



Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation and Advocacy!

The 114th Audubon Christmas Bird Count By Rebecca Coulter

Preparations for Santa Barbara Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), to be held Saturday, January 4th, 2014, are well underway as compilers Rebecca Coulter, Jared Dawson and Joan Murdoch work out the hundreds of details required to conduct a bird survey of this scope. Santa Barbara's CBC is usually at the top of the list for number of participants—fortunately, we are lucky to have such a rich and diverse circle to cover! Carving out and covering the count circle is a complex puzzle. Finding the right fit for eager birders and adequate coverage for each type of habitat are the

keys to our success. Not all birders sign up for a multi-mile mountain hike on count day, but how will we cover the vast amount of dense chaparral and steep mountain slopes? Just how many birders are too many in one group? Where do we assign eager beginners and with which leaders? Do we have all the necessary permissions for private property: the zoo, the water treatment plants, the reservoirs? And what about boat donors? These considerations and many more consume the hearts and minds of the compilers in November and December, culminating in the arrival of count day and the unex-

blue-winged teal greater scaup mountain quail common gallinule virginia rail lesser yellowlegs Wilson's snipe Thayer's gull greater roadrunner any owls other than great horned or barn white-throated swift any hummingbirds other than Anna's or Allen's sapsuckers (other than red-breasted) horned lark any swallows rock or pacific wrens common raven phainopepla

pected surprises it always holds.

We take pride as a community not only in the very high numbers of species found annually, but also in the quality of our bird science. We are all having a hand in helping to form a vital picture of wintering avian distribution throughout North America and increasingly in Central and South America.

For more information about the 114th count, go to www.casbbirdcount. org.

Before the count, you can help us by scouting your neighborhood or anywhere else within the count circle (which is de-

scribed at the website above) for the interesting and unusual birds listed below.

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 if possible.

> Nashville warbler black-throated gray warbler hermit warbler Wilson's warbler any tanagers any grosbeaks lark sparrow any orioles Lawrence's goldfinch

PLUS: any montane species such as: mountain chickadee, Townsend's solitaire, varied thrush, brown creeper or cassin's finch.

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.



Searching the foothills Photo Liz Muraoka

White-tailed Kite Monitoring 2013

By Anna Hilliard

Two years ago, El Tecolote Editor Susan Vaughn posed the question: "What might it take to create a formalized local monitoring program for the white-tailed kite?" This September, with the help of dedicated observers and coordinators, the Whitetailed Kite Monitoring Project (aka Kite Watch) wrapped up its second successful season of nest and roost site monitoring sponsored by donors to the SB Audubon Society.



Under the guidance of long-time kite watcher Mark Holmgren, and project coordinators Mariah Edmonds and Anna Hilliard, student interns and community volunteers successfully collected data on breeding and roosting territories throughout the Goleta area.

After the massive influx of kites seen in the 2012 breeding season, this year's kite crop is much more modest. Kites are capable of rearing two clutches during a breeding season if conditions are right. This season, the dry winter preceding the breeding season, combined with a lack of spring rain, appears to have reduced the local small mammal population that sustains the kites. This resulted in fewer kites seen in the area this year, and each breeding pair that did nest raised only one clutch.

Internship Program

Along with our wonderful community volunteers, eight student interns from UCSB and Santa Barbara City College joined us in Kite Watch 2013. All gave three to four hours each week to monitor kite territories and roosting sites and report their findings. Project co-coordinators Mariah Edmonds and I trained them in kite behaviors and data collection techniques early in the season, with field trips and additional training throughout the season. Mark Holmgren gave a helpful tour of the bird and mammal specimen collections at UCSB, which allowed us to get an up close view of both kites and California voles, the kites' primary prey.

Nesting Results



Of the 18 historic nesting sites regularly monitored, 12 were occupied early in the season, but after May 20th, only five nesting sites remained. These produced ten nestlings, nine of which survived beyond fledging. Two other juveniles from an unknown location were found at Ellwood.

As in 2012, kites showed an affinity for nesting at the junction of neighborhoods and open spaces.

Roosting Results

In mid-July, we expanded our search to include nocturnal communal roosting sites. In the non-breeding season, September to February, kites will leave their hunting grounds near dusk and fly to a communal roost for the night. We located four roosting sites: More Mesa East, Ellwood Mesa West, Lake Los Carneros and the neighborhood east of Lake Los Carneros. Only More Mesa East was confirmed to support roosting birds coming in from nesting and hunting territories off site. Each roost site supported a small number of kites, in keeping with the smaller population numbers observed this year.

Mortality

We found two dead kites this season near the 101 freeway north of Glen Annie and one on Ellwood Beach. One of these was a juvenile still in its buffy plumage with no indication as to the cause of death.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this program: our interns Kevin Lamb, Gina Lamb, Jay Lin, Brett Stormoen, Ryan Newkirk, Dayton Marchese, Chandra Brown and Vinh Truong; our community volunteers Adrian O'Loghlen, Carol Rae, Gayle Hackamack, Jeff Hanson, Peggy Kearns and Brian Sieck and the entire Santa Barbara Audubon community. Mark Holmgren provided hours of instruction and insight into kite behavior and local patterns.

To view a map of the sites monitored this season, please visit: http://tinyurl.com/kitewatch2013.

White-tailed kite photos taken by David Levasheff

El Tecolote is a free publication published six times a year by The Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., 5679 Hollister Ave., Suite 5B, Goleta, Calif. 93117. Members are invited to send announcements 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

Other Christmas Bird Counts In Santa Barbara County

- Sunday, Dec. 15th Lompoc (La Purisima) Alex Abela, abela@lightspeed.net Phone: (805) 934-2873
- Friday, Dec. 20th Carpinteria Rob Denholtz robdenholtz@gmail.com Phone: (805) 684-4060
- Sunday, Dec. 22nd Santa Maria/Guadalupe Alex Abela, abela@lightspeed.net Phone: (805) 934-2873
- Friday, Dec. 27th Cachuma Mark Holmgren maholmgren@yahoo.com ' Phone: (805) 680-4045

The SBAS Birdathon Returns in 2014!

Our Birdathon will return for another year so be sure to highlight April 26th through May 4th in your 2014 calendar! Will we top last year's success? More than 50 intrepid birders raised over \$6,500 scouring the county and finding 202 species. Wow! Begin thinking about



how you'd like to participate. Will it be by joining a field trip or a team effort? Or perhaps you'll just go out on your own? We just want to see you out there and then at the celebration picnic on May 4th. We're in the planning stages now so if you would like to help, please contact Gayle Hackamack at sbbirdathon@cox.net

A unique gift idea from Audubon

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society's *Eyes in the Sky* program cares for injured hawks, falcons, and owls that cannot be safely returned to the wild. Instead, our birds serve as ambassadors for their wild cousins, helping us tell their stories through outreach and education.

- Your \$50 donation will help pay for food, shelter, and veterinary care for a bird of your choice.
- *AS A BONUS*, your gift's recipient will receive a personal tour of our birds' aviary at the Museum of Natural History and experience an intimate nose-to-beak encounter with their avian adoptee.

Adopt a bird for someone you know 1. Simply choose one of our birds below. Max Great Horned Owl Ivan Red-tailed Hawk Kisa Peregrine Falcon Athena Barn Owl Puku Western Screech Owl Kachina American Kestrel (female) Kanati American Kestrel (male) 2. Then mail your donation along with a Athena completed bird adoption form to: • We will notify your gift's Eves in the Sky recipient with a packet of 2559 Puesta del Sol information and schedule Santa Barbara, CA 93105 their visit to the aviary.

	Eyes	in the Sky Bird Adoption Form	Name of the bird you wish to adopt:
Gift recipient		Donor	
Name:		Name:	0
Address:		Address:	
Phone:	E-mail:	Phone:	E-mail:

Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society (memo: EITS)

Santa Barbara Audubon Programs **Special January Program:** An Evening with Jon L. Dunn



Tuesday, January 14th, 7:30 p.m.

Few in the birding world have received as much acclaim as Jon L. Dunn-and with good reason. A birding tour leader with Wings over 30 years (http://wingsbirds.com/leaders/jon-dunn/), Dunn served as editor for all six editions of The National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America. And that is just the tip of the iceberg. Dunn co-authored (with Kimball Garrett) Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution, The Peterson Field Guide to

Warblers and several other books. He has written many articles on the identification of bird species and hosts The Advanced Birding video series. Dunn is a member of The Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union and the American Birding Association (ABA) Checklist Committee and has

served on the California Bird Records Committee for over 20 years. Along with David Sibley and Kenn Kaufman, Dunn is one of only seven people to receive the ABA Roger Tory Peterson Award for a lifetime devoted to promoting birding and conservation.

And all of this sparked by the innocuous act of identifying a hooded oriole in his back yard at the age of eight.

This January, the Santa Barbara Audubon Society is thrilled to be hosting Jon L. Dunn for a very special paid program. Jon will speak and present a slide show in Santa Barbara The colorful elegant trogon Museum of Natural History's Farrand Hall. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Jon's talk and slide show is easily Southeast Arizona's begin at 7:30 p.m.

For current Santa Barbara Audubon Society Members, the cost of entry is \$20 per person; Photo: Jon Dunn \$30 dollars for non-members. Tecolote Circle members may attend free of charge.

Regular free programs resume in February.

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 7:30p.m. and are free to the public. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. SBAS members are encouraged to bring guests.

Look who's in town

A green-tailed towhee made an unusual visit to a Santa Barbara backyard in early November.

Go to http://www.sbcobirding.com for more information and to see what other rare visitors are in the area.





Green-tailed towhee photo taken by David Levasheff

most admired bird.

Distribution of the green-tailed towhee, Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online

Santa Barbara Audubon Field Trips

Audubon Field Trips

Audubon Field 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.



Virginia rail with cattails Artist Steven D'Amato

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

Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station Field Trip

Santa Barbara Audubon Members Only

Friday Dec 13, 2013, 7:00 a.m. (car pool time); 8a.m. - noon

Target Birds: waterfowl, rails, egrets, shorebirds, ducks, vermilion flycatcher, raptors etc. **Trip Leader**: Martin Ruane

You must email the following information to Jack Sanford: full name (last, first, middle), address, last four digits of your Social Security number, State D.L. #, Date of Birth. This information is required by the Navy for a security check.

Only 20 members will be allowed to enter the Naval Air Station, therefore it is necessary to make a reservation by emailing Jack Sanford at birdsandtennis@hotmail.com and receiving a confirmation email from him.The deadline for making a reservation is Friday, November 29th.

We will car pool (\$8.00 gas money to drivers) from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge at 7:00 a.m. Once you receive a reservation confirmation, you can opt to meet us at the base if you so desire. Directions:Take Hwy 101 to the Rice Avenue off ramp. Head towards the ocean to Hwy 1. Take Hwy I south to Wood Road. Turn off on Wood Road towards the base and then turn left at the stop sign. Meet at the main gate parking lot. You must be a U.S. citizen. You will need a photo I.D. and to fill out a security form before entering the base. The base naturalist, Martin Ruane, will guide us around the base from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Join us for this unique and rare opportunity. Thanks to Peggy Kearns for making the necessary arrangements.

PS: Please make note of Jack Sanford's new email address.

Lake Cachuma Eagle Boat Cruise

Saturday, December 21st, 2013, (9:45 a.m. check in time at boat dock) 10 a.m. - noon Trip Leader: Park Naturalist Liz Gaspar

Target Birds: bald eagle, white pelican, grebes, common loon, sea and water birds, ducks, osprey, great-tailed grackle, peregrine falcon, etc.

Cost: \$15 for the boat trip payable on the boat.

\$10 per car for entering Lake Cachuma County Park

Limit: 35 people. You must email Jack Sanford at birdsandtennis@hotmail.com to make a reservation on or before Tuesday, Dec 17th. Jack will then confirm your reservation.

Directions: Take Hwy 154 to Lake Cachuma County Park and park near the boat launching area and the Fishing and Tackle shop. To car pool (and it is a good idea since there is a \$10 entrance fee per car), meet at the 5 Points Shopping Center on the side of Big 5 Sporting Goods store at 9 a.m. We should be back around 1 p.m.

PS:The Neal Taylor Nature Center has made some big improvements and it's worth a visit after the Eagle Cruise. Don't miss this great opportunity to get out on the lake with a park naturalist!

Hollister Ranch Field Trip

Saturday Jan 11th, 2014, 8:00 a.m. — Ip.m. (7:00 a.m. at mandatory car pool location) Reservations are required due to a limited number of vehicles allowed on the ranch

Target Birds: songbirds, ocean and pond water fowl, raptors and perhaps an owl or two **Leader**: Guy Tingos

Reservations are required. We are limited to 20 people (five vehicles). Please email Jack Sanford at birdsandtennis@ hotmail.com on or before Wednesday, January 8th to reserve your place. Please let Jack know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold. I must confirm your reservation by email.

Directions: Coming from the south take Hwy 101 to Lake Cachuma /State Street off ramp. Turn right on State Street and then right into the Five Points Shopping Center. Coming from the north take Hwy 101 to the State Street off ramp. Turn left on State Street. Turn right into the Five Points Shopping Center. We will meet and park on the side of the Big 5 Sporting Goods store at 7:00 a.m. (\$8.00 gas money to drivers). We must car pool as we are limited to five vehicles. Bring water, snack or lunch and wear comfortable shoes. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful. Don't miss this great opportunity to bird the private and unique Hollister Ranch.

Friday Bird Walks

Santa Barbara Harbor (Note this is the 1st Friday of the month)

December 6th, 2013, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Target Birds: waterfowl, shorebirds, peregrine falcon and songbirds

Directions: We will meet on the sidewalk next to the Sea Landing Sport Fishing building (301 West Cabrillo Blvd). Birders can park on Bath or Mason Street as there is no time limit there, or use the paid city lot parking. We will bird the SB Harbor and Stearns Wharf areas.

Arroyo Burro School Open Space

December 27th, 2013, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Directions: From Hwy 101 from either direction, take the Las Positas Road off ramp. Turn towards the ocean (away from the mountains). Turn right on Modoc Road and left on Palermo Drive. Follow Palermo Drive all the way to the end and park. We will meet by the locked gate.

Coronado Drive and Devereux Creek

January 10th, 2014, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Target Birds: raptors, songbirds plus monarch butterflies

Directions: From Hwy 101 take the Glen Annie/Storke Road off ramp. Go south (towards the ocean) on Storke Road to Hollister Avenue. Turn right on Hollister Avenue and proceed to Coronado Drive. Turn left on Coronado Drive and park at the end of the street.

San Marcos Foothills Preserve

January 24th, 2014, 8:30- 10:30 a.m.

Directions: Coming from the north on Hwy 101 take the State Street/Hwy 154 off ramp and proceed onto Hwy 154. Exit at Cathedral Oaks Road and turn left. Coming from the south on Hwy 101, take the Hwy 154 exit and proceed east on Hwy 154. Exit at Cathedral Oaks Road and turn left. Turn right on Via Chaparral and right on Salvar Road. Proceed across the "bridge to nowhere" and turn left. We will park and meet near the entrance.

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!

Judy & John Bruton Lee Burrows Marcie & Arthur Chavez	Regina Rivera Cheryl and Russell Sharman* Janice Shea
Paulina and Peter Conn*	Crissy Slaughter
Joe Flynn* Ann Freidell	Ayn C. Sullivan Krista & Metin Taner
Paul Genis*	David Telleen-Lawton*
Marty Greenberg Francis Hallinan	Marlen Tilford Angela Trenwith
Helen Harris	Therese Tripp
Sue Jackson	Amber L.Turner
Vernon Kjonegaard	Margaret White*
Sally McIntrye Lewis	Randal C.Williams
Frank Moody Ortega Family	G. J.Wittenstein Rachel Wolfe
Cheri Owen	James Wyss
Kathy Piasecki Brian G. Prescott	* Chapter only Member

THANK YOU for your donation to Santa Barbara Audubon!

The Audubon Board would like to thank those who have responded with their donations and would like to remind all members to keep us in mind when you are doing your year-end tax planning.



Artist Steven D'Amato

business and will not be sold or shared with any other group.

Opportunities

Volunteer Habitat Restoration

ARROYO HONDO

Contact: Sally Isaacson at 260-2252 or volunteer@sblandtrust.org

Sunday	
Sunday	

December 8 January 5

COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Contact: Tara Longwell, at longwell@lifesci.ucsb.edu or 805.893.5092

No workday in December Saturday January 11 9 a.m.-noon

Plover Project Docent Training

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

Training dates: Saturday Saturday

December 7 January 18

7:00-9:00 p.m. 9:00 -noon

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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

CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION

San Marcos Foothills 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 Tara Longwell, at longwell@lifesci.ucsb. edu or 805.893.5092 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 a.m. and 1 p.m. and can be either 1.5 hours or all three hours. Volunteers 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 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. once or twice per week.

We also need a webmaster to maintain a website now under development and to update our Facebook page.

Call Gabriele Drozdowski at 805-898-0347 if any of this sounds interesting to you.

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: C3ZC130Z

This is my choice of membership!

D 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:____ Zip: ___

E-mail: ____

Amount Enclosed: _

Mail to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society 5679 Hollister Ave, Suite 5B Goleta CA 93117 El Tecolote Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B Goleta, CA 93117

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Santa Barbara County Birding http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sbcobirding					
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Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month Sept thru June. Members are welcomed to attend.

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

November

Nov. 29 Deadline for Pt. Mugu Registration

December

- Dec. 6 Bird Walk: Santa Barbara Harbor
- Dec. 7 Plover Training
- Dec. 8 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Dec. 13 Field Trip: Pt. Mugu NAS
- Dec. 15 Lompoc Christmas Count
- Dec. 20 Carpinteria Christmas Count
- Dec. 21 Cachuma Boat Cruise Field Trip
- Dec. 22 Santa Maria/Guadalupe Count
- Dec. 27 Cachuma Christmas Count
- Dec. 27 Bird Walk: Arroyo Burro School

January

- Jan. 4 Santa Barbara Christmas Count
- Jan. 5 Restore Arroyo Hondo
- Jan. 10 Bird Walk: Coronado Drive
- Jan. II Field Trip: Hollister Ranch
- Jan. 11 Restore Coal Oil Point
- Jan. 14 Program: Evening with Jon L. Dunn
- Jan. 18 Plover Training
- Jan. 24 Bird Walk: San Marcos Foothills

