

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. Volume 48, Issue 6 June–July 2010



ANNUAL PICNIC – JULY 17

ROCKY NOOK PARK 610 MISSION CANYON ROAD SANTA BARBARA NOON TO 2:00 P.M.

Join us at the Annual Members' Picnic. Potluck: bring a dish to share. Be green: bring your own place setting. Beverages and hot coals for BBQ will be provided. **GLENDESSARY JAM** returns to provide lively, mellow background music. After the good food and company and the election of the board for the coming year, you are invited to take a pleasant stroll to the construction site of our new Aviary.



To RSVP or for directions to the park, call Julie Kummel @ 805-403-3203

Election of S. B. Audubon Board of Directors 2010-11 to be held at the Annual Picnc, July 17

Here is the slate for the chapter Board of Directors for one-year terms. The Board meets monthly on the second Wednesday evening at the Goleta Valley Community Center.

Santa Barbara Audubon Society Board of Directors Slate of Nominees

| PresidentDarlene Chirman | Science ChairNiels Johnson-Lameijer |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Vice-President Lee Moldaver | Membership Chair Julia Kosowitz |
| Secretaryopen | Newsletter Chair Marlene Mills |
| TreasurerBobbie Offen | Publicity Chair Adam Lewis |
| Field Trips ChairJack Sanford | At Large–Outreach Dolores Pollock |
| Programs ChairElliot Chasin | At Large–Outreach Julie Kummel |
| Conservation Chair Steve Ferry | At Large–Outreach Margo Kenney |
| Education Chair Ann Steinmetz | |

* We are still seeking a Secretary for next year's board. Please contact Darlene or Susan Lentz, outgoing secretary, for more information about the position.

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.

Chapter Only Membership

As we reach the end of our first year of chapter-only memberships, we'd like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our members who have decided to support us at the local level instead of or in addition to maintaining a membership with National Audubon. Your support in the past year has helped us create and continue a variety of restoration and conservation projects, as well as educational programs for both children and adults. We truly appreciate your support of Santa Barbara Audubon Society, and we hope that you will continue to aid our projects and programs in the following year by renewing your chapter membership.



McKinley School students participate in a field trip at Lake Los Carneros at the end of the Meet Your Wild Neighbors program. Photo taken by parent Jesus Ramirez.

For our new members, or members who are near to renewing their memberships, we would like to let you know that the chapter-only membership has advantages for you. The first is cost: although a membership with National Audubon is \$20 for the first year, it rises to \$35 for each subsequent year. Our chapter-only membership is \$25 annually and will not go up in price after the first year. Second is privacy: our member list is private, and we do not share or sell your name or contact information with any other organizations or with any third party advertisers. Lastly, we will limit the number of mailings that we send you. With a chapter-only membership you will not receive the Audubon magazine, but you will also no longer receive unsolicited mailings, multiple renewal letters, or multiple solicitations for donations. All chapter members (National or chapter-only) receive our annual appeal in the fall.

To make it easier for National Audubon members to join as chapter-only members when their current membership expires, we have changed the program to have two sign up/renewal periods. For the first year of chapter-only memberships, all of the memberships ran from 7/1/09 to 6/30/10. Current chapteronly members who plan to renew their membership and people who would like to sign up for a chapter-only membership now will have a membership that runs until 6/30/11. People who would like to join later on will now have an option for a chapter-only membership that runs from 1/1/11 to 12/31/11.

Your support as a chapter-only member will help us continue projects that are making a difference to birds, people, and ecosystems right here, right now. Our educational programs such as Eyes in the Sky introduce elementary school students to hawks and owls, and our evening programs at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History bring a variety of local and visiting speakers to share their expertise in fields ranging from bird and mammal conservation programs and local ecological concerns to bird photography. We are continuing our work to restore habitats at Coal Oil Point Reserve, Arroyo Hondo Preserve, and Lake Los Carneros to create spaces that both people and birds can enjoy. Our work at increasing the population of the threatened Snowy Plover at Coal Oil Point continues by educating the public through our volunteer docent-training program. Last, but certainly not least, we are moving closer to creating a permanent home for our educational birds of prey that cannot survive in the wild through the construction of an aviary at the Museum of Natural History. We hope that you will consider becoming a chapter member so we can continue and expand these projects that are making positive changes in Santa Barbara County. Signing up is easy: you can find the chapter-only application form on page 7.

If you have any questions about the chapter-only membership program or about the status of your membership, please feel free to contact me.

> Julia Kosowitz, Membership Chair (membership@santabarbaraaudubon.org)



Support the Plover Education program at Coal Oil Point Reserve. Photo by Callie Bowdish.

Announcing El Tecolote Online!

A fter a survey of Santa Barbara Audubon members, the board of directors is happy to announce that we are now offering our members the option of reading the El Tecolote newsletter online. Members can choose to stop their print subscription and sign up to be notified via email when a new issue of ET is put online by emailing membership@santabarbaraaudubon.org. ET Online is currently an opt-in program; members without internet access or members who prefer a hard copy will still receive a copy of ET through the mail. We hope that all of our members with internet access will consider the online option, as it will allow more money to be used for our projects and programs instead of going to printing and mailing costs. Although we



currently print ET on recycled paper, it's even more environmentally friendly to read it online. The photos can be viewed in color online, and we will have occasional supplementary material online, without the space limitation of the print version.

This issue of El Tecolote and the April/May issue are both available at: http://www.santabarbaraaudubon.org/sbasET.shtml. To view the newsletter you will need a program, such as Adobe Reader, that can read pdf files. Adobe is free to download at http://get.adobe.com/reader for PCs running Windows XP, Vista, or 7, and Macs running OS 10.4 or higher.

A special photo section to be viewed on the web with this issue: the groundbreaking ceremony for the aviary at the Museum of Natural History, May 22, and photos of construction to date.

Yellow-billed Magpie survey set for June 4-7

The Yellow-billed Magpie is one of California's most striking birds. Popular among birders and compelling among conservationists, the bird lives only in California's Central Valley and coastal ranges. For a variety of reasons-including habitat loss, poison, and West Nile Virus-the Yellow-billed Magpie population has found itself at risk in recent years, and it is now an Audubon Watchlist species.

If we want to help the Yellow-billed Magpie survive, we need to know where it is living and in what numbers. And that's where you can help. Audubon California is sponsoring a four-day statewide survey of Yellow-billed Magpies that requires the help of volunteer birders.

Taking part is simple: All you need to do is log into eBird and record your observations.

Shortly after the survey, we'll tally up the results and every participant will receive a report of the findings. Audubon California will use these findings to guide our conservation

efforts for this bird. Go to http://ca.audubon.org/birds/magpie-survey.php to learn more and to take part in this important volunteer project.

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.



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 Trillers And The Robinoids Adventures In Bird Sound

Jared Dawson Wednesday, June 23

Te have all been dazzled by the technological leaps that are occurring in the world of photography, but perhaps less known are the parallel advances in the study of bird vocalizations. Jared Dawson, a former Santa Barbara Audubon Society board member and occasional field trip leader, is fascinated by bird song and took the Cornell Sierra Nevada field course in bird song recording as well as San Francisco State's field study of Sierra Nevadan bird songs. He will share some of the history and equipment of the pursuit, but the emphasis of this presentation will be the songs and calls of the "Lower 48" birds of our American Birding Association area, both aurally and graphically. In particular, we will look at some of the trickier groups of bird songs to distinguish, like the trillers (Spotted Towhee, Orangecrowned Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco, for example, just in our area), the robinoids (grosbeaks, and tanagers), and the vireos. And how about those empids?





A happy group of birders Photo by Jeff Hanson

"Sandyland Cove" bird walk report by Jeff Hanson

This bird walk is one of my favorites because it's short, simple and birdy. By 8:30, twenty of us headed down the road on the west side of Carpinteria Salt Marsh on a crisp and clear coastal morning. The tide was high, so things were a bit quiet in the beginning, with heavy scope use.

As we approached the mouth of the slough, things picked up, with good numbers of shorebirds, gulls and waterfowl. By this

time, it had warmed up, and people were shedding their coats as we went to the rock wall and set up scopes out to sea. Several large rafts of Western Grebes were seen along with a few Loons and Cormorants. We logged a total of 48 species for this trip. Our sincerest thanks go out to the home- owners association of this terrific property. And as always, a tip of the hat to Jack Sanford for putting this together

Black-bellied plover Photo by Jeff Hanson

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.

Hollister Ranch Saturday, June 26, 8:00 a.m.-1 or 2 p.m.) (7:00 a.m. at mandatory car pool location)

Reservations are required due to the limited number of vehicles allowed on the Ranch.

Target Birds: Songbirds, ocean and pond waterfowl, raptors and perhaps an owl or two.

Leader: pending.

Reservations are required as we are limited to 25 people (five vehicles). Please call or email Jack Sanford ((805) 566-2191 or jacksanford@hotmail.com) on or before June 23rd to reserve your place. Please let Jack know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold.

Directions: Coming from the south take Hwy. 101 to Lake Cachuma/State St. off ramp. Turn right on State St. and right again into the Five Points Shopping Center. Coming from the north take Hwy. 101 to the State St. off ramp. Turn left onto State St. Turn right into the Five Points Shopping Center. We will meet and park near Carl's Jr. at 7:00 a.m. (\$6.00 gas money to drivers.) We must car pool, as we are limited to 5 vehicles. Bring water and a snack or lunch, and wear comfortable shoes. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to bird the private and unique Hollister Ranch.

Trout Club, Santa Barbara Saturday, July 24, 8:30-11:00 a.m. (8:00 a.m. at car pool location)

Target Birds: Flycatchers, thrushes, gnatcatchers, hummingbirds, sparrows, orioles, etc.

Leader: pending

Directions: Coming from the south take Hwy. 101 to the Lake Cachuma/State St. off-ramp. Turn right on State St. and right again into the Five Points Shopping Center. Coming from the north take Hwy. 101 to the State St. off-ramp. Turn left onto State St. Turn right into the Five Points Shopping Center. Park near Carl's Jr. We will car pool from here at 8 a.m. or you can meet us at the entrance to the Trout Club off Old San Marcus Rd. Take Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 154 north from Santa Barbara. Turn left on Old San Marcos Road. (Painted Cave Road is on the right.) Go a very short distance, and park in the dirt area near the Trout Club entrance. We will bird from there.

Take advantage of this opportunity to bird the private Trout Club.



California Quail Artist: Kirsten Munson

BBB 1st Annual Bird, Bike and Beverage trip Friday, June 11, 9:30 a.m. -1p.m.

Target Birds: Ocean birds, shorebirds, creek side birds, passerines, etc

Directions: We will meet at the Park and Ride parking lot in San Luis Obispo County at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 101 to the Avila Beach Drive off-ramp. Take the first right (Ontario Road), and proceed a short distance to the Park and Ride parking lot. We will ride our bikes to Avila Beach on the Bob Jones Bike Trail (also called the City to the Sea Trail) birding along the way. We will have lunch (bring your own or purchase it) on the beach and then ride our bikes back to the parking lot. The distance is approximately 3-4 miles round trip and a fairly easy ride. You will have to make your own arrangements to car pool and transport your bikes.

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.

Atascadero Creek

June 18, (Note: this is a bonus bird walk on the 3rd Friday)

Target Birds: Water birds, songbirds and raptors

Directions: From Hwy. 101 take the Patterson off-ramp and head towards the ocean. Park in the dirt area near the Atascadero Creek bridge.

La Casa de Maria (Note: this is a new bird walk) June 25

Target Birds: ?

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to the San Ysidro Road off ramp. Head towards the mountains. Turn right on East Valley Road (at the stop light). Turn left on El Bosque Road (the 3rd street on the left). Follow El Bosque into the La Casa de Maria grounds. Upon entering the grounds turn right to Office and Parking. We will park in the furthest parking lot to the right opposite the office registration building.

Farren Road July 9

Target Birds: Hummingbirds, kingbirds, flycatchers, sparrows and Blue Gosbeaks

Directions: From the S.B. area take Hwy. 101 north to approximately 1 mile past the Winchester Canyon Road exit. Exit Hwy. 101 (towards the mountains). Turn left on Calle Real, and go west for about 300 yards to Farren Rd. We will meet at the beginning of Farren Rd.

Tabano Hollow Open Space

July 16, (Note: this is a bonus bird walk on the 3rd Friday)

Target Birds: Songbirds, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, etc. **Directions**: Take Hwy. 101 to the Turnpike Ave. off-ramp and head towards the mountains. Turn left on Cathedral Oaks Road. Turn left on Ribera Road. Turn left on Matorral Way and continue until you must turn to the left. Park there.

Hope Ranch Annex July 23

Target Birds: Towhees, warblers, sparrows, etc.

Directions: From the north, take Hwy. 101 to the Turnpike Ave. off-ramp and head towards the ocean. Turn left on Hollister. From the south take Hwy. 101 to the Highway 154 exit and

turn left on Hollister/State. From Hollister Ave. turn on Puente Drive towards the ocean. Puente Drive is between Turnpike Road and the Page Recreation Facility. Park in front of the church on Mint Lane (on the left side of Puente Drive). We will bird Los Feliz Drive and the Atascadero Creek loop.



Western tanager

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!

Edouard Amar Bonnie Boggs Karen Bradstreet Frances Cardilino Camille Casey Maxine Dekker Clay Dickens Matthew Dusette* Teresa Fanucchi Dankl Fishbein Patricia K. Franco Lorilyn Froerer Corinne Gallagher Carol Goodell Laurel Hall John Hendrickson David House Ms. Hope A. Jeter Robert W. Kohn Wendie D. Kruthers Roxanne Lapidus Bob MacIas John H. Mc Nally Beverly McCurdy Mary Sue Miller Jill V. Milton Mimi Muraoka Kay Naumann James Pattillo Francisco Perez Donna Peterson William Schaecher Josef & Rosita Schwaiger Suzanne Spillman* Michael Stohl Gail and Michael Sulmeyer Edward Wilkinson Mr. Robert Zucherman

* Chapter Only Membership

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

| Sunday June | 6 | 9 a.m12:30 p.m |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Saturday July | 3 | 9 a.m12:30 p.m. |
| Note: change of d | ay due to | holiday. |

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE Contact: Tara Longwell

| Saturday June | 19 | 9 a.m12 noon |
|---------------|----|---------------|
| Saturday July | 10 | 9 a.m12 noon. |

LAKE LOS CARNEROS

Contact: Julie Kummel

| Saturday June | 19 | 9 a.m12 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:

| June | | | | | | | | | • | • | | | | | | | | | | 5 | |
|------|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| July | | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | | • | • | • | • | 1 | 0 | |

Training Schedule:

| Tour | | | | • | | | | • | • | | • | • | | 9 | 9. | -11 | a.m. |
|--------|-----|---|-------|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|--------------|
| Traini | ing | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | | | 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 | National and Local Membership Santa Barbara Code: COZC130Z |
|--|---|
| 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, <i>El Tecolote</i> * Member applications received between: January and June will renew 6/30 of the following year. July and December will renew 12/31 of the following year. Does Not Include: * National magazine, <i>Audubon</i>, * 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, <i>Audubon</i>, and the local <i>El Tecolote</i> * 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 |

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

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| (805) 964-146 | a Audubon Society 8,Info@SantaBarbara SantaBarbaraAud a | to | k our v our B | Calendar of Events website for any changes or late additions Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs: www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | | |
|----------------|--|-------------|--|--|----|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| President | Darlene Chirman | 692-2008 | President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | | | |
| Vice-President | Lee Moldaver | 964-1468 | VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | | | |
| Secretary | Susan Lentz | 968-6011 | Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | | | June |
| Treasurer | Bobbie Offen | 220-6522 | | | | |
| | BOARD M | EMBERS & C | OMMITTEE CHAIRS | June | 5 | Plover Training |
| Field Trips | Jack Sanford | 566-2191 | FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | June | 6 | Restore Arrovo Hondo |
| Programs | John O'Brien | 962-7799 | | June | 11 | Bird, Bike, and Beverage Trip |
| Conservation | | 967-5162 | g | June | 18 | Atascadero Creek Bird Walk |
| Education | Ann Steinmetz | | Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | June | 19 | Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve |
| Science | Niels Johnson-Lame | , | e | | | |
| Membership | Julia Kosowitz | | Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | June | 19 | Restore Lake Los Carneros |
| Newsletter | Marlene Mills | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | June | 23 | Program: Adventures in Bird Sound |
| Publicity | Adam Lewis | 967-7213 | Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | June | 25 | La Casa de Maria Bird Walk |
| | Julie Kummel | | Development-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | June | 26 | Hollister Ranch Field Trip |
| | Dolores Pollock | 681-8661 | | | | |
| Development | Margo Kenney | 963-3011 | Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | | | July |
| | | APPOINTED F | | | | calj |
| Webmaster: | Bobbie Offen | 684-0160 | Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | July | 3 | Restore Arroyo Hondo |
| Eyes In The S | , | | | | - | - |
| | Drozdowski | 898-0347 | EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | July | 9 | Farren Road Bird Walk |
| Snowy Plover | | | | July | 10 | Plover Training |
| | nnifer Stroh | | Plovers@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | July | 10 | Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve |
| Hospitality: | Nancy Rohrer | 687-7587 | Hospitality-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | July | 16 | Tabano Hollow Bird Walk |
| Science Advis | or Don Schroeder | 403-2090 | ScienceAdvisor@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org | July | 24 | Trout Club Field Trip |
| | I Alert Hotline ended apter website at Sant | | ccess sbcobirding online directly or through dubon.org. | July | 23 | Hope Ranch Annex Bird Walk |

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.

Printed on recycled paper.

