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.
Eyes in the Sky’s First Aviary Open House

Several hundred visitors, both locals and from out of town, celebrated with Audubon and The Museum of Natural History at EITS’ first annual Aviary Open House on September 8th. Families enjoyed the many events spread throughout SBMNH’s campus that took place between 12 noon and 4 PM. There were aviary tours explaining the procedures that EITS volunteers follow each and every day to care for their seven ambassadors. There were three booths that were offering up-close meetings of EITS raptors as well as stage presentations that provided in depth discussions on three different ambassadors including the histories of why and how they ended up at EITS. There were educational programs and stations including information on birding, bird handling and raptor care. The raptor feather identification station tested people’s skill and knowledge on feather types. One of the big hits with the kids (of all ages) was the owl pellet dissection station that was very busy all day long.

The Museum provided a raptor specimens station from its bird collection and museum staff were on hand to explain the subtle differences between raptor species, sexes and ages and to answer questions about their specimens. Merchandise including Audubon hats, EITS t-shirts, raptor buttons of all seven ambassadors, custom made bird houses, EITS logo canvas bags and many other items were on sale to help support the program. For individuals who needed mid-afternoon nourishment, various food and snack items were also offered for sale. All in all it was deemed a rousing success with EITS Program Director, Gabriele Drozdowski, proclaiming the Open House will definitely become an annual event.

Thanks to all who helped make it such a success and the generous public support the event achieved

--By John O’Brien.

Above: The owl-pellet dissection table proved popular with youngsters.

At left: Eyes in the Sky volunteer Bonnie Whitney answers questions about Kisa, a peregrine falcon that EITS adopted in 2011 when she was nine months old. Kisa was found on the ground in a field in Rancho Palos Verdes. She can no longer fly due to a bullet in her shoulder. Veterinarians decided it was too risky to remove the bullet, as the procedure could have damaged more muscles and tendons in the shoulder. Peregrine falcons are the fastest animals on earth.
A Jingle for Jan *
By Joy Parkinson

Counting birds at Lake Cachuma
Puts me in the fowlest huma.
Counting at Cachuma Lake
Makes my poor old eyeballs ache.
Staring through the telescope
Makes me feel like such a dope.
Crick in back and crick in neck –
Pretty soon I’m just a wreck.

On the shore at station three
Who counts the canvasbacks? Why me!
Fourteen pintail, one redhead
(I should have stayed at home, in bed.)
Fifteen hundred ring-necked duck.
I get to count them all, what luck!

On we go to station two.
I’ll be glad when we are through.
Standing there upon the dock
Count the scaup, a scattered flock.
"One, two, three, ten, fifteen, twenty,
Make it thirty-five, that’s plenty.
Oh-no! There’s another bunch!
Don’t you think it’s time for lunch?”

On to station one, no lagging,
Though my feet are really dragging.
Cormorants along the boom
Give each other lots of room.
"See the oldsquaw in the cove?"
Well, he was there, he just dove.
What pops up? – a bufflehead
My oh my is my face red.

Finally on to station four—
Why past lunchtime—what a bore.
Count the mallard, count the widgeon,
Do we count the band-tailed pigeon?
Home at last, too tired to eat.
Headache, cross-eyed, hot, sore feet.

You wonder why I ever go?
It’s simple . . . I enjoy it so.
For when I see the osprey dive
I feel so glad to be alive!

*The Lake Cachuma Project was done at the request of the SB Co. Parks Dept (Joy was a Park Commissioner). Fishermen wanted a log boom at the east end of the lake removed so they could access fishing spots. The owner of the San Fernando Rey Ranch didn’t want the boom removed as it might disturb the birds that lived there. Since no one knew what species and how many birds used that area, the Museum was asked to conduct a survey. Waldo Abbott, Joy and I were the principal group with Dick Smith. We divided the lake into stations to make it easier to have discrete areas to canvas. -- Jan Hamber

Conservation Committee
Update

By Jonathan Appelbaum

It has been a busy summer for the Santa Barbara Audubon Society’s Science and Conservation Committee. Under the guidance of outgoing Conservation Chair, and new SBAS Co-President Steve Ferry, outgoing Science Chair, and new SBAS Education Chair, Andy Lanes, and myself, the newly installed conservation chair, the Committee has been active in a variety of research, policy and advocacy arenas. The SBAS Science Committee was active in organizing and staffing research locally on the Central Coast including studying black phoebe nesting at Arroyo Hondo Preserve, tree swallow nest box monitoring at Lake Los Carneros and Coal Oil Point Reserve and of course white-tailed kite monitoring throughout the Santa Barbara area.

The chapter joined forces with other conservation organizations such as the Environmental Defense Center, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and the Urban Creeks Council to form a more powerful environmental coalition and lend its voice to a variety of key issues facing the Central Coast community. Some of these include conservation of the Gaviota Coast, lobbying for a natural managed retreat solution at Goleta Beach Park, lobbying for secure funding and better management of our local creeks, and supporting major restoration activities at the former Ocean Meadows Golf Course. In addition, the SBAS Science and Conservation Committee has led a campaign to support Assembly Bill 711—which would ban the use of lead ammunition for hunting in California—in the State Senate by reaching out to local politicians including State Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, and media outlets including The Santa Barbara News Press.

Other important, ongoing efforts of the SBAS Science and Conservation Committee include lobbying for greater white-tailed kite avoidance, impact minimization measures from the developers of Paradiso del Mar (Makar) residential development and involvement in the environmental review for the proposed San Joaquin Apartments Project at Storke and El Colegio Roads in Isla Vista.
Bats of The Central Coast

The only mammals capable of unassisted flight are bats. They are unique among mammals in that they use high frequency calls to orient themselves at night while searching for and capturing night-flying insects. Next to rodents, bats are the most abundant order of mammals worldwide. On Wednesday, October 23rd, the bat fauna of the Central Coast region will be the focus of Santa Barbara Audubon Society’s monthly program. The unique characteristics of these mysterious mammals, including their morphology, taxonomy, biogeography, breeding biology and ecology, will be closely examined and illuminated by one of our area’s leading bat experts, Paul Collins, MA.

Collins is The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History’s curator of Vertebrate Zoology and has worked at the museum as both a curator and researcher for the past 40 years. He received both his BA and MA in Zoology from the University of California Santa Barbara in 1971 and 1982 respectively. His research has focused on the wildlife of the Central Coast with strong emphasis on the biota of the Channel Islands. He has conducted focused research on a variety of the region's terrestrial vertebrates, authored numerous publications and contract reports on the results of his research. He conducted a two-year study on bats for the US Air Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base and has continued studying this region's most enigmatic night-flying creature since its completion.

The Birds of Colombia: An Evening with Santiago Escruceria

Santiago Escruceria's love of nature began during his childhood in the Colombian jungles and was renewed years later when he found himself stalking seabirds and mammals on California beaches. On Wednesday, November 27th, in the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Ferrand Hall, Santiago will give a free presentation (including examples of his outstanding photography) on the birds of the Colombian Southwtest—or more specifically, the state of Valle del Cauca—which stretches over two mountain ranges, countless riparian corridors and wetlands.

For the past 15 years, Santiago, who has a BA in cultural anthropology from Sonoma State University, has taught an outdoor environmental education program for LA's inner city youth through the Mono Lake Committee of California's Eastern Sierra Nevadas. He also leads birding tours for the Mono Lake Committee's annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua event and offers birding and photography seminars. He is an environmental studies liaison to that area's school system. Since late 2012, Escruceria has been working with Eastern Sierra Audubon Society as a board member and leader of birds walks in and around the area of Mono Basin and Bishop.

A steely-vented hummingbird captured by Santiago Escruceria

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 pm and are free to the public. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. SBAS members are encouraged to bring guests.
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.

Devereux Slough
Saturday, October 5th, 2013, 8:00 am - 11:00 am
Target Birds: shorebirds, water birds and wintering song birds
Trip Leader: Rob Lindsay, capnbob@sbceo.org
Description: We will bird a loop trail walking the beach past the snowy plover reserve and follow a trail around the far side of the slough. We will then bird the other side of the slough and back to the parking area.
Directions: Take Hwy 101 to the Glen Annie/Storke Rd exit. Proceed south (towards the ocean) on Storke Rd then left make a left on El Colegio Rd and a right on Camino Corto Ln and a right on Del Playa Drive. Park and we will meet at the end of Del Playa.

Las Cruzitas Ranch
Saturday, November 23rd, 2013
7:45 at car pool location, return between 1 and 2 pm
Target Birds: goldfinches, buntings, rufous-crowned sparrows, phainopepla, yellow-billed magpie, prairie falcon, nuthatches, hummingbirds and maybe a golden eagle
Trip Leaders: Cruz Phillips, 688-8233, cruzitas@aol.com
Cost: $8 gas money to car pool drivers
Description: We will arrive around 9 am and bird near the ranch house for about two hours where there are a large number of feeders and bird habitat. Then we will take an easy walk around the general area and perhaps a tour of a canyon. Bring water, a snack and/or lunch.
Directions: Car pooling is recommended as parking is limited. We will meet at the Five Points shopping center (3925 State St near Big 5) at 7:45 am. To meet us at the ranch, take Hwy 154 to Armour Ranch Rd which is 3.3 miles west of Bradbury Dam (Lake Cachuma). Go north on Armour Ranch Rd 1.4 miles and turn right on Happy Canyon Rd. At 2.4 miles turn right on Alisos Ave. At 0.7 miles, the pavement ends at a cattle guard. Continue 2.6 miles straight past two more cattle guards to the barn and ranch.

Field Trips/Bird Walks
Do you have an idea?

We are always looking for suggestions 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 at 805-566-2191 or bird-sandtennis@hotmail.com

A tern coming in for a water landing at Devereux Slough. Photo by Callie Bowdish

Members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society on a field trip to Las Cruzitas Ranch.
**SBAS extends a warm welcome to our newest members.**

We look forward to seeing you at our programs and field trips. Thanks for joining!

- Josie Anderson
- Danielle Aubertin-Crowder
- Nancy Baron
- Luann Beach
- Britten Beauvoir
- Donald H. Benson
- Merri Reid Berwick
- Barbara B. Bonadeo
- Margie Borchers
- B. J. Braun
- Joseph Brown
- Doreen Burks
- Emiliano Campobello
- John Carbon
- Barbara Cleveland
- Joseph Connors
- Judy Connors
- Lillian Cross
- Szymanek
- Anne Curtis
- Grace Dodson
- Ravyne L. Dow
- Ian N. Dumas
- Wayne Dupont
- Adelle Dyer
- Myonne Ehler
- Barry Enticknap
- Mary Fiske
- Elaine R. Flanders
- Vernon Frost
- Jean Furino
- Lynne Gouma
- Robert Grant
- Jenny Gumperz
- Margaret Halbeisen
- Timothy F. Harding
- Ingrid Head
- Roger Hoelter
- Jenny Huyler
- Arthur Karle
- Lolita Lanning
- Patricia Lieberknecht
- Kathleen Lynk
- Mark Michalak
- Joni Milchak
- Janet Mitchell
- S. Moore
- Mr. Charles Mullen
- Luzmara Ortiz
- Eva Oxelson
- Vivian Pahos
- Mrs. Jean Paynter
- Giles Pettitfor
- Joan Rapp
- Dayle Rinker
- Muriel E. Ross
- Andria Ruth
- Robin Sager
- Virginia Samario
- Elaine Sensiper
- Carol M. Smith
- Norma Sundquist
- Sylvia Suskin
- Ronald C. Swick
- Isabella Taraleshkov
- W.M Thorpe
- Flavia Valle
- Larry C. Vranish
- Bernard Watkins
- Ben & Mary Wiener
- John D. Wolcheck
- Donald B. Wood
- Georgia Young

**Please contact Bird Walk leader Jack Sanford at 566-2191 or birdsandtennis@hotmail.com if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.**
Opportunities

Volunteer Habitat Restoration

ARROYO HONDO
Contact: Sally Isaacson at 260-2252 or volunteer@sblandtrust.org
Sunday Oct. 6 9 am-12:30 pm
Sunday Nov. 3 9 am-12:30 pm

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE
Contact: Jonathan Appelbaum at jabblebaum@hotmail.com
Sunday Oct 13 9 am- noon
Saturday Nov 9 9 am-noon

Plover Project Docent Training
Training takes place at the West Campus Conference Center at Coal Oil Point Reserve
Training dates:
Thursday Oct 3rd 7:00-9:00 pm
Saturday Nov 2nd 9:00 - noon

Those interested should Contact: April Price, COPR conservation specialist at 893-3703 or copr.conservation@lifesci.ucsb.edu

CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION
San Marcos Foothills
No restoration dates are scheduled for October or November. For more information contact Linda Benedik at CIR 805-448-6203 or volunteer@cirweb.org

The location is the Audubon Aviary at the SB Museum of Natural History, a beautiful “back yard” where lots of birds flutter about.
EITS needs more volunteers to open up the aviary’s shutters for our raptors so they can get visual stimulation and fresh air more hours during the day. Shifts are between 10 am and 1 pm and can either be 1.5 hours or all three hours. Volunteers will also educate visitors about the birds.
EITS is also looking for afternoon volunteers to be trained to handle, care for and present the birds to visitors. Hours are from 1:30 pm to 4:10 pm once or twice per week. We also need a webmaster to maintain a website now under development and update our Facebook page.

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!
☐ Please do NOT share my contact information.

Introductory $20 (NAS subsequent yearly memberships $35 per year)
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

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 Jonathan Appelbaum at japplebm@hotmail.com or 858-344-6654 for Audubon’s COPR or Lake Los Carneros restoration projects. Contact the Land Trust for Arroyo Hondo Preserve: Volunteer Coordinator Sally Isaacson at 260-2252 or volunteer@sblandtrust.org. Contact Channel Islands Restoration for San Marcos Foothills or other project sites: Volunteer Coordinator Linda Benedik at volunteer@cirweb.org

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  

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS  

October  
Oct. 3 Plover Docent Training  
Oct. 4 Hidden Valley Friday Bird Walk  
Oct. 5 Devereux Slough Field Trip  
Oct. 6 Restore Arroyo Hondo Reserve  
Oct. 13 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve  
Oct. 23 Bats of Central California Program  
Oct.. 25 Rocky Nook Park Friday Birdwalk  

November  
Nov. 2 Plover Docent Training  
Nov. 3 Restore Arroyo Hondo Preserve  
Nov. 8 Stevens Park Friday Bird Walk  
Nov. 9 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve  
Nov. 22 Winchester Canyon Friday Bird Walk  
Nov. 23 Las Cruiztas Ranch Field Trip  
Nov. 27 Birds of Columbia Program  

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