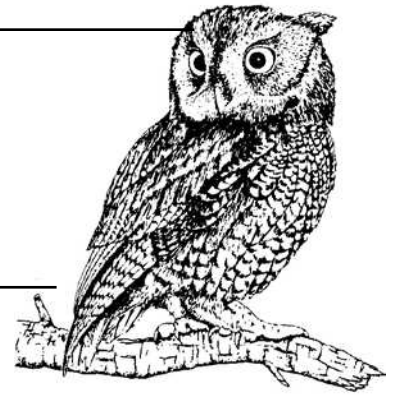


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
Volume 49, Issue 6 June–July 2011



ANNUAL PICNIC—JULY 16

Skofield Park–Area C
1819 Las Canoas Road Santa Barbara
Noon To 2:00 P.M.

Join us at the ANNUAL MEMBERS' PICNIC & FABULOUS
RAFFLE

Potluck: bring a dish to share.

Be green: bring your own place setting.

Beverages and hot coals for BBQ will be provided.



Photo by: Terry Strachley

GLENESSARY JAM returns to provide lively traditional music.

The RAFFLE drawing will be held after the good food and company, and the election of the board* for the coming year. Raffle tickets (\$25 or 5/\$100) and a full description of raffle prizes will be mailed to members later in the month. You may buy tickets in advance or at the event. PRIZES include:

- A mixed case of treasured Cinco Locos Wine, valued at up to \$1,000. The Winemakers are retiring this year, so this may be your last opportunity!

OR

- A one-week stay at a rustic and beautiful private cabin near Oregon's famed North Umpqua River. Enjoy birding, hiking, fly fishing, river rafting, hot springs and fabulous swimming holes. Dine nearby at the famous Steamboat Inn, where Ernest Hemingway told tall tales and fished for steelhead.

To RSVP or for directions, call Julie Kummel (805) 403-3203

Election of S. B. Audubon Board of Directors 2011-12 to be held at the Annual Picnic, July 16

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

President Darlene Chirman
 Vice-President Lee Moldaver
 Secretary Liz Muraoka
 Treasurer Bobbie Offen
 Field Trips Chair Jack Sanford
 Programs Chair OPEN
 Conservation Chair Steve Ferry
 Education Chair Maggie Sherriffs

Science Chair Niels Johnson-Lameijer
 Membership Chair Julia Kosowitz
 Newsletter Chair Marlene Mills
 Publicity Chair Adam Lewis
 At Large–Outreach Dolores Pollock
 At Large–Outreach Julie Kummel
 At Large–Outreach Margo Kenney

*We are still seeking a nominee for Programs Chair. Please contact President Darlene Chirman for more information about the position . We are also looking for a Hospitality Volunteer to provide refreshments (reimbursed) for the monthly programs.

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.

Bird Islands By Niels Johnson-Lameijer

What is the Bird Island project?

Since 2005 SBAS has been monitoring the birds of Bird Island off the Goleta Coast. “Old Bird Island” was the remnants of an oil platform several hundred meters off the Ellwood coast. It was home to nesting Brandt’s Cormorants, roosting California Brown Pelicans (federally listed as endangered until 2009), and several other bird species. The remains of the old platform were removed in the fall of 2005 by the owners, BP/ARCO. As a mitigation measure they replaced the breeding and roosting habitats with four new structures in the fall of 2005 designed to accommodate the nesting and roosting birds.



Photo by: Andy Lentz

Bird Islands seen from Haskall’s Beach.

What did we do?

Santa Barbara Audubon Society received a contract in 2005 from the California State Lands Commission (with funding by ARCO) to monitor the bird activity on Bird Island. We began overseeing the monitoring of “Old Bird Island” during the spring of 2005 to gather baseline data on bird use of the old structures for four months from May 19 to September 19.

Over a period of five years, paid SBAS observers monitored the use of the new structures and compared it to the data collected from the “Old Bird Island” to measure the success of the project. In late September of 2005, the monitoring of the new Bird Islands began and continued through the end of 2010. During the span of the project, surveys were conducted under the non–breeding season protocol from mid-September till mid-February, and breeding season surveys were conducted from mid-February through mid-September. SBAS has just finished the final report on the Bird Island project.

What did we find out?

Comparison of the data for the “Old Bird Island” in 2005 and the new Bird Islands in 2006 through 2010 suggest that in some ways the new structures have provided benefits to the birds that use them. Brandt’s Cormorants are attracted

to the new structures in great numbers, notably during the nesting season. More than three times as many Brandt’s Cormorant pairs were recorded breeding on the new structures in 2008, 2009, and 2010 than were recorded on the old structure in 2005. The number of active nests (37 in 2005) has increased each year up to 2008 (75 in 2006, 85 in 2007, 125 in 2008) with a slight drop in 2009 to 112 and a slight recovery to 114 nests in 2010.

The Brandt’s Cormorant was not known to breed anywhere else along the mainland coast between Point Conception and La Jolla, San Diego County, as of the year 2000. However, a new small breeding location was discovered at Point Hueneme Harbor in Ventura County on May 14, 2007.

California Brown Pelicans continue to have less of a presence on the new structure than on the old one. Other species, such as Western and Heerman’s Gulls, Rock Pigeons, and European Starlings are also using the new structures far less frequently than they did in 2005. The use of surrounding waters by all birds (including pelicans and cormorants) has not changed significantly following the construction of the new platforms.

Now what?

The goal of the new Bird Islands were to provide more space for Cormorant nesting, and this goal was definitely achieved. With the publication of the final report SBAS closes the Bird Islands project. That the project is finished does not mean that the platforms will be removed. They will continue to provide excellent breeding space for Brandt Cormorants. You can best view them from Haskall’s Beach, by the Bacara.

There are a lot of people who have contributed to this successful project over the years. We want to especially thank: **Kendy Radasky, Jared Dawson, Peter Gaede, Dave Compton, David Kisner, and Don Schroeder.**

The full Bird Island report will be available on the SBAS website.



Photo by: Andy Lentz

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.

WE DID IT!

By Gabriele Drozdowski

After a seven year process, we have now moved into our new aviary at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Thank you all for your generosity, especially during these hard financial times. I hope that, as our partner in this venture, you will feel pride in our joint accomplishment. Thanks to you, we also raised the \$1,500 for a guard rail that keeps busy fingers and pressing faces away from the aviary netting. Construction will most likely be completed by the time you read this.



The new aviary. Photo by: Gabriele Drozdowski

On Sunday, March 27th, three of our birds (Max, Great Horned Owl; Ivan, Red-tailed Hawk, and Kachina, American Kestrel) officially moved into their new quarters, although Max still travels back and forth between the aviary and my house.

Our new Peregrine Falcon Kisa (pronounced Keesa) is still in training, and will move in within the next month. Allen Saufkie, the Hopi elder that named Kisa (it means “bird of prey”), came through town in May, and met her in person. They both look quite enamored with each other.

Tecolita, the Western Screech Owl that has been with us for seven years (we don’t know her total age) has been ill recently, and, although she has somewhat recovered, will not move in until she is completely well again as she continues to need 24 hour monitoring.

The birds love their new place, and I no longer have to worry about what will happen should I one day have to leave my rented residence of 33 years where they were housed for the past 12 years.

We are open every day between 2 and 4 p.m. During this time some of the birds will be outside getting sunshine,

exercise, and close-up interaction with visitors. Ten new volunteers are currently being trained, including two mother/daughter teams. Eventually all of our birds will get a full two hours outdoors every day.

We have located a male American Kestrel (currently at a Wildlife Rehabilitation facility in Tucson, Arizona) to join our female Kachina, and we are still looking for another bird of prey to fill our last open space. This will depend on placement availability. We adopt birds from rehabilitation facilities that have

determined that a particular patient can no longer survive in the wild. We will keep you updated.

Please do enjoy our lovely spring. We really live in paradise.



Photo by: Gabriele Drozdowski

Sara-Jane Robertson, with Kachina who is perched on her beloved travelling stick.



Photo by: Gabriele Drozdowski

Wendy Bruss feeding Tecolita with a captivated audience.



Photo by: by Lacey Lopez

Allen Saufkie and Kisa

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.

Argentina & Antarctica Birds and Much More!

John Sterling
Professional Wildlife Biologist

Wednesday, June 22, 2011



John will share with us his trip as a naturalist on an expedition ship to Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, and Tierra del Fuego during January 2010. Afterwards, he will take us to temperate central Argentina where he'll show us the birds from that region. He will illustrate his talk with many photographs of birds, marine mammals and scenery.

John has been a very active birder since 1971 and a professional wildlife biologist since 1981. He has traveled extensively throughout California learning about local bird distribution and is working on a book on the state's avifauna. He has traveled internationally as a guide and ornithologist for many institutions including projects as a Smithsonian ornithologist to Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Sumatra, Canada and Russia. John currently has his own company specializing in tours, birding classes, research and environmental consulting. His website is www.sterlingbirds.com



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!

Nancy Belu
Helen Burwell
Claudia Chyla
Carole Clarige
Susan Collins
A. Cook
Robert Erickson
Shirley Force
Anne Forster
Greta Halle

Gary Hunt
Dana Jennings
Paul Jillson
Judith Litschel
Margaret J. Maitra
Lauren Monda
Oswald D. Ros
Fred Seegert
Daniel and Doreen Suchman*
Ms. Maria T. Thomas

Clara Tomczak
Susan Trescher
Alfred Verstreken
Justin Watts
E & J Wilhelm
Bill Wofford
Susan Yossem

*Chapter Only Membership

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 25, 2011 (8:00 a.m.-1 p.m.)
(7:00 a.m. at mandatory car pool location)

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

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

Leader: Guy Tingos

Reservations are required. We are limited to 25 people (five vehicles). Please call or email Jack Sanford ((805) 566-2191 or jacksanford@hotmail.com) on or before Wednesday June 22nd to reserve your place. Email is preferred. Please let Jack know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold. Jack must confirm your reservation by email or phone.

Directions: Coming from the south take Hwy. 101 to Lake Cachuma/State St. off ramp. Turn right on State St. and turn right 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 restaurant at 7:00 a.m. (\$8.00 gas money to drivers.) We must car pool, as we are limited to 5 vehicles. Bring water, 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.



Ash-throated Flycatcher
Artist: Kirsten Munson

Trout Club

Saturday July 23, 2011 8:30-11:00 a.m.
(8:00 a.m. at car pool location)

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

Leader: Rob Lindsay

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 Marcos 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.



BBB

2nd Annual Bird, Bike and Beverage trip Friday, July 15, 2011, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Target Birds: Ocean birds, shore birds, creek side birds, passerines, etc.

Directions: We will meet at the Park and Ride parking lot in San Luis Obispo 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 on the Bob Jones bike path (also called the City to the Sea Trail) to Avila Beach, 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 5 miles round trip and a fairly easy ride. You will have to make your own arrangements to car pool and transport your bikes.



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.*

La Casa de Maria (A bonus bird walk)

June 3 (Note: this is the 1st Friday.)

Target Birds: Canyon Wrens, songbirds, raptors, etc.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to the San Ysidro Road off ramp (#93). Head towards the mountains. Turn right on East Valley Road (at the stop light). Proceed 2/10 mile, and turn left on El Bosque Rd. Follow El Bosque into La Casa de Maria grounds. Upon entering the grounds immediately turn to your left and park opposite the Casa San Ysidro dorms. We will meet in the upper parking lot on your right.

Tabano Hollow Open Space

June 10

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 Drive (at Foothill Elementary School). Park where Ribera Drive and Matorral Way meet. (The bridge under Hwy. 101 and the Open Space sign can be seen.)

Atascadero Creek

June 24

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.

Please Note: All July Bird Walks will begin at 7:30 and end at 9:30 a.m.



Wren

Artist: Kirsten Munson



Black-headed Grosbeak
Artist: Kirsten Munson

Farren Road

July 8

Please note earlier time: 7:30-9:30 a.m.

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

Directions: From 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 Road at 7:30.

Hope Ranch Annex

Friday, July 22

Please note earlier time: 7:30-9:30 a.m.

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). We will bird Los Feliz Drive and the Atascadero Creek loop.

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**.

OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Habitat Restoration

Audubon helps recruit volunteers for habitat restoration; come help to restore a creek or estuary while spending a morning in a beautiful bird habitat. Contact Coal Oil Point Reserve: Reserve Steward: **Tara Longwell** tara.longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 893-5092. Contact the Land Trust for Arroyo Hondo Preserve: Volunteer Coordinator **Sally Isaacson** volunteer@sblandtrust.org or (805) 260-2252. Contact Channel Islands Restoration: Volunteer Coordinator **Jonathan Abbelbaum**, volunteer@cirweb.org or (858) 344-6654.

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Sally Isaacson**
Sunday June 5 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sunday July 3 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Tara Longwell**
Saturday June No restoration
Saturday July 23 9 a.m.-12 noon

CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION

Contact: **Jonathan Appelbaum**
Please consult their website for restoration projects including: San Marcos Foothills, Lake Los Carneros, Santa Barbara Zoo, Carpinteria Creek and others.
Their website is: www.cirweb.org

Plover Project Docent Training

Training takes place at Coal Oil Point Reserve

Training:

June No training date planned.
July 16

Training Schedule: . . 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with lunch

Those interested should call for more information at
(805) 893 3703

AUDUBON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to help Santa Barbara Audubon?
Here are several opportunities:

Program Chair

Arrange monthly public programs at the Museum. Some technical savvy is helpful for the digital projector and computer interface. Recently-appointed Maggie Sherriffs will move to Education Chair in the summer. Contact President Darlene

Hospitality for Monthly Public Programs

Volunteer (or 2 to share job) brings snacks (reimbursed) to programs, generally the 4th of the month. Wednesday Nancy Rohrer would like to retire! We may need to discontinue the refreshments if no one steps in. Contact President Darlene.

Eyes in the Sky

Ongoing opportunities for new volunteers to work with our birds of prey.

Must be available during daytime hours. Call Gabriele (805) 898-0347.



Barn Swallow
Artist: Steven D'Amato

Audubon Society Membership Application

Option 1: Local Chapter-only Membership

- This is my choice of membership!
Cost: \$25 Annually
Make check payable to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Option 2: National and Local Membership

Santa Barbara Code: COZC130Z

- This is my choice of membership!
- This is a Senior/Student membership.
- Please do NOT share my contact information.

Introductory \$20, or \$15 for senior/student; \$35 annually thereafter.

Make check payable to: National Audubon Society

For more information on these options please go to our website at:
www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or call (805) 964-1468

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

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

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.

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

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Santa Barbara Audubon Society
(805) 964-1468, Info@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
<http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org>

OFFICERS

President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008	President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	964-1468	VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Secretary	Liz Muraoka	743-3314	Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Secretary	Lisa Ostendorf	683-1225	Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Treasurer	Bobbie Offen	220-6522	Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips	Jack Sanford	566-2191	FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Programs	Maggie Sherriffs	682-4711x131	Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Conservation	Steve Ferry	967-5162	Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Education	Ann Steinmetz	680-2638	Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Science	Niels Johnson-Lameijer	617-3513	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 Advisor	Don Schroeder	403-2090	ScienceAdvisor@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

For Rare Bird information go to sbcbirding 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>

June

June	3	La Casa de Maria Bird Walk
June	5	Restore Arroyo Hondo
June	10	Tabano Hollow Bird Walk
June	22	Program: Argentina & Much More
June	24	Atascadero Creek Bird Walk
June	25	Holister Ranch Field Trip

July

July	3	Restore Arroyo Hondo
July	8	Farren Road Bird Walk
July	15	Bird, Bike and Beverage Trip
July	16	ANNUAL PICNIC
July	16	Plover Training
July	22	Hope Ranch Annex Bird Walk
July	23	Trout Club Field Trip
July	23	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve

Printed on recycled paper.

