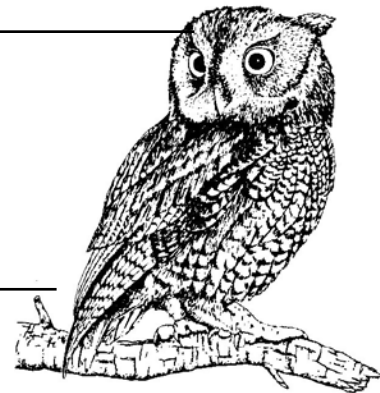


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 45, Issue 3

December 2006/January 2007



2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2006 by Joan Lentz

Please come help us count the birds during Santa Barbara Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count to be held **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2006!** Every year, this wonderful effort on the part of over 180 local and out-of-town birders keeps Santa Barbara in the top five Christmas Counts in the United States in number of species sighted!

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 CBC committee. Joan Murdoch has graciously agreed to take participants' sign-ups. **PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL JOAN MURDOCH TO SIGN-UP.** Joan is at jrmurdoch@cox.net or you can call her at 969-5132.

Before the count, you can help us by scouting your neighborhood or anywhere else within the Count Circle for the following interesting or unusual birds. The Count Circle is—very roughly—from Paradise Road on the north to 4 miles out to sea on the south, and San Ysidro Road on the east to the Ellwood area on the west.

Cattle Egret
Blue-winged Teal
Greater Scaup
Mountain Quail
Common Moorhen
Virginia Rail
Black-necked Stilt
Lesser Yellowlegs
Long-billed Curlew
Common Snipe
Thayer's Gull
Greater Roadrunner

Any owls other than Great Horned
White-throated Swift
Any non-Anna's Hummingbirds
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, Townsend's Solitaire, Varied Thrush, Brown Creeper, Pine Siskin or Cassin's Finch

If you see any of the above or know of any other interesting birds, please let one of the following know:

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

Also, this year we have all the Christmas Count forms available for downloading on the Audubon website, which is: <http://www.rain.org/~audubon/> Check it out!

If you need forms mailed to you or have difficulty getting them off the computer, Joan Lentz will be glad to mail them to you. Thanks!

Note from the President--

I am honored to be re-elected President of the chapter. I am so impressed with all the conservation, science monitoring, and environmental education that the chapter accomplishes. These community benefits are possible because so many of our members are active volunteers in chapter projects. I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who serves or has served as a Snowy Plover docent, Eyes In The Sky volunteer, restoration volunteer, participated in the Christmas Bird Count, monitored White-Tailed Kites, served on the board or committees, or a myriad of other tasks for the chapter. I'd like to extend appreciation from the Board to our outgoing Hospitality volunteers, Don & Florence Stivers, for many years of gracious service of refreshments at our monthly programs.

In the last year we have established the Endowment Fund for the chapter. Charter contributing members to the Tecolote Circle were guests at Rincon Creek Farm for a bird walk with Joan Lentz and an EITS presentation.

The chapter has recently received funding from the UCSB Shoreline Preservation Fund for habitat restoration at Coal Oil Point Reserve. The Venoco Community Partnership is providing support for the Snowy Plover Docent Coordinator. Audubon California has funded Meet Your Wild Neighbors for 2nd and 3rd grade 5-week series with live birds, lessons and a culminating field trip. Chapter members have contributed matching funds

to expand these programs and improve our chances at receiving grant awards.

The MAX Project partnership with the S.B. Museum of Natural History is progressing well. New volunteers are providing Sunday afternoon programs at the Museum. The mews, or facility to house the birds at the Museum, is in the permitting phase. You have probably received our Annual Appeal letter recently--I urge you to help with our capital campaign to fund the MAX Project--for the mews construction and program support.

Max has been recovered! As you may have heard, Max, our Great-horned Owl, was lost. He was startled by a loud noise just as Gabriele was removing his leash to allow him to fly into her house. A pair of Great-horned Owls who have established their territory in the area of Max's home appear to have successfully excluded him for 12 days. Because Max imprinted on humans when an orphaned owlet, he is not safe in the wild and not accustomed to hunting for his food. Thanks to everyone who helped in the recovery effort.

I hope to see many of you at the December 6 program, when we will have a Social "Hour" prior to the program, or at the Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 30.

Happy Birdwatching!
Darlene Chirman

Max's Return

Hi Birders and Friends,

Yesterday, on day 10, I had pretty well resigned myself about life's ups and downs, and started getting back to catching up on some of my other responsibilities. I even began to feel a sense of relief at doing something else besides listening for the phone, sleeping outside, and looking/listening for Max.

This morning at 7AM I received a phone call from a neighbor just 2.5 blocks down the street from me. "We think your owl is here." Tiredly I asked what made him think that, to please explain.

"We saw this owl sitting on a chair on our back porch this morning. Then the crows saw him, and he flew into a pine tree nearby. He has some leather things around his legs."

My antennas shot up and I went into adrenaline mode. Arriving about 7 minutes later, I was led to a pine tree in a back yard. About ten feet up on a branch was.....MAX.

As soon as he saw me he began begging like a baby and chattering excitedly. I had barely lifted up my hand to offer him when he flew down, but fell off the glove somewhat



Reunion. photo by Ray Kolbe.

weakly. I picked him back up and, for the first time in our eight years, got to hug and kiss him all over without him protesting and clawing me in utter disgust. As a matter of fact he chitter/chattered with pleasure.

The wonderful folks who found him watched with pure delight. Max and I walked to our Honda Element, Max hopped eagerly onto his permanently installed perch, and we drove home.

He is thin and weakened, but overall in one piece, and definitely glad to be home. I'm treating him for dehydration/emaciation, but he already managed to eat

a frozen mouse. Mr. Owl Eyes spotted it in a container with food thawing for our other raptors. Geez, he's always one step ahead of me. Hopefully his system will be able to handle it.

MAX IS BACK!

My thanks to all who came out to help look for MAX.

Gabriele

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.

**Travels with a Tortoise
Through Zambia and Namibia
Steve Seward,
Zimbabwean Professional Guide and Ornithologist
&
Christina Bollinger,
Santa Barbara-based photographer
Wednesday, December 6, 2006**



Steve Seward and **Christina Bollinger** have spent the last eight months touring through Central and Southern Africa in their "Tortoise", a 1999 Landrover equipped with a deepfreeze, rooftop tent and portable "office". They are passionate naturalists and photographers. Steve and Christina will take you on a whirlwind tour of Zambia's game-rich wilderness and into the fascinating deserts of Namibia through South Africa's Kruger National Park and the beauty of the wine lands in the Western Cape. Come join this fun, informative and inspiring (we hope) photo safari of birds, bees, butterflies and animals (some with sharp pointy teeth).

SBAS Holiday Social

Join us at 7 p.m. before the December 6 program

We'll socialize and nibble on finger foods. We invite you to bring a plate of snacks, cookies.etc. to share. Beverages will be provided

Meet our new Hospitality Volunteers: **Sylvelin Edgerton** and **Nancy Rohrer**
A big thanks to **Don & Florence Stivers** for long service as Hospitality Volunteers!



The Other-Worldly Galapagos Islands Roy Poucher Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Giant Tortoises, Flightless Cormorants, Galapagos Penguins, Blue-footed Boobies, Lava Gulls plus many endemic birds, and unusual flora, fauna and landscapes. All these and more comprise Roy Poucher's photographic journey to the enchanting Galapagos Islands. Hike over recent lava flows. View gaudy pink Greater Flamingos foraging in natural pools. Plunge into the ocean with iridescent fish. Stroll uninhabited black sand beaches. Learn about the finches that gave rise to Darwin's theory of evolution. Enjoy the courtship rituals of the Great Frigate birds inflating their bright red pouches, the brilliant Sally Lightfoot crabs dancing among the rocks, and the dinosaur-like iguanas sunning themselves on lava rocks. Come to this fun presentation for the entire family! The Galapagos Islands will amaze you with their bio-diversity

Roy Poucher has been a Sea and Sage Audubon trip leader and field trip assistant in their introductory birding classes for 14 years. He has led repeated multi-day trips to the Eastern Sierra, Santa Barbara, Yosemite,

Arizona and Texas. His birding Big Years (1996 in CA; 1998 in the ABA Area) were major accomplishments (472 and 677 species respectively). In 2003 he designed and led spring warbler trips to the Upper Texas Coast and to the Great Lakes. In 2005 he did the same for shorebird trips to Texas (April) and the East Coast (August). His bird tour company, Bird Odysseys, has recently taken groups to Costa Rica, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Trips to Africa and Costa Rica are in the planning stage.



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

\$20 Introductory 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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

Everyone is welcome! 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 jacksanford@hotmail.com for details or questions.

Lake Cachuma Birding Boat Cruise Lake Cachuma County Park Saturday December 9, 2006, 10 a.m.-12 noon (9:45 check-in time at boat dock)

Target Birds: Bald Eagles, White Pelicans, Grebes, Common Loons, sea and water birds, Ducks, Ospreys, Great-tailed Grackles, Peregrine Falcons, etc.

Trip Leader: **Liz Mason**, Park Naturalist.

Cost: \$15 for the boat trip payable on the boat and \$6 per car for entering the Lake Cachuma County Park.

Limit: 30+ people. You must call Jack Sanford (805) 566-2191 or email jacksanford@hotmail.com to make a reservation on or before Wednesday December 6th. Please give your name and phone number, and Jack will confirm.

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—a good idea since there is a \$6 entrance fee—meet at the 5 Points Shopping Center near Carl's Jr. at 9 a.m. Should be back by 1 or 2 p.m.

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



*Double-crested Cormorant
Artist Daniel S. Kilby*



*Hooded Merganser
Artist Daniel S. Kilby*

Hollister Ranch (near Gaviota) Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (7:30 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.
Leader: **Guy Tingos**

Reservations are required, and we are limited to 5 vehicles (approximately 25 people). Please call or email Jack Sanford (566-2191 or jacksanford@hotmail.com) to reserve your place. Deadline for sign ups is Tuesday, Jan 16. Please let Jack know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold. He will confirm.

Directions: We will car pool from the Five Points Shopping Center near Carl's Jr. at 7:30 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. Wear comfortable shoes. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful.

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

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. 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.*

Santa Barbara Harbor **Friday, Dec. 8, 2006**

Target Birds: Waterfowl, Belted Kingfishers, Peregrine Falcons, Gulls and shorebirds.

Directions: 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. Park on Bath or Mason St. (no time limit) or in the 90 minute parking on Cabrillo Blvd. We will meet on the sidewalk next to the Sea Landing Sport Fishing Building (301 W. Cabrillo Blvd.)

Andree Clark Bird Refuge **Friday, Dec. 22, 2006**

Target Birds: Waterfowl, shorebirds

Directions: From the south on Hwy. 101, take the Cabrillo Blvd. off ramp. Turn right on Los Patos Way. From the north on Hwy. 101, take the Los Patos Way off ramp. Park in or around the Bird Refuge parking lot.



Sora

Artist Daniel S. Kilby

Coronado Dr. and Devereux Creek

Friday, Jan. 12, 2007

Target Birds: Raptors, songbirds.

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

Goleta Sewage Treatment Plant **Friday Jan. 26, 2007**

Target Birds: Shorebirds.

Directions: Heading south on Hwy. 101, take the Fairview Ave. off ramp and head towards the ocean. Fairview Ave. becomes Fowler St. The Treatment Plant is across the street from the Santa Barbara Airport. Heading north on Hwy. 101, take Ward Memorial Blvd. Take the last turn off before UCSB to Fowler St. (S.B. Airport). Turn right on Fowler. The Treatment Plant is on your right. Park in the parking lot and sign in at the office.

Attention! Attention! All Birders.

Bonus Bird Walk/Field Trip

Sat. Dec. 2, 2006, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
(7:45 at car-pool location)

Where: Ocean Park in Lompoc, followed by Surf and Santa Rosa County Park.

When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006

Leader: This will be an Audubon Bird Walk lead by **Jack Sanford** unless we can get a qualified volunteer to lead us and than it will become an Audubon Field Trip.

Target Birds: Loons, Terns, Gulls, Grebes, Ducks, Hawks, Sandpipers, Sanderlings, Scaups, Surf Scoters, Yellowlegs, Sparrows, etc.

Agenda: We will bird Ocean Park and general area of the Santa Ynez River (9 -11 or 11:30). Visit Surf and walk the beach. (11:30- 12:00). Drive to Santa Rosa County Park off Santa Rosa Road where we will have lunch and bird the area (12:00-1 or 2 p.m.). Return home by 3 p.m.

P.S.: When we reach Lompoc we will stop at the corner of C St. and Olive St. and try to spot a Ferruginous Hawk in a tall pine tree on the southwest corner.

Directions: We will car pool from the Five Points Shopping Center near Carl's Jr. at 7:45 a.m. (\$6.00 gas money to drivers.) Take Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 1 to Lompoc. Turn left on Ocean Ave and follow it to the entrance to Ocean Park. It is 60 miles from S.B. City to Ocean Park.

Dress in layers since it can be cool by the ocean. Bring water and a snack or lunch.

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 ltvolunteer@yahoo.com or 684-4405. For Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact **Tara Longwell** for site at longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 252-4903. or **Darlene Chirman** at dchirman@rain.org or 692-2008.*

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Jane Murray**
 Sunday December 3 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Sunday January 7 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Tara Longwell**
 No December restoration
 Saturday January 27 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:

December 2
 January 13

Training Schedule:

Tour is 10-11 a.m.
 Training is 11 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

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 sjferry@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 is scheduled for
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2006.

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!

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| H. E. Bardel | Daniel R. Herlinger | Ms. Margaret Anne McElhi | Beth Russell |
| Juliet Bischoff | Carol Hiles | Mrs. Stanley Mendes | William Russell |
| Joan Carson | Barbara Krantz | Nancy J. Miller | Merlyn Sheets |
| Joyce Chernick | Vivien La France | Barbara Miller | Sharon Sherman |
| Don Coombs | N. MacDonald | J. Moyer | Alexander Shirokow |
| T. E. Darcus | Dorothy Mainz | Helen L. Nordhoff | Jeff Sowle |
| Clark Easter | Judy Malmgren | Robin Norwood | Ruth Spevak |
| Jean Foster | Ms. Pat Manning | Joe Rajkovich | Nancy Stevens |
| Kiaora Fox | Ria S. Marsh | Christine Riesenfeld | Brian Wightman |
| Audrey Gaither | Elizabeth Matthews | D. R. Rosenthal | |
-

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. 2 Plover Training
- Dec. 2 Lompoc Ocean Park Bird Walk
- Dec. 3 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Dec. 6 Program: Travels with a Tortoise
- Dec. 8 SB Harbor Bird Walk
- Dec. 9 Cachuma Lake Field Trip
- Dec. 22 Bird Refuge Bird Walk
- Dec. 30 **Christmas Bird Count**
- Jan. 7 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Jan. 12 Coronado Dr. Bird Walk
- Jan. 13 Plover Training
- Jan. 20 Hollister Ranch Field Trip
- Jan. 24 Program: Galapagos Islands
- Jan. 26 Goleta Sewage Plant Bird Walk
- Jan. 27 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve

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 2006/June 2007

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

OFFICERS

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Secretary	Susan Lentz	968-6011	salentz@cox.net
Treasurer	Ginny Turner	964-6384	vtturner10@cox.net

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Publicity Chair	Ben Shalant	448-4447	kagawaben@hotmail.com
At Large-Outreach	Julie Kummel	964-9444	jkummel@rain.org At
Large-Outreach	John Walker	570-7864	johnlee@umail.ucsb.edu
At Large-Outreach	Margo Kenney	963-3011	margo@margokenney.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster: Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@cox.net
Eyes In The Sky: Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	eyes-in-the-sky@cox.net
Snowy Plover Docent Prog: Jennifer Stroh	880-1195	stroh@lifesci.ucsb.edu
Hospitality: Sylvelin Edgerton	964-1658	sylvelin@earthlink.net
Nancy Rohrer	687-7587	rohrer_n@yahoo.com
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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El Tecolote
 Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
 Goleta, CA 93117

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