



THE 116TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

by Rebecca Coulter

Preparations for Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), to be held on **Saturday, January 2, 2016**, are well underway, as compilers Rebecca Coulter, Jared Dawson, Liz Muraoka, and Joan Murdoch work out the hundreds of details required to conduct a bird survey of this scope. Santa Barbara's CBC usually tops the list for number of participants—fortunately, we are lucky to have such a rich and diverse circle to cover! But as the drought wears on and we dream of rain, tracking where the birds are this season is a challenge. To make planning even more interesting, current projections for a “historically strong” El Nino weather pattern bring the other side of that coin to the forefront! Be careful what you wish for....

Carving up and covering the count circle is a complex puzzle. Finding the right fit for eager birders and adequate coverage for each type of habitat are the keys to our success. Not all birders sign up for a multi-mile mountain hike on Count Day, but how will we cover the vast amount of dense chaparral and steep mountain slopes? Just how many birders are too many in one group? Where do we assign eager beginners, and with which leaders? Do we have all the necessary permissions for private property: the Zoo, the water treatment plants, the reservoirs, the boat donors? How can we best use current technology in our reporting/recording/compiling? These considerations and many more consume the hearts and minds of the compilers in November and December, culminating in the arrival of Count Day and the unexpected surprises it always holds.

We take pride as a community not only in the very high numbers of species found annually, but also in the quality of our bird science. We



Photo by Liz Muraoka

are all having a hand in helping to form a vital picture of wintering avian distribution throughout North America and increasingly in Central and South America.

Before the count, you can help us by scouting your neighborhood or anywhere else within the Count Circle for interesting or unusual birds, as listed on the website below (click on 'The List').

For more information: www.casbbirdcount.org

CBC DINNER

Join us for the second annual catered Christmas Bird Count dinner on Saturday, January 2, at 6 p.m., Fleischmann Auditorium, SB Museum of Natural History. Our Mexican dinner will be provided by the popular Del Pueblo Cafe, and the menu includes chicken enchiladas verde, cheese enchiladas rojas, salad, rice, beans, chips, and salsa. It's a BYOB event, so bring your beverage of choice. Water will be provided. You may also bring your own dinner setting, or paper and plastic ware will be provided. Enjoy this relaxing meal with friends and fellow Christmas Bird Count 2015 birders, and enjoy hearing reports from the field as our count is compiled.

If you prefer, you are welcome to bring your own food.

Price for the catered meal is \$15.

Sign up for catered meal by December 22 (Winter solstice), 2015.

Sign up here: <http://sb-cbc2015-dinner.eventbrite.com>



LOCAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

- **Carpinteria**, December 19
info: Rob Denholtz
robdenholtz@gmail.com • 805-684-4060
- **La Purisima (Lompoc)**, December 20
info: Alex Abela
abela@lightspeed.net • 805-934-2873
- **Santa Maria/Guadalupe**, December 27
info: Alex Abela
abela@lightspeed.net • 805-934-2873
- **Cachuma**, December 29
info: Mark Holmgren
maholmgren33@gmail.com
- **Santa Barbara**, January 2
info: casbbirdcount.org

AUDUBON'S EYES IN THE SKY OPEN HOUSE, OCT 18

CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUDUBON AVIARY

(Photos by Michelle Dillon, Betsy Mooney, Cherie Topper)

Thanks to John O'Brien, the Open House Team, and 70+ volunteers, our third annual Open House was a huge success. Special kudos to Marsha Macdonald and helpers who went "above and beyond" in organizing the dazzling Silent Auction.

"From Gabriele's Backyard to the Museum's Backyard" sums up a journey of ten years or more. Questions of where to locate the new structure, how large it could be, and how much it would cost were met and answered. Our rescued raptors, who once lived behind Gabriele Drozdowski's home, moved to the Audubon Aviary in the winter of 2010-11.





Jason Niiya of Samy's Camera (left) who donated Swarovski binoculars to the Silent Auction, with David Levasheff, the highest bidder.

NEWS – AND THANKS – FROM EYES IN THE SKY

by Gabriele Drozdowski and Judy Hogan

A big THANK-YOU! to the many EITS volunteers and friends who helped make the October 18 Open House a resounding success. Over 670 visitors participated in the hands-on birding games, crafts, and science events and watched raptor presentations and Chumash storytelling. With the terrific assortment of Silent Auction items and enthusiastic bidders, it is no surprise that the \$4,000 fundraising goal was exceeded.

The 5th Anniversary Celebration of the construction of the Audubon Aviary at the Museum of Natural History included the honoring of six people who were instrumental in making the new aviary possible: Darlene Chirman, SBAS Past President; Gabriele Drozdowski, EITS Project Director; John O'Brien, EITS Liaison; Karl Hutterer, former Museum Executive Director (on behalf of the Museum of Natural History); Gary Robinson, Museum Facilities Manager; and Donn Roberts, Owner, Donn Roberts Construction. Donors to the 2008 – 2010 construction fundraising campaign were on hand to enjoy the day as were many friends of Eyes in the Sky and Santa Barbara Audubon.

What have we accomplished since 2010 with your support? With the added space, there are now 7 raptors instead of 4. Active volunteers have increased from 11 to 45. Museum campus visitor days up from 99 days per year to 365 days per year. Number of average annual classroom, summer camp and community programs up from 50 per year to 90 – 100. People served per year up from 7,000 to over 23,000.

We are excited that a local foundation has approved our \$20,000 request for funds to support bird programs at local elementary schools and youth organizations. This grant will help us introduce children to the joy of birds through classroom learning and outdoor birds walks.

This is to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to all of you who support the raptors and provide EITS the opportunity to touch the lives of young and old with a positive message about birds, birding and enjoying the beauty of nature. Best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful Holiday.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND VENDORS

In Memory of Jan Montgomery
Mrs. Frances Tibbits & Ben Shalant
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
Bacara
Jeff Chemnick
Mark Holmgren
Joan E. Lentz
Samy's Camera
Lotusland
Suzanne's Cuisine
UCSB, Sedgwick Reserve, Kate McCurdy
Linda Miller, Curator, SBMNH
Toma
La Cumbre Feed
Janice Levasheff
Vices & Spices
Lazy Acres
Trader Joe's
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Santa Barbara Zoo
Jessie Ekland-Asakawa
Brander Vineyard
Island Brewing Company
Costco
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

The Harbor Restaurant
Via Maestra 42
Yellow Belly Tap
Circle Bar B Guest Ranch
Ca'Dario Pizzeria
Surf Happens
Lassen's Health Foods
Rose Cafe
Lemo's Feed & Pet Supply
Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit, Chuck McPartlin
Massage Envy
Porch
Rincon Brewery
The Salon
Renaud's Bakery
Michael J. Singer
Ramada Inn
Gainey Winery
Powell Peralta
Au Bon Climat
Grassini Family Vineyards
Santa Barbara Adventure Company
Tecolote Book Shop
Jersey Mike's Sub

Anthony Galvan, III
Tri-County Produce
Lafond Winery
Municipal Wine Makers
The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
La Playa Azul Cafe
Beachside Bar & Cafe
Natural Cafe
The Painted Cabernet
Alex, Artistic Clothing & Accessories
Bridalwood Winery
Kahuna Grill
Zookers Restaurant & Catering
Andersen's Bakery
Santa Barbara Historical Museum
Jerry Kry
Your Cake Baker
Velo Pro Cyclery
Terra Sol Garden Center
La Sumida Nursery
Zodo's Bowling and Beyond
Community Centered Oriental Medicine
Good Cup
Island Packers

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**FOR
BREAKING
SBAS NEWS**



SBAS: HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

RAPTOR VISIT

Having a holiday celebration, a school event, or a child's party? Surprise the guests with an up-close look at one of EITS' raptors. An EITS handler and a raptor can be hired for your special event. Programs include stories and age specific activities. Learning about raptors is fun! Phone EITS Office for rates and bookings: 805-259-1446. 🦅

BUY A BIRDHOUSE

A Titmouse Manor is a wonderful gift for any bird enthusiast. This sturdy little birdhouse, handcrafted by EITS volunteer Richard Nordli, is made from 3/4" rough-sawn redwood. For a \$50 donation to Eyes in the Sky, this cozy home can hang in your oak trees for a neighborhood Titmouse, Nuthatch, Chickadee, Wren or Downy Woodpecker. Phone EITS Office at 805-259-1446 to purchase. 🦉



Bird house photo by Judy Hogan

ADOPT-A-BIRD

WHAT DO YOU GIVE TO THE FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS EVERYTHING?

How about a present from EITS

Adopt-a-Bird

Check us out online at eyesinthesky.org/support/adopt-a-bird 🦅



Bird photos from EITS

HAPPY "BIRD'DAY" TO YOU!

Looking for a unique way to celebrate an occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc...)? Why not arrange an SBAS "Bird'Day" party? These parties are specially arranged, expert-led birdwalks for between 1 and 10 people, including party favor "swag bags" for all.

A word from recent "Bird'Day" celebrants: "We had a magical and memorable

morning...";
"A new world has opened up..."
"I have been a backyard bird lover since childhood. Yesterday with Jeff and Dave was a true gift and one that moved me from a backyard watcher to a greater and broader interest in the world of birds"



Photo by Cherie Topper

SBAS Bird'Day parties are always in good taste, easy to organize, and provide a fun and meaningful way to honor a friend or loved one. Proceeds benefit SBAS. Contact Cherie Topper (director@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org) for details. 🦅

AUDUBON THROUGH AMAZON

Did you know that you can support Santa Barbara Audubon simply by directing your online shopping through Amazon Smile?

Amazon donates 0.5% of the value of everything that you buy through their Amazon Smile site to SBAS when you register.

All prices and merchandise are exactly the same as your existing Amazon account - you simply have to register once and SBAS will receive 0.5% of all subsequent purchases made through smile.amazon.com

To register:

- Visit smile.amazon.com
- Search for "Santa Barbara Audubon Society" in the search box
- Press the yellow "Select" button when the name comes up
- You will see a "Thank You" box reminding you to shop through smile.amazon.com
- Remember to use smile.amazon.com for your online shopping

It is that easy - now, when you shop through smile.amazon.com, 0.5% of your purchase is automatically donated to SBAS! 🦅

amazonsmile

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.

SANTA BARBARA HARBOR

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

Target Birds: Waterfowl, shorebirds, Peregrine Falcon, songbirds

Directions: We will meet on the sidewalk next to the Sea Landing Sport Fishing Building (301 W. Cabrillo Blvd).

All birders should park on Bath Street or Mason Street (no time limit) or pay to use a city lot parking.

We will bird the SB Harbor and Stearns Wharf area. ➡

ARROYO BURRO SCHOOL OPEN SPACE

December 18, 2015 (8:30-10:30 a.m.) (Note this is the 3rd Friday of the month.)

Directions: From Hwy 101 from either direction take the Las Positas Road off-ramp.

Turn towards the ocean (away from the mountains).

Turn right on Modoc Road. Turn left on Palermo Drive. Follow Palermo Drive all the way to the end and park.

We will meet by the locked gate. ➡

CORONADO DRIVE AND DEVEREUX CREEK

January 8, 2016 (8:30-10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Raptors and songbirds, plus Monarch butterflies

Directions: From Hwy 101 take the Glen Annie/Storke Road off-ramp. Go south (towards the ocean) on Storke Road to Hollister Avenue.

Turn right on Hollister Avenue and proceed to Coronado Drive.

Turn left on Coronado Drive and park at the end of the street. ➡



Osprey at Lake Los Carneros. (Photo by Betsy Mooney)

SAND POINT BIRD WALK

Bonus Special Bird Walk for SB Audubon Members Only

Place: Sand Point Bird Walk

Date: Friday, January 15, 2016

Time: 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Target Birds: Long-billed Curlew, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, waterfowl, sandpipers, etc.

Trip Leaders: Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson

A bonus birding field trip and you don't want to miss this one. We have received permission to offer a Friday (1/15/16) SB Audubon Birding Field Trip for a limited number (20) of SB Audubon Society members (only) at the Sand Point private gated community.

Enjoy this opportunity to bird the Carpinteria Salt Marsh from the Sand Point Road. Unfortunately only a limited number of birders will be allowed to sign up for this bird walk, so if you are interested please email Jack Sanford at birdsandtennis@hotmail.com asap. Leave your name and phone number or email address and I will confirm your reservation.

Directions: To get to the Sand Point Road entrance take the Santa Claus Lane exit off Hwy 101 and follow Santa Claus Lane to the southeast end. Parking is available in the business area just before Santa Claus Lane enters Hwy 101 south. We will meet near the Sand Point Road entrance and proceed from there on foot. ➡

SAN MARCOS FOOTHILLS PRESERVE

January 22, 2016 (8:30-10:30 a.m.)

Directions: Coming from the north on Hwy 101 take the State Street/Hwy 154 off-ramp and proceed to Hwy 154. Take the Cathedral Oaks Road exit and head north (left turn). Coming from the south on Hwy 101 take the Hwy 154 exit and proceed east on Hwy 154. Take the Cathedral Oaks Road exit and head north (left turn). Turn right on Via Chaparral and right on Salvar Road. Proceed across the bridge to nowhere and turn left. We will park and meet near the entrance. ➡

SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

LAKE CACHUMA EAGLE BOAT CRUISE:

LAKE CACHUMA COUNTY PARK

Saturday, December 19, 2015 (9:45 a.m. check-in time at boat dock) 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Reservations required

Target Birds: Bald Eagles, White Pelicans, grebes, Common Loons, waterbirds, ducks, Ospreys, Great-tailed Grackles, Peregrine Falcons, etc.

Leader: Park Naturalist Rosey Bishop

Organization: Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Cost: \$17 for the boat trip payable on the boat

\$10 per car for entering Lake Cachuma County Park

Limit: 30 people. You must email Jack Sanford (birdsandtennis@hotmail.com) to make a reservation on or before Tuesday, Dec 15. I will confirm your reservation.

Directions: Take Hwy 154 to Lake Cachuma County Park and park near the boat launching area and the Fishing and Tackle shop. To carpool (and it is a good idea since there is a \$10 entrance fee per car) meet at 9:00 a.m. in La Cumbre Shopping Center, and park in the corner nearest to the La Cumbre and Calle Real intersection. I will issue parking permits.

P.S. The Neal Taylor Nature Center has made some big improvements and is worth a visit after the Eagle Cruise.

Don't miss this great opportunity to get out on the lake with a Park Naturalist! ➡

HOLLISTER RANCH FIELD TRIP

Saturday, January 23, 2016 (8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

(7:00 a.m. at mandatory car pool location)

Reservations 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

Leader: Guy Tingos

Limit: 20 people (five vehicles). Please email Jack Sanford (birdsandtennis@hotmail.com) on or before Tuesday, Jan 20 to reserve your place. Please let Jack know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold. I must confirm your reservation by email.

Directions: Drive to La Cumbre Plaza - meet and park in the lot nearest to the corner of La Cumbre Road and Calle Real. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. and I will issue parking permits. We must carpool as we are limited to 5 vehicles. (\$8.00 gas money to drivers.) 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.*



SBAS: PROGRAMS

MEET OUR WILD BIRDS AND BOARD AND COMMITTEES

SEE OUR NEW EITS VIDEO

You're invited: Wed., Jan 27, 7:00 - 9:00

Location: Farrand Hall, SB Museum of Natural History

There's a lot of energy and enthusiasm in Santa Barbara Audubon, and we want to share it with you. Come early for refreshments and meet the birds who live in our Audubon Aviary. Hear about exciting new things and how you can help. Everyone welcome.

7:00: Meet our rescued raptors. Enjoy homemade refreshments.

7:30: Meet our Board & hear what we're doing

Education: Walks and Trips, PAL, WBC4Kids, Meet Your Wild Neighbor (video)

Conservation: Response to the oil spill and encroachment on habitat

Restoration: restoration efforts and how you can get involved

Preview of the new movie Bringing Back the Wild - our program for February

8:30: Q & A



Photo by John O'Brien

Learn what we do behind the scenes in monthly Board and Committee meetings. Pick up an informative packet with our new Five-Year Strategic Plan. Hear how your membership dues and donations work for the benefit of local birds. ➡

Santa Barbara Audubon Presents
Winter Bird Count 4 Kids
 Introducing Young People to the Fun of Birdwatching
Saturday, January 23, 9am - Noon
Lake Los Carneros, Goleta

- A free birding basics event for kids ages 8 - 16 with a responsible adult
- Take a guided walk around the lake with an experienced naturalist
- Binocular Boot Camp, borrow ours or bring your own
- Record and tally the bird species observed
- Free souvenir bird list, free t-shirt (for first 75 kids), free snacks

More information at santabarbaraaudubon.org



Meet at Stow House Parking Lot 304
 N Los Carneros Rd., Goleta



Sponsored by:
 Santa Barbara Audubon with support
 from The City Of Goleta
 UCSB's Associated Students Coastal Fund
 & Trader Joe's

Santa Barbara Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization

THANK YOU

- The Volunteers who donated 16,000+ hours to our Chapter's work last year
- Ginny Turner-Scholl for ten years of volunteer service on our Endowment Management Committee
- Brina Carey & Reanna Wights for help with graphic design
- Trent Watanabe of the Montecito Journal for the layout of El Tecolote
- All the generous donors to our Annual Membership Appeal
- Marsha Macdonald, Nancy States, and Kris Mainland White for organizing the CBC Dinner

SAVE THE DATE: SBAS BIRDATHON

SUNDAY, APRIL 3 - SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016

Mark your calendars for
April 3rd through April 16th
for the SBAS 2016 Birdathon!

This two week Birdathon will create
 Citizen Science, Socializing, & Fundraising,
 which are all excellent concepts!

Stay tuned for
 more information in
 up-coming *El Tecolote*



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Membership includes:

- A subscription to the local newsletter, *El Tecolote*.
- 100% of membership dues put to work on our local conservation efforts, education programs and citizen science projects.
- Renewal notices sent from the local Santa Barbara Chapter — please note — we never share personal information with other organizations.

Membership applications received between:
 October & March will renew 6/30 of the following year
 April & September will renew 12/31 of the following year

Cost: \$26 a year. Includes the whole family.

Make check payable to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society
 Mail form and check to: **Santa Barbara Audubon Society**
P.O. Box 5508
Santa Barbara CA 93150

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____



El Tecolote
Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
PO BOX 5508
Santa Barbara, CA 93150

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SANTA BARBARA, CA.
PERMIT NO. 125

or current resident

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

805-964-1468

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
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Secretary	Steve Wiley		Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
Treasurer	Steve Beal	805-964-8503	Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

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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.

NOTE THE DATE

**Reserve for
Lake Cachuma Eagle Cruise
by December 15**

**Christmas Bird Count Dinner
register by December 22**

**SANTA BARBARA
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
January 2**

**Winter Bird Count 4 Kids
January 23**