

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 39, Issue 3

December 2000/January 2001



2000 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 30, 2000

By Joan Lentz

Please come help us count the birds during **Santa Barbara Audubon Society's** annual **Christmas Bird Count** to be held Saturday, December 30, 2000! Every year, this wonderful effort on the part of almost 150 local and out-of-town birders is enough to keep Santa Barbara in the top five Christmas Counts in number of species sighted in the United States.

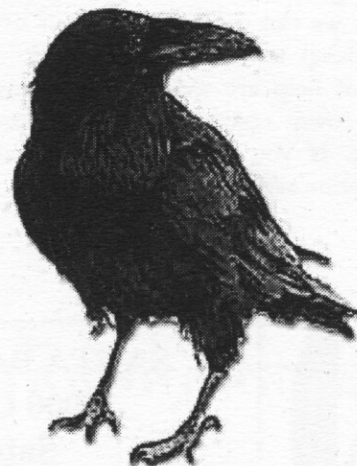
On the evening of Count Day, please join us at the compilation dinner at the **Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History** in Fleischmann Auditorium. The potluck dinner begins promptly at 6:00 PM and the compilation countdown at 7:00 PM. Please bring your favorite salad, main dish, or dessert to share. If your group includes out-of-towners, they may contribute drinks, bread, chips, etc. Please bring your own service.

This year's count compiler will be **Joan Lentz**, assisted by **Karen Bridgers** and **Joan and George Hardie**. **Chris Walden** has graciously agreed to take participants' sign-ups. Please fill out the coupon on page 2 or call or e-mail Chris to sign up.

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
Black-necked Stilt
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 Hummingbirds
Sapsuckers (other than Red-breasted)
Horned Lark

any swallows
Rock or Winter 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.

If you see any of the above or know of any other interesting birds, please let one of us know. Thanks and see you at the **Christmas Bird Count!**

Joan Lentz, 969-4397, jelentz@rain.org

Karen Bridgers, 964-1316, kbridgers@email.msn.com

Joan and George Hardie, 964-4090, JHcynwren@aol.com

To sign up please contact Chris Walden by phone: 969-4256; by e-mail: walden@rain.org; or by filling out and mailing the coupon on page 2.

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OWL-O-WEEN a Great Success!

By Catherine Graham, Education Chair

Sally Isaacson, Director of Education for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, reports that **OWL-O-WEEN** at the Garden, co-hosted with SBAS, was a wonderful success! Over eighty people gathered, including alert looking children. A picnic supper of pizza and salad was served at tables lit by pumpkins carved into owl faces. Next our Live Bird Director, **Gabriele Drozdowski**, introduced the SBAS participants: **Kathleen Whitney, Morgan Ball, Haley Ross, Apiieh Claybrook, Pete Triem** (from Ventura) and **Fred Ennson**, who were pleased to spread wildlife information to the eager attendees.

The attendees were divided into four groups and walked off with flashlights to the first of four stations. Five live raptors and their handlers intrigued everyone, and other mysteries were solved. A special treat was the release of a rehabilitated Burrowing Owl. This is migration time for them now.

Later, back at the library, Gabriele gave a slide presentation and answered questions. **Catherine Graham**, at the SBAS display table, talked to many people about our projects and membership and smiled when our new owl T-shirts were purchased.



More Wings for More People By Catherine Graham

Materials are ready for you to bring a wonderful slide presentation to an eager group of students or older folks. I know we can offer more of our help and friendship to these communities. All offers of help are welcome. You may add your own comments to the prepared script. If you are interested, please call Catherine at 682-1357.



*SBAS member Julie Kummel
models T-shirt with her artwork*

ON SALE NOW!

New SBAS T-shirts
life size **Western Screech-Owl** logo
\$12 each, assorted sizes

On sale at **SBAS Programs** or ask
Board Members or call **Catherine** at
682-1357

Great Holiday Gifts!



SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY 2000 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Saturday, December 30, 2000

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Preferred area: _____
Would like to work with: _____

Dinner ☐ Leader ☐ Feeder Count ☐

Please return to: **Chris Walden**, 222 W. Mountain Drive, Santa Barbara,
CA 93103; phone (805) 969-4256; e-mail walden@rain.org





Santa Barbara Audubon Winter Programs

All programs, unless otherwise noted, will take place at Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara. Free on-site parking.

All programs, unless otherwise noted, will begin at 7:30 PM and doors will open at 7:00 PM.

All programs, unless otherwise noted, are free to the public. SBAS members are encouraged to bring guests.

Tuesday, December 12th

(note special date)

David Lukas, Speaker
"The Birds of California"

Famed nature photographer and birder **David Lukas** flies into Santa Barbara to offer a dramatic narrated slide-show highlighting the result of his 3-year project to create the definitive pictorial bird book for California, and to share his field naturalist's perspective on bird ecology issues facing California's birds. Do NOT miss this one!

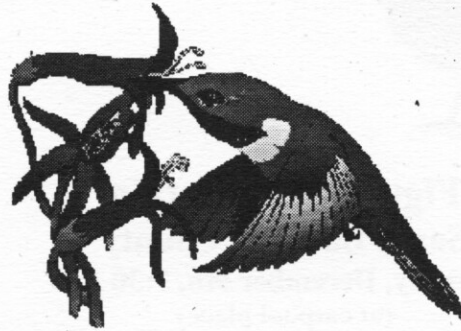
As a special opportunity for pre-holiday shoppers, David's book, *The Birds of California*, will be available for sale, with personal inscription by David immediately following his talk. This new book has been garnering tremendous reviews both for the dramatic pictorial quality and for the realistic setting and detail of each image. It would make an amazing stocking stuffer for that special bird lover in your life.

Holiday refreshments will be served before and after David's talk. Please invite your birding friends to join us for this free special evening with one of the West's premiere bird students and photographers. And remember, this is a special date, Tuesday, December 12th.



Morro Bay
Winter Bird Festival
January 12th - January 15th

The return of wintering birds to Morro Bay is celebrated each year at the annual Winter Bird Festival. Located on the Central Coast this area is known for its natural beauty and is a globally important bird area on the Pacific Flyway. During the annual Christmas Bird Count Morro Bay always ranks in the top ten with 200 or more species. Dozens of events are planned this year and will appeal to all levels of birders. To learn more about the festival please visit their website at www.morro-bay.net/birds or phone (800) 231-0592.



Wednesday, January 24th

Paul Collins, Krista Fahy, Speakers

"Explore avian treasures in a behind-the-scenes tour of exotic and rarely seen specimens"

An avian treasure trove is how the **Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History** describes the historic and natural collection of bird skins recently donated to the museum by the estate of **Paul Hobbs Blanchard**, amateur naturalist, world explorer and collector.

Paul Collins, Senior Associate Curator of Vertebrate Zoology and Assistant Curator **Krista Fahy** will lead us on a special tour highlighting some of the breathtaking specimens in this collection of 2,400 bird skins including hummingbirds with beaks 6 inches long; purple & crimson parrots; red-orange breasted meadowlarks, bright green jays. The collection includes rare and unusual birds from Ethiopia, Afghanistan, India, Madagascar, Europe, Ecuador and Mexico.

"Collected in the 1930's and 40's, some of these specimens were taken from areas that no longer have the habitat to support the wealth of flora and fauna they once did," according to a recent SBMNH bulletin. Be sure not to miss this one-of-a-kind event!



Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

Everyone is welcome! These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird lovers. 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.



Figueroa Mountain Santa Barbara County Saturday, December 9th, 7:30 AM (at carpool place)

Target birds: Montane birds such as Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, nuthatches
Dave Compton, 965-3153, davcompton@earthlink.net
Drivers may appreciate gas money.

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. at 3925 State St. Car pool from here. Bring lunch and water; dress in layers for cold. We have 5 Educational Administrative Passes, so car poolers won't need an Adventure Pass. If you already have an Adventure Pass and don't wish to car pool, you might want to bring it along. Back by mid-afternoon. Will 2000 be the year we see a Williamson's Sapsucker?



Santa Barbara Rare Birds (Christmas Bird Count Area) Saturday, January 6th, 8:00 AM (at carpool place)

Target birds: Rare birds of last week's Christmas Bird Count
Paul Keller, 968-7804, wrentit@gte.net

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. at 3925 State St. Car pool from here.

Priority will be to get permission to look for rarities on private property. Trip over before lunch.



Ventura County Game Preserve Oxnard, Ventura County Saturday, February 3rd, 7:30 AM (at carpool place)

Target Birds: Virginia Rail, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbird
Guy Tingos, 681-0026, gtingos@west.net
Drivers may appreciate gas money.

We will carpool from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge parking lot. From the east take 101 north to Cabrillo Blvd (left lane exit just past Montecito.) Turn left on Cabrillo and right on Los Patos Way. Parking lot on left. From the west take 101 south to Los Patos off ramp (after Milpas exit) and turn right into parking lot. If you want to meet us at the Game Preserve (private and normally off limits) take Hwy. 101 to Camarillo. Exit Las Posas and go south to Hueneme Rd. and turn right. Go west and turn left on Casper Rd. About a mile after the left bend on Casper Rd. turn right into the game preserve and park by the green bungalows by 8:15. Bring water and snack. Scopes useful. Trip over by noon. Come see both game and non-game birds in a superb habitat created by a private group of hunters.

Volunteer Habitat Restoration Opportunities for December & January

Come out and make a positive contribution to improve our creeks and wetlands - great places to work with good company. For more information contact **Darlene Chirman**, 692-2008, **Dave Wass**, 682-6962, or **Stephanie Langsdorf**, 886-3181. Rain cancels. Descriptions of the restoration projects are on **SBAS** website.



Date/Project & Location/Contact

Sun Dec 10, 8:30 AM-12:30/Goleta Slough/Call Darlene or Stephanie for meeting place and directions
 Sat Dec 16, 8:30 AM-12:00/Coal Oil Point Reserve/Call Dave for more information
 Dec/San Jose Creek Habitat Restoration/no workday this month
 Sat Jan 13, 8:30 AM-12:30/Goleta Slough/Call Darlene or Stephanie for meeting place and directions
 Sat Jan 20, 8:30 AM-12:00/Coal Oil Point Reserve/Call Dave for more information
 Jan/San Jose Creek Habitat Restoration/no workday this month



Great Holiday Gift!

Santa Barbara Audubon Society will send an individualized Gift Membership Card when you sign up through our chapter!

Your gift will provide:

- One year's membership in the **National Audubon Society**, including six issues of *Audubon Magazine*
- Membership in **SBAS**, including six issues of *El Tecolote* (includes notices of free lectures and field trips) (Non-local recipients will receive a membership in their local area)

Here's how:

- Fill out the Holiday Gift Certificate (see below)
- Enclose a check for \$20 (made out to the **National Audubon Society**)
- Mail both to: **Santa Barbara Audubon Society**
5679 Hollister Avenues, Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117



Holiday Gift Certificate National Audubon Society Membership Application

SEND GIFT TO:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

MY NAME IS:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Santa Barbara Audubon Society C13 7XCH 7CAP1

Calendar of Events

Dec 9	Figueroa Mountain Field Trip
Dec 12	"The Birds of California"
Dec 30	Christmas Bird Count
Jan 6	Santa Barbara Rare Birds Field Trip
Jan 24	"Explore Avian Treasures"
Feb 3	Ventura Game Preserve Field Trip

SBAS Adopts New Mission Statement

The **Santa Barbara Audubon Society** educates members of our community about birds and their habitats, advocates responsible legislation and public policies which help preserve our natural resources, and administers science-based projects using birds as indicators of environmental health. By focusing on birds and other wildlife, **SBAS** works to conserve and restore ecosystems for the benefit of humanity and biological diversity. With your help we can create a culture of conservation to help preserve the ecological integrity of our world.

SBAS website:

www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/santabarbara

El Tecolote is published 6 times a year by the **Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.** Non-member price for an annual subscription is \$15 per year. Please make checks payable to **SBAS**. Audubon members are invited to send announcements, letters, articles, photos and drawings for consideration to:

Bill and Elaine Uomini, Editors
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
 5679 Hollister Avenue - Suite 5B
 Goleta, CA 93117
 or e-mail: tecolotesb@aol.com

Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month.

SBAS July 2000/June 2001

(805) 964-1468, audubon@rain.org

Officers

President	Darlene Chirman	692-2008
Vice President	Lee Moldaver	682-2120
Secretary	Mary Wenzel	685-5601
Treasurer	Mairi Hand	692-8951

Board Members/Chairs

Conservation	Dave Wass	682-6962
Education	Catherine Graham	682-1357
Field Trips	Paul Keller	968-7804
Membership	Patrick McNulty	967-9900
Newsletter	Bill & Elaine Uomini	964-9401
Programs	open	
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At-Large	Satie Airame	965-0895
At-Large	Sylvia Curtis	965-8814
Bird Refuge	Sally Walker	569-5388
EYES IN THE SKY	Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347
Hospitality	Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690
Rare Birds	Karen Bridgers	964-1316
Rare Bird Alert	Recent rare bird sightings	964-8240

Officers and Committee Chairs meet the second Wednesday of the month. Members are welcome to attend. Please call the Audubon office to verify dates and times 964-1468; FAX 967-7718. Cover art by Daryl Harrison.

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Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
 5679 Hollister Avenue - Suite 5B
 Goleta, CA 93117

Dated material - Please expedite
 December 2000

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or current resident

In This Issue...

Find out how you can be part of the annual Christmas Bird Count!