

# El Tecolote



NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 53, Issue 6 | June – July 2015

*Celebrating 52 Years of Conservation and Advocacy!*

## 2015 Birdathon – How'd We Do?



## 2015 BIRDATHON RECAP

by Libby Patten

Santa Barbara Audubon's 3rd annual Birdathon (April 1–30) was a great success! We appreciate all of the time and money so many contributed to making this year's event so rewarding and fun. We raised approximately \$7,000 for our chapter with final results still being tallied.

We'd like to thank our fantastic field trip leaders, without whom the Birdathon could not happen: Peter Gaede who led trips to both Anacapa Island and the Carrizo Plain, Rebecca Coulter for leading a "Birding by Ear" trip, and Brad Schram who led a special walk around Coal Oil Point/Devereux Slough. They led approximately 50 new and experienced birders to great locations in Santa Barbara and nearby counties. The Birdathon

committee, led by Gayle Hackmack, included Libby Patten, Nancy States, Kris Mainland White, Peter Thompson, David Levasheff, and Janice Levasheff with support from Cherie Topper.

This year's Birdathon included new field trip locations, an evening event, a private daytime tour of a natural history collection, and a special birding brunch. The evening event was a wine-and-cheese reception and lecture by Dr. Linnea Hall at the UCSB Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) with assistance from Jennifer Thorsch, Mireia Beas-Moix, and Andy Lanes. The private daytime tour of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ) in Camarillo

was led by Executive Director Dr. Linnea Hall. These events both afforded the participants a chance to see numerous bird skins — and at WFVZ, one of the world's largest collections of birds' nests and eggs. Two special screenings of the documentary film *Pelican Dreams* were held at The New Vic, with 182 people attending and more than \$1000 raised. The Early Bird Brunch, generously hosted by Janice and David Levasheff at their home, was a delightful morning of relaxed birding, fine food, and camaraderie with six hummingbird species in attendance.

At the wrap-up picnic on April 26, we determined that 212 species were observed including a few counted in the last few days of April.

*continued on p.2*

# SBAS: 2015 BIRDATHON RECAP



◀ continued from p.1

In addition to species observed on field trips, more than six teams--like Jeff Hanson's team pictured to the right--counted species during the Birdathon, which spanned the full month of April this year. Please check our website [www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org) for the official list of bird species seen. We hope you enjoyed the events and a chance to commune with your fellow birders this year. See you in 2016!

Above: Peter Gaede led a great trip to the southeastern Carrizo Plain with stops in multiple counties. In the photo, attendees are on a hike to Quail Springs with the Temblor Range in the background. The weather was unexpectedly cold and rainy, but the wind and wet stuff calmed down for much of the afternoon, allowing us to enjoy many fine species including Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow, Bell's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike with young, Swainson's Hawk, Tricolored Blackbird, Bank Swallow and more. ➤





***No Program in June!***  
***Programs resume in September***

***See you at the Stow Grove Membership Get-Together (see below) on June 20.***

Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
***Annual Membership Meeting and Get-Together***  
***Saturday, June 20, 2015, 3:00-5:00 p.m.***  
***Stow Grove Park, Space #3***

*Join us for friends and music*  
***ELECTION OF NEXT YEAR'S BOARD***

***Bring hors d'oeuvres or finger food to share***

Soft drinks & water provided. BYOB.

ENJOY FOOD, DRINK, and OLD TIME MUSIC BY GLENDESSARY JAM

Birdathon Prizes Announced

***Say Goodbye and Thanks to Steve Ferry, current Co-President and long-time Audubon Board Member***

***SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR ELECTION TO SBAS BOARD JUNE 20, 2015***

*President - Dolores Pollock*  
*Vice President - Lee Moldaver*  
*Secretary - Steve Wiley*  
*Treasurer - Steve Beal*  
*Conservation - Virginia Gardner*  
*Development - open*  
*Education - Andy Lanes*

*Governance - Peter Thompson*  
*Membership - open*  
*Programs - Aaron Kreisberg*  
*Publicity - Janice Levasheff*  
*Science - open*  
*At-Large - Kris Mainland White*

***APPOINTED:***

*Birdathon - open*  
*Eyes in the Sky - John O'Brien*  
*Field Trips - Jack Sanford*  
*Newsletter - Betsy Mooney*  
*Webmaster - David Levasheff*



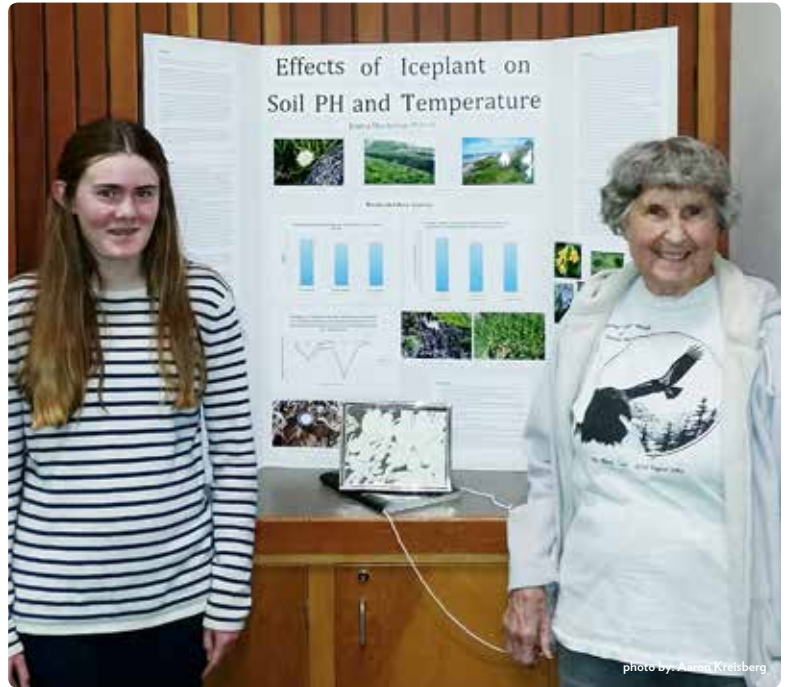
## 2015 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR: SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY AWARD WINNER

by Richard Figueroa

Emma MacArthur-Warner, a student at Goleta Valley Junior High School, received the Santa Barbara Audubon Society award at the 2015 Santa Barbara County Science Fair. This award is presented each year in honor of Santa Barbara Audubon Society founding member Joy Parkinson. The award recognizes projects in the life sciences relating to the conservation of birds and their habitat.

Emma's project, entitled "The Effects of Iceplant on Soil pH and Temperature", showed that the presence of iceplant in an area along the Ellwood Mesa bluffs alters the soil environment in ways that can affect the growth of native vegetation, which many local birds rely on as habitat and forage. Iceplant is an introduced exotic plant that can invade areas of native vegetation and make those areas unfavorable for many animals, including birds. Emma's project offers practical insight into a real issue for ecological restoration practitioners looking to restore native habitat along Santa Barbara's coast.

In addition to demonstrating proficiency in science, Emma has exceptional talent for art, which she showed in her sketches of native plants that accompanied her project display at the fair. The Santa Barbara Audubon Society congratulates Emma on her achievements and wishes her the best in her endeavors. Whether she decides to pursue science or art, she is certain to have a bright future. Keep up the great work, Emma!



Emma with Jan Hamber, Co-sponsor of the Award

## MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

*A series introducing the directors of our chapter*

Peter Thompson, a recent addition to the SBAS Board and Governance Committee Chair, retired and moved from Chicago to Santa Barbara with his wife Mary in 2012. Born and raised in Minnesota, he attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis studying psychology. They have two daughters, Emily in San Francisco, and Lindsay in Minneapolis. He spent 30+ years in international finance. An avid

outdoor enthusiast all his life, he and his wife still have a lake cabin in Northern Minnesota which they enjoy visiting—only in the summer! As a lifelong Midwesterner he has enjoyed the great variety of new outdoor experiences Santa Barbara offers. It has been fun learning new species of birds and working with a great organization such as SBAS to promote and maintain our environment.



Birdathon trip to Anacapa Island organized by Peter Thompson





A group of people, including children and adults, are walking along a dirt path on a grassy hillside. The path leads towards a wooden structure in the distance. Some children are carrying backpacks. The background features a large blue lake and a forested area. The photo is credited to EITS Volunteer.

# LAKE LOS CARNEROS BUCKET BRIGADE UPDATE



photo by: Dolores Pollock

## VICTORY FOR PHASE-OUT OF LEAD AMMUNITION

A black and white illustration. On the left, a white silhouette of a person's arm and hand is shown against a black background, reaching towards the right. On the right, a detailed line drawing of a bird's head (possibly a crow or raven) is enclosed within a circular frame. The bird has a large, hooked beak and a dark eye. The background of the illustration is white, with some faint, stylized circular patterns around the bird's head.



# PHOTOS CAPTURE BIRDATHON 2015

Noted birder Brad Schram kicked off Birdathon 2015 with a field trip around Coal Oil Point and Devereux Slough on March 25. That evening Brad (pictured here with Jan Hamber) spoke at Fleischmann Auditorium at the Natural History Museum on Birds of Japan's Outer Islands. At the New Vic on March 29, Morro the Pelican entertained the audience watching Judy Irving's "Pelican Dreams."

On Wednesday evening Apr 15, UCSB's CCBER hosted a reception, tour of the collections, and a lecture by Dr. Linnea Hall from Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology. Sunday morning, Apr 19, found ten eager brunchers at the Levasheffs for David's sour dough pancakes and a panoply of springtime birds.







photo by: Dolores Pollock



photo by: Dolores Pollock

## AUDUBON GOES TO THE MOVIES

by Betsy Mooney

Washed in the blue and purple lighting of the New Vic Theatre, award-winning filmmaker Judy Irving introduced her movie *Pelican Dreams*, a film that explores the breeding grounds, migration, and incumbent dangers of life as a Brown Pelican. Do pelicans dream of abundant fish? Or in reality do they have nightmares of oil-covered feathers and fishing hooks snagged in their pouches? Irving shows examples of these and other hazards and the work being done to improve the odds for pelicans living a life free of these human-created dangers. With our help, a pelican's dream can become a reality merged with our dreams for a healthier environment.



photo by: Betsy Mooney

Morro the Pelican

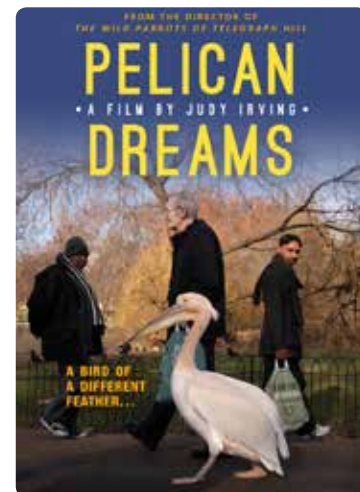
The inspiration for *Pelican Dreams* presented itself when Irving witnessed a confused young pelican "arrested" on the Golden Gate Bridge and transported to a seabird rescue center. Irving follows the four-month-old female, named "Gigi", through her rehabilitation and eventual release. The other star of the movie is Morro, an adult male pelican, who, due to his injuries and compromised flight, resides with Dani and Bill Nicholson. After the movie, Morro made an appearance, enthusiastically entertaining the Audubon crowd with his pelican pouch skills.

Special thank you to our main sponsor, Northern Trust Bank!

Thanks also to Pelican Media - Judy Irving and Mark Bittner, Shadow Distribution, Dani and Bill Nicholson, Laurie Harvey, and of course... Morro the Pelican.

Thank you also to the Ensemble Theatre Company for providing the New Vic at a discounted nonprofit rate.

**"PELICAN DREAMS"**  
DVD NOW AVAILABLE



If you enjoyed "*Pelican Dreams*" at the New Vic or if you missed it and would like to see why our audience enjoyed the movie so much, you can now buy a DVD of the film at <http://pelicanmedia.org/store.htm>

Judy Irving, the filmmaker who was with us for the screening here in Santa Barbara, writes:

If you buy your "*Pelican Dreams*" DVD or Blu-ray from our nonprofit store I'll sign/inscribe it for you. Go to <http://www.pelicanmedia.org/store.htm> and let me know via [films@pelicanmedia.org](mailto:films@pelicanmedia.org) what I should write. Plus, there's no shipping charge. Plus, you're helping us pay distribution expenses and get started on another movie!



photo by: Steve Fain



## AUDUBON AT EARTH DAY

Audubon participated enthusiastically in CEC's Earth Day celebration on Apr 18 at Alameda Park. During the day, a steady stream of visitors stopped by our booth to ask questions about birds, about our work, and about volunteer opportunities. Eyes in the Sky volunteers including Coni Edick (pictured) intrigued younger visitors with owl pellet dissections.



## CITY OF GOLETA TO SUPPORT SBAS WBC4KIDS 2016

SBAS's 2016 Winter Birdcount for Kids (WBC4Kids) will be partially supported by a \$1000 grant funded by the Goleta City 2015/16 Grant Program. "Organizations involved in providing public services, educational and cultural activities . . . as well as Goleta-oriented special events and regional projects that enhance and support the quality of life in Goleta" are eligible to receive these funds. Our grant was one of thirty-seven awarded, and one of three grants to environmental organizations. This partnership represents another step in SBAS's efforts to forge positive relationships and open communication with local entities. Mark your calendars for another delightful WBC4Kids – January 23rd, 2016!





# SBAS: **FRIDAY BIRD WALKS**

Everyone is welcome! Join us on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 8:30-10:30 a.m.

These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird lovers. Trips are free unless noted.

Please contact Jack Sanford at [birdsandtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:birdsandtennis@hotmail.com) if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have questions or suggestions.

## **LA CASA DE MARIA**

**June 12, 2015 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Canyon Wren, songbirds, raptors, etc.

**Directions:** Take Hwy 101 to the San Ysidro Road off-ramp (#93) and head towards the mountains. Turn right on East Valley Road-Hwy 192 (Stop light). Proceed 2/10 mile and turn left on El Bosque Road. Follow El Bosque into the La Casa de Maria grounds. Upon entering the grounds immediately turn to your right and park across from the Registration office. We will meet at the fountain in the central courtyard near the Registration office for a brief welcome.



photo by: Betsy Mooney

## **TABANO HOLLOW OPEN SPACE**

**June 26, 2015 (8:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Songbirds, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, etc.

Take Hwy 101 to the Turnpike Avenue off-ramp and head towards the mountains. Turn left on Cathedral Oaks Road. Turn left on Ribera Drive. Park where Ribera Drive and Matorral Way meet. (Bridge under Hwy 101 and Open Space sign can be seen.)



photo by: David Levasheff

## **ATASCADERO CREEK**

**July 10, 2015 (8:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Waterbirds, songbirds, and raptors

**Directions:** From Hwy 101 take the Patterson off ramp and head towards the ocean. We will park in the dirt area near the Atascadero Creek Bridge.



photo by: David Levasheff

## **FARREN ROAD**

**July 24, 2015 (8:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Hummingbirds, kingbirds, flycatchers, sparrows, and Blue Grosbeaks

**Directions:** From SB area take Hwy 101 north and take Winchester Canyon Road exit. At end of ramp, go straight (Calle Real), past stop sign at bridge, and continue to end of road. Farren Road is on right. Park at side of road. We will meet here.



photo by: David Levasheff

***"AT THE END OF THE DAY,  
CLIMATE CHANGE IS A BIRD ISSUE."***

**– DAVID YARNOLD**



DAVID YARNOLD IS PRESIDENT  
OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.

# SBAS: **FIELD TRIPS**

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Everyone is welcome! These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird lovers. Trips are free unless noted. Please contact Jack Sanford at [birdsandtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:birdsandtennis@hotmail.com) for details and questions.

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## **HOLLISTER RANCH**

**Saturday, June 13, 2015 (8:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.)**

**Reservations are required due to a limited number of vehicles allowed on the Ranch**

*Target Birds: Songbirds, ocean and pond waterfowl, raptors, and perhaps an owl or two*

*Carpool time: 7:00 a.m. at mandatory car pool location (\$8.00 gas money to drivers)*

*Leader: Guy Tingos*

**R**eservations are required. We are limited to 20 people (five vehicles). Please email Jack Sanford at [birdsandtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:birdsandtennis@hotmail.com) on or before Wednesday, June 10th, to reserve your place. Please let Jack know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold. Jack 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 turn 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 alongside Big Five Sporting Goods Store at 7:00 a.m. We must carpool as we are limited to 5 vehicles. Bring water, snack, or lunch and wear comfortable shoes. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to bird the private and unique Hollister Ranch.

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## **TROUT CLUB, SANTA BARBARA**

**Saturday, July 11, 2015 (8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)**

*Target Birds: Flycatchers, Thrushes, Gnatcatchers, hummingbirds, sparrows, orioles, etc.*

*Carpool time: 8:00 a.m. at car pool location*

*Leader: Libby Patten*

**D**irections: Take Hwy 101 Lake Cachuma/State Street off-ramp in Santa Barbara. Turn right on State Street and right again into the Five Points Shopping Center and park at the side of the Big Five Sporting Goods Store at 8 a.m. We will carpool (no gas money) from here at 8 a.m. or you can meet at the entrance to the Trout Club off Old San Marcus Road. Take Hwy 101 to Hwy 154 north from Santa Barbara and turn left on Old San Marcus Road (Painted Cave Road is on your right). Go a very short distance and park in the dirt area near the Trout Club entrance. We will bird from there.

Take advantage of this opportunity to bird the private Trout Club.

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photo by: Callie Bowdich

**WATCH YOUR STEP!  
WHEN VISITING  
COAL OIL POINT  
PLEASE BE  
CAREFUL OF ME!**





# PLAN A LEGACY

Because you value the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and our commitment to birds and the environment, please consider making a meaningful long-term gift.

A bequest is an easy and wonderful way to preserve what you cherish in your legacy.

For information, please contact Steve Ferry or Dolores Pollock at [president@SantaBarbaraAudubon.com](mailto:president@SantaBarbaraAudubon.com)

## AUDUBON WISHES TO EXTEND A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

### **Birdathon Trip Leaders:**

**Rebecca Coulter, Peter Gaede, Brad Schram**

**Dr. Linnea Hall, Janice and David Levasheff, and all who participated in our Birdathon**

### **Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project;**

**for funding our restoration work at Coal Oil Point Reserve**

### **Newsletter Design/Layout:**

**Montecito Journal and Trent Watanabe**

## 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!*

Adam Bianchi II	Diane Luka
Penelope Bianchi	Ken MacAulay
Holly Bradbury	Jill MacKay
Noreen Brokke	Joan McMaster
Ann Bromfield	Kim & George Morales
Suzanne T. Brown	Dr. Robert Nunez
Cameron Devries	Lorna Padden
Mary Eising	Lisa Perocco
Raymond Evans	Ms. Jennifer J. Plana
Marjorie Gardner	Lana Rose
John Godsey	Ellen P. Wall
Beverly Grant	Trent Watanabe
Joy Heffner	Lynn Williams
Emmie Hileman	Susan M. Williams
Jenny Imhoof	Susan Wong
Diana Jauchen	Linda Yeaw
Sarah & Grace Knecht	Pamela Zwehl-Burke
Jeannette Love	

## 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: C5ZC130Z*

☐ 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 422249 Palm Coast, Florida 32142-2249**

*For more information on these options please go to our website at:*

***[www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org) or call (805) 964-1468***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_



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

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## SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

(805) 964-1468 • [www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org)

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cherie Topper 805-451-1389 [Director@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](mailto:Director@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Steve Ferry	805-967-5162	<a href="mailto:President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
	Dolores Pollock	805-681-8661	<a href="mailto:President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	805-964-1468	<a href="mailto:VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Secretary	Kris Mainland White		<a href="mailto:Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Treasurer	Steve Beal	805-964-8503	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips	Jack Sanford	805-566-2191	<a href="mailto:FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Programs	Aaron Kreisberg	805-679-1578	<a href="mailto:Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Conservation	Virginia Gardner		<a href="mailto:Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Science	Richard Figueroa	626-824-9782	<a href="mailto:Science@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Science@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Education	Andy Lanes	805-674-3994	<a href="mailto:Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Membership	Julia Kosowitz	805-450-5392	<a href="mailto:Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Publicity	Janice Toyo Levasheff		<a href="mailto:Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Governance	Peter Thompson	612-280-9482	<a href="mailto:Governance@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Governance@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Development	Margo Kenney	805-963-3011	<a href="mailto:Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Development-3@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>

### BOARD APPOINTED POSITIONS

Birdathon	Gayle Hackamack		<a href="mailto:Birdathon@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Birdathon@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Eyes in the Sky	John O'Brien	805-962-7799	<a href="mailto:EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Newsletter	Betsy Mooney		<a href="mailto:Newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>
Webmaster	David Levasheff	805-967-8767	<a href="mailto:Webmaster@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org">Webmaster@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org</a>

SB County Birding Resources: [groups.yahoo.com/group/sbcobirding](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sbcobirding); [sbcobirding.com](http://sbcobirding.com)

SB Audubon Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month September thru June. Everyone welcome to attend.

Visit our website for updates: [www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org)

## MEMBERSHIP GET-TOGETHER



**Stow Grove Park, Spot #3**  
**June 20, 3:00-5:00**

**Music - Camaraderie - Special Guests**

*Bring finger food to share, soft drinks provided.*

**See You There!**