Friday of the month.

**Target Birds:** Hummingbirds, woodpeckers, songbirds, maybe even an owl.

**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.

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.
Duck Pond & Wetlands Field Trip
February 22, 2009
by Peggy Kearns & Jeff Hanson

Not one but two American Bitterns appeared and flew to a place where all of the group could look through our scopes and enjoy. It did, however, take awhile to “see” the birds through the rushes as they stood motionless with their heads extended high in the air.

A small, committed group of birders had left the Bird Refuge under overcast skies and periodic showers, driving to the Duck Ponds & Wetlands. A good number of birders met us there, and 20 of us set out for what would be the only group at the reserve of that day. This served us well as the varied ducks and shorebirds were in ponds close to the walking trails. The first bird we saw was a Chukar, a life bird for many, although it can’t be counted since it is a game bird for the wetland reserve. Next came a Yellow-headed Blackbird, which was a good find, because it was not seen last year.

As we skirted the Pt. Mugu northern boundary, tree swallows were on the fence, and hundreds of ibis were flying and settling in ponds close to us. All agreed it was breathtaking. Although the day was crisp, the usual wind did not come up. This allowed us to spend four hours enjoying this private reserve. The four scopes came in handy as we focused on the raptors including many Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels. We heard many Marsh Wrens, and a few birders got good glimpses of the fast-moving, camouflaged bird. Toward the end of our day, a Tundra Swan was spotted at a far pond. Sixty-nine species were the day’s count including those spotted at the Bird Refuge meeting location.
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 at longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 252-4903. or Darlene Chirman at dchirman@starband.net or 692-2008.

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: Jane Murray

Sunday April 5  9 a.m.-12:30 p.m
Sunday May 3  9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: Tara Longwell

Saturday April 18  9 a.m.-12 noon.
Saturday May 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:
April .......................... 11
May .............................. 2

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

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

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 Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org. The SBAS e-mail list will only be used for SBAS business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

Earth Day Festival
Sunday, April 19, 2009
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Alameda Park, Santa Barbara
Organized by the
Community Environmental Council

Monday Morning Bird Walks.
Join Rebecca Fagan Coulter for free, informal bird walks around the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History’s grounds, looking and listening for our resident and migrant birds. Every Monday morning, through the end of April, (unless it’s a downpour), 8:30-9:30 a.m. Meet at the Blue Whale Skeleton in front of the Museum, 2559 Puesta del Sol Rd., Santa Barbara.

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!

Marc & Leslie Beauchamp  George Gaynes  Lucy O. Najjar
Hari Bhaskaran  Fern Gebert  Maimu Ohanian
Douglas A. Billings  Alma Heck  Nathan Paul
Karla Bonoff  Jeff Hirsch  Donna Peddicord
Bonnie Braastad  Brittany Howard  Maija Pekkanen
Doug & Lee Buckmaster  Michael Howe  Rose Radula
Kay Butler  Sue Irwin  David N. Ross
Jack Christensen  Dorothea M. Johnson  Claude Saks
Yolanda Clements  Glen Kaltenbrun  Doug Shaw
Bill Cornfield  Paige Kaye  Dominique Smith
Kelly Cruce  Harold Kono  Jon & Ann Sonstelie
Elizabeth A. Dow  Barry Levine  Ruby Taylor
Helen Drachkovitch  Steve Lovell  Lloyd George Tupper
Katherine Eastman  Dorothy F. McNeil  Tony Vassallo
Steve Emory  Jennifer Miller  Kelly Wilcox
L. A. Fanthorpe  Dick Montgomery
Santa Barbara Audubon Society July 2008/June 2009
(805) 964-1468, Info@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

OFFICERS
President Darlene Chirman 692-2008 President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Vice-President Lee Moldaver 964-6477 VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Secretary Susan Lentz 968-6011 Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Treasurer Bobbie Offen 684-0160 Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Field Trips Chair Jack Sanford 566-2191 FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Programs Chair John O'Brien 962-7799 Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Conservation Chair Steve Ferry 967-5162 Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Education Chair Ann Steinmetz 680-2638 Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Science Chair OPEN
Membership Chair Jared Dawson 687-6218 Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Newsletter Chair OPEN
Publicity Chair Adam Lewis 967-7213 Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
At Large–Outreach Julie Kummel 403-3203 Development-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
At Large–Outreach Dolores Pollock 681-8661 Development-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
At Large–Outreach Margo Kenney 963-3011 Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS
Webmaster: Bobbie Offen 684-0160 Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Eyes In The Sky: Gabriele Drozdowski 898-0347 EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Snowy Plover Docent
Prog: Jennifer Stroh 880-1195 Plovers@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Hospitality: Sylvein Edgerton 964-1658 Hospitality-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Nancy Rohrer 687-7587 Hospitality-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Report Rare Birds: Karen Bridgers 964-1316 RareBirds@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Hear Rare Bird Report 964-8240

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

Calendar of Events
Check our website for any changes to our Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs:
http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

April
Apr. 4 Rancho La Vina Field Trip
Apr. 5 Restore Arroyo Hondo
Apr. 10 Ennisbrook Bird Walk
Apr. 11 Plover Training
Apr. 18 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Apr. 19 Earth Day Alameda Park SB
Apr. 22 Program: William Leon Dawson
Apr. 24 Tucker's Grove Bird Walk
Apr.24-26 Wind Wolves Preserve Field Trip (Members only)

May
May 2 Plover Training
May 3 Restore Arroyo Hondo
May 8 UCSB Campus Lagoon Bird walk
May 16 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
May 23 Nojoqui Falls Field Trip
May 27 Program: Species extinction
May 29 San Jose Creek Bird Walk

Upcoming Dates
June 14 Annual Membership Picnic
July18-19 SCAPE Art Show

Printed on recycled paper.