



## WHAT'S AN AUDUBON MEETING WITHOUT BIRDS? NOTES FROM OUR ANNUAL MEETING

*Story and Photos by Betsy Mooney*

For this year's SB Audubon Annual Membership Meeting on June 30 at Stow Grove Park, six of our seven most excellent Eyes in the Sky birds – Max, Ivan, Athena, Kanati, Kachina, and Puku – all showed up with attendant EITS volunteers to enjoy the festivities. Though the wild owls from previous years were not present, we did spot a handsome male Hooded Oriole.

SB Audubon honored Jack Sanford, who is stepping down (mostly but not completely) from his position as Bird Walk and Field Trip leader. Jack has done an awesome job! Rob Lindsay, Judy Blue, and Jeff Hanson provided stories about Jack's walks, how he has led beginning to expert birders in a variety of our local birding areas. He was presented with gifts to thank him for his enthusiastic leadership.

Peter Thompson will be leading the Friday Bird Walks, and Rob Lindsay will be handling the Field Trips, with other expert birders stepping in to help.

Janice Levasheff set up a raffle and had Jack pick the winning tickets. Ginny Nixon, Terry Frewin, and Peter Thompson won bird-related prizes.

The ever-loyal Glendessary Jam played old-time music. There was plenty of lively conversation and good food for all.

Several new board members were voted into positions. SB Audubon is looking forward to another year of promoting birding and nature education, as well as actively seeking solutions for environmental concerns. 🐦



## YOUR AUDUBON BOARD—SETTING THE COURSE AHEAD

*Story and Photo by Janice Levasheff*

Each year the Board of Santa Barbara Audubon holds a day-long summer retreat to focus on near- and long-term actions and strategies for the year ahead. This year our retreat was held on July 26 in the Pritzlaff Center at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

Our retreat started right after a pre-meeting bird walk led by our webmaster, David Levasheff. President Dolores Pollock facilitated thoughtful discussion throughout the day. We grazed on refreshments provided by board members and coordinated by Teresa Fanucchi, stopping only once, to enjoy our lunches on the patio.

Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor, this state-of-the-art facility and its tranquil location set the stage for a productive day.

If you would like to learn more about the Board, what we do, and how you might help set the course for Santa Barbara Audubon, please contact Dolores Pollock at [President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](mailto:President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org). 🐦





## THANK YOU, GABRIELE, AND FAREWELL

By Darlene Chirman, Coni Edick, John O'Brien

*"Is that...a peregrine?!" These were the first words out of my mouth upon meeting Gabriele Drozdowski in the summer of 2002. Even as an absolute beginner-birder I knew that seeing a peregrine—especially this close—was a rare and special event. Gabriele and the Peregrine Falcon "Sedona" were casually hanging out in Gabriele's backyard when I came to have my interview to volunteer with Eyes in the Sky. Both looked relaxed with each other and at ease in their surroundings. I marveled at the relationship of human and wild bird and wondered if I could ever have that same sense of connection. I have Gabriele to thank for that connection, and for so many other things! (Coni Edick)*

Sadly for us, Gabriele will be leaving Eyes in the Sky (EITS) in August, after 18 years, during which she has been the Pied Piper of raptor lore in Santa Barbara, leading a trail of delighted schoolchildren and adults alike in her wake. She is famously paired with Max, a Great Horned Owl. As she has often explained in her presentations, "Max thinks I'm his wife!" Pause...Wait for it: "I could do worse."

Gabriele started her bird connection in 1991, when she and her husband, Jim, took in an injured brown pelican from the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network. They rescued and rehabilitated seabirds for seven years. Then in 1998 Gabriele and Jim became a satellite for the Ojai Raptor Center by taking in Max and Ivan, a Red-tailed Hawk. With these two raptors the Eyes in the Sky program was launched in 2000. Gabriele brought her passion and knowledge into schools to educate, inspire and delight the next generation of naturalists.

Today Eyes in the Sky has seven birds of prey. Besides Max and Ivan (still going strong after 20 years!), we have Kisa, a Peregrine Falcon; Athena, a Barn Owl; Puku, a Western Screech-Owl; and Kachina and Kanati, American Kestrels. These wildlife ambassadors have visited schools, boys' and girls' clubs, senior centers, conservation facilities, festivals, summer camps, workshops, charity events — anywhere there is a request to get up close and personal with the wild side. It's no exaggeration to say that Gabriele—and Eyes in the Sky—have touched thousands of lives locally. Gabriele was named Local Hero by the *Santa Barbara Independent* in 2013. And the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History honored EITS with its Legacy Award in 2018.

*I recall Gabriele coming to a board meeting of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society in 2000, to ask if SBAS would be the "umbrella non-profit" for the Eyes in the Sky program she wanted to create. For raptors that cannot be released in the wild, there are only two options: become "educational birds" or euthanasia. Gabriele wanted to share her passion for these birds with children and adults, and thus EITS was born! None of us could envision what EITS has become today, with 7 birds of prey and 40+ volunteers!*

*Initially the birds lived in individual or "duplex" aviaries, divided to house 2 birds, all in the yard of Gabriele's rental house on La Cumbre Road.*

*As the program became established, the birds often had "field trips" to the Museum of Natural History to engage visitors and to get the birds accustomed to being around people. At some point, then museum director Karl Hutterer suggested that the birds could be housed on the museum grounds and remain an Audubon program. Audubon and Museum signed a*

*MOU in 2005 and the MAX Project (Museum Aviary eXhibit Project) was born. Thus began a long process of designing the aviary, choosing a location, fundraising for construction, and permitting. The Birds of Prey Campaign began in 2009, with guidance from former SBAS President Sally Walker. I remember going with Gabriele to solicit potential donors, taking Max or the Western Screech-Owl, Tecolita, along to "sell the project"! The aviary was dedicated on December 11, 2010. (Darlene Chirman)*



Old Potting Shed by John O'Brien



Max and his Wife, Gabriele by Janice Levasheff



Children enjoying Gabriele's Meet Your Wild Neighbor Program by Gabriele Drozdowski



Old Mews at Gabriele's by Gabriele Drozdowski



Ah, yes, I remember that small project Darlene asked me to help with, the construction of the Mews on the campus of the museum. Little did I know it would turn into a fulltime job. Initially we thought it would take about 2 years and perhaps a cost of \$150,000. Well, after dealing with SB Planning Commission, the SB Architectural Board of Review, the Creeks Commission, the SB Historical Landmark Commission, the SB Fire Department, and uncovering an ancient cistern right in the middle of the proposed Mews building plot, the project was completed 5 years later at a cost of over \$250,000!!

First we needed to remove MacVeagh's old potting shed/garage.

Of course, in the end it was all worth the many, many hours of hard work and frustration, because we ended up with a beautiful new home for EITS that will last well into the future. (John O'Brien)



Old Cistern by John O'Brien



New Mews at Museum by John O'Brien

The last year has been especially challenging for Gabriele and the EITS volunteers. With major renovations occurring at the museum, the birds have been housed off-site at two private residences. That has increased the intricacies of coordinating the program, while maintaining outreach activities. Add the Thomas Fire and poor air quality that required the birds to be evacuated! In Gabriele's personal life, the draw of grandchildren living in South Korea has grown stronger. She made the decision to step down from her role as Director of her creation, Eyes in the Sky, and move to Busan, South Korea, at the end of August to be close to her son Bright and help raise her grandchildren. She will always remain the well-loved founder of EITS. Gabriele's legacy lives on through the birds, the programs, and the volunteers of Eyes in the Sky. We wish her well!

Gabriele, you have created an incredible program, and all at Santa Barbara Audubon, and the birds, thank you!

## EYES IN THE SKY IN TRANSITION: INTERIM DIRECTOR APPOINTED

By Dolores Pollock

Gabriele Drozdowski's departure prompts the beginning of a new chapter in Santa Barbara Audubon's history, as our Eyes in the Sky (EITS) program has grown tremendously over the past 18 years under her leadership. With an eye toward the future of this beloved program, the Board created a committee to review EITS' structure and develop recommendations for ways in which SBAS could strengthen this cornerstone of our educational outreach.

In parallel, EITS must have a leader during this time of transition. Recognizing that this need is both critical and immediate, the Board of Santa Barbara Audubon appointed Chris Mersey, our SBAS Treasurer, as Interim Director of Eyes in the Sky for a three- to six-month period starting August 1, 2018. Gabriele is especially pleased that Chris has agreed to accept this appointment, adding, "He will do a fantastic job running things until a permanent Director takes his place."

Chris's experience as an SBAS/EITS volunteer, plus his business acumen and passion for nature, are indeed a bridge to a solid future for EITS. As Chris says, "We will all work to ensure that Eyes in the Sky stays as a superlative wildlife education organization." The Board wholeheartedly agrees!

## THANK YOU FOR HOUSING OUR RAPTORS

Our Eyes in the Sky birds should return to the Audubon Aviary at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History around the time you receive this newsletter. They've been at temporary aviaries on private property since summer 2017, due to renovations at the museum. Their hosts have been Vasanti and Joel Fithian (five birds) and Chris and Cheri Mersey (two birds).

Vasanti says, "Oh, dear, I will miss them all so much!! Max and Athena surely will miss me saying good-night to them." A grateful Eyes in the Sky volunteer, Laurie Kurilla, writes to Vasanti, Joel, Chris, and Cheri: "With everything that has transpired, the benefit we have been able to provide to our birds... has ONLY been possible because of the sanctuary you graciously and generously provided."

## MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

SERIES INTRODUCING THE DIRECTORS OF OUR CHAPTER.



Lori Gaskin joined the Board in June as co-chair of the Conservation Committee and is delighted to be able to devote time and energy to support the important mission of SBAS. Always in awe of the beauty and richness that birds bring to our natural environment, she has only recently been able to pursue this, given the demands of her career.

Lori retired in 2016 as President of Santa Barbara City College. Her retirement is the capstone to a 35-year career in the California Community College system, as a tenured faculty member, dean, vice president, and president. She is the first to point out that the California Community Colleges, comprising 114 institutions around the state, constitute the largest system of higher education in the world and provide a welcoming

open door to millions of students seeking a college education.

Lori was born and raised in southern California and attended UCLA for her baccalaureate and master's degrees. She also holds a Ph.D. from the University of Nevada, Reno. Her academic training is as a fluvial geomorphologist, focusing on watersheds, stream systems, and the processes of erosion and sedimentation. In addition to her time in southern California, Lori spent 17 years in Lake Tahoe and three years in the Silicon Valley before coming almost full circle to Santa Barbara.

Lori recently represented SBAS at the Audubon California Advocacy Day held in June in Sacramento. Together with dozens of Audubon members from around the state, she met with legislators to advocate for bills of significance to the health and well-being of birds and bird habitat. 🐦



Audubon Members meet with staff of State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, seeking her support for HB 2627: Migratory Bird Protections.

## MAY BRINGS KIDS, BIRDS, AND NATURE TOGETHER AT LAKE LOS CARNEROS AND SPERLING RESERVE

By Jayne Wamsley

Through its website, SBAS received several requests to lead birding field trips in May. Happily, we were able to offer the use of our new Eagle Optic binoculars to enrich the experience for 12 home-schooled students and their parents on May 18. After a quick binocular tutorial, we located the White-tailed Kites around their nesting tree and enjoyed various water birds that inhabit Lake Los Carneros (LLC), including four baby American Coots tagging closely behind their mother. We had a peek inside one of the active nest boxes SBAS placed on the LLC property to support local Tree Swallow and Western Bluebird populations. It is a treat to see the babies in a cozy bunch inside their feather-lined nest and observe the parents scolding overhead.

Carla Eckland, a student teacher at Ellwood School and Audubon member from Owens Valley, asked SBAS to borrow binoculars for a May 23 class field trip to the Sperling Reserve directly across from the school. We offered to bring the binoculars and participate by taking several of her small groups around the preserve. The afternoon was quiet at first, spotting the usual California Towhees, Black Phoebe, American Crows and a beautiful Western Kingbird in the parking lot. At the end of the trail we spotted five Red-tailed Hawks, accompanied by an irate White-tailed Kite. Then, to our complete surprise, we observed courtship, and at the top of a bare eucalyptus tree the male dropped behind the female and nature took its course! The 4th graders weren't aware of what had happened, but the adults (especially SBAS volunteers) were thrilled.

Finally, on May 29, several very experienced SBAS members equipped with scopes met 38 students from two San Marcos High School biology classes at LLC. This is the third year biology teacher Kim Tilton has brought her classes out to enjoy some experiential learning in collaboration with SBAS. Using our binoculars, we got a good look at the Cooper's Hawk nest in the parking lot, before heading around the lake. We stopped again to look inside two active nest boxes: one a Tree Swallow, and the other a Western Bluebird. As we approached Stow House on our way back, the resident Red-shouldered Hawk landed in full view in front of a Norfolk Pine. It was the perfect way to end our field trip, using scopes to get a wonderful close-up view of a truly beautiful hawk! 🐦





## GIL PERLEBERG, THE HUMMINGBIRD WHISPERER

Story by Lori Gaskin, Photo by David Levasheff

If you who have spent time birding along the Coronado Seep and the adjacent riparian corridor toward the Ellwood Main Monarch Butterfly Grove, you likely were warmly and heartily greeted by Gil Perleberg and his amazing assemblage of hummingbird feeders and hummingbirds. Sadly, Gil passed away on May 16, 2018, following a brief illness.

Gil lived at the edge of the grove and would welcome birders, hikers, cyclists, and visitors alike with his characteristic smile and hospitality, while regaling them with his deep knowledge of hummingbirds and, of course, butterflies. He tended to “his” hummingbirds with care and passion and created an environment where they thrived. All who wandered along the trail found delight in their interactions with Gil and came away with deeper knowledge and appreciation for hummingbirds.

SBAS recognizes Gil’s long-standing passion for hummingbirds and his commitment to sharing these lovely birds with all.



Creative SBAS volunteers are busy improving birds’ lifestyles at the new Nature Center at UCSB’s Coal Oil Point Reserve! Above, a Western Scrub-Jay enjoys the bird feeder constructed and installed by Peter Thompson. At left, Science/Conservation Committee member Adrian O’Loughlen looks at the water feature he built.

## CALIFORNIA AUDUBON MEETING

Chapter leaders, members, and friends are invited to join Audubon California November 2 through 4 in Long Beach for the 2018 Audubon Assembly! Themed “Look Up”, the week-end will be an opportunity to look outside our local programs and learn from each other.

This is an opportunity for you to meet chapter leaders, members, and partners from all over the state to enjoy birding coastal wetlands and other unique areas, explore conservation opportunities and practices, share stories with leaders from various regions, and establish peer-to-peer collaborations and partnerships. The program will offer multiple interactive presentations and breakout sessions that focus on topics from advocacy, fundraising and communications, to SoCal conservation and coalition building.

The last Audubon Assembly, held in Yosemite in 2016, offered chapter members a chance to connect with other conservationists from all over California. One chapter leader said: “Feeling part of something larger was my first ‘aha!’ moment. I was also humbled by the education, experience, accomplishments and skills of some of the chapter leaders, Who were inspiring to be around.”

Please visit the Audubon California website at <http://ca.audubon.org/about/chapters/audubon-california-assembly> to register, reserve lodging, and see the agenda. If you have any questions, please email the Chapter Network Team at [chapternetworkca@audubon.org](mailto:chapternetworkca@audubon.org).

Hope to see you in Long Beach this fall!

## TECOLOTE CIRCLE ERRATA AND ADDITIONS

**We apologize.** The names of the following Tecolote Circle members were omitted from the last edition of El Tecolote: Valerie Bentz, Jim & Roxy Mattinson, Gage Ricard, and George Azelickis.

And now, we welcome our newest members: Carroll & Susy Barrymore and Cherie Topper.



# NCOS Kids Bird Festival

**Saturday, Oct 13th  
9:30-11:30am**

**FREE  
Event!**

**Join CCBER and the Santa Barbara Audubon Society in the 1st annual NCOS Kids Bird Festival!**

**A morning of birding basics designed for kids with a responsible adult.**

**Learn about birds with hands-on activities!**

- **Binocular Boot Camp - borrow ours or bring your own**
- **A guided walk around the newly restored Devereux Slough with experienced naturalists**
- **Record and tally bird species observed**
- **More feathered fun!**

**Please RSVP:  
[lanes@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:lanes@ccber.ucsb.edu)**

**Meet at the NCOS parking lot  
6975 Whittier Dr., Goleta**

**Water & sun protection suggested**





## BIG DAY WITH WES FRITZ

Story and Photo by Jeff Hanson

Waking to a 3 a.m. alarm, I wondered out loud: What in the heck did I get myself into? Several weeks earlier, Dolores Pollock had received an interesting proposal from an East Coast birder and his wife. Anthony and Nicole wanted to find four species to further complete his list. All could be found in the Central Coast. Rather than hiring a guide, he offered a donation of \$50 per species that would go to our Audubon chapter.

Intrigued by his offer, I pursued it. Le Conte's Thrasher, Bell's Sparrow, Mountain Quail, and Allen's Hummingbird were his target species. Three of the four were out of my league, so I discussed it with our local experts.

Wes Fritz, my first contact, responded enthusiastically, "Count me in!" Knowing first hand of Wes' expertise in target birding, I raised the ante: I posed the question to Anthony, "Is there any other species you want?" He came back with California Gnatcatcher and Western Screech-Owl. In the meantime, he had also checked with his company and was able to obtain a company match gift. That brought the total donation to Santa Barbara Audubon to \$600. Wes and I agreed that we would show this couple the best possible time we could. Little did I know that it would take 18 hours and 470 miles to accomplish this.

We started at 5 a.m. First on the list was Western Screech-Owl, which we found on Zaca Station Road, picking up Yellow-billed Magpie along the way. We then headed for Maricopa, stopping at many well-known birding spots. Wes had a patch north of town that got us the Le Conte's Thrasher and Bell's Sparrow. We were halfway there at barely 10 a.m. The California Gnatcatcher was in Ventura county, so Wes proposed a route over Pine Mountain. Stops along Pine Mountain Road brought more species, including California Condor, Tricolored Blackbird, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. At the Pine Mountain Complex, we found White-headed Woodpecker, Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee, Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhee, Cassin's Finch, and Thick-billed Fox Sparrow. After a quick lunch and freeway shuffle, spirits in the car were running high, fueled by the excitement that great birding brings. So, we were ready for the culture shock of returning to civilization and its heavy traffic.

We reached Thousand Oaks by 4 p.m. Wes found the California Gnatcatcher and a bonus Cactus Wren. Heading home through more heavy traffic, we stopped at Winchester Canyon for the Allen's Hummingbird. It took us until 6:30 to get to Figueroa Mountain Road, where we looked for Mountain Quail. A pair of Golden Eagles nearby got our attention before we headed up the mountain. We birded until dark, but the Mountain Quail remained elusive. On our way home, Anthony mentioned that the California Condor was his 600th bird species, and that they were "eternally grateful for this amazing experience." I felt the same way.

After 18 hours and 470 miles, I walked in the door at 10 p.m., took a quick bite, and collapsed into bed with a big smile on my face. Another win-win situation was complete. My deepest thanks go to Wes Fritz, who volunteered his time and really made this happen. Additionally, I must thank Anthony and Nicole for creating this opportunity and a substantial donation to Santa Barbara Audubon. I sincerely hope that this encounter will inspire other birders, experts, and Audubon chapters to do the same.



## THANK YOU

Libby Patten and team for coordinating Santa Barbara County's Brown Pelican Survey.

EITS volunteer Wendy Bruss and others who have coordinated and delivered consistent care for Kisa, our Peregrine Falcon, since February. We are grateful for their perseverance, dedication, and devotion.

Karla Shelton for caring for Kachina, our female American Kestrel, as she recovers from leg and foot injuries.

Wes Fritz, local expert, for leading visiting East Coast birders on an exhilarating day of target birding that brought \$600 to SBAS. Thanks also to Jeff Hanson who coordinated this special event.

Jeff Hanson, Peggy Kearns, and Rob Lindsay for leading a special field trip for the Cosmopolitan Club.

Ann Steinmetz and helpers for creating a wonderful Goodbye Party for Gabriele.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for the warm welcome they extend to SBAS in so many ways and for welcoming our rescued raptors back to the Aviary.

Trent Watanabe of the *Montecito Journal* and *Santa Barbara Sentinel* for crafting our publication into an engaging format.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ann Sanders  
Christina Lange  
Danica Taber  
Jacqueline Worden  
Jessie Mercer  
Larisa Wilkinson  
Lee Ann Palmer  
Nydia Quiroga  
Richard Kline  
Sabina Beraha

## SANTA CRUZ ISLAND SCRUB-JAY CONSERVATION

*Presented by Russell Galipeau*

**Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m. Join us for refreshments.)**

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

Measuring 13 inches, the Island Scrub-Jay is distinguished from other scrub-jays by its larger size—almost 1/3 larger than its mainland counterpart. Restricted to Santa Cruz Island, it is susceptible to any major disaster, a disease outbreak, or widespread land-use changes. Join Russell Galipeau, as he explores efforts by the Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service to conserve this endemic species.

This summer, Russell retired from a 40-year career with the National Park Service, serving the last 15 years as Superintendent of Channel Islands National Park. He has worked in parks from Alaska to Florida and Kentucky to California on projects from wolf control to island restoration. He is a native of St. Augustine, Florida, and has a degree in wildlife ecology from the University of Florida.



Photo by Nora Livingston

## BIRDS I WILL NEVER FORGET

*Presented by David Levasheff*

**Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m. Join us for refreshments.)**

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

David will present photographs of birds he has encountered during his 14-year birding career. You'll see some of his worst photographs and many of his best, as he recounts his challenges and highlights, and he describes which methods work for him. He will present a selection of birds from the Western United States, New England, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Europe, Tanzania, China, Tibet, Tasmania, Peru, Ecuador, the Galapagos, Belize, Guatemala and Costa Rica. David finds foreign travel a way to continue the excitement he gets in observing our feathered jewels for the first time.

An avid amateur photographer since the mid-1960s, David spent his working career in high technology in the aerospace industry here in the Santa Barbara area while also raising a family. In 2004 he made the leap from film to digital photography. Free from the dark-rooms, print labs and the costs of film processing, he stumbled upon birds as a subject.

David retired from his career in 2011 and volunteered to be webmaster for the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, a position he still maintains today.



## THE “BHUTIFUL BHURDS” OF BHUTAN

*Presented by Jeff Chemnick and Satie Airame*

**Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m. Join us for refreshments.)**

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

The remarkable Kingdom of Bhutan, nestled between Tibetan China and India, spans diverse habitats, from tropical lowland forest to lofty peaks of the Himalayas. The country's governing principles include environmental conservation as part of a measure of Gross National Happiness (GNH). An exceptional 72% of Bhutan's forests are under conservation status. Bhutan is paradise for birders, with 680 bird species (including 22 globally threatened species). Join cycad expert and world birder Jeff Chemnick and ecologist and nature photographer Satie Airame for a breathtaking visual tour of Bhutan's beautiful birds, lush forests and colorful cultural history.

Jeff Chemnick is a research associate at Ganna Walska Lotusland, and an authority on Mexican cycads. He owns and operates Aloes-in-Wonderland, a specialty nursery in Santa Barbara, where he has lived since 1981. Jeff leads botanical and ornithological ecotours throughout Mexico. He currently counts about 5000 species on his bird life list. Satie Airame is Assistant Dean for Academic Programs at UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. As scientific advisor from 2000-2010 to NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Marine Life Protection Initiative, she has contributed to the design of marine protected areas around the Channel Islands and throughout California's coastal waters. Satie received her Ph.D in ecology from the University of Chicago in 1999.

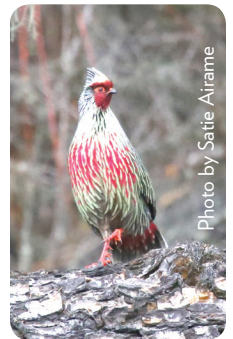


Photo by Satie Airame



# SBAS: PREMIER POINT MUGU TRIPS

## TWO 2018-2019 POINT MUGU NAVAL AIR STATION PREMIER TRIPS

By Jeff Hanson and Peggy Kearns

*Despite nature's recent winter wrath, we are pleased to again offer two premier trips to NBVC Point Mugu this year. You may choose either or both.*

**Friday, November 30, 2018 and/or Friday January 25, 2019**

**8 a.m.-12 noon (7:00 a.m. from carpool location)**

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

**Cost per trip:** \$55.00 – same as last year! (Group size limited to 14)

This unique opportunity allows us to visit some 2,000 acres bordered by the Pacific Ocean and some of the most bountiful agricultural land in Southern California. Marsh, coastal wetlands, and grasslands provide a stopover for thousands of migrating birds each year, along with habitat for seven endangered species of birds. The area is so rich in wildlife that our visits typically count 80 species, including egrets, rails, songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors.

For each trip, 14 lucky SBAS members will be granted access to the base. As a bonus, additional local experts normally accompany us on this popular trip.

NBVC Point Mugu is an active Navy base, so your access onto the base must be approved prior to the trip date. U.S. Citizenship and advance submittal of an Access Pass Registration Form are required. NO CAMERAS are allowed on base.

### TO REGISTER:

Go to the SBAS website link for the trip of your choice.

Download the Navy's Access Pass Registration Form.

Review the form first to ensure you can meet the requirements.

Purchase your ticket on the eventbrite link for the trip of your choice.

Fill out the Access Pass Registration Form completely.

Sign and email the access form to Jeff Hanson at [jlh749@cox.net](mailto:jlh749@cox.net).

You can also contact Jeff if you have any questions or problems.

### IMPORTANT:

You must submit your form to Jeff no later than the end of the registration period for the trip of your choice.

**-November 30th trip registration starts October 8th and ends October 26th, 2018**

SBAS link: <http://santabarbaraadubon.org/events/premier-trip-pt-mugu-naval-air-station-5/>  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-nov-30-pt-mugu-premier-trip-tickets-48531050679>

**-January 25th trip registration starts November 26th and ends December 14th, 2018**

SBAS link: <http://santabarbaraadubon.org/events/premier-trip-pt-mugu-naval-air-station-6/>  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-jan-25-pt-mugu-premier-trip-tickets-48532264309>



Photo by Jeff Hanson

## SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

Join us for two Friday Bird Walks each month. If you have questions, please contact Peter Thompson at [Birdwalks@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](mailto:Birdwalks@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org).

### TORO CANYON PARK

**September 7, 2018 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Songbirds, raptors

**Directions:** From Hwy 101 take exit #90 (Padaro Ln off-ramp coming from the north and Summerland off-ramp from the south). Turn toward the mountains and turn right on Via Real. Turn left on Toro Canyon Rd (2<sup>nd</sup> road on your left). Proceed on Toro Canyon Rd until you reach the park sign on your right. Turn right and follow the road to the park. Enter the park and continue to the end parking lot. We will meet there to bird the loop trail (1 mile slightly uphill) and then the park.

### HONDA VALLEY OPEN SPACE

**September 21, 2018 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)**

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

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

### HIDDEN VALLEY PARK

**October 12, 2018 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)**

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

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

## ROCKY NOOK PARK

**October 26, 2018 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)**

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

**Directions:** From Hwy 101, take Mission St past the Mission. The road becomes Mission Canyon Rd. Rocky Nook Park is on the right as you head toward the mountains. We will meet and park in the first parking area on your right as you enter the park. ➡

## STEVENS PARK

**November 9, 2018 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)**

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

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

## WINCHESTER CANYON

**November 23, 2018 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)**

**Target Birds:** Pine Siskins, kingbirds, kinglets, raptors, woodpeckers, titmice, towhees

**Directions:** Take Hwy 101 to Winchester Canyon Rd exit. Take Winchester Canyon Rd, cross Cathedral Oaks Rd, and continue on Winchester Canyon Rd, which goes downhill. At the bottom, turn right onto Winchester Dr. Go a short block and then turn left on Rio Vista Dr. We will park near the open space area on your left. ➡

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# SBAS: **FIELD TRIPS**

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*Everyone is welcome! These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird lovers. Trips are free unless noted.*

*Please contact Rob Lindsay: [capnbob@sbceo.org](mailto:capnbob@sbceo.org) for details or questions.*

## SANTA BARBARA HARBOR AND ANDREE CLARK BIRD REFUGE

**Saturday, September 22, 2018, 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**Target Birds:** Shorebirds and waterfowl

**Trip Leader:** Rob Lindsay ([capnbob@sbceo.org](mailto:capnbob@sbceo.org))

We will meet at the base of the breakwater at the Santa Barbara Harbor and look for birds in the marina, offshore, and along the sandspit between the harbor and Stearns Wharf. There is ample free parking on the right as you enter the harbor across from La Playa Stadium off Shoreline Drive. After birding there, we will drive to the Andree Clark Bird Refuge to explore this freshwater ecosystem. Many migrant and resident seabirds and water fowl are expected. Please contact the leader if you have any questions or require additional information. ➡

## DEVEREUX SLOUGH, UCSB WEST CAMPUS, GOLETA

**Saturday, October 6, 2018, 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**Target Birds:** Shorebirds, waterfowl, and wintering songbirds

**Trip Leader:** Rob Lindsay ([capnbob@sbceo.org](mailto:capnbob@sbceo.org))

**Directions:** Take Hwy 101 to the Glen Annie/Storke Rd exit. Proceed south (toward the ocean) on Storke Rd, then left on El Colegio Rd. Turn right on Camino Corto Ln and right on Del Playa Dr. Park and meet at the end of Del Playa Dr. We will bird a loop trail walking the beach past the Snowy Plover area of Coal Oil Point Reserve, following a trail around the far side of the slough. We will then bird the other side of the slough and back to the parking area. This walk is approximately three miles, so wear comfortable shoes and bring water and snacks. Please contact the leader if you have any questions or require additional information. ➡

## LAS CRUZITAS RANCH (NEAR SANTA YNEZ)

**Saturday November 17, 2018, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**(Meet at carpool location at 7:45 a.m.)**

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

**Trip Leader:** Cruz Phillips, 688-8233, [cruzitas@aol.com](mailto:cruzitas@aol.com)

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

**Directions:** Carpooling is recommended, as parking is limited. We will meet to carpool at the upper SEARS parking lot at **7:45 a.m.**

To meet us at the ranch, take Hwy 154 to Armour Ranch Rd (3.3 miles west of Bradbury Dam/Lake Cachuma). Go north on Armour Ranch Rd 1.4 miles and turn right on Happy Canyon Rd. At 2.4 miles, turn right on Alisos Ave. At 0.7 miles the pavement ends at a cattle guard. Continue 2.6 miles straight past 2 more cattle guards to the barn and ranch.

We will arrive around 9:00 a.m. and bird for about 2 hours near the ranch house, where there are many feeders and bird habitats. Then we will take an easy walk around the general area and perhaps a tour of a canyon. Bring water and a snack and/or lunch. ➡



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