ElTecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 53, Issue 4 | February - March 2015

Celebrating 52 Years of Conservation and Advocacy!

THE 115TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

by Rebecca Coulter, Jared Dawson, & Joan Murdoch

lanning for the annual CBC begins in earnest during the fall landbird migration. Everyone is birding, looking for rarities; those who have already been out during the July and August shorebird migration have a jumpstart on many who are just emerging from the long doldrums of quiet summer birding. (Santa Barbara is funny that way—much of the country suffers through long winters for the great summer birding; because of our climate and location, we tend to be the opposite!) In November, one of the most interesting discussions on birding listserves in the west was the huge movement of Varied Thrushes around California. Expectations were high, and we were anxious to see what else turned up-and what would stick around! Added to that, the significant rains in December brought a sense of relief to the drought-thirsty birders as we began to see ponds reappear and a few ducks show up—including the return of the migration-misguided Tufted Duck, last year's bird-du-jour of the CBC.

Count day dawned cold and clear, with only some local fog in the mountains and a few fluffy clouds over the ridges. (The intrepid mountain crew also encountered icy roads and some lingering snow on north-facing slopes.) Owlers had already reported good results from their routes, having begun at midnight, combing the mountains and foothills during the brightly moonlit hours. And as the sun rose, the promise of a new CBC count day was born. Over 230 birders spread out to explore the 15-mile diameter circle, concentrating on the annual census (yes, counting every bird observed, not just the species) in all areas, and seeking stakeout rarities that had popped up in the scouting days prior to the count. Black Scoter, Burrowing Owl, Costa's Hummingbird, Red-naped Sapsucker, Vermilion Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Lucy's and Grace's warblers, Painted Redstart, Grasshopper and Harris's sparrows, Bullock's, Baltimore, Orchard and Scott's orioles, Lawrence's Goldfinch—all these stakeouts were checked off during the day.

The evening's countdown brought with it







some surprises, species not expected or staked out but seen during the day: American White Pelican, Cassin's Auklet, Ancient Murrelet, Golden Eagle, Mountain Quail, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, and a bonus Black Bear at Gibraltar Reservoir! It also brought the notable misses: Snow Goose, Wood Duck, American Bittern, and Yellow-billed Magpie. Tufted Duck, seen only twice since mid-December, was completely absent from all viewable bodies of water. (And just to spite us, the duck showed up the day after count week ended, back among the scaup on Campus Lagoon!) The new catered dinner format was a huge success from our perspective, allowing more birders to linger in the field, finding no buffet lines and welcoming Audubon volunteers when they arrived at the Museum.

In summary, the 115th annual Santa Barbara CBC tallied **214 species**, **topping the list for California CBCs and ranking 2**nd **in the nation** behind simply unbeatable Mad Island Marsh/Matagorda County, Texas. But lest we forget,

the CBC is not all about the species total. At press time, we are still looking at trends and areas of concern that bubble up as we compile. And the day's total number of Varied Thrushes was amazing—200 birds, the second highest number recorded in Santa Barbara CBC history. It is very likely that these quiet, skulking birds will have gone undetected on some routes, so the total is probably lower than what we might have found. For a species we normally scramble to find on count day, it was a pleasure having so many groups get the opportunity to see and hear them. You can find all the bird totals on the Santa Barbara CBC website, casbbirdcount. org, by clicking on Latest Count Results.

Our thanks go to all of you who make it possible, and especially to Santa Barbara Audubon and the dinner committee, the area coordinators and compilation committee, boat owners Mark and Susie Johnson, and the Museum of Natural History for supporting this community effort.

BIRDATHON 2015

REGISTRATION STARTS ONLINE MARCH 15, AT 8 A.M. FOR BIRDATHON FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

ew this year are prizes for participation and most money raised, a birding-byear trip led by Rebecca Coulter, a private tour of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Biology, a boat trip, possibly a wine country trip, and more! See the next El Tecolote for full trip descriptions. The Birdathon committee has been busy for months, and a great event is taking shape FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF APRIL.

SBAS 2015 Birdathon

The Birdathon supports all Audubon programs and endeavors. Keep your chapter healthy by participating!

INVOLVE FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN THE BIRDATHON

Win a prize for most money raised!

Win a prize for most donors!

Win a prize for most species seen in a day!

Involve friends and family by sending them a personalized letter. Here's a sample. Consider sending this letter to all the names on your contact list.



Dear Friend.

Santa Barbara Audubon's 3rd Annual **BIRDATHON** takes place the last two weeks in April. I am asking you to make a *donation* or *to pledge* an amount for each bird species I identify in a 24 hour period during that time. The money raised supports our mission: local conservation, habitat restoration, and education.

It's all for the birds!

Please support my 2015 BIRDATHON

Complete this Donation Card and return it to me with your check made payable to Santa Barbara Audubon.

Or mail to Santa Barbara Audubon, 5679 Hollister Ave, Suite 5B, Goleta, CA 93117

Thank you so much!

(Name)

For further information, contact SBBirdathon@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or visit SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

DONATION CARD: 2015 SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON BIRDATHON

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:		
Yes, I want to sponsor	Circle one: Check Visa MasterCard AMEX	
I pledge \$ per species	Card number	
I enclose a donation of \$	_ Expiration Date	
My company will match my gift!	CVC Code	
I will go to your GoFundMe site		
•	Signature	
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY	•	
Name	You can also donate online at santabarbaraaudubon.org	
Address	-	
City/State/Zip	Return this Donation Card to me or to:	
Phone	Santa Barbara Audubon	
e-mail	5679 Hollister Ave, Suite 5B, Goleta CA 93117	

SBAS: SPECIAL FUNDRAISERS

BRAD SCHRAM FIELD TRIP

Wednesday, March 25, from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

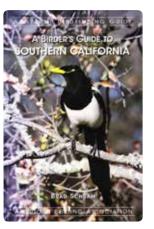
Spend the morning with well-known birding leader Brad Schram. Brad will choose a local birding hotspot.

Drad is the author of the last two editions of the ABA/Lane Guide: A Birder's Guide to Southern California. Once SBAS president, Brad will give our March 25 program on "Birding Japan's Outer Islands". He leads trips worldwide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Brad has birded on all continents and scores of the world's oceanic islands.

Sign up soon! Brad has limited this trip to 12 participants.

Cost: **\$100**

Sign up via Eventbrite at this address: http://sbas-bradschram.eventbrite.com



CINEMATIC EVENT: PELICAN DREAMS

Sunday, March 29

New VIC Theater, 33 West Victoria Street

Show Times: 1:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Price: **\$15**

With her Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill, filmmaker Judy Irving captured the inner lives of San Fran's psittacine citizens. Now she's turned her camera on pelicans with her new documentary Pelican Dreams. Irving presents the journey of Gigi, an injured pelican rescued on the Golden Gate Bridge, and in the process weaves a stirring conservation portrait of one of America's oddest and most beloved birds.

Ms. Irving explains: "Because pelicans have an ancient magic about them, and because their near-extinction and recovery parallel our human relationship to the environment, I've been wanting to make a film about them for years, but I needed a good story!"

A panel discussion with special quests will follow the screening.

Please watch for details on **SantaBarbaraAudubon.org** Benefits Santa Barbara Audubon.



SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY NOW (SUN)

ADVOCACY YIELDS AN IMPROVED 2010 UCSB LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In 2010, UCSB introduced its Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) proposal, with a planning horizon to 2025. The LRDP called for raising its 20,000 student cap by adding 5,000 more students, many of them graduate students. It also proposed to add 1,400 staff and 300 faculty. In addition, the plan would add 2.2 million square feet of building space, which would nearly double the academic space on the existing campus.

The LRDP would mitigate the traffic impacts through several measures:

- provide housing for newly added students, staff and faculty and their families on UCSB's campus, to reduce commuting traffic impacts,

- expand and improve bike paths on Campus.
- sign a joint agreement with the City of Goleta and SB County to provide some traffic mitigation funding; additional financial mitigations would be required if designated limits were exceeded.

Sustainable University Now (SUN) is a coalition of community groups formed to deal with impacts not adequately covered by Goleta's and SB County's agreement. After much negotiation, in March of 2011 a legally binding SUN/UCSB Agreement was signed. Signatories for SUN included Santa Barbara Audubon.

To read more, go to: Santa Barbara Audubon.org/?p=2172

LANDBIRDS AT CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

TIM COONAN, BIOLOGIST - CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m.)

Location: Ferrand Hall

Channel Islands National Park is a local and national gem right in our backyard. Often referred to as the "Galapagos of North America,"

the five islands within the national park are home to a variety of unique flora and fauna, including bird species such as the endemic Island Scrub-Jay and the island subspecies of the Loggerhead Shrike. Managing the avifauna of these islands presents a unique challenge due to the isolation of the islands





and an extensive history of impacts to the habitat quality of the islands through introduced species and extensive human activities. Tim Coonan will discuss these management challenges and the conservation and monitoring programs in place to protect these unique birds and their habitats.

Read full article on the SB Audubon web site: http://santabarbaraaudubon.org

SPECIAL MARCH PROGRAM: BIRDING JAPAN'S OUTER ISLANDS

AN EVENING WITH BRAD SCHRAM

Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

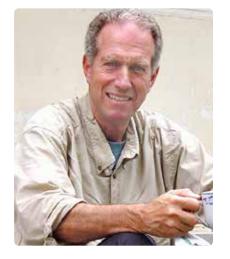
Location: Fleischmann Auditorium

Cost: **\$20 at the door**

ear well-known birding leader and Santa Barbara favorite Brad Schram relate his experience birding Japan's outer islands. Brad is the author of the last two editions of the ABA/Lane Guide: A Birder's Guide to Southern California. Once president of our Audubon chapter, he leads trips worldwide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT), having birded on all continents and scores of the world's oceanic islands.

Brad became fascinated with birds as a child in the mountains of California, the start of an enthusiasm that has modified and enriched his life. Since his early retirement from the business world in 1996, he has

led birding tours in much of the American West, as well as Alaska, Antarctica and the subantarctic islands, Hawaii, Iceland-East Greenland, Kenya, and Trinidad and Tobago. While serving as bird-naturalist on adventure cruise ships, his travels have included Kamchatka, the Aleutians, and the Bering Sea; numerous islands throughout Micronesia, Polynesia, and Melanesia; the Canadian High Arctic; and Antarctic voyages. He lives with his wife Dianne in Arroyo Grande, California.



AUDUBON RAPTOR AVIARY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS



If you enjoy helping wild, rehabilitated raptors, come join Audubon's Eyes in the Sky (EITS) Program at the Audubon Aviary in the beautiful "backyard" of the Museum of Natural History. EITS has seven formerly injured birds of prey which are available for educational programs. EITS volunteers are needed for mornings and afternoons.

Morning volunteers open up the aviary's shutters (so the birds can get visual stimulation and fresh air) and educate visitors about these amazing birds. Shifts are once per week between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and can either be 1.5 hours or all 3.0 hours.

Afternoon volunteers are 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 a week.

For more information and to apply, call (805) 259-1446 or visit our website: http://eyesinthesky.org

SBAS: **FIELD TRIPS**

DUCK PONDS/WETLANDS

Sunday, February 15, 2015 (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)

Target Birds: Waterfowl, Virginia Rail, Merlins, Peregrine Falcons, American Bitterns, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Vermilion Flycatchers, etc.

Trip Leaders: **Peggy Kearns**, **Jeff Hanson**

Car pool time: 7:00 a.m. (\$8.00 gas money to drivers)
Questions: Jack Sanford - birdsandtennis@hotmail.com

We will car pool from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge at 7:00 a.m. If you want to meet us at the Duck Ponds/Wetlands take Hwy 101 to Oxnard. Exit Rice Avenue and go towards the ocean straight to Hueneme Road turnoff. Head west on Hueneme Road and turn left on Casper Road. Proceed about a mile to the end of Casper Road. Turn left into the Duck Ponds/Wetlands. Please park on the paved road near the drainage ditch. We will bird the area on foot and it will be approximately a 3-mile walk; we must remain as a group. This is a private area and a wonderful opportunity has been offered to us to bird the Duck Ponds/Wetlands. Thanks to Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson for making the necessary arrangements. Enjoy.

SANDHILL CRANE OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

Saturday and Sunday, February 21-22, 2015

Target Birds: Sandhill Cranes, Burrowing Owls, Common Moorhen, Horned Larks, Loggerhead Shrike, Lark Sparrows, Blue-winged Teal,

Marsh Wren, Great Horned Owls plus many other species Trip Leader: Jack Sanford (no reservations are necessary)

Cost: camp ground fees \$20 or motel 20 minutes away in Lost Hills or Delano

This Audubon field trip will visit the Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, the Atwell Island Wetlands, the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge and the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. It will be an overnight trip with camping at one of two places. Colonel Allensworth State Park has a nice campground with showers (\$20/night). As a backup we can primitive camp at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Motels at Lost Hills include Motel 6 and Day's Inn. At Delano there is a Holiday Inn. Everyone must make their own vehicle arrangements and bring the necessary camping equipment, layers of clothes, food and drink plus birding equipment. We will not caravan but rather each participant will travel from the Santa Barbara area at approximately 6 a.m. on Saturday or sooner to the Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park (CASHP) campground. We will meet just outside the park at the entrance kiosk at 12:30 p.m. +/- 15 minutes. It is approximately 230 miles to Colonel Allensworth SHP from Santa Barbara depending upon the route. One way to travel there is as follows: Take Hwy 101 to Paso Robles. Take Hwy 46 east to Lost Hills. Once you cross Hwy 5 continue for 18 miles to Hwy 43. Turn left (north) on Hwy 43 for approximately 15 miles to Colonel Allensworth SHP. It is also possible to take Hwy 101 south to Hwy 126 to Hwy 5 to Hwy 46. Take Hwy 46 east to Hwy 43. Turn north (left) on Hwy 43 to CASHP. After determining where we will camp we will bird the park for a very short time looking to spot Burrowing Owls, etc. At approximately 1 p.m. we will travel to Atwell Island Wetlands. This is a new BLM 7000 acre restoration project that recently opened with a viewing platform overlooking the wetlands. After that (between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.) we will travel to Pixley National Wildlife Refuge and view the Sandhill Cranes coming in till dark. After Sunday breakfast we will meet at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge for several hours (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) and then begin our return trip home. We will return home Sunday evening and recuperate on Monday

RANCHO SANTA BARBARA EAST END OF LAKE CACHUMA

Saturday, March 21, 2015 (8 a.m.-12 noon)

Target Birds: Geese, Common Goldeneye, Wood Duck, Lewis's Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican,

and other water and songbirds Trip Leader: **Rob Lindsay**

Car pool time: 7:30 a.m. (no gas money required)

Questions: Jack Sanford - birdsandtennis@hotmail.com

Directions: To car pool area: Coming from the south take Hwy 101 to the Lake Cachuma/State Street exit (#1018) in Santa Barbara. Turn right on State Street and right again into the Five Points Shopping Center and park near Big 5 (3925 State Street). We will car pool at 7:30 a.m. from this parking lot. If coming from the north take the State Street off-ramp and continue to the Five Points Shopping Center on your right immediately after you cross the 101 freeway overpass. Or you can meet us at 8:00 a.m. at the entrance gate to Rancho Santa Barbara (4001 Hwy 154). 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!

SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

LAKE LOS CARNEROS

February 13, 2015 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Waterfowl and winter songbirds

Bird walk leader: Jack Sanford - birdsandtennis@hotmail.com

Directions: From Hwy 101 take the Los Carneros exit off-ramp and head towards the mountains (Stow House on the right).

Park behind the fire station.

SAN JOSE CREEK AREA (NEAR KELLOGG TENNIS COURTS)

February 27, 2015 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Songbirds, woodpeckers, thrashers, thrushes, kinglets, etc.

Bird walk leader: Jack Sanford - birdsandtennis@hotmail.com

Directions: From Hwy 101 take the Patterson Avenue off-ramp and head towards the mountains. Turn left on Cathedral Oaks Road.

Turn left at the Kellogg Avenue stop light. Park and meet near the tennis courts.

OCEAN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE BIRD WALK

March 13, 2015 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: ? (1st time visit)

Bird walk leader: Jack Sanford - birdsandtennis@hotmail.com

Directions: Take the Storke/Glen Annie Road off-ramp and head towards the ocean (UCSB). Turn right on Whittier Drive and park in the immediate area of the old golf course on your left. We will meet on the sidewalk near the old golf course closed parking lot.

ELINGS PARK

March 27, 2015 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Raptors, songbirds, juncos, warblers, finches, Hutton's Vireo, California Thrasher, etc.

Bird walk leader: Jack Sanford - birdsandtennis@hotmail.com

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. We will meet there and bird the area.

REPORT TO NATIONAL AUDUBON

Dear Members,

ach year our chapter files a report with National Audubon. This year when I filled it out I was impressed by our accomplishments in the past year. We did a lot, thanks to you and our other volunteers. A couple of numbers that stand out: we had 13,687 volunteer hours and reached 9,850 children! Congratulations!

Steve Ferry, Co-president



GREEN BIG YEAR

at http://www.sbgreenbigyear.blogspot.com
All birds counted will be seen without fossil fuels used for transportation during 2015.



NEWS FROM EYES IN THE SKY

by Judy Hogan

abriele and several volunteers just finished teaching "The Peregrine Falcon Story" to a total of 65 students at Carpinteria and UCSB Campus Point Boys and Girls Clubs. Students learned the amazing story of the demise and subsequent recovery of the Peregrine Falcons in the US and Canada. See the photo of their boisterous and fun field trip to Devereux Slough.

EITS was blessed with a \$5,000 grant in December from the Steinmetz Foundation to support enhancement of EITS' volunteer training program. Thank you also to

the many Adopt A Bird donors this past quarter.

Gabriele, Max, Ivan, Kisa, Athena, Kachina, Kanati, Puku and all 40+ volunteers want to say "Thank you!" to our generous supporters. This past year you have visited the aviary, shared many stories, enjoyed up-close encounters with EITS' magnificent birds, assisted on field trips with kids, attended programs, participated with an Adopt A Bird, attended the Fall Open House and in so many other ways let us know that our birds and education outreach are making a positive difference.



AUDUBON WISHES TO EXTEND A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Our intrepid CBC leaders!
- Our Board for 100% participation in annual giving
- The Birdathon and our other hardworking committees
 - The 40+ EITS volunteers
 - Our Daily Bread for supplying delicious treats for our meetings
- Trader Joe's for donating snacks for the WBC4Kids
 - Trent Watanabe Newsletter Design/Layout
 - Tim Buckley Montecito Journal
 - All our generous donors!

WELCOME!

Santa Barbara Audubon extends a warm welcome to our newest members. We look forward to seeing you at our programs and field trips. Thanks for joining!

Teri Ascolese Carley Bass Finke M. Bomet Allan Cooley Jeannine Daniel Sarah Dobbs John & Ruth Drake Michael Dunne Marcia Escorpiso Margaret Gibb Gary Horowitz Christine Laird Michael Lebaron Paul Mershon Lucy O'Brien Nic Proctor Bronte Reynolds Gust P. Rouhas

Margaret Serkes Carol Shabrami Duane Sikorski Dianne Skafte Mirra Tubiolo Jessica Tunney Robert Wightman Susanne Wood Eugenia Zettas

Audubon Society Membership Application

Option 1: Local Chapter-only Membership

☐ This is my choice of membership!

Cost: \$25 Annually.

Complete application and mail along with check made out to:

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY 5679 Hollister Ave. Suite 5B. Goleta CA 93117

Option 2: National and Local Membership

Santa Barbara Code: C5ZC13OZ

- ☐ This is my choice of membership!
- ☐ Please do NOT share my contact information. Introductory \$20

(NAS subsequent-yearly memberships are \$35/year.)

Complete application and mail along with check made out to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 422249Palm Coast, Florida 32142-2249

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

Name:	
Address:	
City:	Zip:
E-mail:	
Amount Enclosed:	



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967-5162

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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BOARD APPOINTED POSITIONS

Birdathon Gayle Hackamack sbbirdathon@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org Gabriele Drozdowski EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org Eyes in the Sky 259-1446 Betsy Mooney Newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org Newsletter David Levasheff Webmaster@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org Webmaster 967-8767 Hospitality 705-3796 Hospitality@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org Teresa Fanucchi

Santa Barbara County Birding • http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sbcobirding
Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month September thru June. Members are welcomed to attend.
Call the SBAS office to verify dates and times.



REGISTRATION STARTS ONLINE

MARCH 15, AT 8 A.M.