On December 31, 2005, in the midst of a major Pacific rainstorm, Santa Barbara birders proved once again that they were up to the challenge of counting birds in the Count Circle – no matter what! Amidst pelting rain, flooded roads, and generally lousy bird finding conditions, Santa Barbara Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count tallied a very respectable total of 200 different kinds of birds sighted in the 24-hour period.

Have you ever tried doing a seawatch from shore when the rain is blurring your glasses, your scope, and your binoculars? Did you know, until Count Day, that most landbirds just don't move or sing in the pouring rain? Have you decided that yes, in fact, you DO need new raingear, because your poncho and jeans and baseball cap just got SOAKED?

These were some of the problems birders had as they fended off a mid-day lashing of solid precipitation that virtually precluded all birding for several hours. Fortunately, later in the afternoon, a window of sunshine allowed us to actually SEE a few birds, and to come up with a truly remarkable total, given the bleak situation.

Once again, scouting the CBC circle prior to Count Day paid off: we knew where to find the Snow, Ross’s, and Cackling Geese. We knew where the Zone-tailed Hawk (back for it’s 13th winter) roosted. We knew where to look for the Red-naped Sapsucker in Montecito, the Tropical Kingbird near Ocean Meadows Golf Course, and the Scott’s Oriole at Franceschi Park on the Riviera.

In fact, scouting for the Count beforehand, and birding in the area afterward produced an unprecedented total of 15 Count Week species. These species cannot be added to the total (if they could we would have done incredibly well!), but they do show that there were plenty of birds around the area that, were it not for the weather, perhaps could have been found on Count Day.

As always, the biggest thrill is the birds you don’t know about beforehand—those that pop up on Count Day, especially if you have lots of expert birders scouring the territory. In this category, we found a Franklin’s Gull, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, a Lesser Nighthawk, and a Dusky-capped Flycatcher. All are highly unusual for this time of year, and the owl and nighthawk have never been seen on a Santa Barbara Christmas Count, to my knowledge. Another newcomer to the Count was the Fulvous Whistling-Duck, present at the Goleta Sewage Treatment Plant since early December. And the Northern Waterthrush that showed up at the Santa Barbara Zoo was another great find.

In short, it was an unforgettable Count, and all you who participated deserve sincere thanks. I would also like to thank my wonderful assistant, Joan Murdoch, who organized all the sign-ups, and Karen Bridgers, who helped with fielding calls about birds from all over Santa Barbara. The Compilation Committee, those of us who have to sit down and crunch the numbers so that we know exactly how many birds and of what kind were seen, consisted of Dave Compton, Rebecca Coulter, Bill Pollock, Joan Murdoch, and myself. This is a time-consuming job, and I appreciate their volunteering their efforts for Santa Barbara Audubon and the birds of our area.

In case you may have forgotten, this is the second year in a row that our Count has been plagued by difficult, rainy conditions. Perhaps next year, we'll get back to our sunny, southern California weather?

Until then, keep on birding and enjoying our special Santa Barbara area. It is unmatched for beauty, for birds, and for the quality of its birders!
## Santa Barbara 2005 Christmas Bird Count Results

### DUCKS, GEese, & SWANS
- Gr. White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose*
- Ross's Goose*
- Cackling Goose
- Canada Goose
- Brant
- Wood Duck
- Gadwall
- Eurasian Wigeon*
- American Wigeon
- Northern Shoveler
- Green-winged Teal
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Greater Scaup*
- Lesser Scaup
- Surf Scoter
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck
- Wild Turkey
- Mountain Quail
- California Quail
- Red-throated Loon
- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon
- loon sp.

### GREBES
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- Eared Grebe
- Western Grebe
- Clark's Grebe
- Northern Fulmar
- Black-vented Shearwater
- Shearwaters
- Brown Pelican
- Brandt's Cormorant
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Cormorants

### DUCKS, GEESE, & SWANS
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose*
- Ross's Goose*
- Cackling Goose
- Canada Goose
- Brant
- Wood Duck
- Gadwall
- Eurasian Wigeon*
- American Wigeon
- Northern Shoveler
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- Black-vented Shearwater
- Shearwaters
- Brown Pelican
- Brandt's Cormorant
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Cormorants

### ALCIDS
- Common Murre
- Cassin's Auklet
- Rhinoceros Auklet

### PIGEONS
- Rock Pigeon
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Eurasian Collared-Dove

### RAILS & GALLINULES
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- Common Moorhen
- American Coot
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- Common Moorhen
- American Coot

### CUCKOOS
- Greater Roadrunner

### OWLS
- Barn Owl
- Western Screech-Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Northern Pygmy-Owl
- Burrowing Owl

### SWIFTS
- White-throated Swift

### HUMMINGBIRDS
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Costa's Hummingbird*
- Allen's Hummingbird*
- Selasphorus sp.

### KINGFISHERS
- Belted Kingfisher

### WOODPECKERS
- Acorn Woodpecker
- Red-naped Sapsucker*
- Red-breasted Sapsucker
- Nuttall's Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker

### CROWS, JAGUARS, & TERNs
- Pomarine Jaeger*
- Parasitic Jaeger
t=jaeger sp.
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Heermann's Gull
- Mew Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- California Gull
- Herring Gull

### NEW WORLD VULTURES
- Turkey Vulture

### FALCONS
- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- Peregrine Falcon*

### OWLS
- Barn Owl

### SWIFTS
- White-throated Swift

### HUMMINGBIRDS
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Costa's Hummingbird*
- Allen's Hummingbird*
- Selasphorus sp.

### KINGFISHERS
- Belted Kingfisher

### WOODPECKERS
- Acorn Woodpecker
- Red-naped Sapsucker*
- Red-breasted Sapsucker
- Nuttall's Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker

### OTHER VERTIFEGES
- Common Raven
- California Condor
- California Condor

### PLOVERS
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs*
- Willet
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Whimbrel
- Long-billed Curlew
- Marbled Godwit
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Black Turnstone
- Sanderling
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Wilson's Snipe
- Red Phalarope*
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<td>Tricolored Blackbird</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thrashers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard Oriole*</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Orchard Oriole*</td>
<td>Tricolored Blackbird</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thrashers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooded Oriole*</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Hooded Oriole*</td>
<td>Tricolored Blackbird</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thrashers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore Oriole*</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Baltimore Oriole*</td>
<td>Tricolored Blackbird</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thrashers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullock’s Oriole*</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Bullock’s Oriole*</td>
<td>Tricolored Blackbird</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thrashers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott’s Oriole*</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Scott’s Oriole*</td>
<td>Tricolored Blackbird</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thrashers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total:** 200 species

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

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**Photo:** Jack Sanford

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Dedicated birders at Lauro Reservoir.
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 are free to the public. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. SBAS members are encouraged to bring guests.

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST
Joan Easton Lentz
Wednesday, February 22, 2006

Join Joan Lentz, Don DesJardin, and Peter Gaede for a slide presentation on their new book, just published by University of California Press.

For a bird's eye view of the region, let us take you on an imaginary journey along the world-famous Southern California coast. From San Luis Obispo County along the coast south to the Mexican border, an abundant avifauna has made this area a birders’ destination for years.

Learn what species you can expect to see along our beaches and coastal wetlands, what habitats they frequent, and at which locations they can be found.

Books are available for purchase at the SBMNH bookstore and will also be available for purchase immediately after the presentation. Bring or purchase a copy for autographing!

BIRDING ODYSSEY OF ECUADOR
Roy Poucher
Wednesday, March 22, 2006

Roy Poucher will transport you on a birding odyssey from the high Andes of Ecuador (20,000'+) down to the steamy lowland (500’) jungles of the Amazon. These extremes in elevation, being at the equator (for year-round maximum sunlight), make Ecuador a unique-in-the-world adventure of unsurpassed bio-diversity.

You will feel like you are sitting in a dugout canoe with Roy as he searches for birds while paddling on Amazon rainforest streams with native Indian guides. The photographs of the spectacular birds in a fireworks display of different colors and shapes will amaze you. Walking next to Roy on the high steep slopes of Yanacocha you will see a mind-boggling variety of hummingbirds.

These are just a few of the special treats that Roy has in store for you on this journey.

Roy Poucher has been a Sea and Sage Audubon trip leader and field trip assistant in their introductory birding classes for 14 years. He has led repeated multi-day trips to the Eastern Sierra, Santa Barbara, Yosemite, Arizona and Texas. His birding Big Years (1996 in CA; 1998 in the ABA Area) were major accomplishments (472 and 677 species respectively). In 2003 he designed and led spring warbler trips to the Upper Texas Coast and to the Great Lakes. In 2005 he did the same for shorebird trips to Texas (April) and the East Coast (August). His bird tour company, Bird Odysseys, has recently taken groups to Costa Rica, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Trips to Africa and Costa Rica are in the planning stage.

Steve Ferry to State Audubon Board
Santa Barbara Audubon Membership chair and board member Steve Ferry was unanimously elected to a 3-year term on the Audubon CA state board, and as chair of the central coast Audubon chapters at their Jan. meeting. An active birder & outdoors man, Steve also volunteers with the Coal Oil Point Reserve, Plover Docent Project. A retired Raytheon program manager, Ferry is a long-time Goleta resident. Steve replaces Lee Moldaver, whose term on the state board recently expired. Congratulations, Steve!
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.

Sandhill Crane Field Trip

Target Birds: Sandhill Cranes, Burrowing Owls, Common Moorhen, Horned Larks, Loggerhead Shrike, Lark Sparrows, Blue-winged Teal, Marsh Wren plus many other species.
Leader: Jack Sanford
566-2191 or jacksanford@hotmail.com
Cost: free (camp ground fees $8-$10)

This Audubon field trip will visit the Kern National Wildlife Refuge, the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge, Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park and perhaps the Wind Wolves Preserve. It will be an overnight trip with free primitive camping (w/bathroom) available at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge or paid camping at Allensworth State Park if there are open spaces (w/bathroom and showers). Everyone must make their own vehicle arrangements and bring the necessary camping equipment, layers of clothes, food and drink plus birding equipment.

We will meet at 7 a.m. on Saturday Feb 11th at the Five Points Shopping Center parking lot near Carl's Jr. We will caravan from there to Lost Hills and then have lunch in the area. From there we will proceed to the Kern National Wildlife Refuge Visitor’s Center. If you are traveling independently you can meet us there at approximately 1-1:30 p.m. It is approximately 220 miles to the KNW Refuge. Take Hwy 101 to Paso Robles. Take Hwy 46 east to Lost Hills. Once you cross Hwy 5 look for the sign to the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. The turn off is approximately 5 miles or less past Hwy 5. From the KNWR we will travel to the Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park to view the Burrowing Owls and check on camping availability. After determining where we will camp, we will travel to Pixley National Wildlife Refuge and view the Sandhill Cranes till dark. On Sunday morning we will bird the KNWR for several hours and then begin our return trip home with a side trip to the Wild Wolves Preserve off Highway 166 if interested. We will return home Sunday evening.

Ventura County Game Preserve (near Oxnard)
Saturday February 25, 2008
8:00am (car pool time) - 1:00pm

Target Birds: Waterfowl, Virginia Rail, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, etc
Leader: Guy Tingos

We will car pool from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge at 8:00 a.m. ($6.00 gas money to drivers). If you want to meet us at the Preserve take Hwy 101 to Camarillo. Exit Las Posas Rd. 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 Preserve and park by the green bungalows by 9:00 a.m. We will not be able to drive vehicles around the Preserve as we have in the past, therefore we must walk the area. “We will walk, we will talk, we will look, we will listen, we will learn.” That is what “birding” is all about.

Lone Star Ranch
Saturday March 25, 2006
7:30 a.m. at carpool place

Leader: Dave Compton 965-3153, davcompton@earthlink.net.

Take Hwy 101 to the La Cumbre Rd. exit in Santa Barbara. Go north on La Cumbre Rd. and turn left into the Five Points Shopping Center and park near Carl’s Jr. (3925 State St). We will car pool ($5.00 gas money to driver) from this parking lot. Or you can meet us at 8:00 a.m. at the gate to the Lone Star Ranch (4001 Hwy. 154, pipe gate with large star on it). We must all meet at the gate and enter the ranch as a group. Wear walking shoes. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful. Bring water and a snack. Enjoy ranch owners Lee Carr and his brother Charles Carr’s hospitality at one of the best inland winter birding areas in the county!
Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station Field Trip
(near Oxnard, Ventura County)
Limited to 25 participants!!
Friday March 3, 2006
8:00 a.m. (car pool time) - 1:00 p.m.

Target Birds: Water fowl, rails, egrets, shorebirds, ducks, Vermilion Flycatcher, raptors etc.
Leader: Martin Ruane

Reservations: Jack Sanford at 566-2191 or email jacksanford@hotmail.com

Only 25 people will be allowed to enter the Naval Air Station therefore it is necessary to make a reservation by calling Jack Sanford at 566-2191 or email jacksanford@hotmail.com and receive confirmation.

The deadline for making a reservation is Feb 20th. I must forward a list of participants to Pt. Mugu on Feb 22. We will car pool ($6.00 gas money to drivers) from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Once you receive reservation confirmation you can meet us at the base if you so desire. You must be a citizen of the United States and you will need a photo ID, social security number and to fill out a security form before we enter the base. The Base Naturalist, Martin Ruane, will guide us around the base from 9:00 a.m. -12 noon. Join us for this unique and rare opportunity.

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Friday Bird Walks

The Friday Bird Walks will now be on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month beginning this December 2005. 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Please contact walk leader Jack Sanford 566-2191 or email jacksanford@hotmail.com if you have any questions or are interested in leading a future walk to your favorite birding place.

Lake Los Carneros, Friday Feb. 10.
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Target Birds: Waterfowl, winter song birds and raptors
Bird walk leader: Jack Sanford, 566-2191

Directions: Take Hwy 101 exit Los Carneros off ramp and head towards the mountains. (Stow House is on the right) Park behind the fire station.

Elings Park (Attn: This is a new bird walk site)
Friday February 24.
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Target Birds: Raptors, Juncos, Warblers, Finches, etc
Bird Walk Leader: Jack Sanford 566-2191

Directions: From Hwy 101 either direction take the Las Positas off ramp and head towards the ocean. Look for the Elings Park entrance sign and turn left on Jerry Harwin Parkway. Proceed to the Battistone Foundation Soccer parking lot located in front of the park office building. Park in that immediate area. We will meet there and bird the area.

Loon Point, Friday March 10.
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Target Birds: Water and shore birds, Raptors, etc
Bird walk leader: Mary Dee Thompson

Directions: From Hwy 101 take the Padaro Lane off ramp #90. If coming from the south take the Summerland off ramp also #90. Turn towards the ocean. We will park and meet in the Loon Point parking area.

Kellogg Tennis Court Area (San Jose Creek)
Friday March 24.
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Target Birds: Song birds, woodpeckers, thrashers, thrushes, kinglets etc.
Bird walk leader: Jack Sanford 566-2191

Directions: From Hwy 101 take the Patterson Ave off ramp and head towards the mountains. Turn left on Cathedral Oaks Rd. Turn left at the Kellogg Rd. stop light. Park and meet near the tennis courts.
Volunteer Habitat Restoration

Audubon helps recruit volunteers for habitat restoration at the Coal Oil Point Reserve and the Arroyo Hondo Preserve. Come help to restore a creek or estuary while spending a morning in a beautiful bird habitat. Contact the Land Trust, Arroyo Hondo Preserve Volunteer Coordinator Jane Murray at lvolunteer@yahoo.com or 684-4405. For Coal Oil Point Reserve, contact Julie Love at jlove@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 453-4840 or Darlene Chirman at dchirman@rain.org or 692-2008.

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: Jane Murray
Sunday February 5 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sunday March 5 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: Julie Love
Saturday February 25 9 a.m.-12 noon
Saturday March 11 9 a.m.-12 noon

Plover Project

Docent Training

Training takes place at the Cliff House at Coal Oil Point Reserve, from 9 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Training dates:
February ................... 4
March ..................... 4

Training Schedule:
Tour is ..................... 9-11 a.m.
Training is ........... 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Those interested should call Jennifer Stroh to register at 880-1195.

SBAS Needs Your E-mail Address

To be added to the SBAS e-mail list, just send an e-mail message with the subject line, “Add + your name” to sjferry@cox.net. The SBAS e-mail mailing list will only be used for SBAS business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

Arroyo Hondo Preserve Docent Training

Arroyo Hondo Preserve Docent Trainees are needed to lead interpretive walks for children and adults in this spectacular canyon on the Gaviota Coast. Training will begin Monday, March 6, 1:30-4:30 for 6 weekly sessions and will include the cultural and natural history of the 782 acre preserve. Please call volunteer coordinator, Jane Murray, or email volunteer@sblindtrust.org

Welcome!

SBAS extends a warm welcome to our newest members.

We look forward to seeing you at our programs and field trips. Thanks for joining!

William Adams  Carolyn M. Hubbs  Bruce & Vicki Pate  Linda A. Wahl
Marga Anderson  Trish Kreiss  Larry & Carol Peterson  Susette Warynick
Michael Arntz  Don Lauer  Dave Polson  Ms. Nancy Watts
Mr. William A Blair  Lyndal Laughrin  Barbara B. Prentice  Mr. & Mrs. Robert Welti
Adonna Brooks  Ms. Stephanie Lausten  Arlene Russin  Kay Woodsey
Pati S. Carlson  Barbara Lyon  Barbara Sanders  Mr. Floyd Yudelson
Mora Curtiss  Charles & Katherine  Mrs. Lee Sanderson
Marika Davidek  Mc Cracken  Arent H. Schuyler
B. Dewolfe  Judy & John Miller  Vincent Severtson
David & Ann Dwelly  Sharon Montross  Laurence Sloan
Ruth J. Erway  Norm Nelson  Shawn Stackpoole
Frances Goodwin  Ethonline Newcomer  Ms. Frances Tibbets
Ms. Barbara Haukenberry  Skye Paine  Hummingbird Townsend
Calendar of Events
Check our website for any changes or late additions to our Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs:
http://www.rain.org/~audubon/

Feb. 4 Plover Training
Feb. 5 Restore Arroyo Hondo Preserve
Feb. 10 Lake Los Carneros Bird Walk
Feb. 11 Sandhill Crane Field Trip
Feb. 22 Prog. Birds Of The So. CA Coast
Feb. 24 Elings Park Bird Walk
Feb. 25 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Feb. 25 Ventura Game Preserve Bird Walk
Mar. 3 Pt. Mugu N.A.S. Field Trip
Mar. 4 Plover Training
Mar. 5 Restore Arroyo Hondo Preserve
Mar. 10 Loon Point Bird Walk
Mar. 11 Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Mar. 22 Prog. Birding Odyssey Of Ecuador
Mar. 24 Kellogg Tennis Court Bird Walk
Mar. 25 Lone Star Ranch Field Trip

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, Andy Lentz, Editor
5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B
Goleta, CA 93117
or email: sbasnews@cox.net
Submissions deadline is the 10th of the month before publication.

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

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