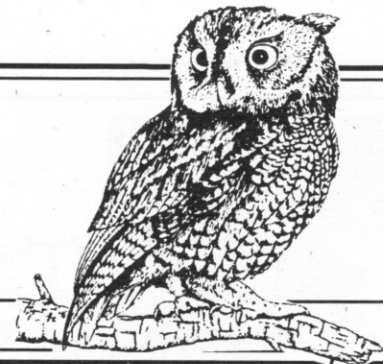


El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 40, Issue 3

December 2001/January 2002



2001 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, January 5th, 2002

By Joan Lentz



Please come help us count the birds during **Santa Barbara Audubon Society's** annual Christmas Bird Count to be held Saturday, January 5th, 2002! Every year this wonderful effort on the part of 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 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.

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



Yellow-breasted Chat

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 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

FOR SIGN-UP PLEASE CONTACT:
Chris Walden, 969-4256, Walden@rain.org
or fill out and mail the coupon on page 2.



Charles B. Voorhis picks up
his Kestrel nest box kit.

Wanted – Slide Scanner

By Catherine Graham

The education committee needs a slide scanner so that we can transform slides into high-resolution graphics. If you can work with our slides or loan us the scanner for a short time, please call **Catherine Graham** at 682-1357 or **Gabriele Drozdowski** at 898-1347. Thank you!



Kestrel Nest Boxes Still Available

Kestrel nest boxes are still available, but the supply is limited. You can pick one up at the monthly programs, or call **Catherine** at 682-1357. Kits are \$20 and completed boxes are \$35. Try to get yours up in December.

Discount Reminder

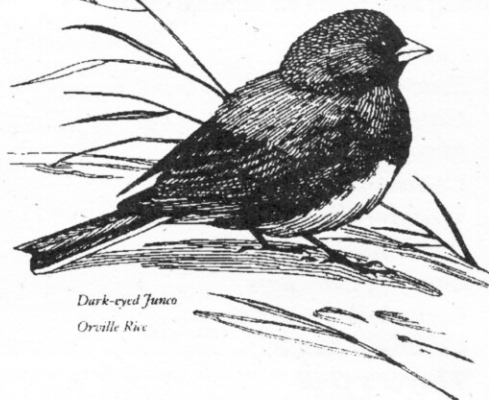
Remember that a 10% discount is available for **SBAS** members from **Wild Birds Unlimited** and from **Island Seed and Feed**.

Santa Barbara Audubon Society 2001 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Saturday, January 5th, 2002

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



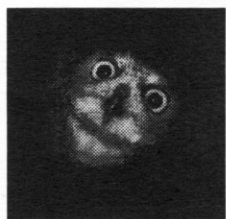
Volunteer Habitat Restoration Opportunities for December & January

Come out and make a positive contribution to improve our creeks and wetlands—great places to work with good company. For more information contact Volunteer Coordinator **Megan Snover**, 252-8227, megansnover@hotmail.com or **Darlene Chirman**, 692-2008, dchirman@rain.org.

Descriptions and directions are on the **SBAS** website: www.rain.org/~audubon/

Date	Location	Contact
Sat, Dec 1, 8:30 am-noon	Tabano Hollow, meet Ribera & Matorral, County Parks project	Liz Mason, 688-4515
Sat, Dec 8, 8:30 am-noon	Coal Oil Point Reserve, meet Whittier Dr & Storke Rd	Cris Sandoval, 893-5092, or Darlene
Sun, Dec 16, 8:30 am-12:30	Goleta Slough, planting-Pampas grass removal, meet Givens Farm near 720 Ward Dr	Megan
Sat, Jan 12, 8:30 am-12:30	Goleta Slough, planting Atascadero Bikeway, meet Patterson Ave at bikepath crossing	Megan
Sun, Jan 20, 8:30 am-12:30	Goleta Slough, planting-Pampas grass removal, meet Givens Farm near 720 Ward Dr	Megan
Sat, Jan 26, 9:30 am-noon	Goleta Beach County Park, meet first parking lot west end, Tecolotito Creek planting	Megan

Santa Barbara Audubon Programs



"Eyes In The Sky"

Gabriele Drozdowski, Speaker

Saturday, December 8th, 3:00 p.m.

Watershed Resource Center

at Hendry's Beach

(Please note special time and place)

We have a special treat for our December program! **EYES IN THE SKY** will present a program at the **Community Environmental Council's** new Watershed Resource Center at Hendry's Beach. **EITS**, a project of the **SBAS**, brings living wild hawks and owls, species native to our area—directly to schools and community groups for close-up and personal encounters. Due to human impact, these Species Ambassadors are no longer capable of surviving in the wild. They are powerful messengers who help people to experience directly the magnificence of our normally elusive wild neighbors, and to understand how deeply human actions affect them—for better or worse.

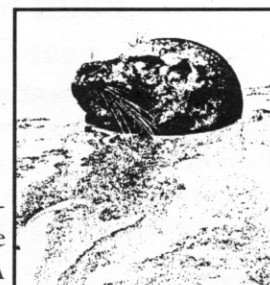
This program will be free of charge, and families are welcome.

*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 p.m.** and doors will open at **7:00 p.m.** All programs, unless otherwise noted, are **free** to the public. **SBAS** members are encouraged to bring guests.*

"The Gaviota Coast"

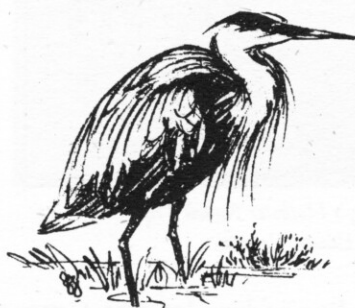
Sierra Club Speakers

Wednesday, January 23th



The **Sierra Club** will sponsor a presentation about the Gaviota Coast and the campaign to protect it from urban sprawl. A visually stunning slideshow, with photographs taken by **Rich Reid, Morgan Ball** and **Rick Skillin** will be shown, followed by guest speakers on the birds and habitat of the Gaviota Coast. The threats of urban sprawl to the incredible habitat along the Gaviota Coast will also be discussed.

In addition to being a key marine transition zone, Gaviota is one of the most important terrestrial transition zones between northern and southern California, resulting in rich biodiversity and a large amount of unique species found nowhere else. More than 40 sensitive (state or federally endangered, threatened or protected) vertebrate species inhabit the coast, including the California Condor, California Red-legged Frog, Western Snowy Plover, Southern California Steelhead, Tidewater Goby, Peregrine Falcon, Southern Sea Otter, California Least Tern and California Brown Pelican. This presentation is guaranteed to be an excellent learning opportunity about not only the incredible diversity of birds on the Gaviota Coast, but the unique habitats that support them and the ways in which you can help preserve and protect these resources...forever.



Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

January 18th - January 21st

The return of wintering birds to Morro Bay is celebrated each year. Located on the central California coast, the area is known for its natural beauty and is a globally important bird area on the Pacific Flyway. Dozens of festival events appeal to all birders and to persons interested in Morro Bay, a designated national and state estuary. Birders spotted 207 different species during the 2001 Festival.

We will again feature:

- Field trips on land and sea led by expert birders.
- Workshops on a variety of topics.
- Open hours at Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, Audubon Overlook, and the Elfin Forest.
- Vendors who focus on birding equipment and information.
- Many program options for the non-birder.

Registration is open. To learn more about the festival please visit our website at www.morro-bay.net/birds or call (800) 231-0592.



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.

Point Mugu Naval Air Station near Oxnard, Ventura County Sunday, December 2nd, 7:45 a.m.

Target Birds: Waterfowl, rails, egrets, shorebirds, Vermilion Flycatcher

Paul Keller (coordinator), 968-7804, wrentit@gte.net

Reservations required due to limited space.

Drivers may appreciate gas money.

We will carpool from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge parking area. From the east take 101 north to Cabrillo Blvd (left lane exit just past Montecito). Turn left on Cabrillo Blvd and right on Los Patos Way. Parking area on left. From the west take 101 south to Los Patos Way (after Milpas exit) and turn right into parking area.

The trip will begin at Mugu's Pizza across from the Main Gate off Hwy 1 at Wood Rd at 9:00 a.m. If you want to meet us at Mugu's Pizza please let me know beforehand. To reserve your space please call or e-mail me no later than Thursday November 15th. If you get my machine, E-NUN-CI-ATE CLEAR-LY and SLOW-LY, spelling as necessary, your last name, first name, middle initial, social security number, phone number, and, if you are under 18 years old, your age. Limit of 25 people. We need at least 15 participants for the trip so barring medical emergency or death in the immediate family, if you sign up show up. You must be at least 12 years old.

A base naturalist will lead us about the base until about noon. Bring photo ID, lunch and water. Dress in layers for sun, fog, wind or showers. Limited walking. Scopes useful but cameras and video equipment are not allowed.

Hollister Ranch near Gaviota

Saturday, January 19th, 7:30 a.m.
(at mandatory carpool place)

Target birds: Wintering songbirds and both ocean and pond waterfowl

Guy Tingos, 681-0026, gtingos@west.net

Reservations required due to limited space.

Drivers may appreciate gas money.

Take 101 to Storke, Glen Annie exit in Goleta. Go south on Storke Rd to Jack-in-the-Box parking lot near corner of Storke Rd and Hollister Ave. Car pool from here.

To reserve your space, leave your name with **Paul Keller** (NOT Guy), 968-7804, wrentit@gte.net, no later than Thursday, January 17th. Limit of 5 vehicles. If you are willing to drive, please let Paul know how many people your vehicle can carry. Last time we nearly had to deny those on the wait list because of people who signed up but didn't show up and never cancelled. Please give your thoughtful cooperation. Bring water, lunch and wear shoes for some leisurely walking. Scopes useful. Trip over by early afternoon.

Check out our first winter trip to Hollister Ranch.



Santa Barbara Rare Birds (Christmas Bird Count Area)

Saturday, January 12th, 8:00 a.m.

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. (3925 State Street). Car pool from here.

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



*Last May's Hollister Ranch Trip.
Photo by Elaine Uomini.*



Ventura County Game Preserve Oxnard, Ventura County Saturday, February 2nd, 7:30 a.m. (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 town of 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 Bird Refuge parking lot. If you want to meet us at the Game Preserve (private and normally off limits) take 101 to Camarillo. Exit Las Posas and go south to Hueheme 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 a.m. Bring water and snack. We won't have to walk far from the cars for any of our several stops. Scopes useful. Trip over by noon.

Come see both game and non-game birds in a superb habitat that a private group of hunters has created.

OWL-O-WEEN A Great Success!

By Gabriele Drozdowski

Almost a hundred people participated in our second annual **OWL-O-WEEN** at the **Botanic Garden** on October 27th. The event began at sunset with owl crafts for children, and a pizza/salad dinner amongst owl-carved pumpkins. As it became dark **SBAS** Board Member and writer **Sheila Goldburgh-Johnson** set up the mood for a mysterious moonlight hike by reading two wonderful owl poems. Four groups now set out toward the canyon guided by their moonlighting wizard guides—**SBAS** volunteers **Apieh Claybrook**, **Christine Cowles**, **Paul Keller**, **Kendy Radasky** and **SBBG** docents. Each group visited four mysterious stations—an owl display station in the gazebo—complete with owl talons, feathers, wings, pellets, and stuffed owls; next a real owl feather hunt on a moonlit meadow; then a live Great Horned Owl (**Max**) in the Redwoods where Great Horned Owls have nested in the past, and a real Western Screech Owl (**Otus**) on the other side of the canyon. Arriving back in the courtyard the hikers received cookies and were entertained with a short slide show about Santa Barbara's 10 owl species. This concluded the evening, and big smiles were noticed.

The biggest thanks to the wonderful volunteers that participated: **Sheila**, **Apieh**, **Christine**, **Paul**, **Kendy**, and also **Lisa Kelly** (**SBAS** table), **Elizabeth Price** (photography), **Fred Ennerson** (birds), **Jennifer Echo** (birds), **James Walker** (birds) and **David Eldridge** (Birds). Our warmest thanks also to **Sally Isaacson** and **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden** for co-sponsoring this fun and educational event.



Night Wizard Christine Cowles.
Photo by Elizabeth Price.

San Ysidro Ranch Hosts Tribute to Santa Barbara Audubon Society

On October 7th **EYES IN THE SKY** presented a program at a garden party hosted by the **San Ysidro Ranch**. About 40 people attended, half of them children. The ranch's famous chef had prepared the most delicious afternoon treats for attendees, and activities for children abounded: painting mini birdhouses and drawing Max (Great Horned Owl) or Squirt (Red-shouldered Hawk). They entered their drawings in a raffle to win either T-shirts, pocket bird guides, posters of our live birds, or a Kestrel/Screech-Owl box. The event raised several hundred dollars for **SBAS** and **EITS**. We wish to thank **Greg** and **Susan Goggins**, **Janis Clapoff** and the **San Ysidro Ranch** for their generous hospitality.

Calendar of Events

Dec 2	Point Mugu NAS Field Trip
Dec 8	"Eyes In The Sky" Program
Jan 5	CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Jan 12	Santa Barbara Rare Birds Field Trip
Jan 19	Hollister Ranch Field Trip
Jan 23	"Gaviota Coast" Program
Feb 2	Ventura Game Preserve Field Trip

Save This Date: Saturday, May 4th!

Want an opportunity to see a Pink-footed Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Black Storm-Petrel, Red-necked Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Pigeon Guillemot, Xantus' Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, Allen's Hummingbird, Pacific-slope Flycatcher or an Island Scrub-Jay? **Brad Schram** and **Dave Compton** will lead an all day trip to Santa Cruz Island. For more details or to make a reservation call **Paul Keller**, 968-7804, or see the **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**. Members are invited to send announcements, letters, articles, photos and drawings for consideration to:

SBAS, Bill and Elaine Uomini, Editors

5679 Hollister Avenue - Suite 5B

Goleta, CA 93117

or e-mail: tecotesb@aol.com

Submission deadline is the 10th of the month.

SBAS July 2001/June 2002

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

www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/santabarbara

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Vice President	Satie Airame	965-0895	satie.airame@noaa.gov
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Education	Catherine Graham	682-1357	
Field Trips	Paul Keller	968-7804	wrentit@gte.net
Membership Chair	Lee Moldaver	682-2120	audubon@rain.org
Newsletter	Bill & Elaine Uomini	964-9401	tecotesb@aol.com
Programs	Sylvia Curtis	965-8814	sylviayc@yahoo.com
Publicity	Sheila Golburgh-Johnson	682-4618	chtodel@gss.ucsb.edu
Science	Kendy Radasky	683-4176	kradasky@aol.com
At-Large-Outreach	Christine Cowles	568-5370	ccltsbc@silcom.com
At-Large-Outreach	Victoria Woodard-I Harvey	965-6355	mwright@silcom.com
At-Large-Outreach	Anna Nicholas	681-9141	ripacityfilms@earthlink.net

Appointed Positions

Eyes In The Sky	Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	gabriele-d@home.com
Hospitality	Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
Membership database	Patrick McNulty	967-9900	mcnulty@gte.net
Nominating Com.	Sally Walker	569-5388	walker@sprynet.com
Rare Bird Alert	Recent rare bird sightings	964-8240	
Report Rare Bird	Karen Bridgers	964-1316	kbridgers@msn.com
Webmaster	Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbico@earthlink.net

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. FAX: 967-7718. Cover art by Daryl Harrison.

El Tecolote

Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

5679 Hollister Avenue - Suite 5B

Goleta, CA 93117

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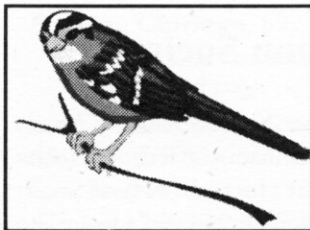
December 2001

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In This Issue...

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