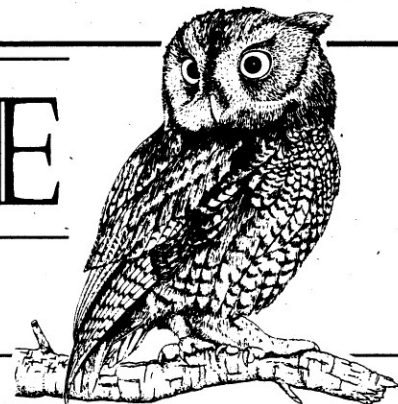


EL TECOLOTE

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Incorporated

Volume 36 Number 5

February 1998



SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOARS TO 209 ON 1997 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

by Joan Lentz

One dedicated birder scrambled out of bed at 1:00 a.m., drove up to East Camino Cielo, and counted a Western Screech-Owl. Two other participants spent the day knee-deep in the mud of Goleta Slough. Still others sat for hours and watched special feeders where grosbeaks, doves, or hummingbirds were anticipated to show up. From Gibraltar Reservoir to the Upper Santa Ynez River, from Ellwood to Montecito, and from a boat offshore, Santa Barbara Auduboners counted the birds they saw on January 3, 1998, and came up with a winning total.

At press time, our census of 209 species sighted was the highest recorded nationally, with the exception of the topmost Christmas Counts in Texas. So ... we swept California, even though our arch-rival of many years, Freeport, Texas, edged us out with 215.

In the weeks before the Count, pessimism ruled. Unlike last year when the area was full of montane birds, this year no chickadees, siskins, or crossbills were to be found anywhere. Everyone said there were "just no birds around." Sparrow flocks were down; numbers of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings were low; even warblers appeared to be scarce, with the exception of a few stake-outs turned up in last-minute scouting.

But when Count Day dawned calm and clear — bracketed by rain storms — and 125 birders started to work their magic, the day became an amazing exercise in brilliant birding and plain old hard work. First, we got the famous returning birds — those that have spent the winter here annually, like the Eurasian Wigeon and Zone-tailed Hawk (both 5 years) and the Orchard Oriole (3 years). Then we rolled up our sleeves and sought the stake-outs: the Black-and-white Warbler at the cemetery, the Baltimore Oriole at the end of Armitos in Goleta; the Red-naped Sapsucker in Mission Canyon Heights; the American Redstart on San Jose Creek in Goleta; the

Nashville Warbler at the Bird Refuge. So far, so good — but by noon, when the tally began at Goleta Beach and Jay Bishop began organizing the birders gathered around, there were still some big holes in the list.

In the end, it was the easy-to-identify but hard-to-find species, that made the difference. The discovery of one Long-billed Curlew near Hope Ranch Beach, one Short-eared Owl on More Mesa, one Rock Wren near Arroyo Burro Beach, one Yellow-billed Magpie along Paradise Road, a Sage Sparrow and a Townsend's Solitaire at La Cumbre Peak, and a Tri-colored Blackbird at the dump show how we can really scour the Count circle.

At the compilation countdown at S.B. Museum of Natural History that night, the true surprises of the Count were unveiled. As assembled birders feasted on a potluck dinner, they learned just how their diligence had paid off.

Nobody expected to hear that a Red-necked Grebe was in the Santa Barbara harbor, or that a Summer Tanager had been found in Goleta; that a Palm Warbler was on the steps at Shoreline Park, a Brewer's Sparrow was in Alameda Park downtown, a Black-chinned Hummingbird was in south Goleta, and a Broad-tailed Hummingbird

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FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS

GOLETA BEACH COUNTY PARK AND UCSB MESA ROAD OVERLOOK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1998, 8:00 A.M.

target: Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, and other waterfowl

leader: Paul Keller (805) 968-7804

From the south take 101 north to 217 then turn off to Goleta Beach County Park. From the north take 101 south to Fairview Ave. Go south (right turn) and follow main road, which involves bearing right onto Fowler Rd. and left onto Moffet Rd., and follow signs to Goleta Beach. Meet at eastern end of Goleta Beach County Park parking lot. AAA Santa Barbara and Vicinity E-6. Scopes useful. If you want to see what birdwatching all about, come join us. The sight of a Bufflehead drake through a scope is unforgettable! Trip over by mid morning.

FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1998, 7:30 A.M.

target: Mountain Quail, Lewis's Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, bluebirds, nuthatches, Mountain Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet

leader: Dave Compton (805) 965-3153

Meet at Carl's Jr., 3935 State Street: Take 101 to La Cumbre exit in Santa Barbara. Go north on La Cumbre Rd. and turn left into Five Points Shopping Center and park at Carl's Jr. Car pool from here. We'll bird at stops along route, so bring lunch in case good birding keeps us afield. Also bring warm clothes, gloves, and water.

RANCHO JOCOSO, ON THE EAST END OF LAKE CACHUMA

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1998, 7:00 A.M.

target: Common Goldeneye, Wood Duck, Lewis's Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, American White Pelican, Mountain Bluebird

leader: Jeff Chemnick (805) 965-0895

Meet at Carl's Jr. at 3925 State Street (see above trip for directions) and car pool from there. Bring water. Back before lunch.

VERTEBRATE COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1998, 6:00 P.M.

Study skins of shorebirds and other species that you request

leader: David Kisner, (805) 692-9792

From the north take 101 to Glen Annie, Storke exit and go

south on Storke Rd. to the end. Turn left onto El Colegio Rd. and go east into the UCSB main campus. Bear left onto Ocean Rd. then turn right onto University Rd. At the East Gate bear right onto Lagoon Rd. and turn right into Lot 1. From the south take 101 to 217 to UCSB. At the East Gate bear left onto Lagoon Rd. and turn right into Lot 1 and park. Walk west to Noble Hall (544), go to the 2nd floor and as you walk west the Vertebrate Collections will be on your right. Bring your field guide if you have one, pen and paper for notes. Beginning birders, you have the opportunity to see field marks "in the feather" and in your hand. Experienced birders already know the value of study skins for sharpening field identification skills. We should finish up by about 8:00 p.m. Practice your honed skills on living birds on tomorrow's field trip!

CAMPUS LAGOON AND VICINITY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1998, 8:00 A.M.

target: Shorebirds and other birds

leader: David Kisner (805) 692-9792, or
kisnerd@silcom.com

Follow the directions of yesterday's trip to the Vertebrate Collections except instead of turning right into Lot 1, continue south on Lagoon Rd. and turn left into Lot 6 and park in the southern end of Lot 6 by the Marine Biotechnology Laboratory (555). AAA Santa Barbara and Vicinity F-5, DeLorme p. 89 A-6. Scopes useful. Dress in layers. Those that joined Dave at the Vertebrate Collections last evening may wish to bring their notes. Trip over before lunch.

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.

El Tecolote is published 8 times a year by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. Non-member price for an annual subscription is \$15 per year. Please send announcements, letters, articles, or other items for consideration by the 10th of the month to:

Janet Eastman, Editor
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
5679 Hollister Avenue - Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 964-1468 FAX: (805) 967-7718



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A PRESENTATION BY THE SANTA
BARBARA WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK

Wednesday, February 25, 1998, 8:00 p.m.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for refreshments.
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Farrand Hall
1226 Puesta del Sol
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

THE NETWORK RESCUES and treats some 2,000 birds and small mammals a year. Meet the volunteers who respond to oil spills, hand raise orphaned songbirds, and mend the broken wings of Santa Barbara's seabirds. The Network's educational raptors will be present, showing that birds can have meaningful lives even after their injuries render them unreleasable to the wild. A slide presentation will focus on the most unusual rescues and the rare birds treated over the years. Volunteers will also share their experiences working hands-on with the creatures we usually admire only from a distance. They will impart their most memorable success stories and discuss the hazards faced by local birds, including the recent oil spill.

About Solicitations ...

If you are bothered by solicitations from National Audubon Society, you can have your name removed from their appeals list. Just drop a line to the membership department stating your wishes. Including a mailing label from the magazine will speed up the process. Write to: Membership, National Audubon Society, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003-9562.

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Wanted: One Tough Cookie

Will be challenged to improvise in a new program, no easy, pat answers; will help create the answers and the questions; must have the skills to work with children and one other adult. Project begins in February.
Phone Dave Wass at (805) 682-6962.

RARE BIRD ALERT

(805) 964-8240

☒

YES!

**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

National Audubon Society Membership Application

Special new-member rate of \$20

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip

Local Chapter — Santa Barbara Audubon Society C13 7XCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 7	Goleta Beach field trip
Sunday, February 22	Figueroa Mountain f.t.
Wednesday, February 25	February Program: <i>Wildlife Rescue</i>
Saturday, March 7	Rancho Jocosco f.t.
Friday, March 13	UCSB Vertebrate Collection f.t.
Saturday, March 14	UCSB Lagoon f.t.

(Continued from page 1)

visited Hope Ranch. What a glorious day!

As your Christmas Count compiler, I have to say that this was one of the best Counts ever. The spirit of teamwork, the pre-Count scouting, and the willingness of participants to cover their areas thoroughly hit an all-time high. Once again, I would like to thank Santa Barbara Audubon for sponsoring such a great event. I received special help from Jay Bishop, Karen Bridgers, Peter Cantle, Dave Compton, Fred Emerson, George and Joan Hardie, Brad Hines, Mark Holmgren, Pat Kelly, Guy Tingos, Chris Walden, and Kathleen Whitney. All of those who made the 1997 Count a success, don't forget to mark your calendars for next year's date: January 2, 1999. Thanks so much and good birding!

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers and Committee Chairs
September 1997 - August 1998

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Vice President: Lee Moldaver.... 682-2120
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Darlene Chirman 692-2008
Don & Florence Stivers 967-3690

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. FAX (805) 967-7718.

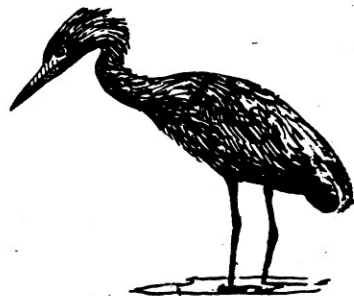
PEN & INK DRAWING ON COVER BY DARYL HARRISON

EL TECOLOTE

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SBAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT -- January 3, 1998

LOONS

<u>11</u>	Red-throated Loon
<u>42</u>	Pacific Loon
<u>19</u>	Common Loon

GREBES

<u>79</u>	Pied-billed Grebe
<u>19</u>	Horned Grebe
<u>27</u>	Eared Grebe
<u>259</u>	Western Grebe
<u>6</u>	Clark's Grebe

SHEARWATERS

<u>1</u>	Northern Fulmar
<u>385</u>	Black-vented Shearwater

PELICANS

<u>768</u>	Brown Pelican
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CORMORANTS

<u>376</u>	Double-crested Cormorant
<u>368</u>	Brandt's Cormorant
<u>16</u>	Pelagic Cormorant

HERONS

<u>0</u>	American Bittern
<u>33</u>	Great Blue Heron
<u>31</u>	Great Egret*
<u>37</u>	Snowy Egret
<u>7</u>	Cattle Egret
<u>12</u>	Green Heron
<u>54</u>	Black-crowned Night-Heron

SWANS, GEESE, & DUCKS

<u>40</u>	Canada Goose
<u>4</u>	Wood Duck
<u>38</u>	Green-winged Teal
<u>253</u>	Mallard
<u>84</u>	Northern Pintail
<u>1</u>	Blue-winged Teal*
<u>28</u>	Cinnamon Teal
<u>227</u>	Northern Shoveler
<u>69</u>	Gadwall
<u>225</u>	American Wigeon
<u>11</u>	Canvasback
<u>206</u>	Redhead
<u>116</u>	Ring-necked Duck
<u>1</u>	Greater Scaup*
<u>50</u>	Lesser Scaup
<u>253</u>	Surf Scoter
<u>4</u>	White-winged Scoter
<u>0</u>	Common Goldeneye
<u>82</u>	Bufflehead
<u>10</u>	Hooded Merganser
<u>1</u>	Common Merganser
<u>7</u>	Red-breasted Merganser
<u>197</u>	Ruddy Duck

NEW WORLD VULTURES

<u>132</u>	Turkey Vulture
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HAWKS

<u>0</u>	Osprey*
<u>29</u>	White-tailed Kite
<u>7</u>	Northern Harrier
<u>13</u>	Sharp-shinned Hawk
<u>12</u>	Cooper's Hawk
<u>98</u>	Red-shouldered Hawk
<u>127</u>	Red-tailed Hawk
<u>2</u>	Golden Eagle

FALCONS

<u>66</u>	American Kestrel
<u>8</u>	Merlin

QUAIL

<u>227</u>	California Quail
<u>9</u>	Mountain Quail

RAILS & GALLINULES

<u>1</u>	Virginia Rail
<u>14</u>	Sora
<u>1</u>	Common Moorhen
<u>1481</u>	American Coot

PLOVERS

<u>291</u>	Black-bellied Plover
<u>120</u>	Snowy Plover
<u>19</u>	Semipalmated Plover
<u>66</u>	Killdeer

STILTS & AVOCETS

<u>8</u>	Black-necked Stilt
<u>0</u>	American Avocet

SANDPIPERS

<u>24</u>	Greater Yellowlegs
<u>199</u>	Willet
<u>0</u>	Wandering Tattler
<u>8</u>	Spotted Sandpiper
<u>65</u>	Whimbrel
<u>1</u>	Long-billed Curlew
<u>141</u>	Marbled Godwit
<u>13</u>	Ruddy Turnstone
<u>29</u>	Black Turnstone
<u>522</u>	Sanderling
<u>5</u>	Western Sandpiper
<u>52</u>	Least Sandpiper
<u>5</u>	Dunlin
<u>66</u>	Long-billed Dowitcher
<u>3</u>	Common Snipe
<u>0</u>	Red Phalarope*

JAEGERS, GULLS & TERNS

<u>1</u>	Pomarine Jaeger*
<u>9</u>	Parasitic Jaeger*
<u>650</u>	Bonaparte's Gull
<u>1627</u>	Heermann's Gull
<u>210</u>	Mew Gull
<u>606</u>	Ring-billed Gull
<u>895</u>	California Gull
<u>8</u>	Herring Gull

<u>1</u>	Thayer's Gull*
<u>2000</u>	Western Gull
<u>7</u>	Glaucous-winged Gull
<u>0</u>	Black-legged Kittiwake*
<u>1</u>	Caspian Tern*
<u>24</u>	Royal Tern
<u>48</u>	Forster's Tern
<u>189</u>	Black Skimmer*

AUKS & MURRES

<u>2</u>	Common Murre
<u>0</u>	Cassin's Auklet*
<u>0</u>	Rhinoceros Auklet*

PIGEONS

<u>798</u>	Rock Dove
<u>730</u>	Band-tailed Pigeon
<u>0</u>	Spotted Dove
<u>580</u>	Mourning Dove
<u>2</u>	Common Ground-Dove

CUCKOOS

<u>5</u>	Greater Roadrunner
----------	--------------------

OWLS

<u>1</u>	Barn Owl
<u>4</u>	Western-Screech-Owl
<u>13</u>	Great Horned Owl
<u>2</u>	Northern Pygmy-Owl
	Burrowing Owl*

SWIFTS

<u>45</u>	White-throated Swift
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HUMMINGBIRDS

<u>772</u>	Anna's Hummingbird
<u>1</u>	Costa's Hummingbird*
<u>0</u>	Allen's Hummingbird*
<u>0</u>	Selasphorus sp.

KINGFISHERS

<u>19</u>	Belted Kingfisher
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WOODPECKERS

<u>636</u>	Acorn Woodpecker
<u>2</u>	Red-naped Sapsucker*
<u>15</u>	Red-breasted Sapsucker
<u>65</u>	Nuttall's Woodpecker
<u>49</u>	Downy Woodpecker
<u>16</u>	Hairy Woodpecker
<u>193</u>	Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)
<u>0</u>	Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)*

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

<u>290</u>	Black Phoebe
<u>58</u>	Say's Phoebe
<u>0</u>	Tropical Kingbird*
<u>5</u>	Cassin's Kingbird*

LARKS

<u>0</u>	Horned Lark
----------	-------------

JAN 98 P.2

SWALLOWS

0 Violet-green Swallow*

JAYS & CROWS

3 Steller's Jay*
693 Scrub Jay
1159 American Crow
3 Common Raven

CHICKADEES & TITMICE

0 Mountain Chickadee
393 Plain Titmouse

BUSHTITS

1655 Bushtit

NUTHATCHES

2 Red-breasted Nuthatch
30 White-breasted Nuthatch

CREEPERS

1 Brown Creeper

WRENS

1 Rock Wren
17 Canyon Wren
123 Bewick's Wren
34 House Wren
5 Winter Wren
39 Marsh Wren

DIPPERS

0 American Dipper

OLD WORLD WARBLERS & THRUSHES

0 Golden-crowned Kinglet
527 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
87 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
82 Western Bluebird
1 Townsend's Solitaire
106 Hermit Thrush
793 American Robin
0 Varied Thrush
231 Wrentit

THRASHERS

157 Northern Mockingbird
105 California Thrasher

WAGTAILS & PIPITS

209 American Pipit

WAXWINGS

366 Cedar Waxwings

SILKY FLYCATCHERS

8 Phainopepla

SHRIKES

44 Loggerhead Shrike

STARLINGS

1374 European Starling

VIREOS

103 Hutton's Vireo

WOOD WARBLERS, TANAGERS & SPARROWS

145 Orange-crowned Warbler
2 Nashville Warbler*
1 Yellow-Warbler*
2116 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)
60 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
4 Black-throated Gray Warbler*
153 Townsend's Warbler
0 Hermit Warbler*
2 Palm Warbler*
2 Black-and-white Warbler*
293 Common Yellowthroat
3 Wilson's Warbler*
1 Summer Tanager*
8 Western Tanager*
2 Rose-breasted Grosbeak*
1 Black-headed Grosbeak*
124 Rufous-sided Towhee
596 California Towhee
25 Rufous-crowned Sparrow
11 Chipping Sparrow
5 Lark Sparrow
1 Sage Sparrow*
245 Savannah Sparrow
18 Fox Sparrow
266 Song Sparrow
133 Lincoln's Sparrow
2 Swamp Sparrow*
0 White-throated Sparrow*
624 Golden-crowned Sparrow
1948 White-crowned Sparrow
977 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
1 Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)
0 Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed)*

BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

281 Red-winged Blackbird
1 Tricolored Blackbird
389 Western Meadowlark
242 Brewer's Blackbird
54 Brown-headed Cowbird
1 Orchard Oriole*
0 Hooded Oriole*
3 Northern Oriole (Bullock's)*
1 Northern Oriole (Baltimore)*
0 Scott's Oriole*

FINCHES

88 Purple Finch
1981 House Finch
0 Pine Siskin
267 Lesser Goldfinch
0 Lawrence's Goldfinch

210 American Goldfinch

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

295 House Sparrow

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

1 Red-necked Grebe
3 Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater
1 Least Bittern
4 Greater White-fronted Goose
2 Ross's Goose
17 Brant
1 Eurasian Wigeon
1 Zone-tailed Hawk
1 Ferruginous Hawk
3 Peregrine Falcon
31 Wild Turkey
2 Lesser Yellowlegs
2 Phalarope (sp.)
1 White-winged Dove
1 Short-eared Owl
1 Black-chinned Hummingbird
1 Broad-tailed Hummingbird
1 Yellow-billed Magpie
1 American Redstart
1 Brewer's Sparrow
2 Vesper Sparrow
9 Great-tailed Grackle

GRAND TOTAL

209 Species

COUNT PERIOD BIRDS

1 Osprey
1 Pacific Golden-Plover
1 Lazuli Bunting
1 Scott's Oriole

*Rare - requires written description

