

# El Tecolote



NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 54, Issue 1 | August – September 2015

*Celebrating 52 Years of Conservation and Advocacy!*

## HOW IS SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON DOING?

by Dolores Pollock

Reminded by events at Refugio of the 1969 oil spill in the early days of our chapter, we reaffirm our commitment to birds and their habitat. That is and has been our mission, and we are as dedicated as ever to its success. We continue to volunteer, advocate, and work with like-minded organizations to protect the environment. Thanks to everyone for your support in this!

We're celebrating the sighting of a condor flying in our foothills in July!!!!

### **Our successes this past year include:**

- **Hiring our first Executive Director.** Cherie Topper is part-time but works tirelessly for Santa Barbara Audubon. We are truly fortunate to have connected with her. She brings expertise, energy, and organizing skills that will help us “fly” into the future. Among her many accomplishments, she has strengthened our connection to Lotusland, SBMNH Sea Center, the City of Goleta, Wildling Museum, CCBER, and Coal Oil Point Reserve. As one member wrote to Cherie: “You have really stepped in to give Audubon additional prominence and clout in this region.”
- **Hosting our first Winter Bird Count 4 Kids.** Everyone enjoyed the sunny morning at Lake Los Carneros, and we'll host it again on January 23, 2016, this time in partnership with the City of Goleta, who will provide supplemental financial support for the event. Spread the word—kids 8 and up welcome!
- **“Catering” our Christmas Bird Count Dinner** for 200+ hungry birders. Next year, Mexican food!
- **Creating a Governance Committee**, ably chaired by Peter Thompson, to staff our Board with qualified members dedicated to our mission.
- **Drawing on the expertise of local authorities** such as Bob Bason, Geoff Green, Karl Hutterer, Dennis Power, and *Montecito Journal* (El Tecolote layout) who generously share their time and skill with us.
- **Adding new Board members.** Virginia Gardner, Aaron Kreisberg, Janice Toyo Levasheff, Peter Thompson, Steve Senesac, and Steve Wiley help replace departing Board members Richard Figueroa and Margo Kenney.
- **Receiving grants** for Eyes in the Sky and restoration work at the Dune Swale at Coal Oil Point and Lake Los Carneros.
- **Raising \$8,000+ through our Birdathon**—many thanks to that committee—including trips to Anacapa Island and the Carrizo Plain, a field trip led by Brad Schram, and the movie *Pelican Dreams*.

Our monthly programs, our ongoing restoration work and conservation advocacy, our engaging bird walks and monthly field trips, our trips to classrooms with rescued raptors, our outreach through social and traditional media—all helped make this a busy year, but a fruitful one.



Cris Sandoval, Steve and Betty Ferry at his Farewell on June 20.

### **Looking ahead:**

This fall marks the **fifth anniversary of the Audubon Aviary** at the Natural History Museum. Write “**Open House, October 18**” on your calendar for a day of fun and celebration, including a Silent Auction.

**Field trips to exciting places led by exciting leaders—throughout the year—are in the planning stages.** We'll charge a fee for some trips, and some will continue to be free. Watch for details.

At its annual Retreat, the Board developed a **Strategic Plan** for our chapter—looking ahead to 2020. We addressed these questions:

1. What will we have accomplished in five years?
2. How will we be like/different from SBAS today?
3. What deficiencies will be remedied?

And last but certainly not least, we have a remarkable opportunity to double our endowment and provide for our future. **Two generous donors offer \$20,000 to be matched this summer.** If you can help, please contact Cherie Topper or me. Donations sustain our core programs now and forever.

Thanks to all who contributed wisdom, work, and wealth to help keep our chapter lively and productive this past year.

*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.*

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

by Judy Hogan and photos by Betsy Mooney and Bill Pollock

Stow Grove Park was again a shady oasis for our Annual Membership Meeting and Get-Together. Over 60 members and family shared hors d'oeuvres, swapped stories of birding adventures, or caught up with friends not often seen. Glendessary Jam provided lively, toe-tapping music. Ivan, Eyes in the Sky's Red-tailed Hawk, visited this year, offering an up-close opportunity to meet this regal and powerful hunter.

The event honored Steve Ferry, Co-President for the past 2 years, as he stepped down from the Board. Special guests on hand to recognize Steve's many contributions included: Ariana Rickard, California Audubon's Coastal Chapter Network Manager; Fran Farina, representing Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson's office; Cecilia Brown, County Planning Commission Chair; Cristina Sandoval,



Coal Oil Point Reserve Director; and Darlene Chirman, our immediate Past President. Steve's devotion and passion regarding conservation were evident not only in the many appreciative tributes but also in his speech.

Andy and Susan Lentz received a gift in appreciation of their many years of effort in preparing *El Tecolote*. Andy has passed the "Editorship" on to Betsy Mooney.

The slate of nominees for election to the Board for 2015-2016 was presented by Co-President Dolores Pollock and accepted by unanimous vote of members present.

This annual event is a time to review the accomplishments of the Chapter over the past fiscal year and to set the stage for the new fiscal year (begins July 1) full of events and activities with which to connect people with birds and nature through education, science-based projects, and advocacy. Hope to see you at the Membership Get-Together next year!

# SBAS: SPECIAL FUNDRAISERS

## THANK YOU, STEVE FERRY!

Reluctantly, we say “goodbye” to Steve Ferry, stepping down as co-president of Santa Barbara Audubon after two years. His “Farewell” on June 20 celebrated 12 years on the Santa Barbara Audubon Board, chairmanship of our Membership and Conservation committees, and six years on the California Audubon Board. Donations from friends purchased a stunning pastel of Coal Oil Point by local Oak Group artist Ann Sanders, presented to Steve with heartfelt admiration and appreciation at the Membership Get-Together.

Fortunately for us, Steve continues to serve on the Conservation Committee—which would not be the same without his zeal and diligence—and the Endowment Management Committee. You’ll find him as a Snowy Plover Docent at Coal Oil Point on Wednesday mornings as you have for 13 years, and he hopes to resume the condor nest watching at Hopper Mountain that he so enjoys.

Probably unknown to many, Steve frequently represents Audubon at public meetings on topics related to our mission, especially local construction that encroaches on creek setbacks or otherwise threatens birds, and on oil-related issues including drilling and transportation. Steve has participated in virtually every Audubon activity for a dozen years, including accompanying second graders to Lake Los Carneros on Gabriele’s birdwalks.

In his farewell speech, Steve thanked Audubon volunteers, noted our accomplishments, and urged us to take individual action against global warming. He reminded us that birds are an indicator species for climate change—and they are our special charge. Enjoy Steve’s entire speech at <http://santabarbaraaudubon.org/steve-ferry-retires-from-sbas-board>



## HELP OUR ENDOWMENT GROW SPECIAL SUMMER “MATCH”

Two loyal Audubon donors pledge \$20,000 to our endowment—if we can match that amount this summer, doubling our current endowment—a tremendous step for our chapter! Your gift now literally helps ensure future Santa Barbara Audubon programs and activities.

As of this writing, we’ve raised \$14,400 towards the Match—less than \$6,000 to go!

Donations of \$1,000 or more enroll you in our Tecolote Circle.

*Please help us make the most of this remarkable opportunity.*

Donate through our website [www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org/DONATE](http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org/DONATE). Or mail a check payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society to SBAS, 5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B, Goleta 93117, noting “Match.”

*Cherie Topper (Director@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org) or Dolores Pollock (President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org) are happy to answer questions. Thank you for considering this request for help.*

## GO, BIRDATHON!

THANK YOU, Gayle Hackmack, for bringing the Birdathon to SBAS three years ago and to this year’s Birdathon team of Gayle, Libby Patten, Nancy States, and Kris Mainland White. Birdathon 2015 raised over \$8,000 for our Chapter, providing fun and camaraderie for everyone who participated.

### Birdathon Prizes:

- **Participation (drawn in raffle at Birdathon Picnic)**—Aaron Budgor’s framed photo of mother and chick Snowy Plover to Dolores Pollock
- **Most Species Seen**—\$20 Gift Certificate to Island Feed & Seed plus their baseball cap to Marge and Don Thornton
- **Most Donors** asked for support—\$25 gift certificate to Yellow Belly Cafe to David Levasheff
- **Most Money Raised**—\$50 gift certificate to Tecolote Book Shop to Jeff Hanson

## GIFT IN HONOR OF STEVE FERRY

A generous donation towards the endowment Match came in with this note: “This contribution is made in honor Steve Ferry’s very generous, unstinting, and productive 12 years of service to Audubon and all of us.”

## THE OIL SPILL

“On Tuesday, May 19, a rusted pipeline broke, smothering Santa Barbara’s beaches and tides with a dense blanket of warm oil. The onshore pipe, operated by Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline, leaked more than 100,000 gallons of oil; 21,000 of those gallons poured into a drainage ditch, under a freeway, and into the Pacific. It was the worst local spill since 1969, when a Santa Barbara Channel drilling rig blowout sent a catastrophic 4.2 million gallons of crude onto area beaches and helped give rise to the modern environmental movement. And it occurred along one of the most ecologically pristine and fiercely protected places on earth. Swarming with seabirds, dolphins, sea lions, kelp forests, and migrating whales, the crystal clear, reef-filled waters of the undeveloped Gaviota Coast are one of the only places in the world where northern and southern plants and sea life meet in such a copious yet delicate display of color and movement. It’s called ‘The Galápagos of North America’ for good reason.” So wrote the *Independent’s* Tyler Hayden in national Audubon’s July-Aug 2015 magazine.

At Santa Barbara Audubon, helping preserve such precious habitat is our mission! Our members were among the first to respond for training and clean up. Cherie Topper and Janice Levasheff, among others, donned white hazmat suits and took their turn protecting the Snowy Plovers at Coal Oil Point. Kudos to Steve Ferry, Jeff Hanson, Mark Holmgren, Julie Kummel, David Levasheff, and Adrian O’Loghlen for getting there early and lending a hand. If you pitched in, too, let us know—we’d like to thank you.

Steve Ferry and Cherie Topper also testified at the California Legislature Joint Hearing on the Refugio Oil Spill in Santa Barbara on June 26. They lamented the oil spill’s impact on the environment, especially birds, and called for the State to thoroughly investigate the spill, to take over inspecting pipelines, and to increase regulation.

From Gail Osherenko, Audubon member: Please share the link to the article with my photos on the Oil Spill and Response in Pacific Standard magazine online.

[www.psmag.com/nature-and-technology/scenes-from-santa-barbara-oil-spill](http://www.psmag.com/nature-and-technology/scenes-from-santa-barbara-oil-spill) 



photo by: Jeff Hanson



photo by: David Levasheff




photo by: David Levasheff

## NATIONAL AUDUBON PUBLISHED...

National Audubon recently published photos by Dr. Aaron Budgor, an SBAS member and strong advocate. He was the speaker at our May evening program. Congratulations, Aaron!

**The photos can be seen here:**

[www.audubon.org/news/astonishing-stories-animal-migrations](http://www.audubon.org/news/astonishing-stories-animal-migrations)  
[www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/northern-jacana](http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/northern-jacana) 




## CONGRATULATIONS TO SBAS MEMBER

**C**her Hollingworth of Lompoc who saw her 700th ABA Area life bird, a male Black Rosy-Finch, in Colorado on Easter Sunday. An active chapter member, Cher will again lead her popular field trip to Oso Flaco on November 13. Watch for details.

## GO PAPERLESS!

Sign up to receive your newsletter via e-mail.

Save a tree!

Send an e-mail to [Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](mailto:Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org) to start your paper-free El Tecolote delivery! 

## NEWS FROM EYES IN THE SKY

by Judy Hogan

**W**e're celebrating! This is the 5th year since moving into the new Audubon Aviary (or mews) in the backyard of the Museum of Natural History. What a positive effect our new home has had on EITS's ability to educate about birds and their environment. Starting with 4 raptors, we now house 7 birds, including several owls and falcons and one hawk. The original 11 volunteer interpreters and bird handlers have increased to 45. The number of children and adults benefiting from informative programs and encounters with our live raptors has increased from 7,000 to more than 23,300 annually.

During the last year, our volunteers and birds presented over 79 hours of programs at schools, camps, and community organizations such as Lotusland's "FLOCK" exhibit, Sea Center's "World Ocean Day", the SB Humane Society, and the SB Museum of Art. At Audubon's recent Member Get-Together, Celine Eising and Griselda Velazquez shared Red-tailed Hawk Ivan with guests.

**Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** and plan to attend **EITS's Open House Fundraiser** (a Free Family Day at Santa Barbara Natural History Museum). To all those who contributed and worked for many months to fundraise and then build this safe and beautiful home for our raptors, please come and celebrate with us! This year, in addition to the raptor presentations, exhibits, and kids/family fun, **there will be a Silent Auction.** If you have items to donate, please contact Marsha Macdonald: phone 805-962-7799 or email [mlbm@cox.net](mailto:mlbm@cox.net).

*EITS has been presenting enriching and educational wildlife programs in the community for 15 years. If you know of a school, church, senior center, youth program, or other organization/event that might enjoy meeting our raptors up close and personal, we would love to be invited. Please refer them to Gabriele (805-259-1446) to book a program!*



## SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON'S NEW PRESIDENT

**E**lected President of Santa Barbara Audubon at our June 20 Get-Together, Dolores Pollock has served on the Audubon Board for 8 years. She chaired the Development Committee whose major accomplishment is building the Audubon Aviary at the Natural History Museum. Dolores has a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy and was Head of School at Marymount of Santa Barbara for 25 years. She is an enthusiastic birder and genealogist and has spoken and written on topics in education, fundraising, and the environment. Dolores served on boards such as Community Environment Council, Bishop Diego High School, and the California Association of Independent Schools. She sees our local Audubon chapter as a leader in advocacy for birds and their habitat, endangered now more than ever by climate change.



Cherie Topper, Dolores Pollock, Steve Ferry with California Audubon's Coastal Chapter Network Manager Ariana Rickard (photo by Bill Pollock)

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# SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

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## LAKE LOS CARNEROS BIRD WALK

**August 14, 2015 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)**

*Target Birds:* Waterbirds and songbirds

*Directions:* Take Hwy 101 and exit Los Carneros off-ramp. Head towards the mountains (Stow House on the right). Turn into the driveway between the fire station and the park. We will meet in the parking lot behind the fire station.

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## CARPINTERIA SALT MARSH NATURE PARK

**August 28, 2015 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)**

*Target Birds:* Killdeer, curlews, ducks, teals, egrets, godwits, gulls, herons, and raptors

*Directions:* If coming from the north on Hwy 101, take Linden Avenue off-ramp. If coming from the south on Hwy 101, take Casitas Pass Road off-ramp and turn right on Carpinteria Avenue, then left on Linden Avenue. Follow Linden Avenue towards the ocean and turn right on Sandyland Road. Go to the end of Sandyland Road and we will meet at the Nature Park entrance.

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## TORO CANYON PARK

**September 11, 2015 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)**

*Target Birds:* Songbirds and raptors

From Hwy 101 take Exit #90 (Padaro Lane off-ramp coming from the north and Summerland off-ramp from the south). Turn towards the mountains and turn right on Via Real. Turn left on Toro Canyon Road (2nd road on your left). Proceed on Toro Canyon Road until you reach the park sign on your right. Turn right and follow the road to the park. Enter the park and follow the park road to the end parking lot. We will meet there, and bird the loop trail (1 mile, slightly uphill) and then the park.

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## HONDA VALLEY OPEN SPACE

**September 25, 2015 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)**

*Target Birds:* Woodpeckers, towhees, jays, mockingbirds, raptors

*Directions:* From Hwy 101 take the Carrillo Street exit. Turn toward the south (away from downtown). Turn left onto Miramonte Drive. We will park on Miramonte Drive and meet just a short distance from the first driveway on your right. From there we will bird a loop trail around the open space.

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# SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

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## OSO FLACO LAKE FIELD TRIP “LAKE TO THE OCEAN”

**Saturday Aug 22, 2015 (7 a.m. carpool time) 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

*Target Birds:* Freshwater and saltwater birds, plus Northern Harriers and wrens

*Trip Leader:* Jack Sanford

**Cost:** \$8.00 to carpool drivers + \$5 entrance fee per car or park outside the entrance.

We will walk a leisurely 2 miles across the Oso Flaco Lake Bridge and follow the boardwalk trail to the ocean to view this rare and unique ecosystem while spotting birds and enjoying the beauty of the area.

Meet at the Five Points Shopping Center alongside the Big 5 store at 7 a.m. and carpool to the Oso Flaco Lake parking area. If you would like to meet us at the lake at 9 a.m., take Hwy 101 to Hwy 166 (Main Street exit in Santa Maria) and head west towards the town of Guadalupe. Turn right at the Hwy 1 intersection and go thru the town of Guadalupe. Travel 3 miles to the Oso Flaco Road. Turn left on Oso Flaco Road and proceed 3 miles to the parking lot. Dress in layers and bring water and a snack. Please contact Jack Sanford at 566-2191 if you have any questions.

# SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

## RANCHO GUADALUPE DUNES “WONDER OF THE DUNES”

**Saturday September 19, 2015**

**(7 a.m. carpool time) 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

**Target Birds:** Shorebirds **Trip Leader:** Jack Sanford

**Cost:** \$8.00 to carpool drivers

We will enjoy a leisurely stroll at the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve to view both migratory and resident shorebirds along the ocean and the Santa Maria River Estuary. Meet at the Five Points Shopping Center alongside Big 5 at 7 a.m. Directions to the Guadalupe Dunes are as follows: Hwy 101 north to Hwy 166 (Main Street exit in Santa Maria). Cross Hwy 1 and continue for 7 more miles to the parking lot. As an added attraction we may stop at the Dunes Center and view their latest display of the Sphinx used in the film “The Ten Commandments”.

## JOIN TECOLOTE CIRCLE AND HELP ENSURE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON’S FUTURE

*Help birds and their habitat now  
and for generations to come.*

*See brochure and website for more  
information or contact  
President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org*

## SBAS: PROGRAM

### FRANK J. HEIN

*DIRECTOR OF EXHIBITS, SANTA BARBARA  
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM*

**Wednesday, September 23, 7:30 p.m.**

**(Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)**

Ferrand Hall, Natural History Museum

Free-Refreshments-All Welcome

For details visit [SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](http://SantaBarbaraAudubon.org)

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Our Development Committee plans events such as the June Membership Get-Together, raises funds to support our programs and activities, and thanks donors. If you have experience along these lines, or would like to gain it, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Dolores Pollock at [President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](mailto:President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org). This committee meets six times a year.

## THANK YOU

- Jack Sanford's Field Trip leaders : Liz Gaspar, Peggy Kearns & Jeff Hanson, Paul Keller, Rob Lindsay, Libby Patten, Cruz Phillips, Guy Tingos
- All volunteers who responded to oil spill clean-up efforts
- CITRIX for supporting our restoration efforts with funding and volunteers
- Richard Figueroa for our new logo
- Michelle Dillon for our new Meet Your Wild Neighbor Video
- Our Daily Bread for refreshments for our Board Retreat
- Trent Watanabe at Montecito Journal for El Tecolote layout

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



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

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## SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

805-964-1468

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cherie Topper 805-451-1389 Director@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

President	Dolores Pollock	805-681-8661	President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Vice-President	Lee Moldaver	805-964-1468	VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Secretary	Steve Wiley		Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Treasurer	Steve Beal	805-964-8503	Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs	Aaron Kreisberg	805-679-1578	Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Conservation	Virginia Gardner		Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Science	Steve Senesac	805-907-0861	Science@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Education	Andy Lanes	805-674-3994	Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Publicity	Janice Toyo Levasheff		Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Governance	Peter Thompson	612-280-9482	Governance@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Development	Open		
At Large	Kris Mainland White		

### BOARD APPOINTED POSITIONS

Eyes in the Sky	John O'Brien	805-962-7799	EITS@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Field Trips	Jack Sanford	805-566-2191	FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Membership	Julia Kosowitz	805-450-5392	Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Newsletter	Betsy Mooney		Newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Webmaster	David Levasheff	805-967-8767	Webmaster@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

Santa Barbara County Birding • <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sbcbirding>  
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.

## EYES IN THE SKY 3RD ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

**S.B. Museum of Natural History**

**Sunday, October 18, 10:00 - 4:00**

**Activities - Aviary Tours - Silent Auction - and more!**



**Come support EITS's  
major fundraiser for the year**

**Join us in celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the  
Aviary and 15th "birthday" of Eyes in the Sky!**