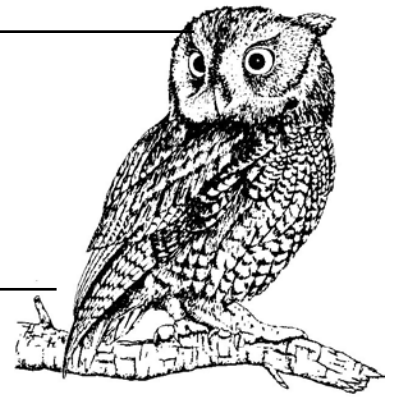


# El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 47, Issue 4

February — March 2009



## SANTA BARBARA BIRDERS TURN OUT IN RECORD NUMBERS ON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT JANUARY 3, 2009 By Joan Easton Lentz

This Christmas Bird Count will go down in history – not with the highest number of bird species seen, but with the highest (drum-roll, please) number of BIRDERS ever participating ever on a Santa Barbara Count! A whopping 212 folks in 77 groups combed local beaches, sloughs, parks, reservoirs, and mountains to census bird populations during this annual event. Prior to this year, the highest number of participants was 182. It's a huge victory for Santa Barbara Audubon and for birding in our community! Congratulations to those who joined us this year for the first time and to all you loyal returnees.

### What a great Count!

The weather was perfect, the day being cool and calm with a high overcast. The number of birders participating assured us that we would be able to search every nook and cranny of our Count Circle for all sorts of birds. A total of 209 bird species tallied was enough to win Santa Barbara first place in California (ahead of San Diego and Coastal Orange County with 205 each)! The traditionally very high Texas Counts at Mad Island Marsh and Guadalupe Ranch have long been out of reach for us in species totals, but I understand that Freeport, our old rival, got around 200 species. All in all, that puts Santa Barbara third in the nation in bird species found on a Christmas Count!

Birders found some interesting new birds, as well as some old favorites. The rarest was probably the “Eastern” Winter Wren, a species that is likely to be split off from Western Winter Wren in the near future. That would be a new bird historically for the Count. A Grace’s Warbler at Bella Vista Open Space in Goleta and a Northern Waterthrush at the Santa Barbara Zoo were good finds, too. A Gray Flycatcher returned to the Goleta Cemetery for a second year, and an American Redstart was on Atascadero Creek at the end of Ward Drive.

This was a good year for sapsuckers: both Red-naped and Yellow-bellied were on the Count. However, it was a tough year to find many tanagers and orioles, although we did get fortunate to spot a Hooded Oriole in Hope Ranch and two Summer Tanagers – one in Isla Vista and one in Montecito.

As far as numbers go, there were 46,761 birds spotted, which surprised everyone by being higher than in the two most recent Counts. Contributing to this was the unprecedented number of Brown Pelicans – a new high for the Count at well over 5,000 individuals (just go take a look at the harbor). Other species present in record high numbers were Glaucous-winged Gulls and Black Skimmers.

The bigger the CBC grows, the more organizational talents

it requires. I want to thank my Compilation Committee without whom there would be no Santa Barbara Count: **Dave Compton, Rebecca Coulter, Jared Dawson, Joan Murdoch, and Bill Pollock.** These folks gave hours and hours of their time to volunteer for Santa Barbara Audubon and help with the Count and its compilation. I also want to thank the many out-of-town visitors who helped and the dependable local birders that scout the area before the Count so we know where the stake-outs can be found.

With birder numbers soaring, we’ll be out there counting with more and more people every year. At least, that is our goal. Let’s hope we’ll be fortunate enough to protect the bird life that makes Santa Barbara so famous, too.



*Eastern Winter Wren  
Photo by  
Evan Caves*



*Lower Paradise Road Birders; Fred Emerson, Andy Lentz, Dennis Nord, Kate McCurdy, Laura Baldwin and Tim Matthews*

*Photo By Haldane Harris*

# Santa Barbara 2008 Christmas Bird Count Results

## DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS

|       |                         |
|-------|-------------------------|
| _____ | Gr. White-fronted Goose |
| _____ | Snow Goose              |
| 2     | Ross' Goose *           |
| 2     | Cackling Goose          |
| 98    | Canada Goose            |
| 31    | Brant                   |
| 3     | Wood Duck               |
| 67    | Gadwall                 |
| 1     | Eurasian Wigeon *       |
| 149   | American Wigeon         |
| 636   | Mallard                 |
| 1     | Blue-winged Teal *      |
| 13    | Cinnamon Teal           |
| 344   | Northern Shoveler       |
| 7     | Northern Pintail        |
| 93    | Green-winged Teal       |
| 2     | Canvasback              |
| 142   | Redhead                 |
| 58    | Ring-necked Duck        |
| 4     | Greater Scaup *         |
| 165   | Lesser Scaup            |
| 210   | Surf Scoter             |
| 144   | Bufflehead              |
| 3     | Common Goldeneye        |
| 24    | Hooded Merganser        |
| 100   | Common Merganser        |
| 24    | Red-breasted Merganser  |
| 365   | Ruddy Duck              |

## QUAIL, TURKEYS

|       |                  |
|-------|------------------|
| 30    | Wild Turkey      |
| _____ | Mountain Quail   |
| 127   | California Quail |

## LOONS

|    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 10 | Red-throated Loon |
| 16 | Pacific Loon      |
| 8  | Common Loon       |
| 5  | ~Loon species     |

## GREBES

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 103   | Pied-billed Grebe        |
| 43    | Horned Grebe             |
| 45    | Eared Grebe              |
| 908   | Western Grebe            |
| 73    | Clark's Grebe            |
| _____ | ~Clark's / Western Grebe |

## SHEARWATERS

|       |                         |
|-------|-------------------------|
| _____ | Northern Fulmar         |
| 970   | Black-vented Shearwater |

## PELICANS

|      |               |
|------|---------------|
| 4958 | Brown Pelican |
|------|---------------|

## CORMORANTS

|     |                          |
|-----|--------------------------|
| 767 | Brandt's Cormorant       |
| 312 | Double-crested Cormorant |
| 9   | Pelagic Cormorant        |

## HERONS

|       |                           |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 2     | American Bittern *        |
| 1     | Least Bittern *           |
| 55    | Great Blue Heron          |
| 64    | Great Egret               |
| 58    | Snowy Egret               |
| _____ | Cattle Egret              |
| 7     | Green Heron               |
| 111   | Black-crowned Night-Heron |

## NEW WORLD VULTURES

|     |                |
|-----|----------------|
| 128 | Turkey Vulture |
|-----|----------------|

## HAWKS

|       |                     |
|-------|---------------------|
| 2     | Osprey *            |
| 15    | White-tailed Kite   |
| 8     | Northern Harrier    |
| 13    | Sharp-shinned Hawk  |
| 31    | Cooper's Hawk       |
| 78    | Red-shouldered Hawk |
| 148   | Red-tailed Hawk     |
| _____ | Golden Eagle        |

## FALCONS

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 33 | American Kestrel   |
| 9  | Merlin             |
| 6  | Peregrine Falcon * |

## RAILS, GALLINULES

|      |                |
|------|----------------|
| 13   | Virginia Rail  |
| 18   | Sora           |
| x    | Common Moorhen |
| 1425 | American Coot  |

## PLOVERS

|     |                      |
|-----|----------------------|
| 116 | Black-bellied Plover |
| 293 | Snowy Plover         |
| 97  | Semipalmated Plover  |
| 222 | Killdeer             |

## STILTS, AVOCETS

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| 45    | Black-necked Stilt |
| _____ | American Avocet    |

## SANDPIPERS

|       |                     |
|-------|---------------------|
| 18    | Greater Yellowlegs  |
| _____ | Lesser Yellowlegs * |
| 158   | Willet              |
| 10    | Spotted Sandpiper   |
| 33    | Whimbrel            |
| 25    | Long-billed Curlew  |
| 93    | Marbled Godwit      |
| _____ | Ruddy Turnstone     |
| 48    | Black Turnstone     |

|       |                       |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 606   | Sanderling            |
| 11    | Western Sandpiper     |
| 132   | Least Sandpiper       |
| 2     | Dunlin                |
| 63    | Long-billed Dowitcher |
| 7     | Wilson's Snipe        |
| _____ | Red Phalarope *       |

## JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 10    | Pomarine Jaeger *        |
| 5     | Parasitic Jaeger *       |
| 5     | ~Jaeger species          |
| 27    | Bonaparte's Gull         |
| 1952  | Heermann's Gull          |
| 219   | Mew Gull                 |
| 294   | Ring-billed Gull         |
| 1201  | California Gull          |
| 15    | Herring Gull             |
| 3     | Thayer's Gull *          |
| 2172  | Western Gull             |
| 147   | Glaucous-winged Gull     |
| _____ | Black-legged Kittiwake * |
| 1     | Caspian Tern *           |
| 162   | Royal Tern               |
| 106   | Forster's Tern           |
| 406   | Black Skimmer            |

## ALCIDS

|       |                   |
|-------|-------------------|
| 20    | Common Murre      |
| _____ | Cassin's Auklet   |
| 210   | Rhinoceros Auklet |

## PIGEONS

|       |                        |
|-------|------------------------|
| 878   | Rock Pigeon            |
| 434   | Band-tailed Pigeon     |
| 170   | Eurasian Collared-Dove |
| _____ | Spotted Dove *         |
| 2     | White-winged Dove *    |
| 628   | Mourning Dove          |
| _____ | Common Ground-Dove     |

## CUCKOOS

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 2 | Greater Roadrunner |
|---|--------------------|

## OWLS

|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 12 | Barn Owl            |
| 29 | Western Screech-Owl |
| 39 | Great Horned Owl    |
| 1  | Northern Pygmy-Owl  |
| 1  | Burrowing Owl       |

## SWIFTS

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 8 | White-throated Swift |
|---|----------------------|

## HUMMINGBIRDS

|       |                       |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 857   | Anna's Hummingbird    |
| _____ | Costa's Hummingbird * |
| 20    | Allen's Hummingbird * |
| 26    | ~Selasphorus sp.      |

## KINGFISHERS

|    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 24 | Belted Kingfisher |
|----|-------------------|

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: newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org  
Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

**WOODPECKERS**

- 747 \_\_\_ Acorn Woodpecker
- 1 \_\_\_ Red-naped Sapsucker \*
- 23 \_\_\_ Red-breasted Sapsucker
- 50 \_\_\_ Nuttall's Woodpecker
- 53 \_\_\_ Downy Woodpecker
- 8 \_\_\_ Hairy Woodpecker
- 151 \_\_\_ Northern (red-shftd) Flicker
- 1 \_\_\_ ~Northern (yel.-shftd) Flicker \*

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS**

- 311 \_\_\_ Black Phoebe
- 56 \_\_\_ Say's Phoebe
- 2 \_\_\_ Tropical Kingbird \*
- 46 \_\_\_ Cassin's Kingbird

**SHRIKES**

- 7 \_\_\_ Loggerhead Shrike

**VIREOS**

- 59 \_\_\_ Hutton's Vireo

**LARKS**

- \_\_\_ Horned Lark

**JAYS, CROWS**

- 3 \_\_\_ Steller's Jay
- 622 \_\_\_ Western Scrub-Jay
- 3 \_\_\_ Yellow-billed Magpie
- 1537 \_\_\_ American Crow
- 6 \_\_\_ Common Raven

**CHICKADEES, TITMICE**

- 2 \_\_\_ Mountain Chickadee
- 363 \_\_\_ Oak Titmouse

**BUSHTITS**

- 1328 \_\_\_ Bushtit

**NUTHATCHES**

- 12 \_\_\_ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- 78 \_\_\_ White-breasted Nuthatch

**CREEPERS**

- 3 \_\_\_ Brown Creeper

**WRENS**

- 4 \_\_\_ Rock Wren
- 7 \_\_\_ Canyon Wren
- 107 \_\_\_ Bewick's Wren
- 25 \_\_\_ House Wren
- 2 \_\_\_ Winter Wren
- 22 \_\_\_ Marsh Wren

**KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS**

- 3 \_\_\_ Golden-crowned Kinglet
- 489 \_\_\_ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 56 \_\_\_ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

**THRUSHES, WRENTIT**

- 109 \_\_\_ Western Bluebird
- 1 \_\_\_ Townsend's Solitaire
- 135 \_\_\_ Hermit Thrush
- 375 \_\_\_ American Robin

- 2 \_\_\_ Varied Thrush
- 213 \_\_\_ Wrentit

**MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS**

- 184 \_\_\_ Northern Mockingbird
- 103 \_\_\_ California Thrasher

**STARLINGS**

- 1287 \_\_\_ European Starling

**WAGTAILS, PIPITS**

- 221 \_\_\_ American Pipit

**WAXWINGS**

- 847 \_\_\_ Cedar Waxwing

**SILKY-FLYCATCHERS**

- 10 \_\_\_ Phainopepla

**WOOD-WARBLERS**

- 303 \_\_\_ Orange-crowned Warbler
- 3 \_\_\_ Nashville Warbler \*
- 1 \_\_\_ Yellow Warbler \*
- 2427 \_\_\_ Yel.rumped(Audubon's)Wrblr
- 107 \_\_\_ Yel.rumped(Myrtle) Warbler
- 5 \_\_\_ Black-throated Gray Warbler
- 252 \_\_\_ Townsend's Warbler
- \_\_\_ Hermit Warbler \*
- 2 \_\_\_ Palm Warbler \*
- 1 \_\_\_ Black-and-white Warbler \*
- 173 \_\_\_ Common Yellowthroat
- 1 \_\_\_ Wilson's Warbler

**TANAGERS**

- 2 \_\_\_ Summer Tanager \*
- 3 \_\_\_ Western Tanager

**SPARROWS, GROSBEAKS**

- 178 \_\_\_ Spotted Towhee
- 543 \_\_\_ California Towhee
- 1 \_\_\_ Rufous-crowned Sparrow
- 6 \_\_\_ Chipping Sparrow
- 62 \_\_\_ Lark Sparrow
- \_\_\_ Sage Sparrow \*
- 130 \_\_\_ Savannah Sparrow
- 12 \_\_\_ Fox Sparrow
- 257 \_\_\_ Song Sparrow
- 32 \_\_\_ Lincoln's Sparrow
- \_\_\_ Swamp Sparrow \*
- 4 \_\_\_ White-throated Sparrow \*
- 238 \_\_\_ Golden-crowned Sparrow
- 1274 \_\_\_ White-crowned Sparrow
- 656 \_\_\_ Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco
- \_\_\_ ~Dark-eyed (Slate-col) Junco
- \_\_\_ ~Dark-eyed (Gray-hd) Junco
- \_\_\_ Rose-breasted Grosbeak \*
- x \_\_\_ Black-headed Grosbeak \*

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES**

- 231 \_\_\_ Red-winged Blackbird
- \_\_\_ Tricolored Blackbird
- 357 \_\_\_ Western Meadowlark
- 464 \_\_\_ Brewer's Blackbird

- 41 \_\_\_ Great-tailed Grackle
- 66 \_\_\_ Brown-headed Cowbird
- \_\_\_ Orchard Oriole \*
- 1 \_\_\_ Hooded Oriole \*
- \_\_\_ Baltimore Oriole \*
- 4 \_\_\_ Bullock's Oriole
- \_\_\_ Scott's Oriole \*

**FINCHES**

- 16 \_\_\_ Purple Finch
- 2202 \_\_\_ House Finch
- 6 \_\_\_ Pine Siskin
- 506 \_\_\_ Lesser Goldfinch
- \_\_\_ Lawrence's Goldfinch
- 355 \_\_\_ American Goldfinch

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

- 220 \_\_\_ House Sparrow

**UNESTABLISHED EXOTICS**

- 79 \_\_\_ ~Nutmeg Mannikin

**ADDITIONAL SPECIES (counted)**

- 1 \_\_\_ White-winged Scoter
- 1 \_\_\_ Red-Necked Grebe
- 2 \_\_\_ Bald Eagle
- 2 \_\_\_ Ancient Murrelet
- 1 \_\_\_ Spotted Owl
- 1 \_\_\_ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- 1 \_\_\_ Gray Flycatcher
- 1 \_\_\_ Cassin's Vireo
- 4 \_\_\_ Tree Swallow
- 8 \_\_\_ Chestnut-backed Chickadee
- 1 \_\_\_ Tennessee Warbler
- 1 \_\_\_ Grace's Warbler
- 1 \_\_\_ Northern Waterthrush
- 1 \_\_\_ American Redstart

**209 SPECIES GRAND TOTAL**  
**46760 BIRD COUNT GRAND TOTAL**

\* = Rare -- requires written description  
x = Seen in Count Week (3 days before and 3 days after Count Day) but not on Count Day  
~ = Birds counted but species not count-able

Additional Count Week sightings  
x \_\_\_ Short-eared/Long-eared Owl  
x \_\_\_ Barn Swallow

**A special "THANK YOU," to**  
**Joan Lentz,**  
**for once again organizing**  
**and leading us in a**  
**successful CBC!**



## 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.

### Apex Avian’s Role on the Channel Island Ecosystem

Paul W. Collins

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Paul will discuss the results of his extensive examinations of the diet of Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles on the Channel Islands based on prey remains recovered from historic nests found on the islands. This diet study examines the role that each of these apex avian predators plays in the terrestrial and near shore marine ecosystems of the Channel Islands. In particular it will examine the role that Golden Eagles and feral herbivores have played in the decline of the Island Fox on the Northern Channel Islands. Paul will also provide an update as to the steps that the land managing and resource agencies have taken to help reverse the decline of the Island Fox and to address predation of Island Foxes by Golden Eagles.

Dr. Collins is the Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.



### Channel Island Fox, a Success Story!

Keri Dearborn and Pat Meyer  
Friends of the Island Fox

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

As a keystone species on the California Channel Islands, the Island Fox plays an important role in the island ecosystem. Between 1994 and 2000, Island Fox populations plunged toward extinction on four of the islands. Golden Eagles and disease played the primary roles in this environmental crisis. With diminished Island Fox populations, change rippled through the other island species.

Keri Dearborn and Pat Meyer from Friends of the Island Fox will speak on the complex relationship between the Island Fox and other island species, especially birds and plants. They will highlight the current success of Island Fox conservation, including video of fox releases back into the wild, and the future of monitoring populations across the islands. How are Island Foxes and Bald Eagles monitored on the islands? The presenters will demonstrate radio telemetry tracking. They will also discuss the important conservation issues facing Island Foxes in the future and the role community members can play.



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.

## 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](mailto:jacksanford@hotmail.com) for details or questions.*

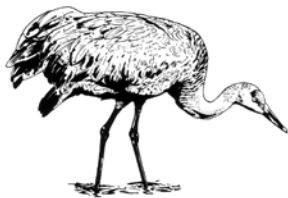
### Sandhill Crane Field Trip Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 14-15

**Target Birds:** Sandhill Cranes, Burrowing Owls, Common Moorhens, Horned Larks, Loggerhead Shrikes, Lark Sparrows, Blue-winged Teals, Marsh Wrens, Great Horned Owls plus many other species.

**Leader:** Jack Sanford

**Cost:** free (camp ground fees \$8-\$10) (Motel 20 minutes away in Lost Hills)

This Audubon field trip will visit the Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park (CASHP), the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge (PNWR) and the Kern National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR). It will be an overnight trip with (free) primitive camping available at KNWR or paid camping at Allensworth State Park (w/bathroom and showers). If there are open spaces (there usually are this time of year), this will be our first choice. Everyone must make their own vehicle arrangements and bring the necessary camping equipment, layers of clothes, food and drink plus birding equipment.



We will meet between 1:30 and 2 p.m. on Saturday February 14 at CASHP in the campground. We will bird CASHP for Burrowing Owls, etc. for 2 to 3 hours. From there we will proceed to the PNWR to view the Sandhill Cranes as they return to the

wetlands for the night. On Sunday morning we will bird the KNWR for several hours and then begin our trip home. We will return home Sunday evening. P.S.: There is a possible side trip to the Wind Wolves Preserve on the way home.

**Directions:** It is approximately 225 miles to the State Historic Park on Hwy. 43. One way to get there is to take Hwy. 101 to Paso Robles. Take Hwy. 46 to Lost Hills. Cross Hwy. 5 but stay on Hwy. 46 to Hwy. 43 (18 miles). Turn left (north) on Hwy. 43 and proceed to CASHP (15 miles). Or you can take Hwy. 101 south to Hwy. 126 to Hwy. 5 to Hwy. 46 to Hwy. 43, and turn left (north) on Hwy. 43 to CASHP (15 miles).

### Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station (Bonus Field Trip/Bird Walk combination) Friday, March 20

8:00 a.m. (car pool time)-1:00 p.m.

**Target Birds:** Waterfowl, Rails, Egrets, shorebirds, ducks, Vermillion Flycatchers, raptors, etc.

**Trip Leader:** Martin Ruane

Only 25 people will be allowed to enter the Naval Air Station so it is necessary to make a reservation by calling Jack Sanford at 566-2191 or emailing him at [jacksanford@hotmail.com](mailto:jacksanford@hotmail.com) and receiving confirmation. The deadline for making a reservation is Monday, March 9. Jack must forward a list of participants to Pt. Mugu on March 10. We will car pool (\$8.00 gas money to drivers) from the S.B. City parking lot on the corner of Cabrillo and Garden at 8:00 a.m. Once you receive reservation confirmation, you can meet us at the base if you so desire.

**Directions:** Take Hwy. 101 to Oxnard and the Rice Ave. off ramp. Head towards the ocean. Take Hwy. 1 southeast to the Wood Rd. turnoff towards the Base, and turn left at the stop sign. Meet at the main gate parking lot. You must be a citizen of the United States. You will need a photo ID and social security number, and you must fill out a security form before we enter the base. The Base Naturalist, Martin Ruane, will guide us around the base from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon. Join us for this unique and rare opportunity. Thanks to Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson for making the necessary arrangements to visit the Base.

### Rancho Santa Barbara (Lone Star) (East end of Lake Cachuma) Saturday, March 21, 8 a.m.-noon (7:30 a.m. at car pool location)

**Target Birds:** Geese, Common Goldeneyes, Wood Ducks, Lewis's Woodpeckers, Bald Eagles, Clark's Grebes, American White Pelicans and other water and song birds

**Leader:** Rob Lindsay

**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. (\$6.00 gas money to drivers.) Or you can meet us at 8:00 a.m. at the gate to Rancho Santa Barbara (4001 Hwy. 154)—a pipe gate with large star on it on the right hand side of the road, if coming from S.B. We must all meet at the gate and enter the ranch as a group. Wear walking shoes. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful. Bring water and a snack. Enjoy ranch owners **Lee Carr** and his brother **Charles Carr's** hospitality at one of the best inland winter birding areas in the county!

## 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](mailto:jacksanford@hotmail.com) if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.*

### Lake Los Carneros Friday, February 13

**Target Birds:** Waterfowl and winter songbirds  
**Directions:** From Hwy. 101 take the Los Carneros off ramp; head towards the mountains. Turn right into the Stow House/Goleta Depot parking lot. Park behind the fire station where we will meet.

### San Jose Creek Area (near Kellogg Tennis Courts) Friday, February 27

**Target Birds:** Songbirds, Woodpeckers, Thrashers, Thrushes, Kinglets, etc.  
**Directions:** From Hwy. 101 take the Patterson Ave. off ramp and head towards the mountains. Turn left on Cathedral Oaks Rd. Turn left at the Kellogg Rd. stoplight. Park and meet near the tennis courts.

### Elings Park Friday, March 27

**Target Birds:** Raptors, songbirds, Juncos, Warblers, Finches, etc.

**Directions:** From Hwy. 101 take the Las Positas off ramp and head towards the ocean. Look for the Elings Park entrance sign and turn left on Jerry Harwin Parkway. Proceed to the Battistone Foundation Soccer parking lot located in front of the Park office building. Park in that immediate area. We will meet there and bird the area.



*Merlin.  
Artist Steven D'Amato*

## Introducing our Chapter-only Membership

Your board of directors has been discussing a proposed new form of membership to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS). Currently, local members of National Audubon Society (NAS) are automatically members of SBAS. We are not proposing to change that. We are proposing a new class of membership called “chapter-only” membership. It would replace the current ‘newsletter only’ category, which technically is not a full membership. The chapter-only membership would be a fuller and a more directed category, with all membership funds going to our local programs. For all current SBAS members, your term of subscription would remain in effect just as before. For new members, or at time of renewal, the choice can be made to sign up for a chapter-only membership or the standard National Audubon membership. All chapter-only memberships will come due on June 30th of each year. As a sign-up incentive, all new chapter-only sign-ups submitted before July 1, 2009 will have a term that ends on June 30, 2010, with re-subscriptions running annually after that.

One reason the SBAS Audubon is considering a chapter-only membership is to retain more membership funds to support our local projects. NAS currently keeps most of the renewal fee, which varies but is about \$35/year; the chapters get “dues sharing” of about \$2.50 per member. That is not enough even to provide the newsletter.

The advantages to this change are several:

- A new choice for members to intentionally select their desired support of Audubon, either chapter-only or NAS + SBAS.

- Additional support for the vital programs and advocacy that have been a proud SBAS tradition within our local community (currently NAS keeps most of your dues after the first year).
- More efficient and easier recordkeeping for our local Membership Chair by consolidating the time of renewals.
- The elimination of the “newsletter-only” membership, currently undefined by our by-laws and which is not a true membership.
- The new membership class, with a proposed flat rate of \$25 annually, will confer all of the rights of full SBAS membership, including voting rights. This rate, while greater than the NAS introductory rates, is \$10 less than their resubscription rate.
- We believe that by keeping the SBAS rate constant we would have a steadier membership base.

Please note that your local SBAS keeps its membership list private. We do not sell or share our names or addresses with any other organization or entity. With a chapter-only membership, you will no longer receive the Audubon magazine, unless you chose to sign up with NAS, but you should also no longer receive unsolicited mailings due to your name and address being sold.

While your board has the authority to make this change without a membership-wide vote, it is important to hear from you. We are looking forward to your comments, pro and con to this proposal. You may write or call the office, or email the Membership Chair at [membership@santabarbaraudubon.org](mailto:membership@santabarbaraudubon.org).

# 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 [lvolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:lvolunteer@yahoo.com) or 684-4405. For Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact Tara Longwell at [longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu](mailto:longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu) or 252-4903. or Darlene Chirman at [dchirman@starband.net](mailto:dchirman@starband.net) or 692-2008.*

### ARROYO HONDO

Contact: Jane Murray

Sunday February 8                      9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 Sunday March 8                         9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: Tara Longwell

Saturday February 21                    9 a.m.-12 noon.  
 Saturday March 7                        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:

February . . . . . 7  
 March . . . . . 7

### 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.

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## Santa Barbara Audubon Society Field Trip Report

### Sand Point Road December 19, 2008 By Jeff Hanson

Jack Sanford deserves a big pat on the back for securing this delightful mini-field trip at another close-in location. Twenty-two of us gathered at the west end of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh at 8:30 a.m., on a crisp and clear coastal morning. Soon we had set out on a simple, easy walking tour down Sand Point Road to the sea and back, about 1.5 miles total.

With the negative tide, the first half hour did not yield too many birds, but the camaraderie was great. As we approached the mouth of the slough, things picked up with good numbers of shorebirds, waders, and ducks. It was a real pleasure to be up close and personal with the peeps, allowing a good discussion of ID features.

By this time, it had warmed up, and people were shedding their coats. After dwelling at the mouth for quite some time enjoying the birds, we went to the rocks and set up scopes out to sea. Several large rafts of Western Grebes, along with Pacific Loons, Cormorants, Terns, Gulls and Surf Scoters kept us busy until it was time to go.

We logged a total of 57 species for this trip. Our sincerest thanks go out to the generous homeowners of this terrific property. And as always, a tip of the hat to Jack Sanford for keeping the fire burning, and finding new places for us all to explore!



*Birders had a great view of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. Photo by Jeff Hanson*



*Green Heron Photo by David Levasheff*



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<http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org>

**OFFICERS**

|                |                 |          |  |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|--|
| President      | Darlene Chirman | 692-2008 | <a href="mailto:President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a> |
| Vice-President | Lee Moldaver    | 964-6477 | <a href="mailto:VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>               |
| Secretary      | Susan Lentz     | 968-6011 | <a href="mailto:Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a> |
| Treasurer      | Bobbie Offen    | 684-0160 | <a href="mailto:Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a> |

**BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

|                    |                 |          |  |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|--|
| Field Trips Chair  | Jack Sanford    | 566-2191 | <a href="mailto:FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>       |
| Programs Chair     | John O'Brien    | 962-7799 | <a href="mailto:Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>           |
| Conservation Chair | Steve Ferry     | 967-5162 | <a href="mailto:Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>   |
| Education Chair    | Ann Steinmetz   | 680-2638 | <a href="mailto:Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>         |
| Science Chair      | OPEN            |          |  |
| Membership Chair   | Jared Dawson    | 687-6218 | <a href="mailto:Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>       |
| Newsletter Chair   | OPEN            |          |  |
| Publicity Chair    | Adam Lewis      | 967-7213 | <a href="mailto:Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>         |
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| At-Large—Outreach  | Dolores Pollock | 681-8661 | <a href="mailto:Development-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Development-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a> |
| At Large—Outreach  | Margo Kenney    | 963-3011 | <a href="mailto:Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a> |

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

|                      |                   |          |  |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|--|
| Webmaster:           | Bobbie Offen      | 684-0160 | <a href="mailto:Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>         |
| Eyes In The Sky:     |                   |          |  |
| Gabriele Drozdowski  |                   | 898-0347 | <a href="mailto:EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>                   |
| Snowy Plover Docent  |                   |          |  |
| Prog: Jennifer Stroh |                   | 880-1195 | <a href="mailto:Plovers@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Plovers@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>             |
| Hospitality:         | Sylvelin Edgerton | 964-1658 | <a href="mailto:Hospitality-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Hospitality-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a> |
|                      | Nancy Röhrer      | 687-7587 | <a href="mailto:Hospitality-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Hospitality-2@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a> |
| Report Rare Birds:   | Karen Bridgers    | 964-1316 | <a href="mailto:RareBirds@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">RareBirds@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>         |

**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.

**Calendar of Events**

Check our website for any changes or late additions to our Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs:  
<http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org>

**February**

|      |       |                                |
|------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Feb. | 7     | Plover Training                |
| Feb. | 8     | Restore Arroyo Hondo           |
| Feb. | 13    | Lake Los Carneros Bird Walk    |
| Feb. | 14-15 | Sand Hill Crane Field Trip     |
| Feb. | 21    | Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve |
| Feb. | 25    | Program: Apex Avian's Role     |
| Feb. | 27    | San Jose Creek Bird Walk       |

**March**

|      |    |                                  |
|------|----|----------------------------------|
| Mar. | 7  | Plover Training                  |
| Mar. | 7  | Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve   |
| Mar. | 8  | Restore Arroyo Hondo             |
| Mar. | 20 | Pt. Mugu NAS Birdwalk/Field Trip |
| Mar. | 21 | Rancho Santa Barbara Field Trip  |
| Mar. | 25 | Program: Channel Island Fox      |
| Mar. | 27 | Elings Park Bird Walk            |

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