

El Tecolote



NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 54, Issue 4 | February – March 2016

Celebrating 53 Years of Conservation and Advocacy!

THE 116TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By Rebecca Coulter, Jared Dawson, Liz Muraoka, & Joan Murdoch

The fall CBC planning season began with many conversations about El Niño rains and dire predictions for the coming deluge. But as the hot, dry October faded into parched November and December, we began to doubt it would ever rain. What would January 2 bring? Would it be a slickers-and-wellies CBC, as the forecasters predicted? We wondered, and made a rainy-day plan just in case. In the meantime, water levels at local ponds and reservoirs continued to drop, and with them the numbers of waterfowl. Where were the rafts of ducks, what hidden lake had they settled on? Land-birding was slow: drought-stressed trees and plants had few blooms, berry crops were limited along the coast, and as the suite of wintering birds settled in, we felt that the drought was indeed catching up to us.

Nevertheless, a few bright spots emerged: the returning Tufted Duck appeared briefly at Rancho Goleta lake; North Campus Open Space welcomed a few old friends—the Vermilion Flycatcher and Grace's Warbler—and one new rarity, a Gray Flycatcher. Still, birding was generally slow and dry. As we moved through the blur of the holidays, local and visiting birders began scouting in earnest, turning up little and remarking on the incredibly dry conditions throughout the count circle. Our CBC has long enjoyed the generosity of private landowners who have allowed birding teams access on count day to census their property. For one reason or another, a few of those areas were restricted this year, sending us searching for similar habitats in nearby locations to try to maintain consistency. One of these sites has two ranch ponds—lack of access here was a huge loss, given the dire water conditions. Is this where all the ducks might be? We'd never find out. But with dogged determination and a few lucky connections, we were granted access on count day to a private ranch in the Goleta foothills—including its seven-acre pond! And special permission to enter a couple of other sites on the coast—including our first peek into Bellosguardo, aka the Clark Estate—gave us an

interesting new perspective to look forward to.

Count day was clear, cold, and breezy, with no rain in the forecast until the next day. Two hundred birders met the day with enthusiasm and dedication, spreading out to explore the 15-mile diameter circle, concentrating on the annual census (yes, counting every bird observed, not just the species) in all areas, and seeking stakeout rarities that had popped up in the days prior to the count. White-winged and Black Scoter; Surfbird; Burrowing Owl;



Costa's Hummingbird; Gray and Vermilion flycatchers; Tropical Kingbird; Mountain Chickadee; Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Black-and-white, Palm, and Grace's warblers; Bullock's, Baltimore, Hooded, and Orchard orioles; Summer Tanager—all these stakeouts were checked off during the day.

The evening's countdown brought with it some surprises, species not expected or staked out but seen during the day: Cassin's Auklet, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, and Mountain Quail. It also brought notable misses: Ross's and Snow Goose, American Bittern, and Yellow-billed Magpie. And what of the Tufted Duck, having been completely absent from all viewable bodies of water through December, despite a concerted effort to find him? Well, our new ranch pond delivered: "Tuftie" was among the scaup and Ring-necked Ducks gathered there—truly a bright spot on count day! And though it didn't yield any surprises this year, Bellosguardo holds promise in the years to come; our thanks to Mayor Helene



Schneider for granting us access to this incredible and historic Santa Barbara property.

Top four preliminary species counts on the 116th CBC:

- 239: Mad Island Marsh/Matagorda County, TX
- 223: Guadalupe River Delta, TX
- 220: San Diego
- 211: Santa Barbara, CA and Freeport, TX

And remember that the CBC is not all about the species total. At press time, we are still looking at trends and areas of concern that bubble up as we compile. We are seeing high numbers of American Robin—perhaps you have, too—and we look forward to those totals; just how low are the waterfowl numbers, and why? Where are all the warblers this year? Are we seeing drought-related or other pressures on the absent and diminishing species? These are the questions that occupy us now that count day is on the books, and truly the reason behind this immense citizen science project.

You can find all the bird totals on the Santa Barbara CBC website, casbbirdcount.org, by clicking on Latest Count Results.

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

CBC DINNER *Photos by Liz Muraoka and Dolores Pollock*

About 200 people enjoyed dinner in Fleischmann Auditorium after a day (and for some, a night) of birding. This year the dinner committee--Marsha Macdonald, Nancy States, and Kris Mainland White--chose Mexican fare which appeared to appeal to hungry birders. Seventeen volunteers helped serve. Joan Kent generously provided homemade, delectable chocolate chip cookies for dessert. Mayor Helene Schneider's visit added to the event's sparkle.



RESULTS FROM QUESTIONNAIRE AT CBC DINNER THANKS TO THE 57 PEOPLE WHO RESPONDED

Everyone said the CBC Dinner was Satisfactory to Fantastic. Forty-one said "No, never" to going back to the Potluck. Fifty reported the on-line reservation system was OK to Perfect. Fifty-two found the amount of food "just right." Twenty-eight people would like "More Italian." Fifty-one people found the price OK; six said it was "Great Value." Answers about improvements included these: "Doing a great job, thanks!" and "I'm afraid to say; I might be asked to help out!" Three people volunteered to join the CBC Dinner committee next year--thank you! In conclusion: "Potluck was problematic--problem solved!" and "Great fun."





Photo by David Levasheff

NEWS FROM EYES IN THE SKY

by Gabriele Drozdowski and Judy Hogan

At the Audubon Aviary, the holiday season was busy with numerous visitors from out of town. The raptors enjoyed the slightly cooler weather but aren't so happy with rainy days when their outdoor activities are briefer and more of their enrichment and exercise take place indoors.

A year-end Brunch was held to thank EITS' devoted volunteers for their many hours of caring for the raptors and sharing their knowledge at children's programs and community events. Led by Teresa Fanucchi and assisted by Coni Edick, Bonnie Whitney, Marsha MacDonald, John O'Brien, Cherie Topper, and Judy Hogan, an array of delicious food filled the tables. Before the brunch, David Levasheff and Jeff Hanson led a bird walk in Rocky

Nook Park, cut short by rain. We wish to thank our gracious hosts, Visanti and Joel Fithian, for welcoming so many wet birders into their home rather than into their garden as had been planned. Dolores Pollock, SBAS President, and Gabriele Drozdowski thanked the volunteers with the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation and a small gift.

We look forward to 2016 and introducing Max, Ivan, Kisa, Athena, Kanati, Kachina, and Puku to new friends at schools, youth programs, senior centers, or wherever we may be invited to share the raptors' stories. We hope to see many of you visiting the Aviary, too.



PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

by David Yarnold, President of National Audubon

When 195 world leaders approved the global agreement to meet a science-based target for reducing greenhouse gases, I thought: This is what the starting line looks like. In a big, messy process like COP21, getting started toward a common goal is the first hurdle and often the toughest... After all, this may well be the most significant environmental agreement in history....

More than one-fifth of all bird species across the globe are threatened by climate change...

While the Paris agreement is the floor and not the ceiling of what is needed or what is possible, it refills our reservoirs of hope as we continue to build out our local, state, national, and hemispheric efforts...





CHERIE TOPPER THANKS GOLETA CITY COUNCIL

December 1, 2015

We are citizens of the wide world--but our character, our sense of identity and belonging are formed in the context of small communities where we can know and be known and recognized by others. Places where we cooperate to create better lives and experiences for the people around us. Places where we share diverse knowledge and experience to expand others' understanding and appreciation. You've all created such a place in the City of Goleta, and I would like to offer, on behalf of Santa Barbara Audubon Society, our heartfelt thanks for your support of our 2nd annual Winter Bird Count 4 Kids at Lake Los Carneros on Jan 23.

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia "Ginger" Puddicombe (1920-2015)

Ginger Puddicombe, Santa Barbara Audubon's President in the mid-1970s, died in late November, age 95. As her Santa Barbara News-Press obituary said, "Ginger loved birds. She painted birds, memorized the songs of birds, fed birds, traveled to other countries to see birds, and led groups on birding expeditions.....She had a special affinity for hummingbirds, owls, and cardinals." A widely-traveled person of many interests and a member of numerous organizations, she was an officer or member of Audubon for 50 years.

GLENN'S SANTA BARBARA GREEN BIG YEAR

by Phila Rogers

The first bird on Glenn Kincaid's Green Big Year was a White-crowned Sparrow. The final bird of the year was the elusive Grace's Warbler. Between the two, Glenn recorded a total of 285 species while biking 4409 miles. His quest covered Santa Barbara County and its various landscapes and habitats – seacoast, urban and suburban areas, creeks, marshes, lakes, foothills, and Big Pine Mountain, rising 6,828 feet above its surroundings. Sometimes he camped out. Most days, he could make it back home.

Thanks to the drought, the weather was seldom inclement except on that day in June when it rained as he pedaled towards Big Pine Mountain. Because he ran out of food and was forced to take a ride part way home, he decided not to include two species he saw on this trip – Mountain Quail and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

When he reached 250 species his friend in Vermont realized this was virtually the same total as all species reported in the entire state of Vermont. A competition began. In the end Glenn bested Vermont, who tallied 279 species for the year.

"And again next year?" "No, but after then, who knows," says Glenn.

For some entertaining reading overflowing with excellent photos, read his blog, called (what else): "Glenn's Santa Barbara Green Big Year." www.sbgreenbigyear.blogspot.com

Ed Note: To learn more about the Vermont Challenge and how it came about, see <http://vtcostudies.org/blog/the-vermont-santa-barbara-bird-ing-challenge/>. SBAS is the lucky beneficiary of the \$100 prize – Thank You Glenn and better luck next time to the State of Vermont!



LAKE LOS CARNEROS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

by Aaron Kreisberg

Santa Barbara Audubon's project aims to improve and enhance the natural environment and ecosystem of Lake Los Carneros Natural Park (LLC). LLC provides habitat for a range of native plants and wildlife species and is utilized daily by a variety of patrons. Groups that will enjoy these natural enhancements include bird-watchers, exercise enthusiasts, students, and ultimately all park patrons.

The primary objectives of the project are the follow-up removal of Cape Ivy within on-site seasonal wetlands and the removal of ten non-native *Myoporum* trees within or adjacent to the wetlands. Weed control follow-up, primarily Cape Ivy eradication, will be conducted by volunteers with oversight by a restoration ecologist. The removal of Cape Ivy and the *Myoporum* trees allows for revitalization of native habitat with a corresponding increase in biodiversity of native plant and wildlife species. The Park supports a variety of sensitive or rare habitat types and the wildlife species dependent on these important communities.

Myoporum trees will be mechanically removed by a contractor (Channel Islands Restoration) hired through grant money provided by Citrix. Volunteers will haul cut brush out of the wetland to a chipper. The cut *Myoporum* trees will be chipped on site. Cuttings of native Mule Fat and Arroyo Willow taken from LLC will be planted in the wetland, converting the presently degraded site into a more native, ecologically functioning ecosystem. This project is in keeping with the 1999 Lake Los Carneros Management Plan.

If you're interested in helping Aaron, contact him at Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org



MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

A SERIES INTRODUCING THE DIRECTORS OF OUR CHAPTER



Photo by Janice Levasheff

Steve Senesac, Science Chair, first came to UCSB and Santa Barbara in 1968 to escape the cold winters and out-of-state tuition at Michigan State. After several changes in major and a sojourn in the Army, he got his BS in Electrical Engineering in 1977.

After doing graduate work, working in several local manufacturing firms, volunteering at the SB Rape Crisis Center, and buying, fixing-up, and selling a couple of houses, he left Santa Barbara to explore more of the world. He lived in Switzerland for two years

and India for sixteen years.

Steve returned to Santa Barbara in 2004 to give his daughter better opportunities for education and another view of life. She graduated from UCSB last June, allowing him to refocus and give something back to the community. He is pleased to have the opportunity to do that with Audubon.

BIRDATHON NEWS: NEW FALL DATE



Our Birdathon is set for early October 2016. Marsha Macdonald will chair this important fundraiser for our chapter. Start thinking about friends and family to sponsor you! Don't let distance deter you--they (and you) can be any place in the world. Have fun while helping your Audubon chapter! Watch the website and future El Tecolote's for registration date and other details.

NEED BINOCULARS?

For Sale:

Gently used binoculars
LL Bean 8X42 Field Binoculars



Small Binoculars:

(good for glove compartments or backpacks)

Steiner Safari Pro 8X22 (no. 231)

Steiner Safari 8X22 (no. 224)

Bushnell 10X22 (2 pair)

Binolux 8X21Roof Prism mini-binocs

For details and prices, contact Florence Sanchez
sanchezucs11@yahoo.com

WELCOME, 2016

by Peter Thompson, Governance Chair

Please help Santa Barbara Audubon ring in the New Year by joining the Board to chart our course for the coming term (July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017). Many important opportunities below!

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS:

VICE PRESIDENT The Vice President provides backup and support for the Chapter President in all official areas. The Vice President maintains working knowledge of the Chapter's membership, budget, finance, and revenue sources to be able to assist, as needed. He or she participates in, or maintains working knowledge of, all key chapter programs and projects and is capable of representing the Chapter publicly in their support, if the President cannot. The Vice President shall be mentored by the President with the expectation of assuming the future role of President.

TREASURER The Treasurer is custodian of the Chapter's funds and is responsible for keeping accounts and dispersing funds in accordance with the Board's direction and Chapter policy. The Treasurer works closely with the President to see that the Chapter's funds are prudently spent supporting the goals and objectives of the Chapter. The Treasurer presents monthly and/or quarterly reports to the Board to assist Board members to exercise their fiduciary responsibility to the organization. The SBAS Treasurer should have the following characteristics: bookkeeping and accounting skills or be a quick learner of these skills. Knowledge of QuickBooks software and Microsoft Excel is a strong plus.

OPEN COMMITTEE POSITIONS:

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE Join our seasoned Development team to help with fundraising ideas and events like the Birdathon. Perhaps take the lead in our major fundraiser: the Annual Membership Appeal?

NEWSLETTER Enjoy writing or have good writing skills? Why not help us compile, organize, and edit our bi-monthly newsletter El Tecolote. Help decide which events and news will interest our members.

Please contact Dolores Pollock, President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org, or Peter Thompson, Governance@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org, if you would like to participate or learn more.



PREMIER TRIP REPORT: OSO FLACO

by Cher Hollingworth

We had a beautiful day, not too hot and not too cold for the SB Audubon Premier Oso Flaco trip on November 13. In the willows, we had an awesome view of a male Varied Thrush, some Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and a medley of warblers. A very cooperative Wrentit came out to people-watch. A favorite of the photographers was the Townsend's Warbler, at eye level.

At the lake, we had one American White Pelican and many species of duck, including Cinnamon Teal and one Canvasback. We saw a Green Heron and several Soras and heard one Virginia Rail. We did not find the American Bittern, so we moved on to the beach walk. A few people stayed behind on the bridge to search for the bitterns.

Our walk to the beach was relatively quiet. There was one hot spot, a stand of willows, where some saw a number of birds, including a California Thrasher. We had no trouble viewing the relatively few gulls and shorebirds on the beach. It was so clear that we could see Diablo Canyon. The Surf Scoters were in and outside the surf-line, and a variety of gulls and cormorants flew past. On the beach, there was a Snowy Plover with colored bracelets on both legs, presenting a photo challenge to the photographers.

Suddenly, we got a call from Nancy States that an American Bittern was posing near the bridge, so we immediately returned to the bridge. We arrived in time for a few people to see the bittern before it blended back into the reeds. Luckily, a very co-operative Northern Harrier cruised by and gave us several minutes of great views.

We had our picnic in Guadalupe's Leroy Park. While there, the city manager gave us an interesting history of Guadalupe. Afterwards, we enjoyed a brief visit to the Dunes Center museum. We had 53 species of birds, a nice hike, and enjoyed the splendid weather.



PREMIER TRIP RECAP: POINT MUGU NAVAL AIR STATION

by Peter Thompson

Friday morning, December 4 ~ 20 birders

We gathered on a chilly but bright morning at the main entrance of the restricted naval air base to hear last minute instructions from base biologist Martin Ruane. We were in for a birding treat. A few unusual species were reported to be in the area. We would cover a lot of territory this morning as we split into separate autos and set off. Our first stop was a large estuary split in half by the road. To our right, rafts of ducks: Surf Scoters, Buffleheads, American Wigeon and tucked in the group a lone White-winged Scoter. To our left a pair of Osprey perched on dead trees. As we crossed the road, Great and Snowy Egrets and a Great Blue Heron hunted along the shoreline. In the distance a single American Avocet waded in short grass. The bay was alive with Eared and Horned Grebes and as we watched a Common Loon joined the grebes. One of our expert guides said she had spotted an unusual bird. Looking at the far shore through her scope, sure enough we saw a Reddish Egret. We needed to get closer and Martin asked us to jump back into our vehicles so we could get to a better vantage point. Now we were at the mouth of the bay, and as we walked to the shoreline we could see Harbor seals lying side by side enjoying the sun. To our left the Reddish Egret was again spotted but much closer. It put on a classic hunting display, dancing and jumping from side to side trying to scare up a meal. Crossing the road we stopped on the beach. Out past the surf we counted at least 8 Pacific loons riding the swells. Above them in the far distance we saw fast moving groups of Black-vented Shearwaters flying above open ocean. Time to head to dry ground. We arrived at an open area with groves of trees in the distance. My novice birding spouse exclaimed: "I see a bright red tiny bird"! Sure enough a Vermilion Flycatcher! We all watched as it moved from one perch to the next. Directly in front of us a female Vermilion landed on a power line and watched us, unfazed. Next stop was a creek. At a bridge over the creek, amazed and puzzled, we counted at least 6 Yellow-crowned Night Herons perched not 30 feet from us. Were they passing through this part of California, or are they now colonizing here? As we concluded our visit while driving back, our lead car pulled over and as everyone piled out, eyes skyward, we all looked up to see more raptors in the air than we could count. A Cooper's Hawk being harassed by a Peregrine Falcon, an American Kestrel perched on a pole, and a half dozen Red-tailed Hawks circling, but right over our group circled a Ferruginous Hawk. A weird but wonderful end to our trip.



Photo by Jeff Hanson

A special thank you to our organizers and expert guides: Nancy States, Martin Ruane, Jeff Hanson, Mark Holmgren, Peggy Kearns, and David Levasheff.

SBAS: PREMIER BIRDING TRIPS

VENTURA DUCK PONDS

Sunday, February 21, 2016

8 a.m.-12 noon

Cost: \$55 Register here: <https://ventura-duck-ponds.eventbrite.com>

Please register by February 14, 2016

Directions: All participants who have paid will be emailed details for directions to site and carpooling

Both new and experienced birders will benefit from this special private preserve. Near the ocean and the agricultural fields of Ventura county, the variety of habitat serves up a large variety of birds from many families: raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, marsh birds, songbirds, waders, and more. With some luck, rarities such as Vermilion Flycatchers, Bitterns, Ibises, Yellow-headed and Tricolor Blackbirds, and eagles can be found.

Join us on a remarkable 3-4 hour stroll that covers 2-3 miles of flat, walkable roads leading to a gold mine of birds. Weather can be variable. Since we will be away from our cars for quite some time and will walk about 3 miles, we advise bringing plenty of water, snacks, hat, and sturdy shoes. Please bring lunch; picnic site to be determined. Local experts will accompany us.



Photo by David Levasheff



Photo by David Levasheff

SBAS: **PROGRAMS**

MOVIE PREMIERE: BRINGING BACK THE WILD COAL OIL POINT RESERVE

Written and Directed by Michael Love

Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m.)

Location: **Fleischmann Auditorium, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History**

Admission: **\$10 - buy tickets in advance at <http://www.sbnature.org/tickets/> or at the door (cash only)**

Your ticket entitles you to a chance for a door prize!

This 2015 film tells the inspiring story of the restoration of Coal Oil Point Reserve (COPR). COPR's native wetlands and precious coastal-strand environment are home to the threatened Western Snowy Plover and Tidewater Goby. After a decade of care by COPR Director Cristina Sandoval, the Snowy Plover is breeding there again and the protected yet accessible reserve attracts a myriad of birds. Birders, researchers, and nature enthusiasts flock to the area to observe the wildlife. In contrast to ongoing tragedies of human environmental degradation, the film reveals the people behind this successful restoration project and their invitation to the public to respect and enjoy it. You will recognize many familiar faces in this film! Writer/Director Michael Love and Dr. Cristina Sandoval will be available for discussion.

Shown in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

With questions, contact: Cherie Topper Email: Director@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org



WILDLIFE IN THE AMERICAN WEST AND THE BEST IS IN CALIFORNIA

Presented by Brent Paull, Photographer

Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m.)

Location: **Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History**

Brent Paull will feature about 300 of his favorite wildlife images, as well as photography tips, and stories from his photo safaris. He'll touch upon photography field tactics, image processing tips, wildlife tips, and just plain old facts about succeeding on photo safaris. Published widely in the United States and abroad, Brent has had approximately 1100 publication credits, over 700 commercial image sales, 28 published articles, and 10 magazine covers. His images have appeared in books, online magazines, business brochures, product packaging, professional reports, roadside billboards, nature guides, government reports and



brochures, magazine advertising, calendars, and on credit cards. Brent won the 2013 California Wildlife Photo of the Year.

Brent leads photo safaris around the west and teaches photography in 22 cities in California, still does commercial photography, and actively sells his images as stock and fine art.



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

SBAS: **FRIDAY BIRD WALKS**

LAKE LOS CARNEROS BIRD WALK

(Please note this is the 3rd Friday of the month)

February 19, 2016

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Target birds: Waterfowl and winter songbirds

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

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

SAN JOSE CREEK AREA

(near Kellogg Tennis Courts)

February 26, 2016

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

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

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

Directions: From Hwy 101 take the Patterson Avenue off-ramp and head towards the mountains. Turn left on Cathedral Oaks Road.
Turn left at the Kellogg Road stoplight.
Park and meet near the tennis courts.

OCEAN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE BIRD WALK

March 11, 2016

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Target birds: ? (1st time visit)

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

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

ELINGS PARK

March 25, 2016

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

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

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

Directions: From Hwy 101, either direction, take the Las Positas off-ramp and head towards the ocean. Look for the Elings Park entrance sign and turn left on Jerry Harwin Parkway. Proceed to the Battistone Foundation Soccer parking lot located in front of the park office building.
We will meet there and bird the area.

**AUDUBON SOCIETY'S DEFINITION OF A TRUE
CONSERVATIONIST ...A MAN WHO KNOWS THAT
THE WORLD IS NOT GIVEN BY HIS FATHERS BUT
BORROWED FROM HIS CHILDREN.**

- with homage to Wendell Berry

SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

SANDHILL CRANE OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

Saturday and Sunday, February 13-14, 2016 (This is Presidents' Day weekend)

Target birds: Sandhill Cranes, Burrowing Owls, Common Moorhen, Horned Larks, Loggerhead Shrikes, Lark Sparrows, Blue-winged Teal, Marsh Wrens, Great Horned Owls, plus many other species.

Trip leader: Jack Sanford: birdsandtennis@hotmail.com (no reservations are necessary)

Cost: Campground fees \$20. Motel is 20 minutes away in Lost Hills or Delano.

This Audubon field trip will visit the Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, the Atwell Island Wetlands, the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge, and the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. It will be an overnight trip with camping at one of two places. Colonel Allensworth SP has a nice campground with showers (\$20/night). As a backup we can primitive camp at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Motels at Lost Hills include Motel 6 and Days Inn. At Delano there is a Holiday Inn. Everyone must make their own vehicle arrangements and bring the necessary camping equipment, layers of clothes, food and drink, plus birding equipment.

We will not caravan but rather each participant will travel from SB area at approximately 6:00 a.m. on Saturday or sooner to the Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park (CASHP) campground. We will meet just outside the park at 12 noon +/- 15 minutes. It is approximately 230 miles to Colonel Allensworth SHP from SB depending upon the route.

One way to travel there is as follows: Take Hwy 101 to Paso Robles. Take Hwy 46 east to Lost Hills. Once you cross Hwy 5, continue for 18 miles to Hwy 43. Turn left (north) on Hwy 43 for approximately 15 miles to Colonel Allensworth SHP.

It is also possible to take Hwy 101 south to Hwy 126 to Hwy 5 to Hwy 46. Take Hwy 46 east to Hwy 43. Turn north (left on Hwy 43 to CASHP).

After determining where we will camp we will bird the park for a very short time looking to spot Burrowing Owls, etc. At approximately 12:45 p.m. we'll travel to Atwell Island Wetlands. This is a newer BLM 7000 acre restoration project with a viewing platform overlooking the wetlands. After that (4:00-5:00 p.m.), we'll travel to Pixley National Wildlife Refuge and view the Sandhill Cranes coming in till dark. After Sunday breakfast we'll bird the Kern National Wildlife Refuge for several hours (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.), then begin our return trip home. We'll return home Sunday evening.

RANCHO SANTA BARBARA

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Target birds: Geese, Common Goldeneye, Wood Duck, Lewis's Woodpecker, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, and other waterbirds and passerines

Trip leader: Rob Lindsay

Carpool time: 7:30 a.m. (no gas money)

Directions: We will carpool from the corner of the upper Sears parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Rancho Santa Barbara is located at 4001 Hwy 154. If you are not going to carpool we must all meet at the Rancho SB entrance gate at 8:00 a.m. and enter as a group. Wear walking shoes. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful. Bring water and a snack. Enjoy ranch owners Lee Carr and his brother Charles Carr's hospitality at one of the best inland birding areas in the County.

SBAS: WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Sharon Barnett

Bret Bedard

Barbara Bretz

Ruby Buck

James Buckley

Emily Chase

Joann Chenovick

Sarah Clark

Diane S. Cunningham

Leslie Edgerton

Jo Gledhill

Leonard Grabowski

Tom Griffith

David Griggs

Vernon Hall

Douglas H. Harris

Alison Hatt

Mary Ellen Hoffman

Avonell Jackson

Stan Krome

Marian Meier

Christina Meldrum

Susanne Meyer

Jessica Nikolai

J. Paul

Walter Pewen

Zoe Primrose

Ruth Rentfrow

Donald Rink

Diane Ross

Angela Russel

Bruce Schoppe,

President Ventura Audubon

John Stoddart III

Sharon Sutton

Doris Vickery

Virginia Wardwell

Stephen Wheeler

Constance Wilson

Ben Wolfe III

*Our Newest Member,
Emily Chase*



Photo by Aaron Kreisberg

PLAN A LEGACY



Photo by David Levasheff

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 president@SantaBarbaraAudubon.com

**FOLLOW
US ON**
facebook
**FOR
BREAKING
SBAS NEWS**



Photo by David Levasheff



Photo by David Levasheff



Photo by Gail Osherenko

THANK YOU

- Intrepid CBC organizers – you did it again! Congratulations!
- Marsha Macdonald, Nancy States, & Kris Mainland White for organizing the CBC dinner and the 14 smiling servers who dished it up for us!
- Joan Kent for those marvelous cookies at the CBC Dinner
- SBAS Board for leadership in the annual membership appeal and the 110+ donors who have contributed so far
- Nancy States, Jeff Hanson, & Peggy Kearns for organizing 3 Premier Bird Trips
- Judy Blue & Karen Schroeder for co-chairing our second WBC4Kids
- The Moseley Real Estate Group for donating \$1000 to SBAS/EITS. (The Moseley Group donates \$1000 from each sale to a client-specified nonprofit)
- Luke Swetland & the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for ongoing support
- Trent Watanabe of Montecito Journal for the layout of 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
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	Marsha Macdonald	805-962-7799	Development-1@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org
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.

NOTE THE DATE

*Sign up for Premier Trip to
Ventura Duck Ponds
by February 14*

Movie Premiere:
BRINGING BACK THE WILD
Fleischmann Auditorium,
SBMNH

February 24, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets on-line or at the door

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR DONATION!