

El Tecolote

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
Volume 41, Issue 3 December 2002/January 2003



2002 Christmas Bird Count Saturday, January 4, 2003

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 4, 2003! Every year this wonderful effort on the part of 175 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.

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



Black-necked Stilt
By Daniel S. Kilby

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*.



Hooded Oriole
By Kirsten Munson

If you see any of the above or know of any other interesting birds, please let one of us know.

For sign-up please contact: **Chris Walden**, 969-4256, Walden@rain.org, or fill out and mail the coupon on page 2.

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 & George Hardie, 964-4090, JHcynwren@aol.com



Red-breasted Nuthatch



An Afternoon of Art and Wine

Photos by Catherine Graham

SBAS's September fundraiser "An Afternoon of Art and Wine" was a big success as well as great fun! Thank you to everyone who helped make this a wonderful afternoon!



Northern Flicker
By Kirsten Munson

Nest Boxes for Kestrels, Screech Owls or Flickers

By Catherine Graham

There are too few natural nesting sites locally. Now is the time to situate one of our 12 available nest boxes on your property. Complete directions are included. There is a \$35 donation for an assembled kit or \$20 donation for an unassembled. Profits benefit our school programs. For ordering, pickup or delivery please call **Catherine Graham** at 682-1357.



American Kestrel

Santa Barbara Audubon Society 2002 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

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



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 pm, doors open at 7:00 pm, and are free to the public. SBAS members are encouraged to bring guests.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper

Special Members Holiday Program Eco-Touring In Southeast Asia

Jeff Chemnick and Dr. Satie Aramie, Speakers

Wednesday, December 4 (please note SPECIAL date)

Famed international nature travelers (and first class birders) **Jeff Chemnick** and **Satie Aramie** will share highlights from several recent research trips to SE Asia. Highlights include Thailand, Viet-Nam and Indonesia. Both Jeff and Satie have been two of our most popular speakers. Don't miss this one!

Jeff is a nationally recognized dealer in exotic plants, whose worldwide nature explorations have led him to be dubbed "The Indiana Jones of the Plant World" in a Santa Barbara Magazine profile. A former consultant to Lotusland, Jeff is a fine nature photographer and brilliant nature raconteur.



Indian Roller

Satie, PhD in Ecology from the University of Chicago, is the former VP of **SBAS**. She currently works "almost full-time" at BOTH the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, and UCSB's Marine Science Institute, where she does research, teaching and marine ecosystem consulting. She did much of her doctoral research in SE Asia.

P.S. Because this is our free annual Members Holiday Program, we encourage all **SBAS** members to bring guests, and to bring a dessert or finger food to share in the spirit of the season.



Milky Stork



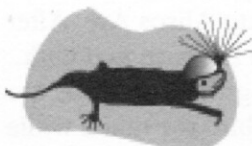
Bats: The Love Affair

Mary Wenzel, Speaker

Wednesday, January 22



Mary Wenzel has a passion and great respect for bats. She fell in love with bats on a birdwatching trip to Queensland, Australia in 1994. In 2000 Mary went on a caving expedition to Borneo. The more she learned, the more she realized that bats were admirable creatures, beneficial to human crops and health, but had an undeserved reputation for malevolence. She is one of few people in this area who is licensed and trained to rescue bats. Her interest in contributing to the research on bats led her to construct a web site, www.batcalls.org, where professionals and amateurs can share bat calls and information.



Worldwide there are over 1000 species of bats making up 22% of all mammalian species. Using slides taken by professional bat photographers, Mary will describe the amazing, entertaining and varied natural history of some of the bats of the world. She will also tell a few stories about her personal experiences looking for bats in Borneo and rehabilitating injured bats in Santa Barbara. Come find out more about the only mammals that can fly!

Please join Mary, former **SBAS** Board Member, for a unique look at the world of bats, bat monitoring and bat calls. Kids and adults alike will enjoy this program!

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.

Loon Point - near Summerland

Sunday, December 15, 9:00 am

Target birds: Shorebirds along with other birds of the coastal strand

Contact: Alan Kaufmann, 565-4960

From 101 take the Padaro Lane exit (just east of Summerland) south. Padaro Lane veers east. Take the first left (0.3 mi.) into Loon Point parking lot.

Alan encourages families with children to join us for this beach walk. Wear walking shoes and dress in layers. Scopes useful. Trip over by late morning.



Santa Barbara Rare Birds

Christmas Count Area

Saturday, January 11, 8:00 am

(at carpool place)

Target birds: Rare birds of last week's Christmas Bird Count

Contact: Paul Keller, 968-7804, wrentit@verizon.net



Savannah Sparrow
By Steven D Amato

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 St). Car pool from here.

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

Las Crucitas Ranch - near Santa Ynez

Saturday, January 25, 8:00 am

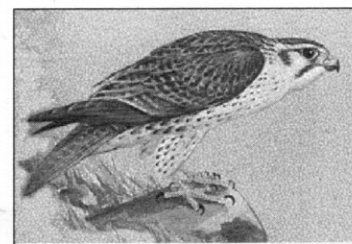
(at carpool place)

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

Contact: Cruz Phillips, 688-8233, cruzitas@aol.com, or better yet contact

Paul Keller, 968-7804, wrentit@verizon.net

Drivers may appreciate gas money.



Prairie Falcon

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. (3925 State St). We need to car pool diligently for the drive to the ranch as parking is limited. Those who want to meet us at the ranch where we will start birding at 9:00 am take 154 to Armour Ranch Rd which is 4.2 miles west of Bradbury Dam, Lake Cachuma. Go north on Armour Ranch Rd 1.4 miles then turn right onto Happy Canyon Rd (first right turn, sign may be missing) for 2.4 miles then right onto Alisos Ave. After 0.7 miles pavement ends at a cattle guard. Continue 2.6 miles straight past 2 more cattle guards to the barn and park.

For the first 2 hours we'll bird about the ranch house that involves very little walking. The dirt grounds may be too rough for wheelchairs but those with walkers should be fine. 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.

Volunteer Restoration Opportunities for December and January

Come help restore our wildlife habitats in **Goleta Slough** or **Coal Oil Point Reserve** or **Arroyo Hondo Reserve**. To volunteer at Goleta Slough or Coal Oil Point Reserve contact **SBAS** Restoration Volunteer Coordinator **Ken Owen** at islands@rain.org, or 568-1507 or contact Project Manager **Darlene Chirman** at dchirman@rain.org or 692-2008, or check our **SBAS** website at www.rain.org/~audubon. If you would like to volunteer at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve please RSVP the Land Trust Volunteer Coordinator **Jane Murray** at 684-4405 or ltvolunteer@yahoo.com.

Date	Time	Place	Contact
Sun, Dec 1	9am-12:30	Arroyo Hondo Preserve, bring a lunch, hike afterwards if you like	Jane Murray
Sat, Dec 14	8:30am-noon	Coal Oil Point Reserve, north shore, meet at Storke Rd and Whittier Dr	Ken Owen
Sun, Jan 5	9am-12:30	Arroyo Hondo Preserve, bring a lunch, hike afterwards if you like	Jane Murray
Sat, Jan 11	8:30am-noon	Coal Oil Point Reserve, north shore, meet at Storke Rd and Whittier Dr	Ken Owen
Sat, Jan 25	8:30am-12:30	Tecolotito Creek, Goleta Beach Park, first west lot, slough side	Ken Owen

Birdwatchers in Mexico

By Sheila Golburgh Johnson

A green bird, I said.
There, across the river.
You scanned. I see it too.
Let's move up.
We slugged through sand,
reached the verge.
Look! I cried. In that dead tree.
You rushed beside me, focused,
and we saw them—three green parrots,
yellow beaks, red eye rings.

A draft of air, a gust of luck,
something flushed them—
with hoarse squawks they surged,
circled, flashed crimson tails.
The leaves took wing and joined them,
screeching, air whipped and flailed
to green froth. They merged,
flew back within the brush;
but still, those grating cries.
Then silence and the river.



*This poem by Sheila Golburgh Johnson is from her anthology, **Shared Sightings**. Sheila is a former SBAS Board Member. Her book would make a lovely gift for your bird-loving friends.*



National Audubon Society Membership Application

(new members only)

Includes membership in **National Audubon & Santa Barbara Audubon Society (C13 7XCH)**
and subscriptions to **Audubon** magazine & **El Tecolote**, the **SBAS** newsletter

☐ \$20 Introductory Membership

☐ \$15 Senior (62+) or Student

Make check payable to:

National Audubon Society

Mail to:

Santa Barbara Audubon Society
5679 Hollister Ave., Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Calendar of Events

Dec 4 Program: Eco-Touring in SE Asia
 Dec 15 Field Trip: Loon Point
 Jan 4 2002 Christmas Bird Count
 Jan 11 Field Trip: SB Rare Birds
 Jan 22 Program: Bats - The Love Affair
 Jan 25 Field Trip: Las Crucitas Ranch
 Feb 15 Field Trip: Lone Star Ranch
 Feb 22 Field Trip: Ventura Game Preserve

Marine Mammals

Michelle Berman of the **SBMNH** Vertebrate Department will speak on marine mammals on Tuesday, January 14 at 7 pm in the Carpinteria Library Lecture Room. For more information call **Andrea Adams-Morden** at 684-8077.

More Great Field Trips/Events

Other Audubon chapters offer interesting field trips and events too! Visit this site to schedule birding trips and participate in events all over California:

<http://audubon.org/chapter/ca/>

El Tecolote is published 6 times a year by the **Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.** 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: eltecote@cox.net

Submission deadline is the 10th of the month.

SBAS - July 2002/June 2003

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

www.rain.org/~audubon

OFFICERS

<i>President:</i> Darlene Chirman	692-2008	dchirman@rain.org
<i>Vice-President:</i> Open		
<i>Secretary:</i> Ginny Turner		vtf7@juno.com
<i>Treasurer:</i> Elizabeth Price	687-3966	earthpics@cox.net

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<i>Field Trips:</i> Paul Keller	968-7804	wrentit@verizon.net
<i>Programs Co-Chair:</i> Sylvia Curtis	969-4706	sylviayc@yahoo.com
<i>Programs Co-Chair:</i> Open		
<i>Conservation:</i> Dave Wass	683-0705	david.wass@gte.net
<i>Education:</i> Lisa Sobczak	683-2009	asobczak@ix.netcom.com
<i>Science:</i> Kendy Radasky	961-9378	kradasky@aol.com
<i>Membership Chair:</i> Lee Moldaver	682-2120	audubon@rain.org
<i>Newsletter:</i> Bill & Elaine Uomini	964-9401	eltecote@cox.net
<i>Publicity:</i> Natasha Carr	967-1383	tahi4@cox.net
<i>At Large-Outreach:</i> Christine Cowles	957-0086	ccltsbc@silcom.com
<i>At Large-Outreach:</i> Anna Nicholas	681-9141	ripacityfilms@earthlink.net
<i>At Large-Outreach:</i> Victoria Harvey	962-2009	mwright@silcom.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS

<i>Membership data:</i> Patrick McNulty	967-9900	mcnulty@gte.net
<i>Webmaster:</i> Bobbie Offen	684-0160	bobbieo@earthlink.net
<i>Nominating Committee:</i> Sally Walker	569-5388	walker160@cox.net
<i>Eyes in the Sky:</i> Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	pelican7@cox.net
<i>Hospitality:</i> Don & Florence Stivers	967-3690	
<i>Report Rare Birds:</i> Karen Bridgers	964-1316	kbridgers@msn.com
<i>Hear Rare Bird Report:</i>	964-8240	

Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Members are welcomed to attend. Call SBAS office to verify dates and times. 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

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American Goldfinch
Orville Rice

or current resident

In This Issue... Find out how you can be a part of the annual **Christmas Bird Count!**