

EL TECOLOTE

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Incorporated

Volume 35 Number 5

February 1997

SANTA BARBARA BIRDERS THIRD IN NATION WITH 215 SPECIES!

BY JOAN LENTZ

The 1996 Santa Barbara Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, held January 4, tallied a whopping 215 different kinds of birds — enough to put it on top in California and third in the nation behind the Texas counts held at Corpus Christi and Mad Island Marsh.

"It takes so many different things coming together to make up a perfect Count Day," one participant remarked afterwards. This year everything came together.

After a week of rain, Count Day dawned with ideal weather conditions - high overcast and absolutely no wind. Although last year no montane species were to be found anywhere, this year there were numerous mountain birds, such as White-headed Woodpeckers, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Townsend's Solitaires, Cassin's Finches, and Red Crossbills. A good day on the boat counting birds on the Channel - two Sooty Shearwaters, a flock of Brant, Cassin's, and Rhinoceros Auklets - helped the total too. Several species missed last year, such as Cattle Egret, Spotted Dove, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Horned Lark, and Chipping Sparrow, turned up to be counted this year.

Dedicated, local birders scouted the area as best they could before the Count, often spotting "stake-out" birds to be located on the day itself. The Yellow-billed Magpie in Goleta, the Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks at feeders in Goleta and Santa Barbara, the Steller's Jays near San Marcos Pass, and the Lewis's Woodpecker in Montecito all showed up to be counted.

Some of the stake-outs were returning birds which, like many humans, return annually to enjoy Santa Barbara's balmy weather and lush surroundings. The Black-headed Gull was back for its fifth year at East Beach; the Zone-tailed Hawk and Eurasian Wigeon in Goleta returned for a fourth; the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Montecito checked in for its third winter; and the Orchard Oriole at the Bird Refuge returned for a second time.

The real fun, however, comes in the surprises that nobody can predict before the Count. After the annual dinner held at the Museum of Natural History, when Karen Bridgers had called off all of the species on the regular list, it was time for the unexpected goodies. Among those were 3 White-faced Ibises, 3 Black Scoters, and a Clay-colored and a Harris's Sparrow.

Thanks for this tremendous effort goes to all of those who walked streets, tramped over mountain trails, and waded into sloughs to help tally the birds in the Christmas Count circle. Particular appreciation goes to Karen Bridgers for helping at noon at Goleta Beach and for an excellent presentation at the Count dinner.

Please save next year's Christmas Bird Count day - January 3, 1998 - and remember that Santa Barbara's reputation as one of the best birding spots in the country depends on all of YOU!

See insert for final Santa Barbara CBC tally.

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FEBRUARY PROGRAM DROUGHT ADAPTATIONS OF DESERT PLANTS



WITH
DR. STEVEN TIMBROOK

Wednesday, February 26

8:00 p.m. program; 7:30 p.m. refreshments

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History — Farrand Hall

1226 Puesta del Sol

Santa Barbara, CA 93105

For more details, call the Audubon Office at (805) 964-1468.

THE GREAT DIVERSITY of plants native to California is due in large part to the myriad habitats existing in the state. The three major desert regions of the U.S. - the Sonoran, Mojave, and Great Basin - have significant components within a few hours drive of Santa Barbara. With the season of peak bloom for these deserts fast approaching, Steve Timbrook's talk will show us where to go in search of desert wildflowers this spring. In addition, we will learn of the special adaptations that plants living in deserts have evolved to grow in these challenging environments. From the lowlands of Anza-Borrego to the alpine White Mountains, from Death Valley to Owens Valley, Dr. Timbrook, Executive Director of Ganna Walska Lotusland, will take us on a journey of beauty and discovery.

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP TO ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK APRIL 4-6 WITH CATHY ROSE AND DAVID KISNER

Join Cathy Rose and David Kisner for this special trip to the Anza-Borrego Desert to experience Spring wildflowers and see Long-eared Owls, LeConte's Thrashers, Lucy's Warblers, and other desert birds. Those who wish to meet to form carpools, please be at the Andree Clark Bird Refuge Friday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m. Participants will meet Cathy at Christmas Circle in Borrego Springs on Saturday, April 5 at 8:00 a.m. She will share her intimate knowledge of desert botany while David will help to identify birds. Call Paul Keller at (805) 968-7804 to reserve space (limited to 20) and for hotel and campground information. If after reserving a room you decide not to go, please call Paul before canceling your room reservation because there may be a waiting list. If enough people want to start Friday morning, Cathy will be available.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS

VENTURA COUNTY GAME PRESERVE OXNARD

Saturday, February 1, 7:30 a.m.

Guy Tingos: (805) 681-0026

Target: Virginia Rail, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbird

Meet at Andree Clark Bird Refuge

From the east take 101 north to Cabrillo Blvd. (left lane exit just past town of Montecito).

Take Cabrillo and turn right onto Los Patos

Way and look for Andree Clark Bird Refuge

parking on the left. From the west, take 101

south to Los Patos off-ramp (after Milpas

exit) and turn right into Bird Refuge parking.

Carpool from there. If you want to meet at the

Game Preserve, call Guy for directions and

procedure. Trip over by noon.

SAN ANTONIO CANYON COUNTY PARK NORTH OF GOLETA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 7:30 a.m.

Rob Lindsey: (805) 964-9514

Target: woodland and chaparral birds

Take 101 to Turnpike Rd. north to Tucker's

Grove Park just north of Cathedral Oaks Rd.

Park at east end of parking lot. Trip over by mid-morning.

HIDDEN VALLEY PARK SANTA BARBARA

Saturday, February 22, 7:30 a.m.

Tom Rohrer: (805) 898-0646

Take 101 to La Cumbre exit and go south on Las Palmas Dr. Take 1st right which doubles back onto Modoc Rd. Go 1/2 mile east on Modoc Rd. and turn right onto Calle de Los Amigos and continue south to intersection with Portofino Way and park. Trip over by about 10:00 a.m.



UPCOMING TRIPS ...

April 4-6 - Anza-Borrego Desert

July 18 - Carpinteria Salt Marsh

All field trips are open to the public. Unless otherwise noted, trips are free and reservations are not needed. If you need a loaner pair of binoculars for a trip, call the leader.

The Great Eagle Expedition

<http://www.rain.org/campinternet>



JOIN RAIN's fun and educational Camp Internet for an exciting family learning adventure about the Great Eagles. Classrooms and families can join online expeditions and participate as viewers or contribute to group chat questions and answers. Trail Guides will be online live at varying times to interact directly with students, teachers, and families. See posted live chat times online.

The Great Eagle Expedition plans an internet class in early February (tentatively scheduled for the 9th).

For information call (805) 967-RAIN (7246).

El Tecolote is published 8 times a year by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. Non-member price for an annual subscription is \$10 per year. Audubon members are invited to send announcements, letters, articles, photos, and drawings for consideration to:

Janet Eastman, Editor

525 Lorraine Ave.

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

(805) 964-6486 / (805) 969-4423 FAX

jeastman@silcom.com

Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month.



Study Birds at Santa Barbara City College

SBCC is offering **The Biology of Birds** (Zoology 138), a short course meeting 12:30 - 1:20 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 18 - April 17, with half day field trips on Tuesday mornings. Taught by Dr. Kristine Burnell, the class covers the anatomy, physiology, evolution, and behavior of birds. Field trips coincide with migratory periods and emphasize identification and classification. Reserve space at SBCC registration or first class. Website info at <http://www.west.net/~ljfries/bio.htm>.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The rain had stopped and the sky was clear for Santa Barbara Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count. It was a great day for birding, and many species showed up to be counted. (Results can be found in this issue.) Christmas "counters," friends, and families ended the day with a potluck feast at the Museum of Natural History. The success of the CBC is owed to several key volunteers. Their dedication and diligence in the weeks preceding the count and on the day of the count itself truly made the even a wonderful and enjoyable experience. SBAS is especially grateful to Joan Lentz and Karen Bridgers for organizing the count. Many thanks to Bob and Tomi Sollen for organizing the potluck dinner and to the Museum of Natural History for hosting the dinner. In addition, thanks go to Pat Kelly for putting together the birding teams. Last but not least, thank you to Count leaders and birders!

SBAS relies on the efforts and enthusiasm of many volunteers throughout the year. This dynamic group of people is the lifeblood of our organization. In particular, our board members deserve special recognition for their time and creativity. Many of SBAS's projects - from the Devereux wetlanders to Audubon Adventures - are spearheaded by talented board members. I also know that we have many enthusiastic members out there. We'd love to see you become a part of the SBAS Board of Directors for 1997-98. A Nominating Committee has started to compile names for possible 1997-98 board positions. The Treasurer position is definitely open for next year, and the Membership Chair position is currently open. Please consider joining a great group of people doing great work. We have fun too! Call me at (805) 566-9314 to find out about becoming a part of the SBAS Board.

Lauren DeChant, President



☒ **YES!**

National Audubon Society Membership Application

I want to join Audubon and help protect wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Special new-member rate of \$20

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Make check payable to and send to:

National Audubon Society

Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 5100

Boulder, CO 80321-1000

Local Chapter — Santa Barbara Audubon Society C13 7XCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 1	Ventura County Game Preserve
Saturday, February 8	San Antonia Canyon County Park
Sunday, February 9	RAIN Eagle Expedition class
Tuesday, February 18	Biology of Birds at SBCC
Saturday, February 22	Hidden Valley Park
Wednesday February 26	February Program: <i>Drought Adaptations of Desert Plants</i>

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Santa Barbara Audubon Society extends a warm welcome to all new members. We look forward to seeing you at Audubon meetings and field trips this fall. We're glad you're part of the growing number of local supporters for Audubon's efforts to excite people about birds and the preservation of their habitat. Thank you for joining:

Ms. Barbara Ahlman	Daniel Gira	Robert Nagler
Julia Allen	Ms. Barbara Godwin	Andy Neumann
Beth Amine	Mark Goena	Owen Patmor
Jo Ann Antolin	Ms. Maria Gordon	David L. Petry
Lee Benz	Beth Harding	Martin-Roni
Dave Boarini	David Hodgdon	Rudinstoin
Mrs. Helga Carden	John Hundley	Todd Schneider
Cockshaw Trust	K.S. Kefauver	Joanne T. Snyder
Pamela Comito	Tandy Kenward	Ms. Roberta A.
Jennifer Crane	Everett King	Sweeney
Ms. Margaret Davis	S.I. Lanphier	Dorothy Thorngren
Frank Donaldson	Gina Lipari	Lucian Tu
Charles H. Dorsey, Jr.	Ray D. McCaffrey	Sienna Vargas
Susan Eselgroth	Jay-Lavera Miller	Victor G. Zilinskas

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers and Committee Chairs
September 1996 - August 1997

OFFICERS:

President: Lauren DeChant 566-9314
Vice President: Lee Moldaver.... 682-2120
Secretary: Everett King..... 569-2307
Treasurer: Annette de Knijf..... 962-1325

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: Dave Wass..... 682-6962
Education: Elan Sutton..... 683-1143
Programs: Gage Ricard..... 967-3604
Field Trips: Paul Keller..... 968-7804
Membership:
Hospitality: Jay Bishop..... 565-2332
Publicity:

BIRD REFUGE: Rob Lindsay..... 964-9514

RARE BIRDS: Karen Bridgers..... 964-1316

AT LARGE

Ron Hirst..... 967-0138
Rob Lindsay..... 964-9514
Sally Walker..... 569-5388

Officers and Committee Chairs meet the second Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. Please call the office to verify dates and times at (805) 964-1468.

PEN & INK DRAWING ON COVER BY DARYL HARRISON


EL TECOLOTE

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

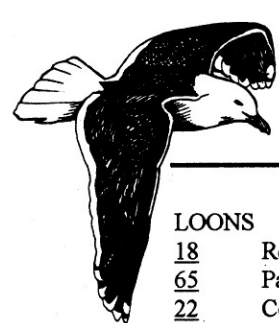
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT



SBAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT -- January 4, 1997

LOONS

<u>18</u>	Red-throated Loon
<u>65</u>	Pacific Loon
<u>22</u>	Common Loon

GREBES

<u>103</u>	Pied-billed Grebe
<u>19</u>	Horned Grebe
<u>35</u>	Eared Grebe
<u>329</u>	Western Grebe
<u>12</u>	Clarks's Grebe

SHEARWATERS

	Northern Fulmar
<u>796</u>	Black-vented Shearwater

PELICANS

<u>523</u>	Brown Pelican
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CORMORANTS

<u>416</u>	Double-crested Cormorant
<u>221</u>	Brandt's Cormorant
<u>18</u>	Pelagic Cormorant

HERONS

<u>1</u>	American Bittern
<u>22</u>	Great Blue Heron
<u>26</u>	Great Egret*
<u>51</u>	Snowy Egret
<u>8</u>	Cattle Egret
<u>6</u>	Green Heron
<u>65</u>	Black-crowned Night-Heron

SWANS, GEESE, & DUCKS

<u>20</u>	Canada Goose
<u>7</u>	Wood Duck
<u>18</u>	Green-winged Teal
<u>252</u>	Mallard
<u>76</u>	Northern Pintail
	Blue-winged Teal*
<u>13</u>	Cinnamon Teal
<u>157</u>	Northern Shoveler
<u>93</u>	Gadwall
<u>147</u>	American Wigeon
<u>2</u>	Canvasback
<u>60</u>	Redhead
<u>111</u>	Ring-necked Duck
	Greater Scaup*
<u>49</u>	Lesser Scaup
<u>271</u>	Surf Scoter
<u>1</u>	White-winged Scoter
	Common Goldeneye
<u>114</u>	Bufflehead
<u>10</u>	Hooded Merganser
<u>2</u>	Common Merganser
<u>257</u>	Red-breasted Merganser
<u>139</u>	Ruddy Duck

NEW WORLD VULTURES

<u>123</u>	Turkey Vulture
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HAWKS

	Osprey*
<u>43</u>	White-tailed Kite
<u>16</u>	Northern Harrier
<u>22</u>	Sharp-shinned Hawk
<u>21</u>	Cooper's Hawk
<u>106</u>	Red-shouldered Hawk
<u>128</u>	Red-tailed Hawk
	Golden Eagle

FALCONS

<u>71</u>	American Kestrel
<u>7</u>	Merlin

QUAIL

<u>175</u>	California Quail
<u>5</u>	Mountain Quail

RAILS & GALLINULES

<u>7</u>	Virginia Rail
<u>9</u>	Sora
<u>1</u>	Common Moorhen
<u>1699</u>	American Coot

PLOVERS

<u>403</u>	Black-bellied Plover
<u>176</u>	Snowy Plover
<u>34</u>	Semipalmated Plover
<u>144</u>	Killdeer

STILTS & AVOCETS

<u>8</u>	Black-necked Stilt
	American Avocet

SANDPIPERS

<u>24</u>	Greater Yellowlegs
<u>293</u>	Willet
	Wandering Tattler
<u>5</u>	Spotted Sandpiper
<u>54</u>	Whimbrel
<u>1</u>	Long-billed Curlew
<u>127</u>	Marbled Godwit
<u>15</u>	Ruddy Turnstone
<u>32</u>	Black Turnstone
<u>580</u>	Sanderling
<u>16</u>	Western Sandpiper
<u>90</u>	Least Sandpiper
<u>5</u>	Dunlin
<u>148</u>	Long-billed Dowitcher
<u>2</u>	Common Snipe
	Red Phalarope*
<u>1</u>	Phalarope sp.

JAEGERS, GULLS & TERNs

<u>6</u>	Pomarine Jaeger*
<u>1</u>	Parasitic Jaeger*
<u>303</u>	Bonaparte's Gull
<u>1011</u>	Heermann's Gull
<u>226</u>	Mew Gull
<u>257</u>	Ring-billed Gull
<u>569</u>	California Gull

<u>10</u>	Herring Gull
<u>2</u>	Thayer's Gull*
<u>763</u>	Western Gull
<u>5</u>	Glaucous-winged Gull
	Black-legged Kittiwake*
	Caspian Tern*
<u>55</u>	Royal Tern
<u>228</u>	Forster's Tern
<u>240</u>	Black Skimmer*

AUKS & MURRES

<u>3</u>	Common Murre
<u>1</u>	Cassin's Auklet*
<u>3</u>	Rhinoceros Auklet*
<u>1</u>	Murrelet sp.

PIGEONS

<u>836</u>	Rock Dove
<u>451</u>	Band-tailed Pigeon
<u>2</u>	Spotted Dove
<u>1041</u>	Mourning Dove
<u>5</u>	Common Ground-Dove

CUCKOOS

<u>9</u>	Greater Roadrunner
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OWLS

<u>4</u>	Barn Owl
<u>1</u>	Western-Screech-Owl
<u>16</u>	Great Horned Owl
<u>2</u>	Northern Pygmy-Owl
	Burrowing Owl*

SWIFTS

<u>67</u>	White-throated Swift
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HUMMINGBIRDS

<u>684</u>	Anna's Hummingbird
<u>1</u>	Costa's Hummingbird*
<u>1</u>	Allen's Hummingbird*
<u>2</u>	Selasphorus sp.

KINGFISHERS

<u>17</u>	Belted Kingfisher
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WOODPECKERS

<u>687</u>	Acorn Woodpecker
<u>1</u>	Red-naped Sapsucker*
<u>12</u>	Red-breasted Sapsucker
<u>54</u>	Nuttall's Woodpecker
<u>45</u>	Downey Woodpecker
<u>14</u>	Hairy Woodpecker
<u>294</u>	Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)
<u>1</u>	Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)*

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

<u>242</u>	Black Phoebe
<u>60</u>	Say's Phoebe
	Tropical Kingbird*
<u>4</u>	Cassin's Kingbird*

LARKS

42 Horned Lark

SWALLOWS

Violet-green Swallow*

JAYS & CROWS

3 Steller's Jay*

731 Scrub Jay

1348 American Crow

2 Common Raven

CHICKADEES & TITMICE

14 Mountain Chickadee

257 Plain Titmouse

BUSHTITS

2179 Bushtit

NUTHATCHES

103 Red-breasted Nuthatch

43 White-breasted Nuthatch

CREEPERS

1 Brown Creeper

WRENS

Rock Wren

17 Canyon Wren

234 Bewick's Wren

45 House Wren

7 Winter Wren

18 Marsh Wren

DIPPERS

American Dipper

OLD WORLD WARBLERS & THRUSHES

3 Golden-crowned Kinglet

899 Ruby-crowned Kinglet

51 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

77 Western Bluebird

3 Townsend's Solitaire

214 Hermit Thrush

726 American Robin

7 Varied Thrush

199 Wrentit

THRASHERS

249 Northern Mockingbird

170 California Thrasher

WAGTAILS & PIPITS

168 American Pipit

WAXWINGS

1416 Cedar Waxwings

SILKY FLYCATCHERS

5 Phainopepla

SHRIKES

23 Loggerhead Shrike

STARLINGS

2033 European Starling

VIREOS

93 Hutton's Vireo

WOOD WARBLERS, TANAGERS & SPARROWS

201 Orange-crowned Warbler

3 Nashville Warbler*

4 Yellow-Warbler*

3724 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)

41 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)

5 Black-throated Gray Warbler*

264 Townsend's Warbler

2 Hermit Warbler*

1 Palm Warbler*

X Black-and-white Warbler*

209 Common Yellowthroat

2 Wilson's Warbler*

Summer Tanager*

Western Tanager*

2 Rose-breasted Grosbeak*

4 Black-headed Grosbeak*

133 Rufous-sided Towhee

523 California Towhee

24 Rufous-crowned Sparrow

8 Chipping Sparrow

64 Lark Sparrow

Sage Sparrow*

126 Savannah Sparrow

11 Fox Sparrow

258 Song Sparrow

68 Lincoln's Sparrow

2 Swamp Sparrow*

2 White-throated Sparrow*

463 Golden-crowned Sparrow

1833 White-crowned Sparrow

1041 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)

2 Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)

1 Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed)*

BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

456 Red-winged Blackbird

1 Tricolored Blackbird

317 Western Meadowlark

760 Brewer's Blackbird

80 Brown-headed Cowbird

3 Orchard Oriole*

Hooded Oriole*

8 Northern Oriole (Bullock's)*

X Northern Oriole (Baltimore)*

X Scott's Oriole*

FINCHES

229 Purple Finch

1816 House Finch

105 Pine Siskin

519

Lesser Goldfinch

1

Lawrence's Goldfinch

174

American Goldfinch

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

202 House Sparrow

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

2 Sooty Shearwater

2 Least Bittern

3 White-faced Ibis

39 Brant

1 Eurasian Wigeon

3 Black Scoter

1 Pacific Golden Plover

1 Lesser Yellowlegs

1 Black-headed Gull

1 Zone-tailed Hawk

25 Wild Turkey

1 White-winged Dove

1 Short-eared Owl

2 White-headed Woodpecker

1 Lewis's Woodpecker

2 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

X Barn Swallow (7)

1 Yellow-billed Magpie

16 Pygmy Nuthatch

X Tennessee Warbler

1 Clay-colored sparrow

1 Harris's Sparrow

1 Great-tailed Grackle

36 Red Crossbill

54 Cassin's Finch

GRAND TOTAL

215 Species

*Rare - requires written description

X = Seen in Count Period (3 days before and 3 days after Count Day) but not on Count Day

