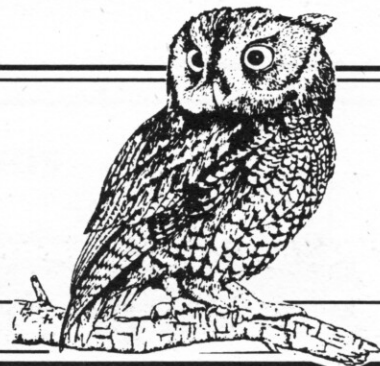


# El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 40, Issue 4

February/March 2002



## SANTA BARBARA BIRDERS TALLY 206 SPECIES IN MONSTER BIRD COUNT!

By Joan Lentz

**S**anta Barbara Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count on January 5, 2002, was marked by great pre-Count scouting, terrific teamwork on Count Day, and the unmatched enthusiasm of all the birders who participated. What a day! The weather cooperated, many rare birds were counted, and attendance at the compilation dinner in Fleischmann Auditorium was high. Thank you **Santa Barbara Audubon Society** for supporting such a great effort.

After a rainy two weeks prior to Count Day, we had a calm, sunny day at last. Teams fanned out over the 15-mile diameter Count Circle (centered at the corner of Highway 154 and Foothill Rd.) and tallied an amazing 206 different kinds of birds seen or heard in the 24-hour period.

By noon, at the Goleta Beach countdown organized by **Karen Bridgers**, we were still missing lots of species. Although most of the stake-outs (birds found prior to Count Day and "staked out" to be counted on January 5) were ticked off, there were some terrible holes in the list.



*This Oak Titmouse couldn't hide!  
Photo by Paul Barrett*

Everybody realized that we just did not have the geese, ducks and other waterbirds that are often here. Rumor has it that due to a warm winter up in the Northwest and Canada, watery areas had not frozen and waterfowl remained there, instead of journeying south to Southern California. If you look at the results, you will see we missed many waterbirds altogether, or had low numbers.

The perching birds, however, showed up in record numbers. We noted high counts for many species in this category, but the most numerous bird on the count was American Robin with an unprecedented total of 7066! And they were joined by lots of Cedar Waxwings—2114, to be exact. An occasional influx like this, known as a flight year for that species, is usually due to a failure of food supplies (perhaps berries?) farther north.

This Count had its share of rarities, those "goodies" that are not found on the regular list.



*The Rutherford's group identifies and counts birds for the CBC.  
Photo by Paul Barrett*

These are the exciting birds that continue to lure people to bird in our beautiful area all winter long.

The rarest bird on the Count? Probably the Western Kingbird found feeding in a backyard side-by-side with many Cassin's Kingbirds. (Noticed the day AFTER Count Day, the pesky Tropical Kingbird was also in this yard.) Next rarest were the amazing three Northern Waterthrushes. These warblers, which had never been recorded on the Santa Barbara Count before, presented themselves to astonished viewers at the Zoo (not in the enclosures!), Arroyo Burro Creek, and west Goleta.

Other interesting birds found were the Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Worm-eating, and Pine Warblers, plus three Clay-colored Sparrows and a Harris's Sparrow—the latter in a flock of White-crowned Sparrows at Lake Los Carneros.

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society would like to recognize **JOAN LENTZ** for her leadership and excellent organization of the **2001 Christmas Bird Count** as well as those in past years! Her delightful contributions to **El Tecolote** are also much appreciated. With enthusiasm and expertise, Joan welcomes beginners to the joys of birding and encourages class after class of birders of various abilities to become better birders.

**Thank you Joan Lentz!**

*(Continued on page 2)*



(Continued from page 1)

Every year, Santa Barbara birders wait anxiously to see if any of the previous winter's finds will return to take up residence and be counted. The most famous bird in this category is the Zone-tailed Hawk, back for its ninth year! Unlike last year when it was missed, we were able to find the Zone-tailed perched on a utility pole near North Fairview Ave. The Rusty Blackbird, another bird that doesn't belong in these parts, is back for its third year, hanging around the entrance to Costco in west Goleta!

It is such an inspiration to compile the Santa Barbara Christmas Count, because so many fabulous people are involved. This year we had lots of out-of-town birders who helped cover every inch of the Count Circle. Local participation was at an all-time high, too. From beginner to expert, we welcome them all.

I especially want to thank **Karen Bridgers, Joan Hardie, Dave Compton, Rebecca Coulter, and Chris Walden** for their help in putting on the Count.

And, in the big picture, preliminary results suggest Santa Barbara tied for the second highest species count in the nation with our friendly rival, Freeport, Texas. We may never beat Mad Island Marsh (with 233 species), but with a Count this good, who cares?



## Great Backyard Bird Count



### Announcing the 5th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count February 15-18

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Help scientists define the status of winter birds. Join backyard birders from Nome to Key West. Become a Citizen Scientist.

Participate by visiting:  
<http://www.birdsource.org>



### Why count backyard birds?

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic, they are constantly in flux. We want to take a snapshot of North American bird populations and YOU can help us. **Everyone's contribution is important.** It doesn't matter whether you identify, count, and report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge.

### Yes On Prop 40 Santa Barbara Audubon Society Endorses Park Bond

The SBAS Board of Directors voted to endorse Proposition 40, the \$2.6 billion Park Bond on the March 2002 ballot. We join **National Audubon** and **Audubon California** in supporting this bond measure, which will help fulfill our mission for conservation and restoration of wildlife habitat. The bond measure will in part fund open space acquisition, and conservation easements, and restoration of natural areas, including protection of habitat which aids in recovery of threatened and endangered species.

To learn more visit the website at:  
[www.VoteYeson40.org](http://www.VoteYeson40.org)



### Kestrel/Screech-Owl Nest Box Project By Catherine Graham

Many thanks to **Al Dreschler** and **Tom Steiglitz**, master carpenters, who volunteered their time and expertise to cut out 26 Kestrel or Screech-Owl nest boxes and put together 16 of them. They also provided directions and blueprints for those who want to build one of their own. They did this as a gift to **SBAS**. Thanks also to **Jim Walker** who provided transportation. All of last year's nest boxes were sold!

Now we would like to get a head start on next year's nest boxes. If you would like to help, please call **Catherine Graham** at 682-1357. Storage can be provided for completed kits and boxes.



## Santa Barbara Audubon 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 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.*



*Bufflehead*



*American Bittern*



*Reddish Egret*

*Photos courtesy of Don DesJardin*

### "The Biological Diversity And Identification Of Local Shorebirds"

**Walter Wehtje and Don DesJardin, Speakers**  
**Wednesday, February 27th**

**Y**es you can identify and photograph shorebirds! **Walter Wehtje**, ornithologist, and **Don DesJardin**, photographer extraordinaire team up to bring us an informative and beautiful slide show presentation on the biological diversity and identification of local shorebirds.

**Walter Wehtje**, active birder and researcher, is currently completing his dissertation at the University of California, Riverside in Biogeography, where he was a recent recipient of the American Museum of Natural History's Frank M. Chapman Memorial Grant in ornithology. Among Walter's varied research interests are grackles and their range expansion in the western United States, and Snowy Plovers on the Central California coast. **Mr. Wehtje** is the compiler of the Birds of Ventura County for *North American Birds*. For the past two years he has coordinated the Thousand Oaks Christmas Bird Count.

The presentation will feature the beautifully detailed bird photography of **Don DesJardin**, top Ventura county lister, as well as phenomenal photographer. To see a preview of his work, don't miss his website at

<http://www.camacdonald.com/birding/DesJardin/>

Bring your questions on shorebirds and photography!

### "Manu National Park: The Ultimate in Biodiversity"

**James F. Clements, Speaker**  
**Wednesday, March 27th**

**M**anu National Park in Peru covers over 4 million acres and is home to an incredible 1000 species of birds and 200 species of mammals. This pristine park ranges from over 14,000 feet in the Andes of South America to the lowland rain forests on the east slope of the Andes. The road from Cusco down the east slope of the Andes traverses one of the most primitive and untouched cloud forests in the world. **Dr. Clements'** illustrated slide lecture will include a dazzling display of multicolored tanagers, cotingas, mannikins and hummingbirds. In addition, he will show many of the mammals that inhabit the rainforest—monkeys, giant river otters, tapirs and sloths.

**Dr. Clements** is the author of *A Field Guide to the Birds of Peru*, copies of which will be available for signing. He has made 19 trips to Peru over the past 30 years, doing research for this long-awaited book. Over 1800 species—more than are found in any other country in the world—are illustrated, in addition to Peru's 118 endemic species.

**Dr. Clements** is also the author of *Birds of the World, A Checklist*, now in its fifth edition. He has been a resident of southern California for over 50 years (when not traveling to some remote corner of the world in search of birds). His personal life list is over 7000 and he has visited over 130 countries in his lifetime study of birds.





### LOONS

<u>6</u>	Red-throated Loon
<u>17</u>	Pacific Loon
<u>49</u>	Common Loon
<u>12</u>	loon sp.

### GREBES

<u>115</u>	Pied-billed Grebe
<u>19</u>	Horned Grebe
<u>49</u>	Eared Grebe
<u>208</u>	Western Grebe
<u>5</u>	Clark's Grebe

### SHEARWATERS

<u>0</u>	Northern Fulmar
<u>30</u>	Black-vented Shearwater

### PELICANS

<u>611</u>	Brown Pelican
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### CORMORANTS

<u>363</u>	Double-crested Cormorant
<u>50</u>	Brandt's Cormorant
<u>5</u>	Pelagic Cormorant

### HERONS

<u>1</u>	American Bittern
<u>1</u>	Least Bittern*
<u>45</u>	Great Blue Heron
<u>35</u>	Great Egret
<u>57</u>	Snowy Egret
<u>0</u>	Cattle Egret
<u>10</u>	Green Heron
<u>61</u>	Black-crowned Night-Heron

### SWANS, GEESE, & DUCKS

<u>0</u>	Gr. White-fronted Goose
<u>0</u>	Snow Goose*
<u>0</u>	Ross's Goose*
<u>0</u>	Brant*
<u>117</u>	Canada Goose
<u>0</u>	Canada Goose (small race)
<u>4</u>	Wood Duck
<u>77</u>	Green-winged Teal
<u>361</u>	Mallard
<u>38</u>	Northern Pintail
<u>0</u>	Blue-winged Teal*
<u>12</u>	Cinnamon Teal
<u>88</u>	Northern Shoveler
<u>87</u>	Gadwall
<u>0</u>	Eurasian Wigeon*
<u>54</u>	American Wigeon
<u>0</u>	Canvasback
<u>24</u>	Redhead
<u>61</u>	Ring-necked Duck

<u>1</u>	Greater Scaup*
<u>72</u>	Lesser Scaup
<u>45</u>	Surf Scoter
<u>0</u>	White-winged Scoter*
<u>1</u>	Common Goldeneye
<u>91</u>	Bufflehead
<u>0</u>	Hooded Merganser
<u>11</u>	Common Merganser
<u>7</u>	Red-breasted Merganser
<u>218</u>	Ruddy Duck

### NEW WORLD VULTURES

<u>142</u>	Turkey Vulture
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### HAWKS

<u>0</u>	Osprey*
<u>22</u>	White-tailed Kite
<u>8</u>	Northern Harrier
<u>16</u>	Sharp-shinned Hawk
<u>26</u>	Cooper's Hawk
<u>84</u>	Red-shouldered Hawk
<u>130</u>	Red-tailed Hawk
<u>4</u>	Golden Eagle

### FALCONS

<u>54</u>	American Kestrel
<u>9</u>	Merlin
<u>2</u>	Peregrine Falcon*

### QUAIL & TURKEYS

<u>45</u>	Wild Turkey
<u>229</u>	California Quail
<u>0</u>	Mountain Quail

### RAILS & GALLINULES

<u>3</u>	Virginia Rail
<u>11</u>	Sora
<u>3</u>	Common Moorhen
<u>718</u>	American Coot

### PLOVERS

<u>72</u>	Black-bellied Plover
<u>182</u>	Snowy Plover
<u>4</u>	Semipalmated Plover
<u>209</u>	Killdeer

### STILTS & AVOCETS

<u>7</u>	Black-necked Stilt
<u>0</u>	American Avocet

### SANDPIPERS

<u>21</u>	Greater Yellowlegs
<u>0</u>	Lesser Yellowlegs*
<u>114</u>	Willet
<u>4</u>	Spotted Sandpiper
<u>57</u>	Whimbrel
<u>3</u>	Long-billed Curlew
<u>98</u>	Marbled Godwit
<u>2</u>	Ruddy Turnstone
<u>24</u>	Black Turnstone
<u>346</u>	Sanderling
<u>11</u>	Western Sandpiper
<u>68</u>	Least Sandpiper
<u>1</u>	Dunlin

<u>42</u>	Long-billed Dowitcher
<u>11</u>	Common Snipe
<u>0</u>	Red Phalarope*

### JAEGERS, GULLS & TERNS

<u>4</u>	Pomarine Jaeger*
<u>0</u>	Parasitic Jaeger
<u>3</u>	jaeger sp.
<u>3</u>	Bonaparte's Gull
<u>292</u>	Heermann's Gull
<u>59</u>	Mew Gull
<u>149</u>	Ring-billed Gull
<u>332</u>	California Gull
<u>3</u>	Herring Gull
<u>1</u>	Thayer's Gull*
<u>1108</u>	Western Gull
<u>22</u>	Glaucous-winged Gull
<u>0</u>	Black-legged Kittiwake*
<u>0</u>	Caspian Tern*
<u>33</u>	Royal Tern
<u>3</u>	Forster's Tern
<u>121</u>	Black Skimmer

### ALCIDS

<u>1</u>	Common Murre
<u>0</u>	Cassin's Auklet
<u>13</u>	Rhinoceros Auklet

### PIGEONS

<u>1612</u>	Rock Dove
<u>362</u>	Band-tailed Pigeon
<u>3</u>	Spotted Dove
<u>722</u>	Mourning Dove
<u>2</u>	Common Ground-Dove

### CUCKOOS

<u>8</u>	Greater Roadrunner
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### OWLS

<u>3</u>	Barn Owl
<u>6</u>	Western Screech-Owl
<u>18</u>	Great Horned Owl
<u>1</u>	Northern Pygmy-Owl
<u>1</u>	Burrowing Owl

### SWIFTS

<u>72</u>	White-throated Swift
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### HUMMINGBIRDS

<u>774</u>	Anna's Hummingbird
<u>2</u>	Costa's Hummingbird*
<u>2</u>	Allen's Hummingbird*
<u>6</u>	Selasphorus sp.

### KINGFISHERS

<u>27</u>	Belted Kingfisher
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### WOODPECKERS

<u>732</u>	Acorn Woodpecker
<u>0</u>	Red-naped Sapsucker*
<u>14</u>	Red-breasted Sapsucker
<u>46</u>	Nuttall's Woodpecker
<u>55</u>	Downy Woodpecker
<u>11</u>	Hairy Woodpecker

234 No. (Red-shaft.) Flicker  
0 No. (Yel.-shaft.) Flicker\*

#### TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

318 Black Phoebe  
80 Say's Phoebe  
0 Tropical Kingbird\*  
32 Cassin's Kingbird\*

#### LARKS

0 Horned Lark

#### JAYS & CROWS

2 Steller's Jay  
995 Western Scrub-Jay  
7 Yellow-billed Magpie\*  
2361 American Crow  
13 Common Raven

#### CHICKADEES & TITMICE

0 Mountain Chickadee  
375 Oak Titmouse

#### BUSHTITS

2139 Bushtit

#### NUTHATCHES

8 Red-breasted Nuthatch  
73 White-breasted Nuthatch

#### CREEPERS

3 Brown Creeper

#### WRENS

1 Rock Wren  
21 Canyon Wren  
189 Bewick's Wren  
39 House Wren  
5 Winter Wren  
30 Marsh Wren

#### OLD WORLD WARBLERS & THRUSHES

6 Golden-crowned Kinglet  
687 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
81 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
143 Western Bluebird  
1 Townsend's Solitaire  
165 Hermit Thrush  
7066 American Robin  
2 Varied Thrush  
279 Wrentit

#### THRASHERS

202 Northern Mockingbird  
153 California Thrasher

#### WAGTAILS & PIPITS

132 American Pipit

#### WAXWINGS

2114 Cedar Waxwing

#### SILKY FLYCATCHERS

1 Phainopepla

#### SHRIKES

19 Loggerhead Shrike

#### STARLINGS

1467 European Starling

#### VIREOS

109 Hutton's Vireo

#### WOOD WARBLERS, TANAGERS & SPARROWS

253 Orange-crowned Warbler  
3 Nashville Warbler\*  
1 Yellow Warbler\*  
5292 Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler  
195 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler  
5 Black-th. Gray Warbler  
279 Townsend's Warbler  
0 Hermit Warbler\*  
3 Palm Warbler\*  
2 Black-and-white Warbler\*  
234 Common Yellowthroat  
4 Wilson's Warbler\*  
0 Summer Tanager\*  
7 Western Tanager\*  
0 Rose-breasted Grosbeak\*  
1 Black-headed Grosbeak\*  
219 Spotted Towhee  
555 California Towhee  
13 Rufous-crowned Sparrow  
25 Chipping Sparrow  
43 Lark Sparrow  
1 Sage Sparrow  
298 Savannah Sparrow  
37 Fox Sparrow  
255 Song Sparrow  
40 Lincoln's Sparrow  
1 Swamp Sparrow\*  
13 White-throated Sparrow\*  
443 Golden-crowned Sparrow  
1420 White-crowned Sparrow  
698 Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco  
2 Dark-eyed (Sl.-col.) Junco  
2 Dark-eyed (Gr.-head) Junco

#### BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

315 Red-winged Blackbird  
9 Tricolored Blackbird  
254 Western Meadowlark  
375 Brewer's Blackbird  
20 Great-tailed Grackle  
40 Brown-headed Cowbird  
0 Orchard Oriole\*  
0 Hooded Oriole\*  
0 Baltimore Oriole\*  
12 Bullock's Oriole\*  
0 Scott's Oriole\*

#### FINCHES

67 Purple Finch  
1514 House Finch  
4 Pine Siskin  
489 Lesser Goldfinch  
6 Lawrence's Goldfinch

530 American Goldfinch

#### OLD WORLD SPARROWS

195 House Sparrow

#### ADDITIONAL SPECIES

1 Zone-tailed Hawk  
1 Ancient Murrelet  
1 Short-eared Owl  
1 Eastern Phoebe  
1 Western Kingbird  
1 Plumbeous Vireo  
2 Cassin's Vireo  
16 Barn Swallow  
1 Tennessee Warbler  
1 Chestnut-sided Warbler  
1 Pine Warbler  
1 Worm-eating Warbler  
3 Northern Waterthrush  
3 Clay-colored Sparrow  
1 Grasshopper Sparrow  
1 Harris's Sparrow  
1 Rusty Blackbird

#### GRAND TOTAL:

206 Species

#### COUNT PERIOD BIRDS

1X Tropical Kingbird  
1X Rose-breasted Grosbeak

\* = Rare - requires written description  
 X = Seen in Count Period (3 days before and 3 days after Count Day) but not on Count Day





## 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.*



### 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 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 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.

### Las Crucitas Ranch near Santa Ynez Saturday, March 2nd, 8:00 a.m. (at carpool place)

**Target birds:** Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Lewis's Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Magpie, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, buntings

**Cruz Phillips**, 688-8233 (or better yet, contact **Paul Keller**, 968-7804, wrentit@gte.net)

*Drivers may appreciate gas money.*

Take 101 to La Cumbre Rd 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. For those who want to meet us at the ranch (where we start birding at 9:00 a.m.) take 154 to Armour Ranch Rd which is 2.1 miles west of Bradbury Dam, Lake Cachuma. Go north on Armour Ranch Rd 1.4 miles, turn right onto Happy Canyon Rd for 2.4 miles, then right onto Alisos Ave. Pavement ends after 0.7 miles at a cattle guard. Continue a couple of miles past 2 more cattle guards to the barn and park.

For the first 2 hours we'll bird about the ranch house, which involves very little walking. Then those up for an easy hike will bird the ranch while the others may either sit by the feeders or call it a trip. Bring plenty of water and a lunch as most of us will stay until early afternoon.



### Lone Star Ranch East End of Lake Cachuma Saturday, February 16th, 7:00 a.m. (at carpool place)

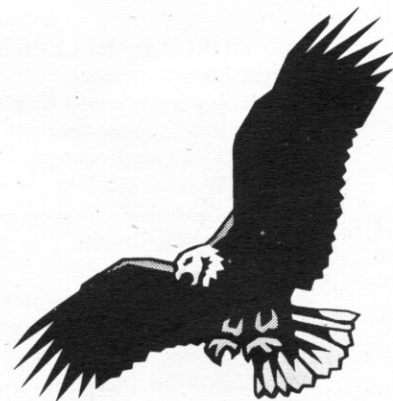
**Target birds:** geese, Common Goldeneye, Wood Duck, Lewis's Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican

**Jeff Chemnick**, 965-0895, jchemnick@prodigy.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, or meet us at the ranch (4001 Hwy 154, pipe gate with star) at 7:30 a.m.

Wear walking shoes. Scopes useful. Bring water. Back before lunch. Enjoy ranch owner **Lee Carr's** hospitality at one of the best inland winter birding areas in the county.



## Restoration Update

By Darlene Chirman



**G**oleta Slough Restoration is proceeding with good plant growth of native species planted at several project sites. The final plantings for this rainy season will be in February and March—so this is your chance to come out and help restore native habitat.

We partnered with the Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area to remove Pampas grass from the environmentally sensitive areas on Givens Organic Farm in the Goleta Slough Management Area, and are now planting native riparian plants among the willows.

The Shoreline Preservation Fund awarded Audubon \$5,980 to continue our habitat restoration efforts in Goleta

Slough. This funds the weed management component and planting on the Givens farm site. Thank you SPF and all the students who support this student-funded grant program!

We have had great volunteers from the community, and UCSB Environmental Affairs Board and CalPIRG. We'd like to thank our fall restoration interns, **Laura Dell'Olio** and **Andrea Magee**, and welcome our winter 2002 interns **Leigh Hagan** and **Jennifer Gremer**.

See the restoration dates below and choose a time to help restore wildlife habitat in our community.



## Volunteer Habitat Restoration Opportunities for February & March

**C**ome 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**, 964-9886, megansnover@hotmail.com or **Darlene Chirman**, 692-2008, dchirman@rain.org or **Liz Mason**, 688-4515, Lmason@co.santa-barbara.ca.us or **Cris. Sandoval**, 893-5092.

Descriptions and directions are on the SBAS website: [www.rain.org/~audubon/](http://www.rain.org/~audubon/)

Date	Location	Contact
Sat, Feb 2, 8:30am-12:30	Goleta Slough—Atascadero Bikeway, meet at Patterson Ave bikepath crossing	Megan
Sat, Feb 9, 8:30am-noon	Coal Oil Point Reserve, meet at Whittier Dr & Storke Rd	Cris/Darlene
Sat, Feb 16, 8:30am-12:30	Goleta Slough—Givens Farm, meet on Ward Dr near 720 Ward Dr	Megan
Sun, Feb 24, 8:30am-12:30	Goleta Slough, call for site & directions	Megan
Sat, Mar 2, 8:30am-noon	Tabano Hollow, meet at Ribera & Matorral, County Parks project	Liz
Sun, Mar 10, 8:30am-12:30	Goleta Slough—Atascadero Creek, meet at end of Ward Dr at creek	Megan
Sat, Mar 16, 8:30am-12:30	Tecolotito Creek, meet at Goleta Beach County Park, 1st parking lot west end	Megan

## Point Mugu Naval Air Station December 2nd Field Trip Report

By Donald Blackwill

**D**espite predictions to the contrary, the weather gods were kind to those of us who made the trip to Pt Mugu. There was nothing more than a light shower while we were there, and for the most part the roads inside the base were dry. In fact it was quite a pleasant outing. The Reddish Egret and Vermilion Flycatcher were most cooperative as were the many stilts, avocets, godwits, and White-tailed Kites.

The Mugu wetlands are a BIG rich habitat loaded with birds and well worth seeing. As a group we probably saw a total of about 50 or 60 species. The mouth of Mugu Lagoon is a very scenic area with an abundance of showy vertebrates including lots of Harbor Seals, Brown Pelicans and Black Skimmers. On the down-side, the rumored Ancient Murrelet refused to reveal itself. Same with the rails and the peregrine. Some of the architecture is of questionable artistic merit but that can be said of lots of places.

My thanks to trip leader **Paul Keller** and to our very knowledgeable on-base guide **Tom** (my apologies for not getting your last name) for their time and efforts. Thanks also to the Navy for letting us "on," especially in these uncertain times, and our federal government for preserving such a valuable chunk of real estate. It was a great day.





### Calendar of Events

Feb 2	Ventura Game Preserve Field Trip
Feb 15-18	Great Backyard Bird Count
Feb 16	Lone Star Ranch Field Trip
Feb 27	"Local Shorebirds" Program
Mar 2	Las Crucitas Field Trip
Mar 27	"Manu National Park" Program

### Save This Date: Saturday, May 4th!

**W**ant 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](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/santabarbara)

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**SBAS**, Bill and Elaine Uomini, Editors  
5679 Hollister Avenue - Suite 5B  
Goleta, CA 93117

or e-mail: [tecolotesb@aol.com](mailto:tecolotesb@aol.com)

Submission deadline is the 10th of the month.

### SBAS July 2001/June 2002

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#### Appointed Positions

Eyes In The Sky	Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	<a href="mailto:gabriele-d@home.com">gabriele-d@home.com</a>
Hospitality	Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
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Rare Bird Alert	Recent rare bird sightings	964-8240	
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*Officers & Chairs meet the second Wednesday of the month. Members are welcome to attend.*

*Please call SBAS office to verify dates & times. FAX: 967-7718. Cover art by Daryl Harrison.*

### El Tecolote

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*This Cedar Waxwing was counted!*  
Photo by Paul Barrett



*or current resident*

**In This Issue...**

**Annual Christmas Bird Count Tally!**