Joy Parkinson: The Spirited Brit who Helped Raise our Chapter

By Lee Moldaver

When the big
Channel oil spill struck, how
did it happen that the president
of the SB Audubon Society,
prowling the shoreline, staring
through binoculars, advising a
panoply of local, state and national news media and public
agency types on the hazards to
pelagic birds and marine life,
was a fortyish, transplanted
Shropshire lass, originally
more inclined to inland British plants and flowers than to
seacoasts and birds?

How did it happen, in the era before tweets, Twitter, Facebook, email, laptops, desktops, faxes and cellphones that it was a new arrival from greater LA who

received welcome and training from Miss Pearl Chase on civic and community service – tools Joy used so well, working the phones and a manual typewriter on behalf of birds, nature, science and public policy?

And how did it happen that Joy's acumen so impressed federal functionaries that they invited her to offer a few brief personal comments when Washington was creating the National Environmental Policy Act, and then received a 10-page hand-typed memo with 37 specific suggestions? Or that when the White House invited her to the swearing in of America's first EPA director, she replied, "Well this is quite an honor. But I am a wife and mother and the trip sounds long and expensive," and didn't go, though she later encountered HR "Bob" Haldeman and asked him how it had turned out?

Joyce "Joy" Nicholls met and married the dashing GI Ed Parkinson during WW II and came to America with him, first to Michigan, then to LA, before making her last and best move to Santa Barbara in the early '60s, when rural Goleta was being overrun by baby boom housing and aerospace-defense R&D facilities.



Joy Parkinson (second from left) with husband Ed (far left,) Janet Grove Park; even helped Hamber and Hank Hamber at Dave Parkinson's wedding serve as a local bridge

She got in on the ground floor of our new local Audubon chapter, along with Janet Hamber, her close friend from LA days. She met Dick Smith, Tom Dibblee, Bob Easton in their salad days, got a hello from Tom Storke, a cooking tip from Julia Child and an encouraging note from Bill Clark. Besides raising a great son, Dave, she also helped raise our Audubon chapter.

Joy helped protect Lake Los Carneros from builders, saving it as a County park; she helped expand Stow Grove Park; even helped serve as a local bridge between Bill Wallace, Jack

O'Connell and the CA Coastal Conservancy when they created the Goleta Community Center. Heading the Coastal Resource Center, she chartered numerous Channel Islands trips in the days before Island Packers and the Condor, often taking pen to paper to support Bob Lagomarsino's long drive to protect them as a national park.

She lived long enough to see Goleta incorporate, attain a great life list of birds, visit Alaska and Antarctica, be feted as a Local Hero by *The Santa Barbara Independent* and despite failing health, attend our 50th birthday picnic. There, in the shade provided by a grove of redwoods, she reconnected with old friends, shared bird and nature stories and posed for group pictures one last time. A few weeks after she passed, National Audubon vice president Glenn Olson reminisced that "Joy was a very special person. They just don't make 'em like that much anymore." Staunch, persistent, funny, and innovative, how generous her family was, sharing Joy Parkinson with us all those years.

The mission of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society is to help conserve and restore the earth's natural ecosystems and improve its biological diversity, principally in the Santa Barbara area, and to connect people with birds and nature through education, science-based projects and advocacy.

Eyes in the Sky's First Aviary Open House

Several hundred visitors, both locals and from out of town, celebrated with Audubon and The Museum of Natural History at EITS' first annual Aviary Open House on September 8th. Families enjoyed the many events spread throughout SBMNH's campus that took place between 12 noon and 4 PM. There were aviary tours explaining the procedures that EITS volunteers follow each and every day to care for their seven ambassadors. There were three booths that were offering up-close meetings of EITS raptors as well as stage presentations that provided in depth discussions on three different ambassadors including the histories of why and how they ended up at EITS. There were educational programs and stations including information on birding, bird handling and raptor care. The raptor feather identification station tested people's skill and knowledge on feather types. One of the big hits with the kids (of all ages) was the owl pellet dissection station that was very busy all day long.

The Museum provided a raptor specimens station from its bird collection and museum staff were on hand to explain the subtle differences between raptor species, sexes and ages and to answer questions about their specimens. Merchandise including Audubon hats, EITS t-shirts, raptor buttons of all seven ambassadors, custom made bird houses, EITS logo canvas bags and many other items were on sale to help support the program. For individuals who needed mid-afternoon nourishment, various food and snack items were also offered for sale. All in all it was deemed a rousing success with EITS Program Director, Gabriele Drozdowski, proclaiming the Open House will definitely become an annual event.

Thanks to all who helped make it such a success and the generous public support the event achieved

-- By John O'Brien .





Three very interested children gathered around a display of some members of the museum's raptor collection and Rebecca Coulter, SBMNH's volunteer manager, was on hand to answer questions.



Above: The owl-pellet dissection table proved popular with youngsters.

At left: Eyes in the Sky volunteer Bonnie Whitney answers questions about Kisa, a peregrine falcon that EITS adopted in 2011 when she was nine months old. Kisa was found on the ground in a field in Rancho Palos Verdes. She can no longer fly due to a bullet in her shoulder. Veterinarians decided it was too risky to remove the bullet, as the procedure could have damaged more muscles and tendons in the shoulder. Peregrine falcons are the fastest animals on earth.

A Jingle for Jan * By Joy Parkinson

Counting birds at Lake Cachuma
Puts me in the fowlest huma.
Counting at Cachuma Lake
Makes my poor old eyeballs ache.
Staring through the telescope
Makes me feel like such a dope.
Crick in back and crick in neck –
Pretty soon I'm just a wreck.

On the shore at station three Who counts the canvasbacks? Why me! Fourteen pintail, one redhead (I should have stayed at home, in bed.) Fifteen hundred ring-necked duck. I get to count them all, what luck!

On we go to station two.
I'll be glad when we are through.
Standing there upon the dock
Count the scaup, a scattered flock.
"One, two, three, ten, fifteen, twenty,
Make it thirty-five, that's plenty.
Oh-no! There's another bunch!
Don't you think it's time for lunch?"

On to station one, no lagging, Though my feet are really dragging. Cormorants along the boom Give each other lots of room. "See the oldsquaw in the cove? Well, he was there, he just dove. What pops up? — a bufflehead My oh my is my face red.

Finally on to station four— Why past lunchtime—what a bore. Count the mallard, count the widgeon, Do we count the band-tailed pigeon? Home at last, too tired to eat. Headache, cross-eyed, hot, sore feet.

You wonder why I ever go? It's simple . . . I enjoy it so. For when I see the osprey dive I feel so glad to be alive!

*The Lake Cachuma Project was done at the request of the SB Co. Parks Dept (Joy was a Park Commissioner). Fishermen wanted a log boom at the east end of the lake removed so they could access fishing spots. The owner of the San Fernando Rey Ranch didn't want the boom removed as it might disturb the birds that lived there. Since no one knew what species and how many birds used that area, the Museum was asked to conduct a survey. Waldo Abbott, Joy and I were the principal group with Dick Smith. We divided the lake into stations to make it easier to have discrete areas to canvas. -- Jan Hamber

Conservation Committee Update

By Jonathan Appelbaum

It has been a busy summer for the Santa Barbara Audubon Society's Science and Conservation Committee. Under the guidance of outgoing Conservation Chair, and new SBAS Co-President Steve Ferry, outgoing Science Chair, and new SBAS Education Chair, Andy Lanes, and myself, the newly installed conservation chair, the Committee has been active in a variety of research, policy and advocacy arenas. The SBAS Science Committee was active in organizing and staffing research locally on the Central Coast including studying black phoebe nesting at Arroyo Hondo Preserve, tree swallow nest box monitoring at Lake Los Carneros and Coal Oil Point Reserve and of course white-tailed kite monitoring throughout the Santa Barbara area.

The chapter joined forces with other conservation organizations such as the Environmental Defense Center, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and the Urban Creeks Council to form a more powerful environmental coalition and lend its voice to a variety of key issues facing the Central Coast community. Some of these include conservation of the Gaviota Coast, lobbying for a natural managed retreat solution at Goleta Beach Park, lobbying for secure funding and better management of our local creeks, and supporting major restoration activities at the former Ocean Meadows Golf Course. In addition, the SBAS Science and Conservation Committee has led a campaign to support Assembly Bill 711which would ban the use of lead ammunition for hunting in California—in the State Senate by reaching out to local politicians including State Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, and media outlets including The Santa Barbara News Press.

Other important, tongoing efforts of the SBAS Science and Conservation Committee include lobbying for greater white-tailed kite avoidance, impact minimization measures from the developers of Paradiso del Mar (Makar) residential development and involvement in the environmental review for the proposed San Joaquin Apartments Project at Storke and El Colegio Roads in Isla Vista.

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letters, articles, photos, and drawings for consideration to: SBAS, Isabelle T. Walker, Newsletter Chair, 5679 Hollister Ave, Suite 5B, Goleta, Calif., 93117. Or email them to newsletter@santabarbaraaudubon.org..The deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication

Members are invited to send announcements

Santa Barbara Audubon Programs

Bats of The Central Coast

The only mammals capable of unassisted flight are bats. They are unique among mammals in that they use high frequency calls to orient themselves at night while searching for and capturing night-flying insects. Next to rodents, bats are the most abundant order of mammals worldwide. On Wednesday, October 23th, the bat fauna of the Central Coast region will be the focus of Santa Barbara Audubon Society's monthly program. The unique characteristics of these mysterious mammals, including their morphology, taxonomy, biogeography, breeding biology and ecology, will be closely examined and illuminated by one of our area's leading bat experts, Paul Collins, MA.

Collins is The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's curator of Vertebrate Zoology and has worked at the museum as both a curator and researcher for the past 40 years. He received both his BA and MA in Zoology from the University of California Santa Barbara in 1971 and 1982 respectively. His research has focused on the wildlife of the Central Coast with strong emphasis



on the biota of the Channel Islands. He has conducted focused research on a variety of the region's terrestrial vertebrates, authored numerous publications and contract reports on the results of his research. He conducted a two-year study on bats for the US Air Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base and has continued studying this region's most enigmatic night-flying creature since its completion.

The Birds of Colombia: An Evening with Santiago Escruceria

Santiago Escruceria's love of nature began during his childhood in the Colombian jungles and was renewed years later when he found himself stalking seabirds and mammals on California beaches. On Wednesday, November 27th, in the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Ferrand Hall, Santiago will give a free presentation (including examples of his outstanding



photography) on the birds of the Colombian Southwtest—or more specifically, the state of Valle del Cauca—which stretches over two mountain ranges, countless riparian corridors and wetlands.

For the past 15 years, Santiago, who has a BA in cultural anthropology from Sonoma State University, has taught an outdoor environmental education program for LA's inner city youth through the Mono Lake Committee of California's Eastern Sierra Nevadas. He also leads birding tours for the Mono Lake Committee's annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua event and offers birding and photography seminars. He is an environmental studies liaison to that area's school system. Since late 2012, Escruceria has been working with Eastern Sierra Audubon Society as a board member and leader of birds walks in and around the area of Mono Basin and Bishop.

A steely-vented hummingbird captured by Santiago Escruceria

All programs will take place at Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara. Free on-site parking. All programs will begin at 7:30 pm and are free to the public. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. SBAS members are encouraged to bring guests.

Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird watchers. 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.



Field Trips/Bird Walks Do you have an idea?

We are always looking for suggestions for places to visit on our monthly field trips. If you have an idea and are not sure where or what to do next, or are interested in helping coordinate a field trip, contact Jack Sanford at 805-566-2191 or birdsandtennis@hotmail.com

Devereux Slough

Saturday, October 5th, 2013, 8:00 am - 11:00 am Target Birds: shorebirds, water birds and wintering song birds

Trip Leader: Rob Lindsay, capnbob@sbceo.org

Description: We will bird a loop trail walking the beach past the snowy plover reserve and follow a trail around the far side of the slough. We will then bird the other side of the slough and back to the parking area.

Directions: Take Hwy 101 to the Glen Annie/Storke Rd exit. Proceed south (towards the ocean) on Storke Rd then left make a left on El Colegio Rd and a right on Camino Corto Ln and a right on Del Playa Drive. Park and we will meet at the end of Del Playa.



A tern coming in for a water landing at Devereux Slough. Photo by Callie Bowdish

Las Cruzitas Ranch

Saturday, November 23nd, 2013

7:45 at car pool location, return between 1 and 2 pm

Target Birds: goldfinches, buntings, rufous-crowned sparrows, phainopepla, yellow-billed magpie, prairie falcon, nuthatches, hummingbirds and maybe a golden eagle

Trip Leaders: Cruz Phillips, 688-8233, cruzitas@aol.com

Cost: \$8 gas money to car pool drivers

Description: We will arrive around 9 am and bird near the ranch house for about two hours where there are a large number of feeders and bird habitat. Then we will take an easy walk around the general artea and perhaps a tour of a canyon. Bring water, a snack and/or lunch.

Directions: Car pooling is recommended as parking is limited. We will meet at the Five Points shopping center (3925 State St near Big 5) at 7:45 am. To meet us at the ranch, take Hwy 154 to Armour Ranch Rd which is 3.3 miles west of Bradbury Dam (Lake Cachuma). Go north on Armour Ranch Rd 1.4 miles and turn right on Happy Canyon Rd. At 2.4 miles turn right on Alisos Ave. At 0.7 miles, the pavement ends at a cattle guard. Continue 2.6 miles straight past two more cattle guards to the barn and ranch.



Members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society on a field trip to Las Cruzitas Ranch.

Friday Bird Walks

Hidden Valley Park

Friday, October 4th, 2013 (Note this is the 1st Friday of the month)

Target Birds: black-headed grosbeak, towhee, mockingbird, woodpeckers

Directions: From either direction on the 101, take the Las Positas Road off ramp and proceed toward the ocean. Turn right on Modoc Rd. and make a left on Calle De Los Amigos. The park is on the corner of Calle De Los Amigos and Torino Dr. Park on the street.

Rocky Nook Park

Friday, October 25th, 2013 (Note this is the 4th Friday)

Target Birds: blackbirds, bushtit, woodpeckers, phoebe, vireo, warbler, wren.

Directions: From Hwy 101 take Mission St. past the Mission. The road becomes Mission Canyon Rd and Rocky Nook Park is on the right as you head towards the mountains.

Stevens Park

Friday, November 8th, 2013, 8:30-10:30 am

Target Birds: raptors, woodpeckers, warblers, phoebe, wren, kinglet, towhee

Directions: Hwy 101 to Las Positas Road off ramp. Turn towards the mountains. Follow Las Positas Rd until it becomes San Roque Rd. Follow San Roque Rd. and turn left on Calle Fresno and right on Canon Dr. The entrance to Stevens Park is on the right.

Winchester Canvon

Friday, November 22nd, 2013, 8:30-10:30 am

Target Birds: kingbird, kinglet, raptors, siskin, woodpeckers, titmouse, towhee

Directions: Take Hwy 101 to Winchester Canyon Rd exit. Take Winchester Canyon Rd. across Cathedral Oaks Rd. Turn right on Winchester Dr. and make a left on Rio Vista Dr. Park near the open space area on the left.

Please contact Bird Walk leader **Jack Sanford at 566-2191** or **birdsandtennis@hotmail.com** if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions.

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!

Josie Anderson	Emiliano Campobello	Myonne Ehler	Jenny Huyler	Mrs. Jean Paynter	Ronald C. Swick
Danielle Aubertin-	John Carbon	Barry Enticknap	Arthur Karle	Giles Pettifor	Isabella Taraleshkov
Crowder	Barbara Cleveland	Mary Fiske	Lolita Lanning	Joan Rapp	W.M Thorpe
Nancy Baron	Jospeh Connell	Elaine R. Flanders	Patricia Lieberknecht	Dayle Rinker	Flavia Valle
Luann Beach	Judy Connors	Vernon Frost	Kathleen Lynk	Muriel E. Ross	Larry C. Vranish
Britten Beauvoix	Lillian Cross	Jean Furino	Mark Michalak	Andria Ruth	Bernard Watkins
Donald H. Bensen	Szymanek	Lynne Gouma	Joni Milchak	Robin Sager	Ben & Mary Wiener
Merri Reid Berwick	Anne Curtis	Robert Grant	Janet Mitchell	Virginia Samario	John D. Woltcheck
Barbara B. Bonadeo	Grace Dodson	Jenny Gumperz	S. Moore	Elaine Sensiper	Donald B. Wood
Margie Borchers	Ravyne L. Dow	Margaret Halbeisen	Mr. Charles Mullen	Borzoyeh Shojaei	Georgia Young
B. J. Braun	Ian N. Dundas	Timothy F. Harding	Luzmaria Ortiz	Carol M. Smith	
Joseph Brown	Wayne Dupont	Ingrid Head	Eva Oxelson	Norma Sundquist	
Doreen Burks	Adelle Dyer	Roger Hoelter	Vivian Pahos	Sylvia Suskin	

Opportunities

Volunteer Habitat Restoration

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: Sally Isaacson at 260-2252 or

volunteer@sblandtrust.org

Sunday 9 am-12:30 pm Sunday Nov. 3 9 am-12:30 pm

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: Jonathan Appelbaum at

jabblebaum@hotmail.com

Sunday Oct 13 9 am- noon Saturday Nov. 9 9 am-noon

Plover Project Docent Training

Training takes place at the West Campus Conference Center at Coal Oil Point Reserve

Training dates:

Thursday Oct 3rd 7:00-9:00 pm Saturday Nov 2nd 9:00 -noon

Those interested should Contact: April Price, COPR, conservation specialist at 893-3703 or copr.conservation@lifesci.ucsb.edu

CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION

San Marcos Foothills

No restoration dates are scheduled for October or November. For more information conact Linda Benedik at CIR 805-448-6203 or volunteer@cirweb.org

Audubon helps recruit volunteers for habitat restoration; come help to restore a creek or estuary while spending a morning in a beautiful bird habitat. Contact Jonathan Appelbaum at japplebm@hotmail.com or 858-344-6654 for Audubon's COPR or Lake Los Carneros restoration projects. Contact the Land Trust for Arroyo Hondo Preserve: Volunteer Coordinator Sally Isaacson at 260-2252 or volunteer@sblandtrust.org. Contact Channel Islands Restoration for San Marcos Foothills or other project sites: Volunteer Coordinator Linda Benedik at volunteer@cirweb.org

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 Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

The SBAS e-mail list will only be used for SBAS business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

Eyes in the Sky Needs Volunteers

The location is the Audubon Aviary at the SB Museum of Natural History, a beautiful "back yard" where lots of birds flutter about.

EITS needs more volunteers to open up the aviary's shutters for our raptors so they can get visual stimulation and fresh air more hours during the day. Shifts are between 10 am and 1 pm and can either be 1.5 hours or all three hours. Volunteers



peregrine falcon

will also educate visitors about the birds.

EITS is also looking for afternoon volunteers to be trained to handle, care for and present the birds to visitors. Hours are from 1:30 pm to 4:10 pm once or twice per week. We also need a webmaster to maintain a website now under development and update our Facebook page.

Audubon Society Membership Application

Option 1: Local Chapter-only Membership

☐ This is my choice of membership! Cost: \$25 Annually Make check payable to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Option 2: National and Local Membership Santa Barbara Code: COZC130Z

□ This is my choice of membership!

□ Please do NOT share my contact information.

Introductory \$20 (NAS subsequent yearly memberships \$35 per year) Make check payable to: National Audubon Society

For more information on these options please go to our website at: www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or call (805) 964-1468

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:Zi	p:
E-mail:		
Amount Enclosed:		

Mail to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society 5679 Hollister Ave. Suite 5B Goleta CA 93117

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Eyes In The Sky	v: Gabriele Drozdowski	898-0347	EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Hospitality:	Teresa Fanucchi	705-3796	Hospitality@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Newsletter	Isabelle T. Walker	845-8189	Newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Birdathon	Gayle Hackamack		sbbirdathon@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Santa Barbara County Birding		http://gr	oups.yahoo.com/group/sbcobirding

Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month Sept thru June. Members are welcomed to

Call the SBAS office to verify dates and times. FAX: 967-7718. Cover art by Daryl Harrison.

Calendar of Events

Check our website for any changes or late additions to our Bird Walks, Field Trips or Programs:

http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

October

Oct.	3	Plover Docent Iraining
Oct.	4	Hidden Valley Friday Bird Walk
Oct.	5	Devereux Slough Field Trip
Oct.	6	Restore Arroyo Hondo Preserve
Oct.	13	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Oct.	23	Bats of Central California Program
Oct	25	Rocky Nook Park Friday Birdwalk

November

Nov.	2	Plover Docent Training
Nov.	3	Restore Arroyo Hondo Preserve
Nov.	8	Stevens Park Friday Bird Walk
Nov.	9	Restore Coal Oil Point Reserve
Nov.	22	Winchester Canyon Friday Bird Walk
Nov.	23	Las Cruzitas Ranch Firld Trip
Nov.	27	Birds of Columbia Program