“Habitat restoration” is currently a major focus of Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS) activity as demonstrated by two ambitious projects now under way: A Pond Trail and Freshwater Wetland Habitat Enhancement at Coal Oil Point Reserve (COPR), and support for Channel Islands Restoration's Lake Los Carneros Wetland Margin Enhancement Project.

These two projects are fueled by the enthusiasm, participation and dedication of literally hundreds of volunteers. One such volunteer is Jan Oetinger, a member of SBAS, who says, “It seems especially appropriate for Audubon members to help improve habitats for birds. Plus there is so much gratification in seeing the results of your work. It’s really fun.”

Funded by a grant from the Goleta Valley Land Trust, the project at the COPR began in the fall of 2009 and will continue until July of 2011. The project area consists of 14 acres on the west side of the Devereux Slough and includes the buffers of a fresh water pond at COPR, a vernal pool (one which collects water during a rainy season and dries slowly), and portions of the Pond Trail.

“As land is converted for development, it is critical that remaining natural areas are enhanced to provide better bird habitat,” explains Darlene Chirman, Restoration Biologist and Project Manager, as well as president of SBAS.

“Santa Barbara Audubon is especially interested in habitat restoration for bird species, and a major goal is to restore the buffers around the fresh water wetlands and Coal Oil Point Reserve in general”, she adds. Mark Holmgren, an ornithologist at UCSB, considers the freshwater pond in the project area to be very significant bird habitat. It is his belief that the pond is relatively more productive for bird species than the Devereux Slough. He cites the fact that the pond has water throughout most years, and its water resources are far more constant than those of the Slough where the amount of water and its salinity can fluctuate greatly creating a harsh environment for species. Currently, 14 bird species rely upon the freshwater pond’s aquatic resources for breeding and post-breeding support. The pond also serves as a “migration stop-over”. For example, Red-wing Blackbirds are seen during the breeding season, and Tree Swallows are frequently observed there.

One of the goals of the restoration project is to close the informal trail immediately adjacent to the pond. Trail users are thought to disturb breeding birds nearby. It is hoped that COPR visitors will be encouraged to use the “official” Pond Trail. Upgrades to the Pond Trail include improving its walking surface and enhancing the trail with native plants installed along the border so the trail is more inviting. Use of a single trail through the reserve will reduce habitat fragmentation.

Other goals of this project are the removal of invasive plant species and the planting of natives in the buffer of the vernal pool. For example, the non-native Harding Grass is being replaced by native bunchgrass, which is good for raptor foraging. Space between the plants makes it easier for the raptors to see their rodent prey.

SBAS and COPR have a long history of working together on the Snow Plover Education Program and habitat restoration. The dune restoration efforts over the past several years have focused on improving habitat for the Plovers and other shorebirds.
On removing Acacia shrubs from the dunes, which reduced skunk habitat near the nesting plovers since skunks are major nest predators.

In the past two years, SBAS volunteers have helped with the restoration of the Slough margin and the removal of non-native Eucalyptus trees and shrubs. These trees have harbored species such as American Crows that prey on Snowy Plover chicks.

“Currently, we are shifting roosting habitat farther away from the beach”, says Ms. Chirman.

SBAS also helps recruit habitat restoration volunteers for the Arroyo Hondo Preserve on the Gaviota Coast. The restoration goal there has been to expand the riparian corridor for birds and sensitive aquatic species that include the Steelhead Trout.

The LLC project has been a “two-phase operation”. Phase One involved the removal of invasive non-native trees around the lake margin, which was carried out by CIR staff in the fall of 2009. Removal included Arundo donax, a giant reed that is invasive in wetland areas, about 30 Red Gum Eucalyptus saplings, and Myoporum trees, an especially hardy and aggressive species from New Zealand. Ms. Kummel points out that the larger eucalyptus trees were left because they provide roosting areas for monarch butterflies during their migration.

Phase Two involves the installation by volunteers of a total of 18 species of wetland and upland native plants, which began in December 2009. Volunteers have also been busy removing Cape Ivy, Bridal Creeper which is a member of the Asparagus family, and Smilo Grass, also known as Asian Rice Grass. Wetland natives being planted include Arroyo Willow, Juncus (Rushes), and Marsh Baccharis. Examples of upland plants include: Coastal Sagebrush, the red-berried Toyon, and Santa Barbara Honeysuckle. The Santa Barbara Honeysuckle is particularly significant not only because it is endemic to this area but also because it is classified as a “sensitive plant species”, according to Ms. Kummel. She adds that all the plants installed have been grown from seeds and cuttings gathered from watersheds near the LLC site by Santa Barbara Natives and Growing Solutions nurseries.
SBAS would like to encourage you to participate in habitat restoration. It’s almost the end of the planting season, but work will continue throughout the year: tending the newly planted natives to help them get established and clearing new sites for next year’s rainy season plantings.

Note: See El Tecolote online for the first time! This issue is posted on the chapter website; you can see the photos in color. There are additional photos and a map of the COPR freshwater wetland restoration site. Let us know if you like the web version!

Darlene Chirman

Here is your chance to get involved with a restoration project.

Help plant natives and restore wildlife habitat. Tools, gloves, drinks and light snacks provided. Please contact the coordinator, listed below, for more information or to volunteer.

ARROYO HONDO
Contact the Land Trust Arroyo Hondo Preserve Volunteer Coordinator
Jane Murray at lvvolunteer@yahoo.com or 684-4405
Saturday April 3 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m
Sunday May 2 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE
Contact Tara Longwell at longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 252-4903, or Darlene Chirman at President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or 692-2008
Saturday April 10 9 a.m.-12 noon
Saturday May 15 9 a.m.-12 noon

LAKE LOS CARNEROS
Sponsored by Goleta Valley Land Trust, City of Goleta, and SBAS. For RSVP/information/directions contact Julie Kummel at jkummel@rain.org or 805-403-3203
Saturday April 24 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Saturday May 22 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

40th Anniversary Earth Day Festival
April 17-18, 2010

Santa Barbara Audubon Society will be participating this year on Saturday, April 17 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, in Alameda Park. Stop by to visit, we will be in site 65 (Anacapa Street between Micheltorena and Sola Street). Please note that Earthday 40 is a two day event this year, but we will be there only on Saturday. If you would like to help us man the booth or help set up or clean up, contact Ann Steinmetz at Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org.
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.

California Condor Recovery Program

Geoff Grisdale
Biologist with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Geoff Grisdale will discuss the current status, management, and research efforts of the California Condor Recovery Program. Geoff will compare the historic and current range, population size, and demographics of the species. He will explain the recent successes of the nest-guarding program in southern California and share video footage and first-hand accounts of nest entries. He will present maps with the latest GPS transmitter data and explain how this information provides key insights into seasonal foraging patterns, reproductive efforts, and on-going range expansions. Lastly, he will describe the Program’s research into potential future habitat needs for condors and predicted changes in their landscape. Geoff has worked with California Condors for 2 years and is currently a field crew leader at Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Captivating Bird Portraits of Santa Barbara

Callie Bowdish
Local Nature Photographer

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Callie Bowdish will highlight her camera adventures with birds in the Goleta area with special emphasis on Coal Oil Point Reserve (COPR) and the Goleta Slough. Bird photo cataloging and web page journaling along with documenting bird events, such as the Snowy Plover nesting seasons at COPR and the Great Blue Heron nesting season at Goleta Slough, will be included.

Callie grew up in Santa Barbara. She holds an AA in Computer Information Science from SBCC, a BA in Physical Education from Arizona State University, an MA from the Fielding Graduate University in Organization Development and Management, and an MLIS in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. She is currently employed in the UCSB Library as a Computer Resource Specialist in Special Collections. In addition to all that, she surfs, designs websites, is a great photographer, and is well-known among the ecology community in 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 or **jacksanford@hotmail.com** for details or questions.

### Rancho La Vina
4455 Santa Rosa Road  
(Between Buellton & Lompoc)  
Saturday April 10, 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.

### Duck Ponds/Wetlands
(next to Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station)  
Sunday, April 25, 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
(8:00 a.m. car pool time)

**Target Birds**: Waterfowl, Virginia Rails, Merlins, Peregrine Falcons, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Vermilion Flycatchers, etc.

**Leaders**: Peggy Kearns, Jeff Hanson

We will car pool from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge at 8 a.m. ($8.00 gas money to drivers.) If you want to meet us at the Duck Ponds/Wetlands, take Hwy. 101 to Oxnard. Exit at Rice Ave. and go towards the ocean. Turn right onto Hueneme Rd. Turn left on Casper Rd. Proceed about a mile to the end of Casper Rd. Turn left into the Duck Ponds/Wetlands. Please park on the paved road near the drainage ditch. We will bird the area on foot for an approximately 3-mile walk. We must remain as a group. This is a private area, and it is a wonderful opportunity for us to bird the Duck Ponds/Wetlands. Thanks to Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson for making the necessary arrangements. Enjoy.

### Nojoqui Falls County Park
Saturday May 22, 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). Turn right at the next intersection at the bottom of the descent and continue to the park entrance on your right.

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 lunch.

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### Special Event: 1st Annual BBB, June 11.
(Bird, Bike and Beverage Bird Field Trip)

Check out the June/July ET or the S.B. Audubon website for details. Here is the basic plan: we will drive to the Bob Jones Bike Trail (called “The City to the Sea”) in San Luis Obispo and ride our bikes to Avila Beach (3-4 mile round trip and no gears are necessary) and bird along the way. After lunch at the beach, we will bike back to the starting point. The bike ride will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All you birders: dust off those bicycles in the garage and start practicing, but be careful.
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.

Ennisbrook Nature Trail
Friday, April 9, 2010

**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 the 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 23, 2010

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

**Directions:** Exit from Hwy. 101 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 14, 2010

**Target Birds:** Grebes, Herons, Dowitches, 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 and meet at the west end of the Goleta Beach parking lot (nearest the UCSB campus).

San Jose Creek & Open Space
Friday, May 28, 2010

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

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!

Robert L. Adams
Kitty Christen
Lucy Hennecke
Henry Muller Jr.
Wendy Allen
S. Crozier
Betty Holmes
Lanette R. Perry*
Susan Attaway*
Jenny Culver
Leslie Holtzman
Peter & Rebecca Adams
Daniel Barica
Lowell Dabbs
Heidi House
Ines Roberts
Nicola Bennert
Susan Delong
Cheryl Imp
Martin J. Serra
Don Benninghoven
Jessica Dora*
Lavella Kalstrom
Eva Vidor
Judith Bernstein
Debbie Earle*
Bessie Lombardo
Marietta R. Williams
Tracy L. Bowen
Cindy Forsyth
Richard Lopez
Irene Yager
Linda Callender
Barbara Galloway
Liz Lundquist

Francoise Cambern
Freda Good
Bob Marshall*

Martina E. Capelletti
Robins Hancock
Terri M. Miller

James F. Carberry
Bruce & Bev Hanna*
Ellicott Million

Verna Carter
Robert Heiduk
Gregory Mohr

* Chapter Only Membership
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 President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or 692-2008. For Lake Los Carneros contact Julie Kummel, 805-405-3203

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: Jane Murray

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

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: Tara Longwell

Saturday April 9 a.m.-12 noon
Saturday May  9 a.m.-12 noon.

LAKE LOS CARNEROS

Contact: Julie Kummel, 805-405-3203

Saturday April 24 9 a.m.-12 noon
Saturday May  22 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 ............................................. 3
May ............................................. 1

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

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

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

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 Society
(805) 964-1468, Info@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

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Snowy Plover Docent
Prog: Jennifer Stroh 893-3703 Plovers@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Hospitality: Nancy Rohrer 687-7587 Hospitality-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Science Advisor Don Schroeder 403-2090 ScienceAdvisor@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

The Rare Bird Alert Hotline ended October 1. Access sbbcobirding 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 Events
Check our website for any changes or late additions to our Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs:
http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

April
Apr. 3 Plover Training
Apr. 3 Restore Arroyo Hondo
Apr. 9 Ennisbrook Trail Bird Walk
Apr. 10 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Apr. 10 Rancho La Vina Field Trip
Apr. 17 & 18 EARTH DAY 40
Apr. 23 Tucker’s Grove Bird Walk
Apr. 24 Restore Lake Los Carneros
Apr. 25 Duck Ponds/Wetlands Field Trip
Apr. 28 Program: Condor recovery

May
May 1 Plover Training
May 2 Restore Arroyo Hondo
May 14 UCSB Campus Lagoon Bird Walk
May 15 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
May 22 Restore Lake Los Carneros
May 22 Noraquis Falls Field Trip
May 24 Program: Bird Portraits
May 28 San Jose Creek Bird Walk

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