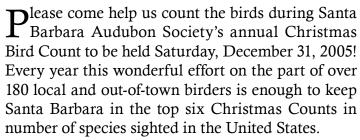
El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. Volume 44, Issue 3 December, 2005/January, 2006

We Need Your Help: 2005 Santa Barbara Christmas Bird Count! Saturday, December 31, 2005

by Joan E. Lentz



On the evening of Count Day, please join us at the compilation dinner at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in Fleischmann Auditorium. The potluck dinner begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. and the compilation countdown at 7:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite salad, main dish, or dessert to share. If your group includes out-of-towners, they may contribute drinks, bread, chips, etc. Please bring your own service.

This year's count compiler will be **Joan Lentz**, assisted by the wonderful Christmas Count Committee. **Joan Murdoch** has graciously agreed to take participant's sign-ups. Please call her at (805)969-5132) or email her at jrmurdoch@cox.net

Before the count, you can help us by scouting your neighborhood or anywhere else within the count circle for any of the interesting or unusual birds listed below. The Count Circle is—very generally—from Paradise Road on the north to San Ysidro Road on the east, 4 miles out to sea on the south, and the Ellwood area on the west. If you see any of these birds, please let one of the following know:

Joan Lentz (969-4397) or joanlentz@cox.net Karen Bridgers (964-1316) or k.bridgers@cox.net Dave Compton (965-3153) or davcompton@ earthlink.net

Also, this year we have the Christmas Count forms available for downloading on the **SB Audubon** website at:

www.rain.org/~audubon/

Christmas Bird Count Sign-Up Contact Joan Murdoch (969-5132) or jrmurdoch@cox.net

Help Us Locate These Birds Before the Count

Cattle Egret Blue-winged Teal Greater Scaup Mountain Quail Common Moorhen Virginia Rail Black-necked Stilt Lesser Yellowlegs Long-billed Curlew Common Snipe Thaver's Gull Greater Roadrunner Any owls other than Great Horned White-throated Swift Any Hummingbirds other than Anna's Sapsuckers other than Red-breasted

Horned Lark Any swallows Rock or Winter Wrens Common Raven Phainopepla Nashville Warbler Black-throated Gray Warbler Yellow Warbler Hermit Warbler Wilson's Warbler Any tanagers Any grosbeaks Lark Sparrow White-throated Sparrow Tri-colored Blackbird Any orioles

Lawrence's Goldfinch

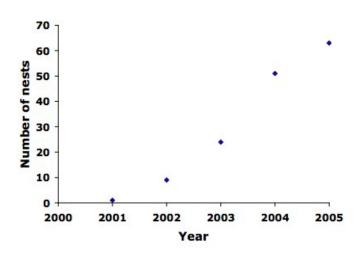
PLUS: any montane species such as:

Mountain Chickadee Red-breasted Nuthatch Brown Creeper Townsend's Solitaire Varied Thrush Pine Siskin Cassin's Finch

Plover Progress Report

by Cristina Sandoval, PhD. Director, Coal Oil Point Reserve

The number of nests is still increasing but likely to be peaking at Coal Oil Point Reserve. The number of nests is very high when compared to other beaches. We learned that the reserve is an excellent habitat for the plovers because it has a high abundance of kelp on the beach which, in turn, provides food for the many insects and beach hoppers that are food for the plovers. This work was done by Dr. Jenny Dugan who uses



the reserve as a field site. Another 20 research projects are in progress at the reserve. They will help us understand the ecology of California's coastal ecosystems and give us information to better protect them.

Year	# nests	nests	chicks
		hatched	fledged
1982	2	0	0
2001	1	1	1
2002	9	6	14
2003	24	16	40
2004	51	20	29
2005	63	16	47

Since we solved the problem of disturbance and trampling by people, the number of nests has increased dramatically. The solution was simple: plovers and people now share the space on the beach, with an area set aside for plovers and another area for beach recreation. Plovers could not nest on Sands Beach when chances were high that someone would accidentally step on their eggs.

Now that the problem of nest trampling by people is solved, we have another challenge: predation. The reserve is a fragment of natural habitat surrounded by increasing development. 50 acres of coastal scrub habitat is not large enough to support large predators such as mountain lions and coyotes. As a result, skunks, raccoons, foxes, opossums and even domestic cats, have increased in number. These mid-size predators feed heavily on plover nests and chicks, and on other bird nests as well. Restoring the open space around the reserve could increase the area of native habitat to nearly 300 acres and allow coyotes to return. Wildlife corridors between the reserve and the mountains

could provide a way for these animals to recolonize. This is a long-term dream but a feasible one. The Ellwood Devereux Plan is a first step in preserving land around the reserve in perpetuity.

UCSB students have a crucial role in preserving the plovers at the reserve. They account for 70% of the beach recreation and 50% of the docents who educate the public about the reserve. In 5 years, we have seen a large shift in the way students use

the beach. This beach was a place to party, litter, let dogs run loose, etc. But these activities were not compatible with a nature reserve. People can surf, jog, and sunbathe, but the reserve is now a world-class place to view wildlife. Birdwatchers from all over the world have been visiting the reserve to watch plovers with their nests and chicks. There is simply no other place like Coal Oil Point Reserve to watch snowy plovers.

The reserve is the first beach to ever recover a breeding site for Snowy Plovers. This is very important for two reasons. First, it shows that restoration of plover habitat can be done successfully in areas with beach recreation. Second, with only 10 major breeding sites left in the US (there used to be around 50 breeding sites), adding another site like the reserve helps decrease the risk of their extinction.

If plovers were to become extinct, Sands Beach would look denuded of life. Plovers encompass a large proportion of the shorebirds here. Plovers are prey to other animals such as hawks, owls, and mammals and also eat huge numbers of flies and hoppers. We do not know what their absence would do to the beach food chain.

The future of the Snowy Plovers is in our hands. Ultimately, it is up to us to decide if we are willing to share the beach with them. People love what they know and protect what they love. Coal Oil Point is a rare place where people can learn to appreciate the natural world. I work on educating people and protecting plovers because extinction is a sad and irreversible fate. Biodiversity is a unique element of our world, and it is so beautiful.

Santa Barbara Audubon Programs

All programs, unless otherwise noted, will take place at Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara. Free on-site parking. All programs, unless otherwise noted, 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.



Santa Barbara's Tidepool Treasures

Genevieve (Genny) Anderson Wednesday, December 7

Genny, who has taught Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography classes at Santa Barbara City College for over 30 years, will illustrate her program with images of the Santa Barbara tidepools and the individual species that can be found there. Even after 30 years, she still finds surprises with each tidepool excursion. Please join us in this exciting and beautiful journey to the California tidepools.

Wildflowers and Fire Followers

Rick Burgess Environmental Biologist and Botanist Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties encompass a number of unique habitats which support an unprecedented diversity of plant species. The region represents a melting pot of plants native to the coast ranges, Sierran montane forest, and the sagebrush scrub and pinyon-juniper woodland more typical of the Great Basin. Join Rick Burgess for this slide-illustrated lecture which covers some of the common and not-so-common wildflowers which occur in the region. Special emphasis will be given to "pyrophyte endemics" or fire followers as they are more often called. With spring on the way,



California Poppy by Rick Burgess

it's a good idea to review these plants so that we can impress our friends by being able to identify them!

Rick is an Environmental Biologist and Botanist and is currently employed by the City of Thousand Oaks as an Environmental Planner, a position he has held for twenty years. Associated with many environmental



Buttercup by Rick Burgess

groups, Rick is past president of the Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and has been a Director-At-Large of the state wide organization. He and his wife, Trisha, are currently working on the preparation of a book on the plants of Ventura County.

Why not come and see if Rick can identify that plant on the side of the trail you've been wondering about.

Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

Everyone is welcome! These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird lovers. 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.

Lake Cachuma Birding Boat Cruise Lake Cachuma County Park Saturday, December 10, 2005 10 a.m.-12 noon

Target Birds: Bald Eagle, White Pelican, Grebes, Common Loon, sea and water birds, Ducks, Osprey, Great-tailed Grackle, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, etc

Organization: Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Trip Leader: Liz Mason, Park Naturalist

Cost: \$15 for the boat trip payable on the boat.

\$6 per car for entering the Lake Cachuma County Park.

Limit: 30+ people You must call Jack Sanford (805) 566-2191 to make a reservation. Please give your name and phone number.

Directions: Take Hwy. 154 to Lake Cachuma County Park and park near the boat launching area and the Fishing and Tackle shop. To car pool, which is a good idea since there is a \$6 entrance fee, meet at the 5 Points Shopping Center near Carl's Junior at 9 a.m. Should be back by 2 p.m.

Don't miss this great opportunity to get out on the water with the Park Naturalist!

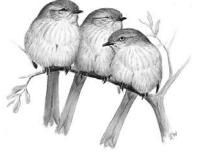
Figueroa Mountain Saturday, January 14, 2006 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (8 a.m. at carpool place, Drivers would appreciate \$5.00 gas money)

Target Birds: Steller's Jays, Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches, White-throated Swifts, Common Poorwill. Red Crossbill. White-headed Woodpecker, Western Tanager, Brown Creepers, Chipping Sparrows and perhaps a Williamson's Sapsucker.

Leader: **Dave Compton** 805-965-3153 davcompton@earthlink.net Reservations: none.

Directions: We will arrange car pooling at 8 am from Carls Jr. parking lot located in the Five Points Shopping Center off Hwy 101 and the La Cumbre exit. Turn north on La Cumbre Rd and turn left into the Five Points Shopping Center. Park near Carl's Jr.

Other Information: Bring lunch and water. Dress in layers. Some Adventure passes will be available. However if you own one, please bring it with you.



Wrentits roosting.

Drawing by Sophie Webb

Field Trips Do you have an idea for a field trip?

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 (December/January) Please Note Date Change

The Friday Bird Walks will now be on the **2nd and 4th Friday** of each month beginning this December. **8:30-10:30 a.m**. Please contact walk leader Jack Sanford 566-2191 or email jacksanford@hotmail.com if you have any questions or are interested in leading a future walk to your favorite birding place.

Friday, December 9, 2005 Santa Barbara Harbor Bird Walk

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Target Birds: Waterfowl, shorebirds Sponsor: SB Audubon Society

Leader: Jack Sanford

Directions: We will meet on the sidewalk next to the Sea Landing Sportfishing Building (301 W. Cabrillo Blvd.) Coming from the north on Hwy. 101, take the Castillo St. off ramp to Cabrillo Blvd. Coming from the south on Hwy. 101, take the Cabrillo Blvd. off ramp. All participants park on Bath St. or Mason St. (no time limit) or gamble on 90 minute parking on Cabrillo Blvd.

Friday, December 23, 2005 Andree Clark Bird Refuge

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Target Birds: Waterfowl, shorebirds Sponsor: SB Audubon Society

Leader: Jack Sanford

Directions: From the south on Hwy. 101 take the Cabrillo Blvd. off ramp. Turn left onto Cabrillo Blvd. and turn right on Los Patos Way. From the north on Hwy. 101 take the Los Patos Way off ramp. Everyone park in or around the Bird Refuge parking lot.

Friday, January 13, 2006 Coronado Dr & Devereux Creek Bird Walk

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Target Birds: Raptors, songbirds Sponsor: SB Audubon Society

Leader: Jack Sanford

Directions: From Hwy. 101 take the Glen Annie/ Storke Rd off ramp and head south. Turn right on Hollister Ave. and turn left onto Coronado Drive. Park at the end of the street.

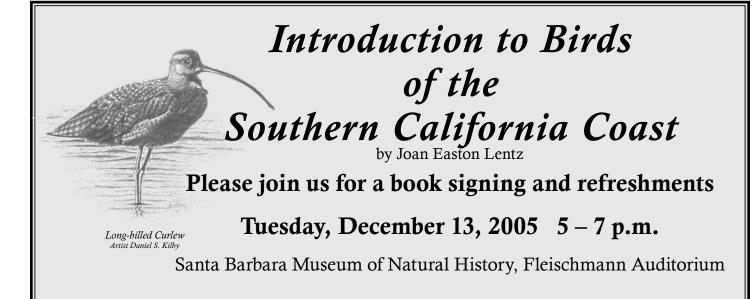
Friday, January 27, 2006 Goleta Sewage Treatment Plant

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Target Birds: Shorebirds Sponsor: SB Audubon Society

Leader: Jack Sanford

Directions: From Hwy. 101 take the Fairview off ramp and head towards the ocean. Pass the Santa Barbara Air Port entrance. The Goleta Sewage Treatment Plant is across the street from the Santa Barbara Airport. Park in Treatment Plant parking lot



Field Trip Report Condor Field Trip Of October 29, 2005 At Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge By Jared Dawson

Steve Ferry made the necessary arrangements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Jack Sanford organized and led a group of 26 of us to the Hopper Mountain N.W.R. north of Fillmore on a beautiful day. Those of us who hadn't seen Condors before (20 of us) were particularly thrilled at the sight of 8 as we pulled up to our first stop. Throughout our stay we had many views of these magnificent birds. One was overhead at close range enabling views of plumage details. At another stop we were able to scope 12 birds in 3 trees. This represents a significant fraction of the world's California Condor population (over 4 %!).

Dan Tappe, the USFWS representative, guided us to the various locations and gave us the history and other interesting facts about the Condor progam. He took us down to the Ranch House to eat our lunch. Stephanie, one of the interns, showed us how she logged in individual birds using radio telemetry.

A regular duty is to monitor these birds for lead poisoning. Hunters using lead bullets who have wounded a deer that escapes and later dies, or leave the guts of the kill above ground, also leave behind lead fragments that are ingested by these birds. The birds need to be captured again and treated for this lethal condition. **Steve Ferry**, who has watched Condor nests here, told us that State Assembly member **Pedro Nava** has introduced a bill (AB 1002) that will protect the California condor and other

susceptible wildlife from the ongoing threat of lead poisoning.

Somehow, watching these huge Condors, it is easier to imagine the millennia that birds have been flying free than it is viewing a warbler. They seem to pull the weight of natural history behind their 8 foot wingspans. Most instructive, to get a sense of size, were views of Red-Tailed Hawks and Kestrels in proximity to the Condor.

We would like to thank the following people who generously donated their vehicles and drove the rest of us: Bill Pollock, Nancy Shepherd, Susy Barrymore, Sally Kitson and Jack Sanford.

A partial list of birds seen or heard within the Hopper Mountain NWR during our visit:

California Condor Red Tailed Hawk American Kestrel Northern Harrier Peregrine Falcon White-throated Swift Acorn Woodpecker Northern Flicker Black Phoebee Says Phoebe Common Raven American Crow Western Scrub Jay Wrentit American Pipit Yellow-rumped Warbler Spotted Towhee Lark Sparrow White-crowned Sparrow Red-winged Blackbird Western Meadowlark

National Audubon Society Membership Application

(new members only)

Includes membership in National Audubon & Santa Barbara Audubon Society (C13 7XCH) and subscriptions to Audubon magazine & El Tecolote, the SBAS newsletter

and subscriptions to Audubon magazine & El Tecolote , the SBAS newsletter			
□ \$20 Introductor	y Membership	□ \$15 Senior (62+) or Student	
Make check payable to: National Audubon Society Mail to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society 5679 Hollister Ave., Suite 5B Goleta, CA 93117	Address City		

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 Julie Love at jlove@lifesci.ucsb. edu or 453-4840 or Darlene Chirman at dchirman@rain. org or 692-2008.

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: Jane Murray

Sunday December 4 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday January 8 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: Julie Love

Saturday December 3 9 a.m.-12 noon Saturday January 21 9 a.m.-12 noon

Bird Walks

Do you have a special birding location and would like to share?

We are always looking for people interested in helping coordinate or lead bird walks. If you have a suggestion or are interested in helping and meeting some fellow birders, contact **Jack Sanford** (805) 566-2191.

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:

No December training January 4

Training Schedule:

Those interested should call **Jennifer Stroh** to register at 880-1195.

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 siferry@cox.net. The **SBAS** e-mail mailing list will only be used for **SBAS** business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas Bird Count Saturday
December 31

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!

Soma Aloia	Susan L. Downing	Virginia Nixon	Bob & Dorothy Sewell
Cathi Arnold	Susan Ellis	Virginia O. Norris	Ms. Penelope Slade
Sandy Badone	Sally Gill	Gail Osherenko	Jay Stuart
Marjorie Bayless	Ms. Cindy M. Golson	Beth Palmer	Beverly Troon
Chris Benton	Edwin Grat	Ms. Doris Palmer	Jamie Uyehara
Ronald J. Boorman	Jeff Hanson	Bruce & Vicki Pate	Karen Van Horn
Ms. Kate Buenau	Frank G. Heath	Lester W Pixler	Dorothy H. Vea
Annette Burden	Michael J. Jurasius	Noah Pollaczek	Amy Vukovic
Lorraine Cass	Michael Kearney	Mary A. Ramey	Jennifer C. Wells
Mr. & Mrs. N. B. Chamberlain	James & Diana Kennett	Charles Rickershauser	Roberta Williams
Dorothy A. Chasse	Charles P. Malone	Nicole Waller Ruskey	Irene Winsauer
Paul Collins	Ronald Mathews	Pauline Schafer	Wendy Wittl
Mr. Bill Cornfield	Francis & Lisa Mathieu	Ms. Charlotte Schmidt	Kay Woolsey
Chas D. Coutts	Ben McCurdy	Barb Schmutzer	Judith H. Writer
Jill Davis	Barbara Millett	David & Connie Schott	Oran R. Young

Calendar of Events

Check our website for any changes or late additions to our Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs:

http://www.rain.org/~audubon/

Dec. 3 Restore Arroyo Hondo

Dec. 4 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve

Dec. 7 Program: S.B. Tide Pool Treasurers

Dec. 9 S.B. Harbor Bird Walk

Dec. 10 Lake Cachuma Field Trip

Dec. 23 Bird Refuge Bird Walk

Dec. 31 Christmas Bird Count

Jan. 4 Plover Training

Jan. 8 Restore Arroyo Hondo

Jan. 13 Devereux Creek Bird Walk

Jan. 14 Figueroa Mountain Field Trip

Jan. 21 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve

Jan. 25 Program: Wildflower

Jan. 27 Goleta Treatment Plant Bird Walk

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, Andy Lentz, Editor 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B Goleta, CA 93117

or email: sbasnews@cox.net Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

SBAS - July 2005/June 2006

(805) 964-1468, audubon@rain.org http://www.rain.org/~audubon/

OFFICERS

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Treasurer	Ginny Turner	964-6384	vturner10@cox.net

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Programs Chair	John O'Brien	962-7799	mlbm@cox.net
Conservation Chair	Julie Love	453-4840	jlove@lifesci.ucsb.edu
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			antiochsb.edu
At Large-Outreach	John Walker	570-7864	johnlee@umail.ucsb.edu
At Large-Outreach	Julie Kummel	964-9444	jkummel@rain.org
At Large-Outreach	Natasha Carr	967-1383	tahi@cox.net

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster: Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@cox.net
Eyes In The Sky: Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	pelican7@cox.net
Snowy Plover Docent Prog: Jennifer Stroh	880-1195	stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu
Hospitality: Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
Report Rare Birds: Karen Bridgers	964-1316	k.bridgers@cox.net
Hear Rare Bird Report	964-8240	

Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Members are welcomed to attend. Call SBAS office to verify dates and times. FAX: 967-7718. Cover art by Daryl Harrison.

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

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