



## THE 117TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

by Rebecca Coulter

Preparations for Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), to be held on **Saturday, December 31, 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 is at or near the high count for number of field 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 more rain, tracking where the birds are this season is a continuing challenge. Do look for and monitor any water sources within our count circle that might be an attractant on count day. Also for any flowering trees, or trees that have psyllid or other infestations that act as feeding stations for warblers. The toyon berry crop has been early and heavy, but reportedly the berries are lacking in moisture. Do you know of spots that perhaps could provide food for thrushes?

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 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 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.

*For more information about the 117th count, or to report on birds or locations of interest, please go to [www.casbbirdcount.org](http://www.casbbirdcount.org).*



Photo by Liz Muraoka

### CBC DINNER COMING NEW YEAR'S EVE

Dine with your fellow CBC bird enthusiasts, listen to the count, and enjoy New Year's Eve on Saturday, December 31.

This year, Jill's Place will cater a dinner in Fleischmann Auditorium at the S.B. Museum of Natural History at 6 pm sharp. Relax and partake!

The cost is \$17 for BBQ chicken or vegetable frittata, black beans, "loaded" green salad, fresh homemade salsa, toasted garlic bread, yogurt, and a homemade chocolate chip cookie.

It's a BYOB event. SBAS provides water. Bring your own dinner setting, or plastic and paperware will be provided.

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

**Tickets can be purchased at:**

[https://sbas\\_christmas\\_bird\\_count\\_dinner\\_2016.eventbrite.com](https://sbas_christmas_bird_count_dinner_2016.eventbrite.com)

Sales end December 25.

Questions? Write [mainlandwhite@gmail.com](mailto:mainlandwhite@gmail.com).

### LOCAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

• **Carpinteria: Sunday, December 18**

info: Rob Denholtz, [robdenholtz@gmail.com](mailto:robdenholtz@gmail.com), (805)684-4060

• **La Purisima: Sunday, December 18**

info: Alex Abela, [abela@lightspeed.net](mailto:abela@lightspeed.net), (805)934-2873

• **Santa Maria/Guadalupe: Monday, December 26**

info: Alex Abela, [abela@lightspeed.net](mailto:abela@lightspeed.net), (805)934-2873

• **Lake Cachuma: Tuesday, December 27**

info: Cachumacbc.org, or Peter Schneekloth, [PeterSchneekloth@yahoo.com](mailto:PeterSchneekloth@yahoo.com), (805)450-6839

• **Santa Barbara: Saturday, December 31**

info: [casbbirdcount.org](http://casbbirdcount.org)  
or [webmaster.sbbirdcount@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.sbbirdcount@gmail.com)

## SILENT AUCTION 2016

*A great day at the SBMNH for the EITS Open House Fundraiser!*

*by Marsha Macdonald*

We earned \$9,400 to date, on the Silent Auction alone, with the help of loyal bidders and vendors. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Silent Auction, Instant Raffle, or Merchandise Table. Thank you to everyone who participated as a bidder or who bought raffle tickets from Lu Lu Young or who purchased items from Karla Shelton and “the EITS Tuesday Crew” at the Merchandise Table. It was a Win-Win day for us all!

Samy's Camera and Swarovski generously donated a spotting scope. Our own SBAS member, Dika Golovatchoff was the lucky winning bidder. Thank you, Dika, Jason from Samy's, and Joe from Swarovski!

Please personally thank any of the businesses and individuals on our “Special Thank You” list if you happen to do business with them in the near future! We were successful because of their generosity!

Other outstanding members of our “Audubon Family” who made significant contributions to the Silent Auction were Laura Calderon, Joyce Carasa, Coni Edick, Eileen Naiman, and many others. Thank you all!

Our birds will be well fed and comfortably housed this winter, thanks in part to you, and many wonderful people like you, who joined in the fun, participated while working alongside each other, and experienced the excitement of the 4th Annual Open House Fundraiser.

*Thank You!*

## AUDUBON'S EYES IN THE SKY OPEN HOUSE AND FUNDRAISER, OCTOBER 16

*by Coni Edick*

A big SHOUT-OUT to the 75 Eyes in the Sky volunteers and friends who made the 4th annual Open House on October 16th both a fun-filled day and a financial success! Over 700 visitors—including 210 kids—participated in the interactive bird games, crafts, and science events, and enjoyed raptor presentations, interactive kids' shows and poetry writing and reading. The Silent Auction, the main fundraising activity, brought in over \$9,000. Adding the proceeds from the Instant Raffle, the merchandise table and event donation boxes, the total funds raised amounted to over \$11,000, which is a quarter of EITS's annual budget. Bravo!

Ever expanding, this year's Open House added new activities and tables (SBAS provided a new Science and Conservation table). Another addition was a “poetry corner” with a poetry writing workshop and a poetry reading, courtesy of the Museum's Poet-in-Residence, Poet Laureate Chrissy Yost. Activities included owl pellet dissection, owl mask-making, coloring sheets, temporary tattoos, and a new raptor silhouette hunt and identification game. At the Museum's Backyard stage, kids of all ages were delighted by Connie Gillies' interactive Kids' Stage Show.

Presentations with three of our larger bird ambassadors—Ivan the Red-tailed Hawk, Kisa the Peregrine Falcon, and Max the Great Horned Owl—were well-attended at the Backyard Stage. All the EITS birds held court at two pavilions for up-close encounters. And many visitors took advantage of the behind-the-scenes tours of the EITS aviary, where they learned more about the daily care, feeding, and handling of EITS's seven wildlife ambassadors.

A great time was had by all. Thanks to the hard-working volunteers, the Museum of Natural History staff, and our guest contributors who made the Open House such a success!

*“EITS Open House Photos 2016” images can be viewed using the following link:*

[http://wingblossoms.photoshelter.com/gallery/EITS-Open-House-Photos-2016/G0000jQ\\_vzlubqHI](http://wingblossoms.photoshelter.com/gallery/EITS-Open-House-Photos-2016/G0000jQ_vzlubqHI)

*If prompted, enter this password: AudubonMax*

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Andersen's Danish Bakery  
Au Bon Climat  
Bacara Resort and Spa  
Bay Club Goleta  
Judy Blue  
Callie Bowdish  
Bridlewood Winery  
Chaucer's  
Community Centered Oriental Medicine  
Condor Express  
Condor's Hope  
Deep Sea- Conway Family Wines  
DV8 Cellars  
Figueroa Mountain Brewing Company  
Anthony Galvan III  
Grassini Winery  
Harbor Restaurant  
Judy Hogan  
Mark Holsapple  
Hotel Santa Barbara  
Ice in Paradise  
iD Works  
Island Packers  
Jersey Mike's  
Laurie Koc  
Julie Kummel  
La Playa Azul Cafe  
Lafond Winery  
Lassen's  
Lazy Acres  
Lemos  
Janice Levasheff  
Lobero Theatre Foundation  
Massage Envy  
Menu Fan Restaurant  
Metropolitan Theatres  
Betsy Mooney  
Marty Noble  
Richard Nordli  
Nothing Bundt Cakes  
Dale Nutter  
Olio E Limone Restaurant  
Pali Wine  
Peralta Skateboard  
Pizza Mizza  
Porch  
Gary Robinson  
Rockapelli  
Rose Cafe  
Samy's Camera and Digital  
Santa Barbara Adventure Company  
Santa Barbara Four Seasons Biltmore  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
Santa Barbara Sailing Center  
Santa Barbara Zoo  
SBCC Theatre  
Michael J. Singer, IntuitiveSurf Happens  
Suzanne's Restaurant  
Terra Sol  
The Cottage - Kristine Mainland White  
The Fish House Restaurant  
The Goodland Hotel  
The Lark Restaurant  
Toma Restaurant  
UCSB Arts & Lectures  
Vices & Spices  
Villa Creek Winery  
Wild Birds Unlimited  
Wonder  
Yellow Belly Tap Sucker Bar & Restaurant  
Yellow Hot Rod  
Zookers Restaurant



Photo by Betsy Mooney



Photo by Larry Nimmell

## JAN HAMBER, CONDOR NATURALIST

by Steve Ferry, former SBAS Co-President and volunteer condor nest watcher

Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS) honored local condor naturalist Jan Hamber during its Eyes in the Sky Open House on October 16. Jan is legendary in the local birding community both for her vital role in saving the California condor from extinction and for her role in founding SBAS.

Jan's interest in condors began when she started volunteering at the SBMNH in 1959. In 1969 she became an employee of the museum. In 1976 naturalist Dick Smith asked her if she could help with tracking condors in the wild, and she jumped at the chance. Tracking condors in the wild was what she had dreamed of for years. On their first trip to the rugged Los Padres backcountry a pair of condors glided past toward a nest, and Jan was hooked. She went on many trips to the backcountry to track the condors and search for nests. She would get up in the wee hours of the morning and tiptoe around the house so that she wouldn't wake her family, then head out for a two-day trip. This was repeated many times over the years. Jan spent countless days in the field hiking up steep canyons through nearly impenetrable chaparral to track condors and monitor their nests. Eventually she worked with the head of the Condor Recovery Program, Noel Snyder, to gather vital data that contributed greatly to the body of scientific knowledge on condors.

By the mid-1980s condor numbers were plummeting. A combination of lead poisoning, pesticide poisoning, and shooting had reduced the population of condors in the wild to a level that was not sustainable. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made the extremely controversial decision to capture all the wild free-flying condors and begin a captive breeding program. This decision was opposed by some environmental groups who thought that the species should be allowed to fade away with dignity in the wild. Not so Jan Hamber. Not only did she actively support the captive breeding program, she actually participated in the capture of the last wild condors, including the very last one, AC9, in 1987.

The wisdom of Jan's condor advocacy is now reflected in the fact that 450 California condors currently exist, including around 240 in the wild. Condors are nesting successfully in central California, Arizona, and Baja California, but are still classified as "critically endangered". The population is increasing, but only with human intervention. Due to ingestion of lead fragments from animals shot in the wild, most condors are captured each year to be checked for lead levels in their blood. Many must be treated for lead poisoning before being released back to the wild. California law will fully prohibit using lead ammunition for hunting by 2019. But it remains to be seen whether there will be sufficient compliance with the law to adequately protect the condor.

Jan Hamber was a key player in the founding of SBAS in 1963. She was already a member of the National Audubon Society when she moved to Santa Barbara in 1959. She was one of the founding Board members that converted the SBMNH Bird Study Group into a chapter of National Audubon. In addition to frequent birding field trips and local advocacy, the new SBAS chapter worked diligently to rescue birds and clean them during the 1969 oil spill. The chapter wrote letters to protest the proposed Sierra Madre Ridge Road which would have opened the San Rafael Wilderness, the Sisquoc Condor Sanctuary, and other condor habitat to vehicular traffic. This was obviously a subject near and dear to Jan's heart. SBAS and other environmental groups were able to stop the road from being built until its effect on the condor could be studied. In the end, the road was not built. SBAS has Jan Hamber and other early Board members to thank for starting its traditions of bird conservation and advocacy that continue strong to this day!



## THANK YOU NOTE FROM JAN HAMBER

To all the members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society -

I want to say thank you and double thank you for the beautiful event the Santa Barbara Audubon Society created on Oct. 16 to honor my part in helping to establish our branch of the National Audubon Society.

I'm still basking in the warmth and camaraderie I felt as I looked out over all the friends gathered at the Museum of Natural History. I could see all the effort that went into making this occasion a very special one for me: the home cooked buffet, the beautiful table decorations, the special video created by Jeff McLaughlin, and the many paneled display table put together by Judy Hogan. I appreciated and loved it all.

It is wonderful and amazing to see how we've grown over the past 50 plus years. The good work we all do in helping to preserve the wonderful natural world and the creatures that inhabit it is gratifying to see.

I am so proud to have played a small part in the many successes of our Society.

*Thank you all once again,*

Jan Hamber



## NEWS FROM EYES IN THE SKY

by Gabriele Drozdowski and Judy Hogan

Late summer and early fall were an extra busy time for our volunteers and raptors as we planned for the 4th Open House and Fundraiser on October 16.

While you probably think of EITS as an education program for children, we also present community programs for families and seniors. For some time we have wanted to reach more seniors so they could enjoy our raptors, learn about birds, birding and the benefits of being outside – whether in their own garden or out on a birding trail.

In August, the Legacy Foundation Fund funded our grant request to develop a program just for seniors, called “Audubon Raptors Interactive Education for Seniors (ARIES)”. We are busy preparing the curriculum and training volunteers to reach seniors in active retirement homes and nursing homes. Watch for more news as our volunteers and raptors begin this new adventure.

If you know of a school, after-school program, senior center, youth camp, or a community or company that would like to book an EITS raptor visit or program, please call Gabriele at 805-259-1446 to discuss fees and scheduling.



## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

- **Raptor Visit:** Having a holiday celebration, a school event, or a child's party? Surprise the guests with an up-close of one of EITS' raptors. An EITS handler and raptor at your event can make it even more special. Programs include stories and age-specific activities.
- **Nest Box:** Lovingly handcrafted by EITS volunteer Richard Nordli, a nest box is a wonderful gift for any bird enthusiast. Titmouse Cottage (\$50) or Barn Owl Manor (\$120). Please note: Availability is limited, so don't wait!
- **Adopt-a-Bird:** Bird adoption packages make great gifts! For \$50, your giftee will receive:  
An adoption certificate and an 8.5"x11" photo of the bird you select  
The personal and natural history of the bird and its species  
A back-stage tour of our aviary  
A nose-to-beak visit with the bird
- **Photo/Art Sessions with Our Birds:** Our birds make excellent models to draw, paint, or photograph. Fees start at \$75 per hour.

For all of the above items, please contact the Eyes in the Sky Office at (805) 259-1446 or send an email to [info@eyesinthesky.org](mailto:info@eyesinthesky.org)

- EITS Sweatshirts: Available for a \$25 donation at the aviary.
- S.B. Audubon Baseball Caps: Available for a \$20 donation at the aviary or at any of our evening programs.
- Give the Gift of a Chapter Membership! The gift that gives all year! Chapter memberships, which are different from National Audubon memberships, are available for \$26. See form in this newsletter.

## DEVEREUX CREEK AND CORONADO SEEP UPDATE:

Thank you for working on the Rancho Estates Mobile Home Park Fire Road Improvement Project. We had an impressive turnout at the November 9 hearing in Goleta City Council Chambers. You represent the 150+ species of birds who frequent this area. We will keep you updated on our efforts to save the Coronado Seep.

## HELP WANTED

If you'd like to get more involved with Santa Barbara Audubon, volunteer with a dedicated and “fun” group of people, and help Audubon do ever more for birds...discuss your talents with Dolores Pollock at [President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](mailto:President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org). You could chair a committee, edit this newsletter, help organize our events, write grant applications, spearhead conservation efforts--and more. To borrow a recent campaign slogan, we're stronger together.

## 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](http://smile.amazon.com)

### To register

- Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com)
- Remember to use [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for your online shopping

It is that easy - now, when you shop through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), 0.5% of your purchase is automatically donated to SBAS!



## RARE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE THE SALTON SEA

*There's just no way that you can talk about doing flyway-level bird conservation in California and not throw your weight into finding a solution at the Salton Sea*

by Garry George



Located about 130 miles east of San Diego, the Salton Sea is a study in contradictions. It is massive, yet practically unknown to most Californians. The landscape is barren and apocalyptic, but full of life. It is natural, but man-made. The environment puts birds at risk, but it is also vital for their survival.

More than 300 bird species rely on the deep water, shoreline, mudflats, and wetlands at the Salton Sea, as well as the river channels and agricultural drains leading into it. Tilapia live in the deeper waters, providing essential food for many species, including California Brown Pelican, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, and Caspian Tern.

Perhaps the sea's greatest value for birds is its ability to support very large numbers of waterbirds during the winter months, including up to 90% of North America's Eared Grebes, 50% of Ruddy Ducks, and 30% of the American White Pelicans. The mudflats and shorelines are also essential for hundreds of thousands of shorebirds.

The Salton Sea has hosted two Christmas Bird Counts for decades, and the lake draws thousands to birding festivals and other events.

Beginning in 2018, thanks to a 2003 agreement between the State of California and Southern California water districts, the Salton Sea will get a lot less water from the Colorado River, eventually up to 40 percent less. The shrinking sea will also expose up to 64,000 acres of the lakebed and result in massive dust storms that could create the worst air pollution crisis in North America. Tens of thousands of acres of habitat will disappear.

**For complete article go to [www.santabarbaraaudubon.org](http://www.santabarbaraaudubon.org)**

Garry George is Renewable Energy Director and Chapter Network Director at Audubon California. Hear Garry George speak at Ventura Audubon's Jan 10 program at 7:30 pm. Address: Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd., Oxnard. Join Ventura Audubon's field trip to the Salton Sea on Jan 21. See [venturaaudubon.org](http://venturaaudubon.org) for details.

## FALL COASTAL SURVEY OF THE CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN

by Libby Patten (Santa Barbara County Survey Coordinator)

On the afternoon of October 15, scores of volunteers fanned out to coastal spots from Baja Mexico to Washington state for the second biannual survey of the California Brown Pelican. This survey, led by the Audubon network, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird, seeks to define the distribution and abundance of Brown Pelicans and track shifts in population structure. This information is critical, considering that the Brown Pelican has just experienced seven straight years of poor breeding success in this subspecies, and low abundance of some of its key prey. **For complete article go to [www.santabarbaraaudubon.org](http://www.santabarbaraaudubon.org)**

Many thanks to all of the participants! More information on this survey can be found at: <http://ca.audubon.org/brownpelicansurvey>.

# SBAS: PROGRAMS

## AVIFAUNAL BREEDING ON THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

presented by Paul Collins

**Wednesday, January 25, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m.)**

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

Paul examines changes in the breeding avifauna of the Channel Islands resulting from intensive conservation and restoration efforts during the past half century. Control and/or removal of introduced herbivores, rats, feral cats, and Golden Eagles facilitated the recovery of habitats and species adversely affected by overgrazing and/or predation. Decline of the pesticide DDT in the marine environment of the southern California Bight has led to the recovery of marine birds. This talk identifies species that have been removed, reintroduced, or have established new breeding populations on the islands. Significant changes include the addition of 26 species either confirmed or suspected to have nested for the first time on one or more of the Channel Islands.

## SB AUDUBON TREE SWALLOW NEST BOX PROJECT (AirBnB Audubon Style)

presented by Steve Senesac

**Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m.)**

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

The Tree Swallow naturally nests in tree cavities (often made by woodpeckers). Human development frequently removes many trees, and those that remain are often groomed in a way that minimizes dead branches appropriate for cavity nests. Such habitat disturbance is the likely reason why Tree Swallows dropped to the status of being an uncommon breeder around Santa Barbara and Ventura. Starting in the 1980s, Jan Wasserman in Ventura and later Dave Eldridge and Don Schroeder in Santa Barbara worked to reverse this trend by developing nest box programs. Steve Senesac stepped into their shoes in 2015 when he became the Science Chair for SBAS. Find out what Steve has been doing to reinforce our efforts in this area and hear his analysis of years of data that have produced a number of fascinating facts and identified thought-provoking trends.



# SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

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## SANTA BARBARA HARBOR

**December 9, 2016 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Waterfowl, shorebirds, Peregrine Falcons, 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 use a paid city lot parking. We will bird the SB Harbor and Stearns Wharf area.

## ARROYO BURRO SCHOOL OPEN SPACE

**December 23, 2016 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)**

**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.

## SAND POINT *Bonus Special Bird Walk/Field Trip for SB Audubon Members Only*

**January 13, 2017 (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Long-billed Curlews, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Ospreys, White-tailed Kites, Waterfowl, sandpipers, etc.

**Leaders:** Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson

**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.

## CORONADO DRIVE/DEVEREUX CREEK

**January 27, 2017 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Raptors and songbirds plus Monarch butterflies

**Directions:** From Hwy 101 take the Glen Annie /Storke Road off-ramp. Turn south (towards the ocean) on Storke Road. Turn right on Hollister Avenue and left on Coronado Drive. We will park at the end of Coronado Drive. This is the "Seep" area under discussion because of a proposed fire road.

## LAKE LOS CARNEROS

**February 10, 2017 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Waterfowl and winter songbirds

**Leader:** Jack Sanford at [birdsandtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:birdsandtennis@hotmail.com)

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

We will park behind the fire station.

## SAN JOSE CREEK AREA (NEAR KELLOGG TENNIS COURTS)

**February 24, 2017 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Song birds, woodpeckers, thrashers, thrushes, kinglets, etc.

**Leader:** Jack Sanford

**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 Avenue stoplight. We will park and meet near the tennis courts.

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# SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

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## LAKE CACHUMA WINTER WILDLIFE (EAGLE) BOAT CRUISE - LAKE CACHUMA COUNTY PARK

**Saturday, December 17, 2016 (10 a.m. - 12 noon) (9:45 a.m. check-in time at boat dock)**

**Leader:** Park Naturalist Rosey Bishop

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

**Cost:** \$17 for the boat trip payable on the boat; \$10 per car for entering the Lake Cachuma County Park

**Limit:** 30 people. You must email at Jack Sanford [birdsandtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:birdsandtennis@hotmail.com) to make a reservation on or before Tuesday, Dec 13. 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 the upper corner of the Sears Parking lot (Sears Auto Shop.) I will issue parking permits. We should be back around 1:00 p.m.

## HOLLISTER RANCH

**Saturday, January 21, 2017 (8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) (7:00 a.m. at mandatory carpool location)**

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

**Leader:** Guy Tingos

Reservations are required. We are limited to 20 people (five vehicles). Please email Jack Sanford at [birdsandtennis@hotmail.com](mailto:birdsandtennis@hotmail.com) on or before Tuesday, Jan 17, to reserve your place. Please let Jack know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold. I will confirm your reservation by email.

**Directions:** We will meet and carpool from the upper corner of the Sears parking lot (Sears Auto shop) at 7:00 a.m. (\$8.00 gas money to drivers). I will issue parking permits. We must carpool as we are limited to 5 vehicles. Bring water, snack or lunch, and wear comfortable shoes. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful.

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



# SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

## DUCK PONDS/WETLANDS (next to Point Mugu Naval Air Station)

**Sunday, February 12, 2017 (9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) (8:00 a.m. carpool time)**

**Target Birds:** Waterfowl, Virginia Rail, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Vermilion Flycatcher, etc

**Trip Leaders:** Peggy Kearns, Jeff Hanson

We will carpool from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge (\$8.00 gas money to drivers). If you want to meet us at the Duck Ponds/Wetlands take Hwy 101 to Oxnard. Exit Rice Avenue and go towards the ocean, straight to the T at Hueneme Road. Turn right, then left on Casper Road. Proceed about a mile to the end of Casper Road. Turn left into the Duck Ponds/Wetlands. Please park on the paved road near the drainage ditch. We will bird the area on foot, approximately a 3-mile walk, and we must remain as a group. This is a private area and a wonderful opportunity has been offered to us to bird the Duck Ponds/Wetlands. Thanks to Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson for making the necessary arrangements. Enjoy.

## SANDHILL CRANE OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

**Saturday & Sunday, February 18 & 19, 2017 (Presidents' Day weekend)**

**Target Birds:** Sandhill Cranes, Burrowing Owls, Common Moorhens, Horned Larks, Loggerhead Shrikes, Lark Sparrows, Blue-winged Teals, Marsh Wrens, and Great Horned Owls, plus many other species.

**Leader:** Jack Sanford: birdsandtennis@hotmail.com (No reservations necessary.)

**Cost:** Camp ground fees \$20. Motels available 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 the 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 will travel to Atwell Island Wetlands. This is a newer BLM 7000 acre restoration project with a viewing platform overlooking the wetlands. After that (between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.), we will travel to Pixley National Wildlife Refuge and view the Sandhill Cranes coming in till dark. After Sunday breakfast we will bird the Kern National Wildlife Refuge for several hours (9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.) and then begin our return trip home, returning home Sunday evening.

## THANKS TO....

You for your donation to Santa Barbara Audubon! It's all for the birds!

Our intrepid CBC leaders for their remarkable dedication

Our CBC dinner committee: Marsha Macdonald, Nancy States, and Kris Mainland White

Jeff Hanson and Peggy Kearns for leading our fundraising Premier Trips

Coni Edick, John O'Brien, Marsha Macdonald for a splendid Open House & Silent Auction

Judy Hogan for masterminding the tribute to Jan Hamber

For the refreshments at our programs: Teresa Fanucchi, Chris and Cheri Mersey

Samy's Camera for their generous donation of a Swarovski spotting scope to the Silent Auction!

City of Goleta for \$750 grant supporting Winter Bird Count 4 Kids, Jan 21, 2017

All our Bird Walk and Field Trip leaders throughout the year!

Libby Patten for leading our Pelican Surveys

Susy and Carroll Barrymore for hosting the Birding Brunch at their home

Kris Mainland White for serving as liaison to the Naples Coalition

Carrie Bree and Carol Rae for helping with our correspondence

The Museum of Natural History for ongoing support

Darlene & Sam Chirman, Coni Edick, Teresa Fanucchi, Laurie Kurilla, Cherie Topper,

Jayne Wamsley, & other hard workers for changing out the gravel in the aviary rooms, a dusty job!

Bill's Copy Shop for discounts on our printing

(of this newsletter, for example) and copying

Trent Watanabe of *Montecito Journal* and *Santa Barbara Sentinel* for his professional layout of *El Tecolote*!



## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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***Santa Barbara Audubon is an independent 501(C)3 non-profit organization***

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***Thank you and welcome!***

*Note, we do not share personal information with other organizations.*



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*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 welcome to attend.*

*Call the SBAS office to verify dates and times.*

## Santa Barbara Audubon Presents: Winter Bird Count 4 Kids

*Introducing Young People  
to the Fun of Birdwatching*

**Saturday, January 21st, 9:00AM to Noon  
Lake Los Carneros Park, Goleta**

- A free birding basics event for kids 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 the first 75 kids), free snacks

See the Santa Barbara Audubon website at  
<http://santabarbaraaudubon.org/> for more details.

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



*Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Audubon, with  
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