

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
Volume 50, Issue 3

December 2011–January 2012



2011 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Saturday, December 31, 2011

By Rebecca Fagan Coulter

Please come help us count the birds during Santa Barbara Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count to be held SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011! Every year, this wonderful effort on the part of over 200 local and out-of-town birders keeps Santa Barbara in the top five Christmas Counts in the United States in number of species—and participants!

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 if possible.

This year's count compilers are **Rebecca Coulter**, **Dave Compton**, and **Jared Dawson**, assisted by registrar **Joan Murdoch** and the CBC committee. Please contact **Joan Murdoch** to sign up: casbcbc@gmail.com or 969-5132.

Also, this year we have launched our own Santa Barbara CBC website at: <http://www.CASBbirdcount.org>! There you'll find general information, forms, count circle boundaries, sign-up details, past count lists, etc. You can also find the link to our new site on the Santa Barbara Audubon website's front page, www.santabarbaraaudubon.org (As usual, the forms will also be available at the compilation dinner.)

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
Blue-winged Teal
Greater Scaup
Mountain Quail
Common Moorhen
Virginia Rail
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 or non-Allen's
Hummingbirds
Sapsuckers (other than Red-breasted)
Horned Lark
Any swallows
Rock or Pacific 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.

Continued on page 2

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.

If you see any of the above or know of any other interesting birds, please contact:
Jared Dawson: jared Dawson@gmail.com, 805-451-6615; or Rebecca Coulter: rfcphoebe@gmail.com, 805-455-7040.

We hope you can join us this year!

Wanted For The Christmas Bird Count Have you seen these suspects? Photos by Elizabeth Muraoka



Northern Pigmy Owl



Greater Roadrunner



Barn Owl



Thayer's Gull



Palm Warbler

Other Santa Barbara County Christmas Bird Counts

Carpinteria

Sunday December 18, 2011

Contact: Rob Denholtz, phone: 805-684-4060 or email: robdenholtz@gmail.com

La Purisima

Sunday December 18, 2011

Contact: Alex Abela, phone: 805-934-2873 or email: at abela@lightspeed.net

Santa Maria/Guadalupe

Friday December 23, 2011

Contact: Alex Abela, phone: 805-934-2873 or email: at abela@lightspeed.net

Cachuma

Tuesday December 27, 2011

Contact: Mark Holmgren, phone: 805-683-4045 or email: at maholmgren@yahoo.com



Northern Shrike
Artist: Steven D'Amato

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, Marlene Mills Newsletter Chair
5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117
or email: newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

Audubon Endowment Fund



Audubon Tecolote Circle members and other Audubon donors are captivated by Kisa, the Peregrine falcon, presented by Gabriele Drozdowski at the Ennisbrook Club House event on November 5. Thanks to Penny Bianchi for arranging the location. Photos courtesy of Anthony Galván III.

The Endowment Fund was started by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society in 2005 to provide long term financial support for on-going chapter programs such as Eyes in the Sky. These programs need stable, predictable financial support beyond year long grants or 1-year contributions, which had sustained them in the past.

The endowment is currently managed and invested by the endowment committee guided by a professional investment counselor who provides his services gratis, as his own gift to Audubon, and only the income from these funds is spent on SBAS programs. In 2011 (to date) \$1146 was earned and contributed to Eyes in the Sky.

Early in 2011 the endowment fund had \$20,000 invested. Chapter members have donated an additional \$13,000 this year. Much support comes from our Tecolote Circle members who donate \$1000 or more in cash, checks, appreciated securities, or bequests.

The endowment committee members are: Sam Chirman, chair; Ginny Turner, secretary; Bobbie Offen, chapter treasurer; Steve Ferry and Dave Messick.

Please remember Santa Barbara Audubon when you review your will or estate plans. If you'd like suggested wording or other information, contact SBAS President Darlene Chirman at 692-2008.

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!

Leeanne Ayers
Sydney Baumgartner
Evelyn Beraldo
Kim Berman
Wes & Linda Carpenter
Maria Carroll
Sucheng Chan
Russell Christian
Marc Chytilo
Iris Clark
Mary Conrad
Judith C. Cooley
Gerard Docters
Sonya Elias
Roger Ferris

Betty Fitch
Mr. John Glanville
Patty L. Hill
Willem Hoogstad
Lisa James*
Debbie Kendrick
Mary R. Kopp
Roberta Kramer
Harold Kroeger
Muriel A. Lauderdale
Sally McElrath
Patrick O'Malley
Ingrid Olsson*
Nancy Panizzon
Elia Papadopoulos

Elizabeth Patten*
Cathy Peterson*
Catherine Ramus
James Rankin
Laura S. Rasmussen
Amy Rondepierre*
Kristie Shubin*
Mr. & Mrs. Ron St John
Nancy Tobin*
T. Tokumaru
Laura Wild

*Chapter Only Membership

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.

“The Curious Mr. Catesby,”

Linda Miller

December 7, 2011



A film by Cynthia Neal and David Elliot documenting the life and work of Mark Catesby (1683-1749), the 18th century naturalist, scientist, and artist, on his exploration of the New World will be shown.

In 1743 Catesby completed the first published account of North American flora and fauna, entitled *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands*. It contained 220 plates of birds, reptiles, mammals, amphibians, fish, and insects. Taxonomist Carolus Linnaeus included much of Catesby's *Natural History* in his 10th edition of *Systema Naturae* (1758).

Following the one-hour film, Linda Miller of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History will lead audience members through an exhibit of Mark Catesby's original drawings on display in the John and Peggy Maximus Gallery.



Max

Owls In The Family

Gabriele Drozdowski

January 25, 2012

Gabriele Drozdowski will present a program about our interaction with owls, using personal anecdotes from her decades of experience. Max, Santa Barbara's famous Great Horned Owl who is 13 years old, has lived with Gabriele since he was six months old. Gabriele will also share stories and pictures of wild owl rehabilitation, ranging from tiny Pygmy Owls to a rare local Spotted Owl. The birds suffered from a variety of maladies such as broken bones, poisonings, abandonment and oil spill complications.

Max, will accompany Gabriele for this lecture.

Gabriele began working with injured, sick, oiled and orphaned seabirds in 1991, when an El Nino warm-water current caused starvation and illness in thousands of seabirds along our coast. Gabriele and her husband Jim Walker built the first seabird pond for S.B. Wildlife Care network at their residence and cared for over 2,000 seabirds before beginning to rehabilitate birds of prey through the Ojai Raptor Center in 1998. In 1999 they acquired their first two educational birds: Max and Ivan, a Red-tailed Hawk, two rehabilitated birds

no longer able to survive in the wild.

In 2000 Gabriele and Jim, in partnership with the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, created the Eyes in the Sky raptor education program. During her 20 years of working with wildlife, Gabriele has cared for over 3,000 birds from over 100 species from tiny Storm Petrels to Eagles.

Formerly a professional family entertainer and storyteller, Gabriele weaves the presence of the live birds with scientific information and real-life stories, and has presented countless educational programs—at schools, afterschool programs, senior centers, libraries, and other non-profit and community events in our area.

In 2004, Santa Barbara Audubon Society/Eyes in the Sky was offered space to build an aviary at the S.B. Museum of Natural History. In March 2011, Eyes in the Sky relocated to a new, beautiful and permanent home.

Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

*These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird watchers. Binoculars are useful for enjoyment of birds, but if you don't have a pair please call the trip leader and we'll lend you a spare. Trips are free unless noted. Please contact **Jack Sanford** (805) 566-2191 or jacksanford@hotmail.com for details or questions.*

Lake Cachuma Eagle Boat Cruise

Lake Cachuma County Park

Saturday, December 10, 2011, 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.

Leader: Liz Gaspar, Park Naturalist

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

\$10 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 **Wednesday, Dec 7th**. Please give your name and phone number, and Jack will confirm.

Directions: Take Hwy. 154 to Lake Cachuma County Park. Park near the boat launching area and the Fishing and Tackle shop. To car pool (a good idea since there is an \$10 entrance fee), meet at the 5 Points Shopping Center near Carl's Junior at 9 a.m. Directions to Carl's Junior: 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. (\$8.00 gas money to drivers.) We should be back around 1 p.m.

Note: The Neal Taylor Nature Center has made some big improvements and is worth a visit after the cruise.

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

Hollister Ranch

Saturday, January 7, 2012, 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. We are limited to 25 people (five vehicles). Please call or email Jack Sanford ((805) 566-2191 or jacksanford@hotmail.com) on or before **Wednesday, January 4th** to reserve your place. Please let Jack know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold. Jack must confirm your reservation by email or phone. Please leave your phone number if you call.

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 at 7:00 a.m. (\$8.00 gas money to drivers.) We **must** car pool, as we are limited to 5 vehicles. Bring water, and 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.

Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station (Field Trip/Bird Walk combination)

December 9, 2011 (Reservations required)

7:00 a.m. (car pool time)-12:00 noon

Target Birds: Waterfowl, Rails, Egrets, shorebirds, ducks, Vermilion 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 and receiving confirmation. The deadline for making a reservation is Thursday, December 1. Jack must forward a list, which includes: full name including middle name or initial, social security number, driver's licence number, address and date of birth, to Pt. Mugu on Friday, December 2. We will car pool (\$8.00 gas money to drivers) from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge at **7:00 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 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** for making the necessary arrangements to visit the Base.

Friday Bird Walks

Join us on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 8:30-10:30 a.m., except as otherwise noted. 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.

Arroyo Burro School Open Space

(a new bird walk)

December 23, 2011

Target Birds: (?)

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to the Las Positas Rd off ramp. Turn towards the ocean. Turn right on Modoc Rd. Turn left on Palermo Dr. Follow Palermo all the way to the end, and park. We will meet by the locked gate.

Coronado Dr. and Devereux Creek

January 13, 2012

Target Birds: Raptors and songbirds plus Monarch Butterflies.

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

San Marcos Foothills Preserve

(a new bird walk)

January 27, 2012

Target Birds: (?)

Directions: Coming from the north on Hwy. 101, take the State Street/Hwy. 154 off ramp. Coming from the south on Hwy. 101, take the Hwy. 154 exit. Proceed to Hwy. 154 and head north. Take the Cathedral Oaks Rd. exit and turn left onto Cathedral Oaks (head west). Immediately turn right on Via Chaparral and then right on Salvar Rd. Proceed across the “bridge to nowhere” and turn left. Park near the entrance to the Preserve.



*White-tailed Kite
Artist: Steven D'Amato*

Bonus Bird Walk for S.B. Audubon Society Members Only

Sand Point Bird Walk

Saturday, January 28, 2012

8:30-11 a.m.

Target Birds: Long-billed Curlews, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Ospreys, White-tailed Kites, waterfowl, Sandpipers, etc.

Leaders: Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson

A bonus birding trip and you don't want to miss this one. SBAS has received permission to offer a Saturday walk for a limited number (20) of S.B. Audubon Society members (only) at the Sand Point private, gated community. Reservations are required.

Enjoy this opportunity to bird the Carpinteria Salt Marsh from Sand Point Road. Only a limited number of birders will be allowed to sign up for this bird walk, so if you are interested, please contact Jack Sanford by phone ((805) 566-2191) or email (jacksanford@hotmail.com) a.s.a.p. Leave your name and phone number or email address, and Jack will confirm your reservation.

Directions: To get to the Sand Point Road entrance, take the Santa Claus Lane exit off Hwy. 101, and follow Santa Claus Lane to the southeast end. Parking is available in the business area just before Santa Claus Lane enters Hwy. 101 south. We will meet near the railroad tracks and proceed from there on foot.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Habitat Restoration

Audubon helps recruit volunteers for habitat restoration; come help to restore a creek or estuary while spending a morning in a beautiful bird habitat. We now have a new Audubon-managed project at Coal Oil Point Reserve as well. Contact Darlene Chirman at President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or 692-2008. Contact Coal Oil Point Reserve: Reserve Steward Tara Longwell at tara.longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 893-5092. Contact the Land Trust for Arroyo Hondo Preserve: Volunteer Coordinator Sally Isaacson at 260-2252 or volunteer@sblandtrust.org

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: **Sally Isaacson**
 Sunday December 4 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Sunday January 8 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon

Date	Restoration	Contact
No December Restoration plans.		
January 21	Invasive removal	Darlene Chirman
January 28	COPR Trails	Tara Longwell

CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION

Contact: **Sarah Amiri** at volunteer@cirweb.org
 Saturday December 3 9am-2pm
 San Marcos Foothills, Cieneguitas site
 Please consult their website or Sarah on restoration projects including San Marcos Foothills, Santa Barbara Zoo, Carpinteria Creek, Anacapa Island and others.
 Their website is: www.cirweb.org

SBAS Needs Your E-mail Address

To be added to the **SBAS** e-mail list, just send an e-mail message with the subject line, "Add + your name" to Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
 The **SBAS** e-mail list will only be used for SBAS business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

AUDUBON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to help Santa Barbara Audubon?

Eyes in the Sky

Eyes in the Sky has ongoing opportunities for new volunteers to work with our birds of prey.

Volunteers must be available during daytime hours. Call Gabriele (805) 898-0347.

Plover Project Docent Training

Training takes place at Coal Oil Point Reserve

Training takes place at the West Campus Conference Center at Coal Oil Point Reserve, from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Training dates:

December 3
 January 7

Training Schedule:

Tour 9-11 a.m.
 Training 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Those interested should call for more information or to register at (805) 893-3703

Audubon Society Membership Application

Option 1: Local Chapter-only Membership

- This is my choice of membership!
Cost: \$25 Annually
 Make check payable to: **Santa Barbara Audubon Society**

Option 2: National and Local Membership

Santa Barbara Code: COZC130Z

- This is my choice of membership!
- This is a Senior/Student membership.
- Please do NOT share my contact information.

Introductory \$20, or \$15 for senior/student; \$35 annually thereafter.

Make check payable to: **National Audubon Society**

For more information on these options please go to our website at www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or call (805) 964-1468

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Amount Enclosed: _____

Mail to: **Santa Barbara Audubon Society**
5679 Hollister Ave, Suite 5B
Goleta CA 93117

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 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
 Goleta, CA 93117

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 (805) 964-1468, Info@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
<http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org>

OFFICERS

President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008	President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	964-1468	VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Secretary	Liz Muraoka	743-3314	Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Treasurer	Bobbie Offen	220-6522	Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips	Jack Sanford	566-2191	FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Programs	Susan Vaughn	403-7046	Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
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Development	Margo Kenney	963-3011	Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster:	David Levasheff	967-8767	Webmaster@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Eyes In The Sky:	Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
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ET Editor	Andy Lentz	968-6011	NewsLayout@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

Rare Birds sbcobirding <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sbcobirding>

Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Members are welcomed to attend. Call the 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>

December

Dec.	3	Plover Training
Dec.	3	Restore San Marcos Foothills
Dec.	4	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Dec.	7	Program: Curious Mr. Catesby
Dec.	9	Pt. Magu NAS Field Trip/Bird Walk
Dec.	10	Lake Cachuma Field Trip
Dec.	18	Carpinteria CBC
Dec.	18	La Purisima CBC
Dec.	23	Arroyo Burro School Bird Walk
Dec.	23	Santa Maria/Guadalupe CBC
Dec.	27	Cachuma CBC
Dec.	31	Santa Barbara CBC

January

Jan.	7	Plover Training
Jan.	7	Hollister Ranch Field Trip
Jan.	8	Restore Arroyo Hondo
Jan.	13	Coronado Dr. Bird Walk
Jan.	21	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Jan.	25	Program: Owls in the Family
Jan.	27	San Marcos Foothills Bird Walk
Jan.	28	Sand Point Bird Walk
Jan.	28	Restore Coal Oil Point Trails

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