l Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. Volume 48, Issue 2 October-November 2009

Snowy Plovers 2009 Season By Cristina Sandoval

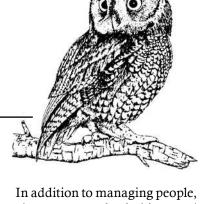
November is when we tally how many Snowy Plover chicks fledged in the breeding season. This year is particularly exciting because we had a record 60 chicks, a number far beyond our expectations when we started managing back in 2001. But each year, we learn more about plovers and what we can do to help. The education program, spearheaded by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS), is a key element of this successful program. It teaches visitors about the ethics of beach recreation so beach-nesting birds can complete their life cycle while we have fun. It is the work and collaboration of non-profits such as SBAS and of the University of California, Santa Barbara's Coal Oil

Snowy Plovek chick P hoto by Callie Bowdish

to its original splendor of diversity.



Snowy Plover Photo by Callie Bowdish



we also manage the habitat and the species that are endangered or threatened. In a place like COPR, active management is needed to reduce the impact of human development nearby. For example, our food web lacks large predators because the native area is too small to support mountain lions, and coyotes are actively removed from surrounding neighborhoods. This leads to an overpopulation of some nest predators such as crows, raccoons, and skunks. Some years, the skunks are so abundant that we have to trick them by replacing the real plover eggs with wooden eggs. Then the real eggs must be returned to the nests on the beach on the very

Point Reserve (COPR) that have brought this local beach back day the chicks hatch. This is a very time consuming operation so we are looking for a long-term solution to the skunk problem. Restoration with native plants can increase the amount of habitat that supports a more complex food web, including skunk predators. SBAS helps the reserve by implementing several restoration projects at COPR and other areas.

> The volunteers from SBAS and COPR are the work forces that accomplish these jobs, particularly now that the economy has paralyzed many of our funded projects. We have over 1,000 volunteers help out each year. Pat Walker is one of our most dedicated plover lovers. She is at the reserve every Saturday, all day long. She spends so much time watching the plovers and learning about each individual that she knows who courted who and how many chicks they had. She gives them names based on their personality and location. This year, she saved several nests with her own invention. She discovered that she could move nests threatened by high tides further up on the beach without disturbing the birds. Pat stayed near the nests for several days, watching to see if the tide would reach them. If she saw that a nest was about to be washed away, she would move it a bit further. Then the next day, she might move it again depending on the tide. By moving the nest a little at a time, the parents had no problem locating it again. This is the first time that moving plover nests has been documented as a successful strategy!

> Several docents also pitched in by helping feed the Snowy Plover chicks that we hand-raised in the nursery. These chicks

were abandoned, but with a warm lamp and lots of small invertebrates to eat, they could be released back to the wild after one month.

Volunteers come from various backgrounds, and this is one of the benefits of a volunteer program. For example, Steve Ferry, long-term plover docent and SBAS and Audubon California board member, is a retired engineer and makes sure our symbolic fences are straight and measured correctly. Steve and Sam Chirman, MD, have built many useful structures at the reserve.

Today, conservation is in the hands of people. The Endangered Species Act is a powerful tool but it is people who make sure the ESA is applied, enforced, and recognized. The Santa Barbara Chapter of the Audubon Society is a model organization for mobilizing people who want to be active in conservation and restoration. Briefly: I don't know what I would do without you. Thank you!



Snowy Plover program docents talk with beach user.

Photo by Cristina Sandoval

Karen Bridgers Is Migrating To Utah! By Joan Easton Lentz

It was early on a warm fall morning in 1981, and I was walking around the empty Elks Club parking lot off Kellogg Avenue. I was searching for the Summer Tanager that was reported there. I had never seen such a bird. I called the hotline, and this is where it was supposed to be. My first "bird chase"!

Over in the corner by the big hedge, I saw another birder with binoculars who looked about my age. We introduced ourselves, then spotted the Summer Tanager perched on a wire overhead catching bees. The birder I met was Karen Bridgers, and our walk around the Elks Club parking lot sparked a friendship that was to last all our lives.

Karen Bridgers will soon be leaving Santa Barbara, relocating to be near family and friends in Utah. With her departure, she leaves behind over 25 years of commitment to the birding community and to Santa Barbara Audubon Society!

Karen Bridgers has, quite literally, been the "voice of Santa Barbara Audubon": she has recorded the weekly Rare Bird Alert on the local hotline faithfully for many, many years. Recall that, before the internet and cell phones, one of the only ways to learn about rare bird sightings in the area was to phone the Audubon-sponsored Rare Bird Alert. Karen's voice would accurately and patiently tell us where to locate the latest birding discoveries. Or, if a local or out-of-town birder had seen an unusual bird, they could call Karen and she would immediately report the sighting on the hotline. What a labor of love.

Karen Bridgers was not only the voice of Santa Barbara Audubon, she helped out in many other ways. During the days before the annual Christmas Bird Count, Karen would publicize the fact that we were looking for rare birds by writing about them in her newspaper column. In this way, even total strangers to the birding community could call Karen, and we were able to locate the birds and scout them for the Christmas Count.

Karen Bridgers' column about birds in the Santa Barbara

News-Press is another invaluable contribution to the birding cause. Her timely remarks on seasonal bird species, many of which can be seen in our backyards, are so interesting and her readership is vast. As of this writing, Karen is planning on continuing to create her column from Utah, which would be such a wonderful set-up and a continuing benefit to Santa Barbara Audubon.

Karen Bridgers is a true birder and an excellent writer and editor. That combination is rare enough, but Karen's writing is even better—it's sparked by a marvelous sense of humor. She has written many articles for various publications, both online and in print, and when they are about birds and birding, they are right on and very funny.

Karen once told me that the first bird she ever noticed was a European Starling, about which she called the Museum of Natural History here to get an identification. Since then, Karen has found countless birds—many of them the much sought-after rarities that excite birders. She has also had wonderful birds in her backyard at her feeder: Ruddy Ground-Dove, Brown Thrasher, and Harris's Sparrow, to name a few. At the same time, she raised two daughters here, and was lucky enough to have a patient and "tolerant of birding" husband, Bud Bridgers.

I will miss Karen Bridgers dreadfully. Santa Barbara Audubon Society will miss Karen Briders. The whole birding community will miss one of our most active and dependable members. She has been an example to all of us, and we were lucky to have her for as long as we did.

Good-bye, Karen. Just don't forget your birding buddies in Santa Barbara and all the great birds that have flown through your life here. We hope they follow you to Utah, where you will no doubt be shocking all the locals with your birdfinding skills. Just make sure those four grandchildren living nearby can tell a Ground-Dove from a Mourning Dove!

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.

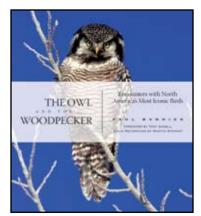
The Owl and The Woodpecker: Encounters with North America's Most Iconic Birds

Paul Bannick Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Award-winning photographer Paul Bannick will take you on a visual journey of 11 key North American habitats through the needs of North America's owl and woodpecker species. This stunning photographic study will be accompanied by field stories, and rich natural history derived from thousands of hours in the field. His talk will look at the way owls and woodpeckers define and enrich their habitat and how their life-histories are intertwined.

Paul is an award winning photographer whose work has appeared in *Audubon*, *Sunset*, and *Pacific Northwest Magazines*, and in many books including the recently published *National Wildlife Federation Guide to North American Birds* and *Smithsonian Guide to North American Birds*.

Paul works full time for Conservation Northwest, a conservation organization dedicated to protecting and connecting wild areas from the Pacific Coast to the Canadian Rockies and the biodiversity of these areas.



Unusual Landscapes

Marc Muench Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Marc, a professional landscape and sports photographer for over 20 years, will be talking about "Unusual Landscapes". He will be discussing the philosophical reasons why he makes the images the way he does. Marc believes there are two types of landscape images, those that are recordings of the subject and those that tell the photographer's story. His goal is to share the thinking process of why certain images are one or the other.

After completing his studies at Pasadena Art Center College of Design in the spring of 1989, Marc immediately began photographing for book publishers such as Graphic Arts Center, Browntrout Publishing and Time Inc. Soon after, Marc represented Canon Camera in several ad campaigns,



as well as appearing on "Canon Photo Safari" which aired on ESPN outdoor block, for eight straight seasons.

Marc was designated by Kodak in 2003 as a Kodak Photo Icon. Marc's photography has appeared on covers or inside *Time*, *National Geographic*, *Traveler*, *Arizona Highways*, *Ski*, *Skiing*, *Sunset*, *Outside*, *Sierra Magazine*, etc. His work also appears in books, calendars, note cards, postcards, posters and annual reports.

Marc is now the "artist in residence" at dgrin.com for Smugmug, where he contributes on a regular basis to the "Muench University" critique thread. He is currently the photo editor of the National Parks guides, published by The American Park Network, which contain many of his images taken throughout the United States National Park system.

Marc recently completed a year-long video project on Catalina Island for the Catalina Island Conservancy. The five minute video highlights the new Trans Catalina Trail, capturing dynamic landscapes, wildlife and the hikers exploring their way across the Island.

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, Marlene Mills Newsletter Chair 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B Goleta, CA 93117

or email: newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication. The mission of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society is to help conserve and restore the earth's natural ecosystems and improve its biological diversity, principally in the Santa Barbara area, and to connect people with birds and nature through education, science-based projects and advocacy.

BIRDS OF PREY CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Thank you! Sixty-five of you responded to our request for donations in the last ET. With this generous outpouring, we reached our \$25,000-by-Labor Day goal and have been awarded the challenge grant of \$10,000 from an anonymous Audubon donor. This brings the total raised so far for Max's new home to \$110,000. Our overall goal is \$150,000, so we still have work to do. But thank you, thank you, thank you for your help so far.

If you are considering a gift to the Birds of Prey Campaign, please do it! Send it to Audubon at the address on the last page. You are building the future. Every time you visit the Museum Natural History

you will know you helped give Max and five other rescued raptors a permanent home there. We can all be proud of our efforts and the whole community will benefit for years to come.

Website Help Wanted.

SBAS Wants You! If you are experienced in website maintenance and have a few hours to spare each month, SBAS could use your help. We are looking to put together a team to maintain and update our beautiful website. Some HTML ability required. Please contact Bobbie Offen at bobbieo@cox.net

Endowment Committee Help Wanted!

The SBAS Endowment Committee is looking for two more members to help manage our Endowment funds. We meet just four times per year, but our role is very important to the financial health of our endowment. This is an excellent way to help support our local chapter, and it is FREE. Investment knowledge is not required but would be a plus. Please contact Darlene Chirman (phone: 692-2008 or email: President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org) if interested or if you have questions.

Digital Newsletters or Paper Newsletters Do you have a preference?

We spend about \$6000 annually on printing and mailing our newsletters. These days, many publications are going online. We are considering putting the newsletter online due to the high cost to our environment as well as the expense to our local Audubon chapter. Cost savings could go to support chapter projects, such as the Eyes in the Sky, or Plover Education Programs, or to habitat restoration.

Please let us know if you would prefer to continue receiving the newsletter in the mail or if you would find the online version satisfactory. If we were to go to digital, those members who do not have computers would still be able to receive the newsletter by mail. Contact us at: Newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or call Marlene Mills at (805)964-8525.

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 or **jacksanford@hotmail.com** for details or questions.

Devereux Slough UCSB West Campus, Goleta

Saturday, October 10, 7:30am - 11:00

Target Birds: Shorebirds, water birds and wintering songbirds.

Trip Leader: Robert Lindsay, capnbob@sbceo.org **Directions**: Take Hwy. 101 to the Glen Annie/Storke Rd. exit. Proceed south (towards the ocean) on Storke Rd. Turn left on El Colegio Rd., right on Camino Corto Lane, and right on Del Playa Drive. Park and meet at the end of Del Playa.

We will bird a loop trail along the beach past the Snowy Plover reserve, by the pond below the storage tanks, around the top and east side of the slough, and back to the cars.



Bullocks Oriole
Photo taken at the Wind Wolves Preserve on an Santa Barbara
Audubon Field Trip by Dianna Ricky.

Las Cruzitas Ranch near Santa Ynez

Saturday, November 21
Arrive around 9 a.m.;
return between 1 and 2 p.m.
(7:45 a.m. at car pool location)

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

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

Cost: \$8.00 gas money to car pool drivers

Directions: Car pooling is recommended as parking is limited. We will meet at the Five Points Shopping Center (Carl's Jr.) at 7:45 a.m. 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 9:00 a.m. 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 and a snack and/or lunch.

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

Join us on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 8:30-10:30 a.m., except as otherwise noted. 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.

Hidden Valley Park Friday, Oct 9.

Target Birds: Black-headed Grosbeaks, Towhees, Mockingbirds, Woodpeckers.

Directions: Take Modoc Rd. to Calle De Los Amigos. Park is on the corner of Calle De Los Amigos and Torino Drive. Park on the street.

Rocky Nook Park Friday, Oct. 23.

Target Birds: Blackbirds, Bushtits, Woodpeckers, Phoebes, Vireos, Warblers, Wrens.

Directions: 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.



Black-headed Grosbeak Artist Kirsten Munson



Wren Artist Kirsten Munson

Stevens Park Friday, Nov. 13

Target Birds: Raptors, Woodpeckers, Warblers, Phoebes, Wrens, Kinglets, Towhees.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Las Positas Rd. 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 and right on Canon Drive. Stevens Park is on your right.

Winchester Canyon Friday, Nov. 27.

Target Birds: Kingbirds, Kinglets, Siskins, Woodpeckers, Titmice, Towhees, raptors

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Winchester Canyon Rd. exit. Take Winchester Canyon Rd.; cross Cathedral Oaks Rd. Turn right on Winchester Rd. and left on Rio Vista Drive. Park near the open space on your left.

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!

Joy Barnes Gloria Betz Karla L. Fischer Carol Geer Charles Allen Graham Catherine H. Leffler Tabitha Parsons Lupe Richards Barbara Underwood Marcia Warrecker

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 Itvolunteer@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 October 4 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m Sunday November 8 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: Tara Longwell

Saturday October 10 9 a.m.-12 noon Saturday November 14 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.

maining uaics.	
October	3
November	7
No Training in December due to holiday	75

Training Schedule:

Training dates

Those interested should call to register at (805) 893 3703

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.

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
- 9 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

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:	My special interests:
Address:	-0 12
City: State: Zip:	-
E-mail:	Amount Enclosed:

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

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

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http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

OFFICERS						
President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008	President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Vice-PresidentLee Moldaver		964-6477	VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Secretary	Susan Lentz	968-6011	Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Treasurer	Bobbie Offen	684-0160	Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
	BOARD MEN	IBERS & C	COMMITTEE CHAIRS			
Field Trips	Jack Sanford	566-2191	FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Programs	John O'Brien	962-7799	Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Conservation	Steve Ferry	967-5162	Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Education	Ann Steinmetz	680-2638	Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Science	Niels Johnson-Lameije	r617-3513	Science@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Membership	Julia Kosowitz	450-5392	Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Newsletter	Marlene Mills	964-8525	Newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Publicity	Adam Lewis	967-7213	Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Development	Julie Kummel	403-3203	Development-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Development	Dolores Pollock	681-8661	Development-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Development	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		893-3703	Plovers@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Hospitality:	Nancy Rohrer	687-7587	Hospitality-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org			
Science Advis	or Don Schroeder	403-2090	ScienceAdvisor@SantaBarbaraAudubon.or			
The Bow Bird Alact Health and October 4 Access the birding of the other states						

The Rare Bird Alert Hotline ends October 1. Access sbcobirding online directly or through the SBAS chapter website at SantaBarbaraAudubon.org.

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 EventsCheck our website for any changes or late additions to our Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs: http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

October

COLODO.					
Oct.	3	Plover Training			
Oct.	4	Restore Arroyo Hondo			
Oct.	9	Hidden Valley Park Bird Walk			
Oct.	10	Devereux Slough Field Trip			
Oct.	10	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve			
Oct.	23	Rocky Nook Park Bird Walk			
Oct.	28	Program: Owl and Woodpecker			

		November
Nov.	7	Plover Training
Nov.	8	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Nov.	13	Stevens Park Bird Walk
Nov.	14	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Nov.	21	Las Cruzitas Ranch Field Trip
Nov.	27	Winchester Canyon Bird Walk

December

Dec. Program: Unusual Landscapes

