El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. Volume 48, Issue 5 April–May 2010

Current Restoration Projects Of Santa Barbara Audubon Society

By Darlene Chirman, Julie Kummel, and Lesley Masuda Photos by Adam Lewis

"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 shore



Julie Kummel holding plants ready to be added to the restoration at Lake Los Carneros. Dave Eldridge is walking behind and an unidentified helper holds the hose.

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.



Audubon member Jan Oetinger clears around native plants at the Audubon restoration site at Coal Oil Point Reserve.

birds and 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 Lake Los Carneros Project

The goal of the Lake Los Carneros Wetland Margin Enhancement Project is to restore and improve bird and animal habitat around the edge of the scenic lake. To that end, at least 100 volunteers have donated time to the project since November of 2009. One Saturday a month, about 25 adult and student volunteers show up to spend their time removing non-native invasive weeds and installing native plants along the lake shore. Many Audubon members have participated in the restoration.

The two-year project is funded by a \$32,000 grant to Channel Islands Restoration (CIR) from the Goleta Valley Land Trust. CIR, a non-profit organization doing habitat restoration and environmental education in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and on the Channel Islands, administers the project with the support of the City of Goleta and SBAS. Restoration Biologist Darlene Chirman contributed the restoration plan for the project.

Lake Los Carneros (LLC) is a picturesque 22-acre lake surrounded by a scenic 136-acre nature preserve where the pace of life slows, and sightings of ducks, geese, and Great-Blue Herons are common. A Bobcat family lives here, and White-tailed Kites are initiating nest-building activities again this year. The lake is located within the City of Goleta and is north of Goleta Slough. A portion of the historic Dos Pueblos Ranch was purchased in 1975 by the County of Santa Barbara to prevent future commercial development. Today, LLC is a Goleta City park and nature preserve.

"This area is extremely important not only because of its habitat value for native flora and fauna, but because it is an important destination for waterfowl during the fall and spring migration, and because here, in the middle of the City of Goleta, is this wonderful refuge and place to learn about nature", said Julie Kummel, coordinator for the project. Ms. Kummel is an active member of SBAS, serving on the Development Committee and is a member of the organization's Board of Directors.

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



Two volunters from the Santa Barbara High School Green Club

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



Restoration Biologist Darlene Chirman sits at the pond overlook at Coal Oil Point Reserve; the Audubon project is enhancing the buffer for the pond, improving bird habitat.

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 ltvolunteer@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

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.



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.



Downy Woodpecker Artist Rosemary Gilbert Bell

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.

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 Goldfinchs, 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.



California Quail Aritst: Kirsten Munson

UCSB Campus Lagoon Friday, May 14, 2010

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 and meet 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. 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*	* Chapter Only Membership
Martina E. Capelletti	Robins Hancock	Terri M. Miller	
James F. Carberry	Bruce & Bev Hanna*	Ellicott Million	
Verna Carter	Robert Heiduk	Gregory Mohr	

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

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: Jane Murray

Saturday April 3 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m

Change in regular date due to Easter

Sunday May 2 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: Tara Longwell

Saturday April 10 9 a.m.-12 noon Saturday May 15 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	
Training Schedule:	
Tour	9-11 a.m.
Training	. 11 a.m1:30 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



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

Do	National and Local Membership
10	Santa Barbara Code: COZC130Z

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:	
City: State: Zip:	
E-mail:	Amount Enclosed:

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

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Science Advis	or Don Schroeder	403-2090	ScienceAdvisor@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org	

The Rare Bird Alert Hotline ended 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

April

Plover Training

Apr.

May

May

May

22

24

3

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.1	7&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
		Мау
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

Nouoqui Falls Field Trip

Program: Bird Portraits

San Jose Creek Bird Walk

Printed on recycled paper.

