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 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 Tomil 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

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

- Special new-member rate of $20
- I want to join Audubon and help protect wildlife and wildlife habitats.
- 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

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Barbara Ahlman</td>
<td>Daniel Gira</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Allen</td>
<td>Ms. Barbara Godwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Amine</td>
<td>Mark Goen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo Ann Antolin</td>
<td>Ms. Maria Gordon</td>
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<td>Lee Benz</td>
<td>Beth Harding</td>
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<td>Dave Boarini</td>
<td>David Hodgdon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Helga Carden</td>
<td>John Hundley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cockshaw Trust</td>
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<td>Pamela Comito</td>
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<td>Jennifer Crane</td>
<td>Everett King</td>
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<td>Ms. Margaret Davis</td>
<td>S.I. Lanphier</td>
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<td>Frank Donaldson</td>
<td>Gina Lipari</td>
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<td>Charles H. Dorsey, Jr.</td>
<td>Ray D. McCaffrey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Eselgroth</td>
<td>Jay-Lavera Miller</td>
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<td>Robert Nagler</td>
<td>Andy Neumann</td>
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<td>David L. Petry</td>
<td>Martin-Roni</td>
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<td>Joanne T. Snyder</td>
<td>Ms. Roberta A.</td>
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<td>Lucian Tu</td>
<td>Sienna Vargas</td>
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<td>Victor G. Zilinskas</td>
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## 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 Bridges  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

DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE EXPEDITE

*Printed on recycled and recyclable paper*
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<td>14</td>
<td>Hairy Woodpecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>294</td>
<td>Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Northern Flicker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>242</td>
<td>Black Phoebe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Say's Phoebe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cassin's Kingbird*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOODPECKERS</th>
<th>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>687</td>
<td>Acorn Woodpecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Red-naped Sapsucker*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Red-breasted Sapsucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Nuttall's Woodpecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Downey Woodpecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Hairy Woodpecker</td>
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<tr>
<td>294</td>
<td>Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Cassin's Kingbird*</td>
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</table>
# LARKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42 Horned Lark</td>
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</table>

# STARLINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STARLINGS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2033 European Starling</td>
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</table>

# VIREOS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIREOS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 Hutton's Vireo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# WOOD WARBLERS, TANAGERS, & SPARROWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOOD WARBLERS, TANAGERS, &amp; SPARROWS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>201 Orange-crowned Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 American Goldfinch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Yellow-Rumped Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3724 Yellow-rumped Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 Yellow-rumped Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Black-throated Gray Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>264 Townsend's Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>209 Hermit Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Palm Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Black-and-white Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Common Yellowthroat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Wilson's Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Summer Tanager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Western Tanager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Rose-breasted Grosbeak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Black-headed Grosbeak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133 Rufous-sided Towhee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>523 California Towhee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Rufous-crowned Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Chipping Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64 Lark Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Sage Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126 Savannah Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Fox Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>258 Song Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68 Lincoln's Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Swamp Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 White-throated Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>463 Golden-crowned Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833 White-crowned Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1041 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# ADDITIONAL SPECIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDITIONAL SPECIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Lesser Goldfinch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Lawrence's Goldfinch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 American Goldfinch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Sooty Shearwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Least Bittern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 White-faced Ibis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Brant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Eurasian Wigeon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Black Scoter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pacific Golden Plover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Lesser Yellowlegs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Black-headed Gull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Zone-tailed Hawk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Wild Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 White-winged Dove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Short-eared Owl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 White-headed Woodpecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Lewis's Woodpecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Yellow-billed Sapsucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Barn Swallow (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Yellow-billed Magpie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Pygmy Nuthatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tennessee Warbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Clay-colored sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Harris's Sparrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Great-tailed Grackle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Red Crossbill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54 Cassin's Finch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# GRAND TOTAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRAND TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>215 Species</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rare - requires written description

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