

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 46, Issue 3

December 2007 — January 2008



Santa Barbara Audubon Society's 2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2008 by Joan Lentz

Please come help us count the birds during Santa Barbara Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count to be held SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2008! Every year, this wonderful effort on the part of over 170 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:

Cattle Egret	Any owls	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	other than Great Horned	Yellow Warbler
Greater Scaup	White-throated Swift	Hermit Warbler
Mountain Quail	Any non-Anna's Hummingbirds	Wilson's Warbler
Common Moorhen	Sapsuckers	Any tanagers
Virginia Rail	(other than Red-breasted)	Any grosbeaks
Black-necked Stilt	Horned Lark	Lark Sparrow
Lesser Yellowlegs	Any swallows	White-throated Sparrow
Long-billed Curlew	Rock or Winter Wrens	Tri-colored Blackbird
Common Snipe	Common Raven	any orioles
Thayer's Gull	Phainopepla	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Greater Roadrunner	Nashville Warbler	

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!

Thanks, Volunteers

by Callie Bowdish

As part of Audubon's end of the year report Santa Barbara Audubon is required to submit a tally of the volunteer hours. This year's tally was over 9,000 hours. This number represents the efforts of many generous people who help with the science, education, habitat restoration, and conservation activities that encompass Audubon's programs.

Audubon board members and committees help to oversee these programs and the administrative needs



Glenn Olson, Executive Director, Audubon California, presents award to Darlene Chirman, SBAS Board President, for her years of service and involvement with habitat restoration and conservation

Photo: Audubon California

of Audubon. **Darlene Chirman**, the Board President, was recognized this year at the Audubon California State Assembly for her years of service and involvement with habitat restoration and conservation. Volunteers on Audubon restoration projects restore native plants in wetland and foothill areas such as the Goleta and Devereux Slough and Arroyo Hondo. Wildlife benefits from the results of these efforts, and people enjoy the beauty of the many improvements. Volunteers also attended public policy meetings and worked with other conservation groups on issues of importance to bird habitat.

520 hours were spent on the Christmas Bird Count. **Joan Lentz, Joan Murdoch, Bill Pollock** and many others helped to make this a great event. The data collected throughout the United States is a significant contribution to biological research. The long-term Audubon bird data helps to see trends and patterns. Currently Audubon

biologists are using it to predict the effect of climate change on bird distribution. Science can contribute to policies that help to protect biodiversity.

The Snowy Plover Program is a collaborative effort with approximately 3,800 hours of volunteer time contributing to its success. Volunteers, **Steve Ferry** and **Ben Shalant**, have been regulars down on the beach educating the public and helping with many aspects of the program. Fence maintenance is one of the chores that helps to discourage the disturbance of the Plovers and other shorebirds. A greater understanding of Snowy Plovers, shorebirds, and the dune habitat is a bonus for people who assist **Jennifer Stroh**, the program director, and **Cris Sandoval**, the Coal Oil Point Reserve director. **Melissa Kelly** helped oversee the bird nesting box program and the monitoring of bird island. These are programs that along with the Snowy Plover program help to encourage breeding success and to keep nesting success records.

The Eyes in the Sky (EITS) educational program had over 2,200 hours of volunteer time. Daily bird care and training, fund raising and helping with bringing the birds to events and schools were part of their activities. **Meet your Wild Neighbors** is part of the education program that delights children and introduces them to the world of birds. **John O'Brien** and **Margo Kenney** were constant supporters of this program run by **Gabriele Drozdowski** and it's many helpers. **Julie Kummel** the outreach committee chair was one of the many helpers with the first Santa Barbara Audubon auction. This auction raised money toward new housing for the five **EITS** birds at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. **EITS** is a



Margo Kenney with American Kestrel.

Photo Callie Bowdish

wonderful program, and, like all of Audubon programs it needs and depends on volunteers.

Santa Barbara Audubon has two important volunteers that help keep the members informed. **Bobbie Offen** is the webmaster who posts information on the web that Audubon committee chairs send to her. **Andy Lentz** is the newsletter editor that fits all the news into a newsletter that Santa Barbara Audubon members receive every other month. Committee chair volunteers for field trips, **Jack Sanford**, and programs, **John O'Brien**, announce their well received programs through these venues.

Thanks goes to all the volunteers that together contributed more than 9,000 hours of their precious time to Audubon. Membership and donations to Santa Barbara Audubon help with these programs and volunteers make them possible. There are many ways to get involved, please contact any board members or committee chairs if you would like to be a volunteer.

Enjoy a tour of Coal Oil Point Reserve

Trained tour leaders will take you on a walk through a few of the Reserve's ecosystems from sandy beach to the Devereux Slough to a restored coastal dune system. Learn about the Reserve's current restoration projects and its cultural and geologic history while identifying rare and endangered species, such as the Western Snowy Plover, White Tailed Kite, Ventura Marsh Milkvetch, and the Wandering Skipper butterfly-that make their home at Coal Oil Point.

Tours occur monthly on the first or second Saturday from 9am – 11am and the third Sunday from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Tours for school, community or department groups are available by appointment. Tours are free and open to the public.

Registration for tours is required. Please contact **Nicole Cerra** at (805) 284-8579 or ncerra@gmail.com to register.

THANK YOU, TRIP LEADERS

By Jack Sanford

Audubon wants to acknowledge and thank its trip leaders who generously volunteer their time and expertise to lead our bird walks and field trips. They provide educational outdoor experiences for many novice and advanced birders throughout the year. Many of them have been leading these enjoyable trips for years. We are very grateful to each and every one of them:

Jared Dawson	Liz Mason Gaspar
Jeff Hanson	Jim Greaves
Peggy Kearns	Dave Compton
Paul Keller	Mark Holmgren
Rob Lindsay	Wendie Kruthers
Cruz Phillips	Joel Condren
Guy Tingos	Bill Uomini
Ken Wolf	Mary Dee Thompson
Martin Ruane	



*Rob Lindsay leading an Audubon Bird walk.
Photo: Callie Bowdish*

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!

Ms. Linda Akens
Mrs. Candace C. Corbani
Ms. Joan Fogel
Ms. Barbara Greenlee
D. H. Vonwittenburg
Mr. John Albert
Ms. Chelsea Bidlow

Mr. Benjamin B. Burns
Ms. Christine Dora
Ms. B Dwolpe
Ms. Roberta S. Eby
Mr. Harry Haigh
Robert & Kathryn Henry
Mike & Jen Hill

Mr. Watson B. Hovis
Sandy Kuttler
Dr. Robert Renehan
Ms. Michele Tornes
Mr. David Honeyman
Mrs. Georgina M. Howen



All From An Egg The Origins Of The Santa Barbara Museum Of Natural History

Krista Fahy
Associate Curator Vertebrate Zoology

Wednesday, December 5, 2007
(Please note special date)

Do you know which local institution got its start as the Museum of Comparative Oology? Come join Associate Curator Krista Fahy as she reveals the history, secrets and jewels of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's egg collection.

Krista started with the Vertebrate Zoology department in 1994. She currently manages the museum's extensive avian collections and works to provide access to the data held within to researchers and naturalists around the world.

As a doctoral candidate at UCSB, Krista has studied the habitat characteristics and nest preferences of central coast Snowy Plovers. In her lack of free time she enjoys birding, travel and antique natural history art.

Lives and Times of Our Local Woodpeckers

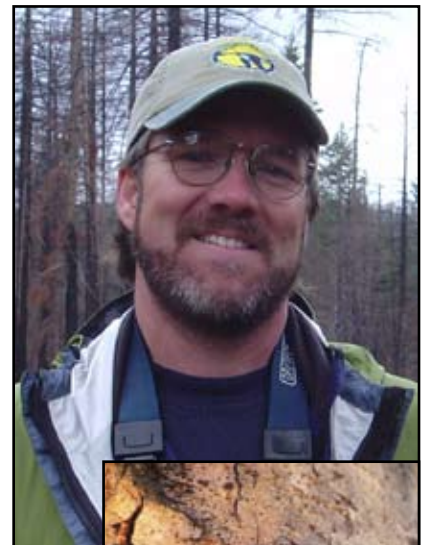
Steve Shunk
Naturalist and Woodpecker Specialist

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

From the western Transverse Ranges north of Santa Barbara to the Laguna Mountains west of Anza Borrego, nine species of woodpeckers hold year-round territories in largely complimentary habitats. Winter brings an influx of flickers and sapsuckers to the region, when some of the resident species wander a bit. Some of Southern California's local woodpecker populations have developed uniquely specialized lifestyles suited to their preferred islands of habitat, and at least one endemic subspecies inhabits the region's pine forests.

Join Oregon naturalist and woodpecker specialist Steve Shunk as he interprets the lives and times of our local woodpeckers. Steve will discuss natural history, adaptation, and hybridization among our resident and migratory woodpecker species, as well as potential identification challenges.

For the last 10 years, Steve has studied woodpeckers on the east slope of Oregon's Cascade Mountains, and he is nearing completion of the Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America. He leads birding tours across western North America through his company, Paradise Birding, and he coordinates bird surveys for various agencies and organizations from his home base in Central Oregon. Steve co-founded the East Cascades Bird Conservancy and served as its first President. He also co-founded the Oregon Birding Trails project and coordinated its flagship project, the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail.



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 8, 2007,
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. \$6 per car for entering the Lake Cachuma County Park.

Limit: 35 + people. You must call or email Jack Sanford ((805) 566-2191 or jacksanford@hotmail.com) to make a reservation on or before Thursday, Dec 7. Please give your name and phone number so Jack can 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. We should be back by 1-2 p.m. Don't miss this great opportunity to get out on the lake with the Park Naturalist!

Hollister Ranch (near Gaviota)
Saturday, January 19, 2008,
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

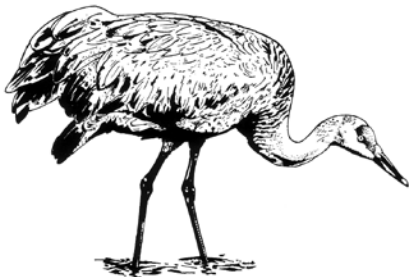
Reservations are required, and we are **limited to 25 people** (five vehicles). Please call or email Jack Sanford (805-566-2191 or jacksanford@hotmail.com) on or before January 16 to reserve your place. Please let Jack know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold.

Directions: We will car pool at 7:00 a.m. from the parking lot near Carl's Jr in the Five Points Shopping Center off State Street. (\$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.

Save this Date!

Sandhill Crane Overnight Field Trip!
Saturday, February 9, and Sunday, February 10, 2008



For the third year, **Jack Sanford** will lead a visit to the **Kern National Wildlife Refuge** (over 50 species nest here), the **Pixley National Wildlife Refuge** (Sandhill Cranes), and **Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park** (Burrowing Owls). All three locations are between Bakersfield and Fresno. It will be an overnight trip with camping facilities available. We will return Sunday evening. Check the Feb./Mar. issue for more information.

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. 14

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. 28

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.

Coronado Dr. and Devereux Creek Friday, Jan. 11

Target Birds: Raptors, songbirds plus Monarch Butterflies.

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. 25

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.

Bonus Saturday Holiday Special Bird Walk

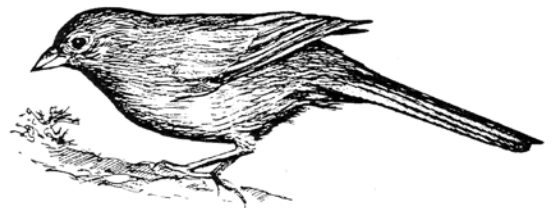
Where: Stow Grove County Park

When: Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007

Time: 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Target Birds: Townsend's Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-shouldered Hawk, Pine Siskin, California Towhee, Scarlet Tanager (?), etc.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Fairview off-ramp and head towards the mountains. Turn left on Cathedral Oaks Road. Turn left on La Patera Lane and left again into the Stow Grove County Park parking lot.



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 2 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Sunday January 6 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: **Tara Longwell**

Saturday December 8 9 a.m.-12 noon

Saturday January 26 9 a.m.-12 noon

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 _____

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 8

January 5

Training Schedule:

Tour is 9-11 a.m.

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

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

Birding Festival Information

Morro Bay Winter Annual Bird Festival January 18-21, 2008

For more information about the Festival, check out our website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call 805-772-4677.

San Diego Bird Festival February 6 -11, 2008 Kenn Kaufman Keynote Speaker Trip & Workshop leader

For a Festival brochure and registration information contact us at: sandiegoaudubon.org or 619-682-7200

Please Save Saturday, January 5, 2008, Christmas Bird Count!

Details and sign up information on page 1.

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

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	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Dec. 5	Program: All From An Egg
Dec. 8	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Dec. 8	Lake Cachuma Field Trip
Dec. 8	Plover Training
Dec. 14	Santa Barbara Harbor Bird Walk
Dec. 22	Stow Grove Bird Walk
Dec. 28	Bird Refuge Bird Walk
Jan. 5	Christmas Bird Count
Jan. 5	Plover Training
Jan. 6	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Jan. 11	Coronado/Devereux Bird Walk
Jan. 19	Hollister Ranch Field Trip
Jan. 23	Program: Woodpeckers
Jan. 25	Goleta Treatment Plant Bird Walk
Jan. 26	Restore Coal Oil Point
Feb.9-10	Sandhill Crane Field Trip

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 2007/June 2008

(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	Dave Messick	969-4373	dmessick@kellog.northwestern.edu

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips Chair	Jack Sanford	566-2191	jacksanford@hotmail.com
Programs Chair	John O'Brien	962-7799	mlbm@cox.net
Conservation Chair	Steve Ferry	967-5162	sjferry@cox.net
Education Chair	Patricia Malone	569-1993	pamalone@verizon.net
Science Chair	Kris Burnell*	683-4868	krisburnell@juno.com
Membership Chair	Jared Dawson	687-6218	jdawson@silcom.com
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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	Dolores Pollock	681-8661	dolorespollock@earthlink.net
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.**

Printed on recycled paper.



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5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

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