

EITecolote



NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 54, Issue 2 | October – November 2015

Celebrating 52 Years of Conservation and Advocacy!

FROM AUDUBON'S EYES IN THE SKY PROGRAM...



EITS OPEN HOUSE & FUNDRAISER

Sunday, October 18, 10 AM – 4 PM

by Gabriele Drozdowski and John O'Brien

This is a day you'll want to spend with EITS at the Museum of Natural History (free admission!). Get the kids (or grandkids), grandparents, vacationing visitors or neighbors and enjoy ambling from activities and games to exhibits and presentations throughout the Museum's outdoor campus and backyard.

As you enter the Museum Courtyard, an EITS volunteer will greet you and give you a schedule with map to guide you along a path of exploration about birds. Activities and events available all day include:

- Scavenger Hunt
- Kids Coloring Table
- Kids Tattoos Table
- Owl Pellet Dissection
- Craft Table
- Feather Game
- SB Audubon/Birding Info Table
- EITS Exhibit & Info Table
- Instant Raffle & Merchandise
- Birds from Museum collection
- Meet a live EITS Bird of Prey
- And, new this year, a Silent Auction!



Birds of Prey Presentations, Aviary Behind-the-Scenes Tours, Chumash Story Telling, and Native American Flute Music will occur 2 – 3 times throughout the day. Be sure to check the schedule so you don't miss these special events!

Celebrate our 5th Anniversary in Audubon's new mews (raptor aviary) on the Museum campus. Bring the family or meet up with friends. Come

enjoy the day's events in this beautiful oak woodland setting.

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 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!

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.

SBAS: HAPPENINGS

SILENT AUCTION AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AT EYES IN THE SKY OPEN HOUSE

by Marsha Macdonald

You may have heard that there will be a Silent Auction at our Open House on October 18. Plus, the popular Instant Raffle returns, along with bird-related merchandise. We thank everyone for their creative and generous donations!

Just a few of the Silent Auction's fun-filled events which you can bid on are:

- Birding trip led by Mark Holmgren, with brunch included
- Birding trip led by Joan E. Lentz that includes an autographed copy of her new book, *A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region*
- A night tour for three at Sedgwick Reserve, led by wildlife biologist and Reserve Director Kate McCurdy
- 2 nights, for two adults, at the Bacara Resort & Spa

Additional Silent Auction items include (partial list):

- Jessie Ekeland-Asakawa's acrylic painting of Ivan, our Red-tailed Hawk
- Two etchings from Anthony Galvan III, one of a Raven the other, an Eagle
- A beautifully hand-made table runner by Janice Levasheff
- Wine Tasting Gift Certificates, Beer-and-Birding Gift Certificates, Restaurant Gift Certificates, and more!



Also in Silent Auction, two nights at the Bacara Resort & Spa



Bid on Joan Lentz's trip!

Instant Raffle Items include jewelry, birding books, tea candles, coloring books, a wooden bat house ready to hang, Chaucer's and Tecolote Book Shop Gift Certificates, bowling-at-Zodo's Certificates, and more "fun" gift certificates. EVERY TICKET WINS!

Merchandise Items include bird note cards from Anthony Galvan III and Betsy Mooney; bird houses made by EITS volunteer Richard Nordli; EITS logo T-shirts; cloth tote bags; plus much more.

Come to the SBMNH and support our work. Have fun becoming the new owner of these wonderful items!

SBAS: NEWS

MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

A series introducing the directors of our chapter

We are pleased to introduce Stephen P. Wiley, our new Secretary. Steve received his A.B. in History from the University of Santa Clara in June 1974. He continued his education at UCLA, where he received his J.D. in 1978. After he was admitted to the practice of law in California that November, he worked in Orange County, first as County Deputy Public Defender, and then as Deputy City Attorney for the city of Costa Mesa.

In 1983, he and his family moved to Santa Barbara, where he worked as a lawyer for the city, retiring as City Attorney in December 2013. He now works in private practice from his home.

Steve enjoys camping, backpacking, astronomy, birding, woodworking, and reading. We feel fortunate that he has decided to act upon his interest in birds and the outdoors by joining our board. Welcome, Steve!



ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT

by Dolores Pollock

Each summer the Audubon Board meets for a daylong Retreat. This year fifteen of us met at Watershed Resource Center at Arroyo Burro Beach. Joining Board members were Executive Director Cherie Topper; Webmaster David Levasheff; Judy Hogan, Marsha Macdonald, John O'Brien, and Gayle Hackmack, representing EITS and the Birdathon. Their work on Strategic Plan 2015-2020 began with this Vision Statement, developed in advance.

Vision Statement: By 2020, Santa Barbara Audubon will be the community leader in advocacy for birds and their habitat, including education, conservation, and restoration. Resources will be in place to ensure sound governance, management, and financial stability, now and into the future.



photo by: Janice Levasheff



photo by: Janice Levasheff

Our group identified three principal goals:

- Goal 1.** Be the community leader for birds and their habitats, including education, conservation, restoration, and advocacy.
- Goal 2:** Develop sound governance and management practices.
- Goal 3:** Make the chapter financially stable.

Work has already begun. Janice Levasheff designed a "Welcome to the Flock" card to send new members, with a personal note. We sent a "Help Wanted" email to our membership—and thank those of you who responded. John O'Brien discussed our presence there with the Natural History Museum. Peter Thompson and Gayle Hackmack are interested in a Membership Task Force. Kris Mainland White will chair a new Outreach Committee. David Levasheff designed a window "Cling" with our new logo.

Ideas from members are more than welcome, so let us hear from you. The Board is actively pursuing regular assignments plus these new goals—and can use your help.

FAREWELL, SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON

ON LEAVING THE BOARD AFTER TWO YEARS AS SCIENCE CHAIR TO PURSUE HIS PH.D.

by Richard Figueroa

I wish to thank the Santa Barbara Audubon Society for welcoming me, supporting me, and allowing me to contribute in the areas that I could. Among other things, this experience has served as a professional and personal stepping stone that has connected me with many interesting and inspiring members of the community whom I have come to respect immensely.

It is quite remarkable that a topic like 'birds' could serve as a common ground among people from so many different backgrounds and, simultaneously, as a means to reach out to people from different backgrounds. This resonates with me deeply, for birds have been one of the greatest interests for my father, who arrived in California as an immigrant and with whom I grew up sharing a passion for nature. My father's fascination with the birds in our neighborhood was an inspiration for me to develop my own interests in nature and eventually pursue the study of nature through physics, biology, and philosophy.

Furthermore, to know that there are other people who are as passionate about nature as I am—who experience nature with the innocent, childlike wonder with which I have experienced nature my entire life—is, if anything, comforting. I sympathize with their desire to engage with nature, protect it, and share it. In particular, I have deep respect for those willing to commit their time and expertise and, above all, take risks for the benefit of nature—and for the benefit of birds.

It has been an invigorating experience to be part of this community. I consider my time with the Santa Barbara Audubon Society a significant step in my path from watching Big Bird on Sesame Street to my future as a graduate student studying the ontology of Big Bird's taxonomy... or something like that. I have great confidence in what the Santa Barbara Audubon Society can accomplish, and I wish the board and all of our community members the best. Thank you, everyone, for your powerful and meaningful work!

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FOR BREAKING SBAS NEWS



CARPINTERIA SALT MARSH BIRD WALK

On a hot August 28, 16 birders enjoyed a two-hour bird walk led by Jack Sanford, ably assisted by David Levasheff. New Board members Steve Senesac and Steve Wiley joined the group. Altogether, they saw 36 species, including the Snowy Egret pictured here.



photo by: Bob Klinger



photo by: Dika Golovatch

SUMMER VISITOR:



photo by: David Levasheff

• *White-crowned Sparrow* (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) near Turnpike Road in July. Rarely seen in summer in southern Santa Barbara County

HELPING HANDS NEEDED

Thank you for stepping forward to help with your chapter's work, especially as we embark on our new five-year Strategic Plan: Brina Carey, former Board member, returns to assist with graphic design. Mary Thompson volunteers for clerical work. Barbara Ahlman joins the Membership Task Force and the Winter Bird Count 4 Kids Committee.

You could help with:

- Membership Task Force
- Our spring Bird-athon—a different format this year, co-chaired by Marsha Macdonald.
- An educational outreach program for young teens—help develop a once-a-week environmental education curriculum.

Sign on for these or other positions—you'll be doing good work with good people. Don't hesitate to contact Board Member Peter Thompson at Governance@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org or Dolores Pollock at President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

WE DID IT! WE MET OUR MATCH!

Thanks to 30 donors, we raised—and topped—our \$20,000 summer Match challenge for the endowment. The result is that SBAS's endowment has doubled, helping ensure our financial footing. We are very grateful to our two longtime Audubon friends who initiated the Match with a total donation of \$20,000. And we are very grateful to all of you who helped us match it!

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 Dolores Pollock at President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

NEARLY HALF OF OUR BIRDS ARE THREATENED BY CLIMATE CHANGE, AND SOME MAY SUFFER EXTINCTION.

— DAVID YARNOLD, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL AUDUBON

SBAS: PREMIER BIRDING TRIPS

This year, Santa Barbara Audubon offers a series of premier fundraising trips to special birding areas, led by experienced birders. Trips, coordinated by Nancy States, occur throughout the year and replace our Birdathon trips. Proceeds support the chapter's bird education and conservation activities in our community. Join us. You will broaden your birding experience, have fun, and contribute to SBAS at the same time.

OSO FLACO LAKE PREMIER TRIP

Friday, November 13

8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Trip Leader: Cher Hollingworth

Cost: \$55; **Limit:** 15 people

Join North County expert birder Cher Hollingworth, a member of the 400 Club, for a day trip to Oso Flaco State Park. Just north of the town of Guadalupe, this unique freshwater lake and surrounding habitat can support over 100 species of birds. At this time of year, we will see large numbers of songbirds, ducks, shorebirds, raptors, marsh birds, gulls, and more. Our walk will take us down a riparian canopy path and across the lake on a boardwalk. From the lake, we continue across the dunes to the ocean. Birding opportunities abound in all areas! Plan for at least 3 hours of excellent birding. Weather can be variable. Since we will be away from the cars for quite some time and will walk about 2 miles, we advise bringing plenty of water, snacks, hat, and sturdy shoes. Please bring lunch; picnic site to be determined.



Target Birds: American Bittern, Sora, Virginia Rail, White Pelican, Cinnamon Teal, Osprey, Kingfisher, Terns, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, California Thrasher and many more.

POINT MUGU NAVAL AIR STATION PREMIER TRIP

Friday, December 4

8 a.m.-noon

Trip Leaders: Jeff Hanson, Peggy Kearns, and base naturalist, Martin Ruane

Cost: \$55; **Limit:** 14 people; **REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 1**

Fourteen lucky SBAS members will be granted access to the base on this unique opportunity to visit some 2,000 acres bordered by the Pacific Ocean and some of the most bountiful agricultural land in Southern California. Marsh and coastal wetlands provide a stopover for thousands of migrating birds each year and habitat for seven endangered species of birds. The area is so rich in wildlife that our day there typically counts 80 species including egrets, rails, Vermilion Flycatcher, waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and more.

This field trip takes us to an active Navy base. All participants are required to fill out an Access Pass Registration Form. This form requires submitting personal information 30 days before the event. You must be approved before entering the base. Sorry, no cameras allowed on base.

TO REGISTER: Download the Navy form from <http://santabarbaraaudubon.org/events/field-trip-pt-mugu-naval-air-station-2/> Review the form to ensure you can meet the requirements. Then purchase your ticket through Eventbrite at <http://sbaspremier2-ptmugu.eventbrite.com>, fill out the Navy form, sign and email to Jeff Hanson at jlh749@cox.net. You can also contact Jeff if you have any questions or problems.

PLAN AHEAD:

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND FOR YOUR PREMIER BIRDING TRIP

- Spots fill quickly for these trips, so sign up soon.
- Directions provided upon registration.
- For complete information, check with SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
- Keep an eye out for upcoming Premier Trips.
- Also don't forget about the brunch in April.

SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

DEVEREUX SLOUGH: UCSB WEST CAMPUS, GOLETA

Saturday, October 17 (7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

Target Birds: Shorebirds, waterbirds, wintering songbirds

Trip Leader: Rob Lindsay, capnbob@sbceo.org

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

We will bird a loop trail walking the beach past the Snowy Plover reserve and follow a trail around the far side of the Slough. We will then bird the other side of the Slough and back to the parking area.

LAS CRUZITAS RANCH: NEAR SANTA YNEZ

Saturday, November 21 (7:45 a.m. at car pool location); return between 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Target Birds: Goldfinches, buntings, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Phainopepla, Yellow-billed Magpie, Prairie Falcons, nuthatches, hummingbirds, and maybe a Golden Eagle

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

Directions: Carpooling is recommended as parking is limited. We will meet near Vons located in the La Cumbre Shopping Center at 7:45 a.m. To meet us at the ranch take Hwy 154 to Armour Ranch Road which is 3.3 miles west of Bradbury Dam (Lake Cachuma). Go north on Armour Ranch Road 1.4 miles and turn right on Happy Canyon Road. At 2.4 miles, turn right on Alisos Avenue. At 0.7 miles the pavement ends at a cattle guard. Continue 2.6 miles straight past 2 more cattle guards to the barn and ranch. **Cost:** \$8.00 gas money to carpool drivers

We will arrive around 9 a.m. and bird for about 2 hours near the ranch house where there are a large number of feeders and bird habitat. Then we will take an easy walk around the general area and perhaps a tour of a canyon. Bring water, a snack, and/or lunch.

SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

Join us on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Please contact Bird Walk leader Jack Sanford at birdsandtennis@hotmail.com if you are interested in leading a future bird walk to your favorite birding location or have any questions or suggestions. Free.

HIDDEN VALLEY PARK

October 9 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Black-headed Grosbeaks, towhees, mockingbirds, woodpeckers

Directions: From Hwy 101, from either direction, take the Las Positas Road off-ramp and proceed towards the ocean. Turn right on Modoc Road and turn left on Calle de Los Amigos. The park is on the corner of Calle de Los Amigos and Torino Drive. We will park on the street.

ROCKY NOOK PARK

October 23 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Bushtits, blackbirds, woodpeckers, phoebes, vireos, warblers, wrens

Directions: From Hwy 101 take Mission Street past the Mission. The road becomes Mission Canyon Road and Rocky Nook Park is on the right as you head towards the mountains. We will meet and park in the first parking area on your right as you enter the park.

STEVENS PARK

November 13 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Raptors, woodpeckers, warblers, phoebes, wrens, kinglets, towhees

Directions: Take Hwy 101 to Las Positas Road off-ramp. Turn towards the mountains. Follow Las Positas Road until it becomes San Roque Road. Follow San Roque Road. Turn left on Calle Fresno, then right on Canon Drive. The entrance to Stevens Park is on your right. We will park and meet on the left as you enter the park.

WINCHESTER CANYON

November 27 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Kingbirds, kinglets, raptors, siskins, woodpeckers, titmice, towhees

Directions: Take Hwy 101 to Winchester Canyon Road exit. Take Winchester Canyon Road and cross Cathedral Oaks Road. Turn right on Winchester Drive and left on Rio Vista Drive. We will park near the open space area on your left.

SBAS: PROGRAMS

UCSB'S NORTH CAMPUS OPEN SPACE RESTORATION PROJECT:

ENHANCING DEVEREUX SLOUGH NOW
AND IN THE FACE OF SEA LEVEL RISE

Speaker: LISA STRATTON

Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History (Doors open 7p.m.)

UCSB's 90 acre restoration project includes expansion of a diversity of habitats from sub-tidal to native bunch grass for a wide variety of wildlife, from the endangered Tidewater Goby and the threatened Western Snowy Plover to hawks and herons. The project will include public access trails, interpretation, and wildlife refugia.

Lisa Stratton, Ph.D., Director of Ecosystem Management for UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER). Lisa has been managing campus open space since 2005 and working to restore the former grandeur and functionality of Devereux Slough since 2010.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Speaker: TRISH HOLDEN

Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Farrand Hall,
Museum of Natural History
(Doors open 7p.m.)



Natural Reserve System
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

One of our area's most diverse sets of habitats and landscapes celebrates a major birthday this year. This fall marks the 50th anniversary of the University of California's Natural Reserve System.

Locally, Santa Ynez Valley's Sedgwick Ranch, Coal Oil Point, Carpinteria Salt Marsh, Santa Cruz Island, San Marino Ranch, and even the Valentine Reserve in the eastern Sierras are sparkling jewels in the Reserve's crown--places where generations of faculty, students, staff, and visiting research scientists can venture into the field for deep research, while concurrently managing these disparate ecosystems for the public benefit, under UC's broad umbrella.

Long time Audubon friends like Bill Murdoch, Scott Cooper, Wayne Ferren, Cris Sandoval, and Kate McCurdy have been intimately connected with local Reserve sites and achieved remarkable research breakthroughs. At the same time, the Reserve has hosted generations of hikers, birders, and visitors of every sort to meet nature first hand, at no cost.

Join us when **Trish Holden**, Ph.D., Director of the Natural Reserve System, shares amazing photos and compelling science that emerge every quarter from one of our area's most beloved, and least understood, group of ecosystems.

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!

Robert E. Bason*
Shelley Berger
Grace Bradley
Carrie Bree*
Mona Chapin
Marc Courtenay
Carrie Cusack*
Christine A. Dahl
Eileen Davis
Dale & Victoria Duncan
Julie Eager
Nancy Elmore & Lyle Armstrong*
Alison Flewell
Cathy Gabik
Paddy Garcia*
Constance Gillies*
Natalie Gutierrez
Gerald L. Haines
Karl Hutterer*
Carlos Jimenez
Christine Kelley*
Patricia A. Kent

Robin A. Kneubuhl
Kristi Lupoli*
Sue McKnight
Marla McNally Phillips*
Corey L. Medema
Ms. Mary Parra
Dennis Power*
Brenda Reiter*
Mr. William E. Roach
Ann Sanders*
Mary Sheldon*
Robert L. Singer
Thomas Lowe Smith*
Peter Sturken*
Thomas Turner
Evan Turpin*
Catherine Verica
Anthony Walker*
Kaylan Wessels
Stephen Wiley*
Carolyn Wyatt

*chapter only members

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

PO Box 5508, Santa Barbara, CA 93150

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, FL 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: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

EYES IN THE SKY DIRECTOR

Gabriele Drozdowski 805-259-1446 eyes-in-the-sky@cox.net

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

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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/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.

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!**