

# El Tecolote



NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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[www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org)

## THE 119TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By Rebecca Coulter

Preparations for Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), to be held on **Saturday, January 5, 2019**, are well underway as compilers Rebecca Coulter, Liz Muraoka, Joan Murdoch, and Libby Patten put our minds to the massive volunteer effort.

As always, we are tracking conditions that inform coverage of our diverse count circle. Goleta continues to experience transitions in its open spaces, and we look forward to returning to North Campus Open Space on Count Day. Montecito and other areas in the foothills and mountains are recovering from a year that changed not only the landscape, but the very terrain of some familiar places because of the Thomas Fire and subsequent debris flow and flooding. Conditions remain dry, and we still await our first real rainfall to bring welcome relief to the stress of a long drought. However, we have enjoyed a good migration season, with migrants and vagrants popping up in new hotspots as well as the usual places we expect them, where flowering trees and shrubs, and insect-rich exotic eucalyptus and tipu trees abound.

Carving up and covering this circle is an annual challenge, as our CBC often has the highest number of field participants in the country. 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? How can we best use current technology in our reporting/recording/compiling? These considerations and many more consume the minds of the compilers, culminating in the arrival of Count Day and the surprises it always holds. Last year, the serious distraction of December's Thomas Fire became our CBC story, and while we made last-second changes to accommodate fluctuating access to some of our count circle, we also discovered the strong bonds of our birding community as we came together to share and find respite in this activity we love.

We take pride as a community in the quality of our citizen science. By participating in the CBC, you are contributing to the larger picture of wintering avian distribution throughout North America, and increasingly in Central and South America, as count circles expand.

**For more information about the 119th count, or to report on birds or locations of interest, please go to [www.casbbirdcount.org](http://www.casbbirdcount.org).**

(THE 119TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT continues on p. 9)



Photo by John O'Brien

## CBC DINNER

Celebrate the Christmas Bird Count evening, Saturday, January 5, with a delicious lasagna dinner in the company of your fellow counters. Catered by Jack's Bistro, the dinner will include a choice of meat or veggie lasagna, garlic bread, Caesar salad, ever popular chocolate chip cookies, and water. Dinner starts at 6 p.m., and participants are welcome to bring their beverage of choice (and a vessel to drink it). Enjoy the good company and hear the results of our work as the birds are tallied in hopes of the most elusive.

The cost of dinner is \$17. Be sure to place your order by the cutoff deadline on Saturday, December 29, at 11:59 p.m.

*Please note:* While table service (plates, napkins, silverware) will be provided, we invite you to bring your own to reduce consumption. Those preferring to bring their own dinner are welcome to do so. Questions? Write [osprey123@icloud.com](mailto:osprey123@icloud.com).

Go here to buy tickets for either meal

**meat:** [https://cbc-dinner\\_2018\\_meat.eventbrite.com](https://cbc-dinner_2018_meat.eventbrite.com),

**veggie:** [https://cbc-dinner\\_2018-vegetarian.eventbrite.com](https://cbc-dinner_2018-vegetarian.eventbrite.com)

## LOCAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

**Carpinteria: Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018**

Info: John Callender, [jbc@jbcsystems.com](mailto:jbc@jbcsystems.com),  
<http://www.carpwithoutcars.org/cbc/>

**La Purisima (Lompoc): Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018**

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

**Cachuma: Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018**

Info: Peter Schneekloth, [peterschneekloth@yahoo.com](mailto:peterschneekloth@yahoo.com),  
(805) 450-6839

**Santa Maria/Guadalupe: Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018**

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

**Santa Barbara: Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019**

Info: [webmaster.sbbirdcount@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.sbbirdcount@gmail.com)  
or <http://casbbirdcount.org/> Also on Facebook

**Santa Barbara Audubon Presents:**

# **Winter Bird Count 4 Kids**

*Introducing Young People to the Fun of Birdwatching*

**Saturday, January 26th, 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**

**No pre-registration is necessary.**

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 support from:

- the City of Goleta
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Smart and Final
- Trader Joe's
- UC Santa Barbara Associated Students Coastal Fund

Santa Barbara Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

**(805) 964-1468**

## FAREWELL, GABRIELE!

By Hannah Atkinson and Coni Edick

On August 26 at the Museum of Natural History, colleagues, volunteers, and friends gathered to make their goodbyes to a local hero. Gabriele Drozdowski, founder of Eyes in the Sky (EITS), had finally set down her educator's hat—at least in her longtime home of Santa Barbara. She leaves behind a vibrant community that she built up from a backyard bird rescue in 1991. The celebration and send-off drew a small army of attendees from the Audubon, museum, and education communities.

It was an afternoon of reunions, tributes, and tearful goodbyes. One by one, volunteers and longtime friends stood up in the afternoon sun to share stories of Gabriele, and the fierce, feathered creatures she had built relationships with for more than twenty years. In the end, they all shared a similar message: Gabriele had touched their lives and brought them closer to the birds that share our world.

The group presented parting gifts: a collection of intricately handcrafted and bird-themed keepsakes for Gabriele's new home in South Korea, where her son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren now live. One longtime volunteer presented a sleek aluminum print of a photo—a close-up of Max the Great Horned Owl, a crouching photographer reflected clearly in his bright eyes: Jim, Gabriele's late husband. By the end of the event Gabriele had an armload of presents, a collection of cards, and a check for more than a thousand dollars from contributions from her many friends.

With its decades-long leader and founder moving on to new adventures, the SB Audubon Board appointed Chris Mersey, a longtime raptor handler and volunteer, as EITS's Interim Director. The popular raptor education program is now on the hunt for a permanent Director. Gabriele certainly left an incredible legacy and a powerful space to fill. Whoever follows in her footsteps will take up a challenging and inspiring mantle—one with wings.



Photo by Betsy Mooney

## GOODBYE, KACHINA

By Richard Nordli

We've lost Kachina, our female American Kestrel. She died from complications stemming from an infection that she just couldn't fight off. She was at least fourteen years old and may very well have been the world's oldest kestrel.

Kachina was adopted by Eyes in the Sky in 2005. There she had lived alone until 2011, when we decided to bring her a companion, a much younger male American Kestrel. When it was time for them to meet, the adjacent mew was vacant should they not get along.

We placed him in her mew, and ... not believing her eyes, Kachina did a double take upon seeing another bird in her space. She immediately flew a circle around him, perhaps a surveillance flight or to elicit a response. Nothing. She flew around him again. Nothing. Then she landed right next to him and proceeded to give him a pretty good wing bashing. Beat him up a bit. That was her way of saying, "This is my house buddy, my rules." He took it like a man, and they soon became best of friends. He was later named Kanati, a Cherokee word for first hunter. Kachina had a roommate. Yay!

That was the start of a beautiful relationship that would last for the rest of Kachina's life. For Kanati, Kachina was a buddy, a big sister, a counselor, a goddess, but most of all a very dear, dear friend.

And you can't say that Kachina didn't have an affinity for younger men. There was such a significant difference in their ages – at least 4 to 1 – that they reminded me of one of my favorite movies, and we nicknamed them Harold and Maude.

I think Kachina had a sense of humor: Once, after we served them their mice for dinner, Kanati was the first one to chow down. Along came Kachina to steal Kanati's mouse, right from his grasp, leaving him to go fetch the other one. How rude! On other occasions Kachina would land on Kanati, knocking him to the floor ... I could almost hear her laughing. She had a little brother to pick on. But what was really touching was to see them snuggling shoulder to shoulder. They adored each other.

Kachina was a bit petite for her species, but she was a little bird with a big attitude and an even bigger heart. When she looked into your eyes you could see trust and love and compassion. She was not afraid to express her opinion on anything. She was not opposed to being touched. Kachina was just the most wonderful, lovable little bird that one could imagine. She always gave back. How appropriate her name turned out to be: Kachina means spirit in Hopi. She will truly be missed.

Fly on forever, Kachina,  
We love you

*Editor's note: Kachina's ashes were buried beneath the oak tree near the donors' rock in the aviary garden. Her life was celebrated in a ceremony on November 1, with beautiful singing and many shared memories.*



Photo by Richard Nordli

# SBAS: EITS NEWS

## THEY'RE BACK!

As of Labor Day weekend – after almost exactly one year – our raptors are back in the museum aviary. They enjoyed their temporary digs at the homes of Chris and Cheri Mersey and Joel and Vasanti Fithian, but it was a challenging year for them: after they settled into their temporary quarters, bad air from the Thomas Fire prompted their evacuation, and some were moved more than once. Eventually, the air cleared, and they returned to their temporary digs. We are very pleased to say that Puku, Kanati, Athena, Kisa, Ivan, and Max are now doing well, and most are putting on weight.



# SBAS: NEWS

## MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

### A SERIES INTRODUCING THE DIRECTORS OF OUR CHAPTER

By Kathleen Boehm, SBAS Board Secretary



Little did I know that meeting Joan Lentz and discovering birding would open a whole new focus for me. Upon my retirement from the City of Santa Barbara fifteen years ago, a friend suggested enrolling in a birding class. Joining 42 others who were discovering “the birds that need us” led me to participate in the Christmas Bird Count and Santa Barbara Audubon Society. Over the years of birding I have been mentored by the likes of Darlene Chirman, Steve Ferry, Bill and Dolores Pollock, Gabriele Drozdowski, and many other superb birders of Santa Barbara County. All the helping hands added to my desire to do more for protecting birds and their habitat. I first served on the SBAS Board of Trustees (BOT) as Governance Chair in 2015. I moved to interim Treasurer in 2016 and now I am the SBAS BOT Secretary.

I first came to live in Santa Barbara 50 years ago from Wisconsin. My career was primarily in Risk Management at Santa Barbara County and City. Throughout my life in Santa Barbara I have been active in many endeavors: founding member of the Goleta Valley Cycling Club, singing in the choir at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, reading tutor, and volunteering with rescued exotic birds, reptiles and terrapins at Turtle Dreams. Being a member of the SBAS BOT is rewarding in so many ways. The other members of the board and the Conservation/Science team contributions are a constant inspiration. I would encourage any SBAS member who would be interested in our work to investigate any opening of interest. The Conservation/Science Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month and the BOT meets the second Wednesday. Both meetings are at 6:30pm in MacVeagh House at the Natural History Museum and open to you.

## 2018 COASTAL SURVEY OF THE BROWN PELICAN

By Libby Patten (Santa Barbara County Coordinator)

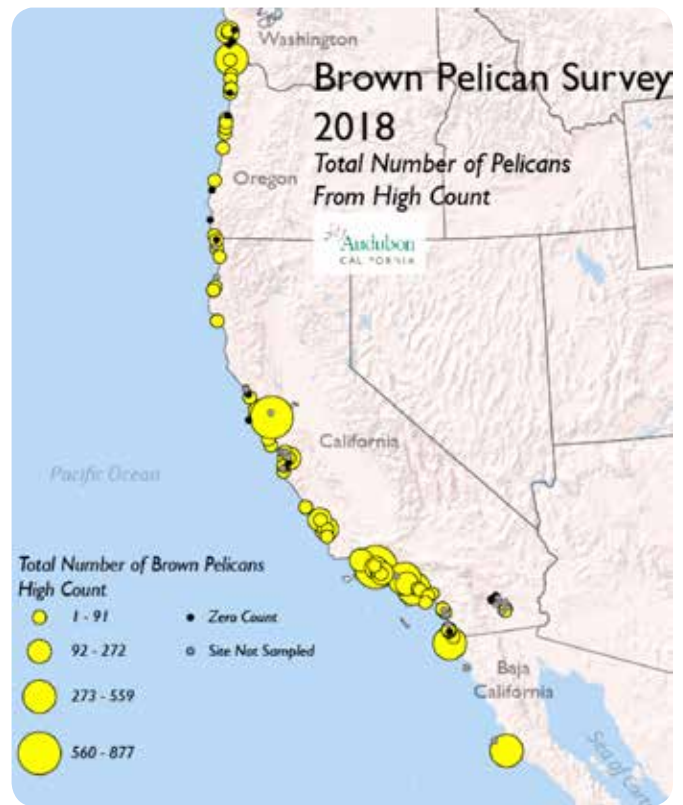
During the past spring and fall (May 18 and September 8, respectively), approximately 150 volunteers from Baja California to Washington participated in the ongoing Brown Pelican Survey, now entering its third year. The results from these surveys are helping to provide a better understanding of the distribution, age structure changes, and productivity of the Brown Pelican on the West Coast. Although removed from the endangered species list almost ten years ago, Brown Pelicans remain vulnerable, particularly to changes in abundance of the forage fish upon which they depend.

During the 2018 surveys, approximately 90 “roost” sites were monitored along the West Coast. These are called “roost” sites as the counts occurred late in the day (in the 4-hour window before Civil Twilight) to assess the population when their movements and fishing activities quiet down from earlier in the day. In spring, 7,128 pelicans were counted compared to 20,682 in fall. It is expected that many pelicans are on the Channel Islands breeding during spring. This coastal survey does not include those island birds (which are surveyed separately) and that is likely the reason for the higher coastal count in fall. The average percentage of adults to immature pelicans shifted from 71.3% adult to 28.7% immature in spring to 65.7% adult to 34.1% immature in fall. An increasing proportion of immature birds at higher latitudes was also observed (e.g. Washington had 15.7% adult versus 84.3% immature in the fall).

In Santa Barbara, we had two survey teams in the fall: one at Santa Maria River Estuary (led by Alex Abela) and another at Santa Barbara Harbor (Tom Beland, Laurel Luby, Libby Patten and Meg White). In Santa Maria, 183 pelicans were counted (24 adult, 149

immature) while in Santa Barbara, 65 were counted (37 adult, 28 immature). Due to high winds, our count in spring had few birds in Santa Maria (11), whereas at Santa Barbara Harbor we saw 272. Accordingly, our local variations from count to count may not give us much indication of the larger trends, so it is important to look at the larger data set over time. The full coastal data and trends for the year are still under analysis by biologists. The figure provides a snapshot for the spring data (94 roosts) showing the relative abundance up and down the coast. Most of the Brown Pelicans in both surveys this year were seen in California (5,311 in spring, 17,898 in fall). We are proud to support these surveys and thank all of the volunteers and scientists who participated.

The map on the right, courtesy of Joe Liebezeit (Audubon Society of Portland), shows the relative abundance of Brown Pelicans counted in the May, 2018, Coastal Survey.



## WE COULD USE HELP

by Dolores Pollock

Outstanding new Board and committee members have signed on in the last year, but our work continues to grow, and we could use more help. It's a good group of people to work with, and the work is important, and I think you'd enjoy it. We do.

Rob Lindsay, who is doing a great job leading our **Field Trips**, says he's doing so on an interim basis. *Thus, we need someone for that position starting in June.*

Our **Development Committee** (fundraising and events) *needs re-building*. We'd like a talented individual, preferably with development experience, to step forward and lead this effort. Training will be provided.

We have **other openings**, too, so if you have time to devote to Audubon, we'd love to hear from you. Contact me at [President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](mailto:President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org) or any Board member (listed on back of this newsletter).

## BIRDS, HABITAT, AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

By Lori Gaskin, Conservation Committee Co-Chair

On September 12, members of Santa Barbara Audubon Society's Board and Conservation/Science Committee spent five hours meeting with leadership of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department to gain a greater understanding of the department's approach to fuels management. Battalion Chief Rob Hazard provided a comprehensive presentation which included detailed information on the Thomas Fire and fuels management practices, including: prescribed burning, firebreaks, mechanical clearances, hardening of homes/structures, agricultural buffers, herbivory. Following this discussion, Chief Hazard led the group on a field trip, visiting a number of sites impacted by the Thomas Fire and showcasing high fire risk areas and fuels management approaches.

Recently, the SBAS Conservation/Science Committee determined that it would be appropriate for SBAS to develop a position statement regarding habitat and fuels management as it relates to the organization's focus on birds and bird habitat. A working group has been convened to study, research, and produce a position statement for SBAS Board consideration.



Photo by Janice Levasheff

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

*Welcome to everyone who has recently joined our Chapter, or National Audubon, or both!*

Aaron Young  
Alexander D. Thomas  
Alexandra Wardwell  
Angela Valente  
Barbara Wood  
Briana Sapp-Tivey  
Bruce Worster  
Carolle Van Sande  
Catherine Moody  
Charles Cagara  
Cheryl Medow  
Christopher Gayner  
Chryssa MacCutcheon  
Claire DeHoog  
Claudia Tyler  
Clemente Vallejo  
Cristie MacMillan  
D.M. Demarco  
David Harris

David Waltman  
Dawn Bridgeman  
Deborah Farris  
Dorian Wright  
Douglas Sisk  
Eduard Van Wingerden  
Elisabeth Swede  
Felicia Song  
Gary Moritz  
Geoffrey Slaff  
Gillian Sanda  
Grace Stockebrand  
Heidi George  
Helen Harris  
Ivonne Eiseman  
Jamie Rosenthal  
Jane Kuran  
Jay M. Hislop  
Joe Ullian

John J. Strathern  
Kara Petersen  
Karen Pick  
Katharine O'Donnell  
Laurie Wolf  
Linda Quinn  
Linda Stewart  
Lynne Cantlay  
Marcia Engelmann  
Margaret Meinhardt  
Maud Bradley  
Nic Gudall  
Nicole Martel  
Nola Stucky  
Patti Corbett  
Philip C. Fine  
Philip Clarke  
Rebecca Stebbins  
Roberta Campbell

Roman Baratiak  
Samantha Sandoval  
Sherman Starr  
Sherri West  
Steven Cabanatuan  
Stuart Segal  
Susan and Jim Deacon  
Susan Ashlock  
Tanner Yould  
Thomas Wait  
Tina Jougla  
TJ Locker  
Vera Nelson  
Violet J. Stepan  
Wendy Edmunds  
Wes Fritz  
William R. Stephens  
Yolande Yorke-Edgell

## QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP?

If you have questions about your membership status, or you want to know more about the difference between national and chapter memberships, please contact Janice Levasheff, your new Membership Chair, at [Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](mailto:Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org).

## NCOS EVENT

On October 13, Santa Barbara Audubon partnered with UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) for a Bird Festival for children at the North Campus Open Space (NCOS). Kids enjoyed guided walks and Binocular Boot Camp (borrowing ours or using their own), guided walks, and other activities.



Photo by Betsy Mooney



Photo by Cherie Topper

## POINT MUGU NAVAL AIR STATION PREMIER TRIP JANUARY 25, 2019

Reminder: the deadline to register for the January 25 Premier Trip to Point Mugu is December 14, 2018.

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### TO REGISTER:

- Go to the SBAS website link for the trip.
- 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.
- 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 Hanson no later than December 14, 2018.

SBAS link: <http://santabarbaraudubon.org/events/premier-trip-pt-mugu-naval-air-station-6/>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-jan-25-pt-mugu-premier-trip-tickets-48532264309>

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## SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE . . .

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**Give a Chapter Membership!** It's the gift that gives all year to your giftee and local birds! Chapter memberships are separate from National Audubon memberships. 100% of your chapter dues is put to work locally toward our efforts in education, restoration, and conservation. Neither your nor your giftee's contact information is ever sold or shared with a third party or any other organization. You'll find a membership application on the last page of this newsletter, or go to our website at <http://santabarbaraudubon.org/join-sbas/>.

**Smile!** Remember to do all your on-line shopping through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Register once and select Santa Barbara Audubon Society as your charity. Thereafter, every time you make a qualifying purchase through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase total to SBAS – all year round and at no extra cost to you!



**Double down for the birds!** Many corporations have a program that will match their employees' donations to charity. Consider asking your employer if your work has such a program.

**Planned Giving:** Consider leaving a legacy for future generations. Please talk with your financial or legal advisor about different ways you can make a bequest to Santa Barbara Audubon Society and preserve what you cherish. If you have already included a bequest to SBAS in your estate plan, THANK YOU. You have the option to be recognized as a member of our Tecolote Circle. If you choose to do so, please let us know.

**Direct Qualified Charitable Distribution:** If you are age 70.5 or older, you can support our local birds with this incredible tax-saving gift! Ask your IRA custodian to direct funds from your IRA to a qualified charity such as Santa Barbara Audubon. The amount you direct will satisfy part of your Required Minimum Distribution, and you will not be required to pay taxes on it. There are other tax advantages as well. Certain rules must be met. Please consult your financial/tax advisor and IRA administrator first.

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## OUR ANNUAL APPEAL

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**Y**ou have probably just received our Annual Appeal letter, asking for your support. Whether you are a new or long-time member of Santa Barbara Audubon, you might ask why annual giving matters so much. The answer is that the Annual Appeal is our single most important fundraising effort. Each year, we create an annual budget to support the highest quality Audubon experience, being mindful of the cost to our members. We include tax-deductible opportunities like the Annual Appeal for unrestricted giving to support all our activities. Gifts to the Annual Appeal are directed wherever the need is greatest, giving Audubon the flexibility to take advantage of emerging opportunities and to respond to unanticipated needs and challenges. Every gift, big or small, is important and greatly appreciated. Our Board leads the way with 100% participation. Thank you all! (*Send a check to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, PO Box 5508, Santa Barbara, CA 93150 or visit our Website at [SantaBarbaraAudubon.org](http://SantaBarbaraAudubon.org) to donate.*)

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# SBAS: PROGRAMS

## THE NATURAL HISTORY OF ACORN WOODPECKERS

Presented by Thomas Kraft

**Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m.—join us for refreshments)**

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

Have you ever wondered why telephone poles in California are sometimes perforated with acorns? Or what that striking “waka-waka” sound is that you hear while walking down a tree-lined street? Various described as “nature’s clowns” or “clowns of the forest,” the loud and charismatic Acorn Woodpecker is a common sight throughout the Santa Barbara region. This talk will cover the natural history of these fascinating birds, with an emphasis on their unique cooperation and social behavior and the important role they play in the environment.

Thomas Kraft received his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Dartmouth College in 2016, with a focus on the socioecology of tropical rainforest hunter-gatherers. He then moved on to UCSB for a postdoctoral scholar position in the Department of Anthropology. Tom’s current interests focus on the social behaviors and health of subsistence populations in the tropics. In his past life, however, he worked under Dr. Walt Koenig at Hastings Natural History Reservation studying Acorn Woodpeckers and their interactions with oak trees. During that time, he spent hundreds of hours watching, banding, and contemplating the captivating lives of Acorn Woodpeckers.



## THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT: 50 YEARS OF PROTECTION

Presented by Steve Evans

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m.—join us for refreshments)**

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

The year 2018 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the landmark law that has protected nearly 2,000 miles of rivers and streams in California. Steve Evans, Wild Rivers Director for the California Wilderness Coalition (CalWild), will present a historical overview of both the state and federal wild and scenic rivers systems and how they protect streams in the Santa Barbara region, like the Sisquoc River and Sespe Creek. He also will explore further opportunities for river protection at the federal level — with federal agencies and in Congress — even amidst current attempts to roll back protections of natural resources. Evans will discuss current threats to rivers, including the proposed Temperance Flat Dam on the San Joaquin River Gorge. The presentation will include many high-quality images of existing and proposed wild and scenic rivers throughout California.

Conservation Director of Friends of the River before taking his CalWild position, Steve Evans has spent decades working to protect the state’s waterways.

## OUR THANKS TO

Everyone who has responded or will respond to our Annual Appeal for donations

All 300+ of you who are Chapter Supporting Members

Bonnie Whitney for watering the native plant garden at the Audubon Aviary for one year while construction was underway at the Natural History Museum

Rob Lindsay and Peter Thompson for heading up our Field Trips and Bird Walks. Please be sure to thank them when you take one of their trips.

Peter Thompson for organizing a special field trip for seniors in the Cosmopolitan Club

*Sensational Pets* for your generous discount

Betsy Mooney for sharing her photographs so generously

Laurie Koc and helpers for baking refreshments for our monthly programs!

*The Cat and Bird Clinic* for taking excellent care of our raptors

Teresa Fanucchi, Sally Esparza, Wendy Fiske, Hathor Hammett, and Marilyn Power Scott for singing so beautifully at Kachina’s memorial

Chris Mersey for doing a superb job as Interim Director of Eyes in the Sky

Trent Watanabe of the *Montecito Journal* and *Santa Barbara Sentinel* for crafting this publication so professionally!



# SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

Everyone is welcome! These trips are fun for both beginning and expert bird lovers. Trips are free unless noted. Please contact Rob Lindsay at [ThisisRobLindsay@gmail.com](mailto:ThisisRobLindsay@gmail.com) for details or questions.

## LAKE CACHUMA EAGLE BOAT CRUISE

Saturday, December 15, 2018, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

(9:45 a.m. check-in time at boat dock)

**Trip Leader:** Park Naturalist Rosey Bishop

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

**Cost:** \$15 for the boat trip payable on the boat. \$10 per car for entering the Lake Cachuma County Park

**Limit:** 30 people. To make a reservation, you must email Rob Lindsay at [ThisisRobLindsay@gmail.com](mailto:ThisisRobLindsay@gmail.com) on or before **Monday, December 10**. He 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 (a good idea due to the \$10 entrance fee per car), meet at the upper corner of the Sears parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Rob Lindsay will issue parking permits for cars that remain in the lot. We should be back around 1:00 p.m. Don't miss this great opportunity to get out on the lake with a Park Naturalist!

## HOLLISTER RANCH

Saturday, January 26, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(7:00 a.m. at mandatory carpool location)

Reservations are required due to a limited number of vehicles allowed on the ranch.

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

**Trip Leader:** Guy Tingos

Reservations are required. We are limited to 20 people (five vehicles). Please email Rob Lindsay at [ThisisRobLindsay@gmail.com](mailto:ThisisRobLindsay@gmail.com) on or before Wednesday Jan 16 to reserve your place. Please let Rob know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold. He will confirm your reservation by email.

**Directions:** We will meet and carpool in the upper corner of the Sears parking lot at 7:00 a.m. (\$8.00 gas money to drivers). Rob Lindsay will issue parking permits for cars that remain in the lot. 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.

## LAKE LOS CARNEROS COUNTY PARK

Saturday, February 16, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Target Birds:** Freshwater ducks and other waterfowl, raptors, winter woodland birds

**Trip Leader:** Rob Lindsay

**Directions:** From Hwy 101, exit at Los Carneros Rd and turn inland. Continue through the roundabout (Calle Real) and continue to the park entrance (on your right at the fire station). Or, from Cathedral Oaks Rd, turn oceanward on Los Carneros Rd and continue to the park entrance on your left. Park in the designated parking area past the fire station at the entrance to the Railroad Museum. No carpooling is needed for this trip. No limit on attendance.

(THE 119TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT continued from p. 1)

Our count circle's center point is the intersection of Cathedral Oaks Rd and Highway 154, and it radiates out 7.5 miles in all directions. Before Count Day, you can help by keeping eyes open and ears tuned during your birding outings and daily rounds within these boundaries. Let us know about the following interesting or unusual birds:

Blue-winged Teal

Greater Scaup

Mountain Quail

Virginia Rail

Wilson's Snipe

Greater Roadrunner

Any owls other than Great Horned or Barn

Any swallows

Rock or Pacific Wrens

White-throated Swift

Any hummingbirds other than

Anna's or Allen's

Sapsuckers other than Red-breasted

Horned Lark

Common Raven

Any tanagers

Any grosbeaks

Lark Sparrow

Any orioles

Lawrence's Goldfinch

Any warbler species except Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, or Common Yellowthroat

PLUS these montane species: Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire, Varied Thrush, Brown Creeper, or Cassin's Finch.

If you see any of the above or know of any other interesting birds, please contact webmaster Libby Patten: [webmaster.sbbirdcount@gmail.com](mailto:sbbirdcount@gmail.com)

# SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

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Join us for two *Friday Bird Walks* each month.

If you have questions, please contact Peter Thompson at [sbasbirds@yahoo.com](mailto:sbasbirds@yahoo.com).

## SANTA BARBARA HARBOR

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

**Target Birds:** Waterfowl, shorebirds, Peregrine Falcon, songbirds

**Walk leader:** Peter Thompson

**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 St or Mason St (no time limit) or use paid city lot parking. We will bird the SB Harbor and Stearns Wharf area.

## ARROYO BURRO SCHOOL OPEN SPACE

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

**Target Birds:** California Quail, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, raptors, woodpeckers, kingbirds

**Walk leader:** Peter Thompson

**Directions:** From Hwy 101 from either direction, take the Las Positas Rd off-ramp. Turn toward the ocean (away from the mountains). Turn right on Modoc Rd. Turn left on Palermo Dr and continue all the way to the end and park. We will meet by the locked gate.

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

January 11, 2019 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)

**Target Birds:** Songbirds, woodpeckers, thrashers, thrushes, kinglets, etc.

**Walk leader:** Peter Thompson

**Directions:** From Hwy 101 take the Patterson Ave off-ramp and head toward the mountains. Turn left on Cathedral Oaks Rd. Turn left at the Kellogg Rd stoplight. We will park and meet near the tennis courts.

## CORONADO/DEVEREUX CREEK

January 25, 2019 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)

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

**Walk Leader:** Peter Thompson

**Directions:** From Hwy 101 take the Glen Annie /Storke Rd off-ramp. Turn south (toward the ocean) on Storke Rd. Turn right on Hollister Ave and left on Coronado Dr. We will park at the end of Coronado Dr.

## LAKE LOS CARNEROS

February 8, 2019 (8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)

**Target Birds:** Waterfowl and winter songbirds

**Walk Leader:** Peter Thompson

**Directions:** From Hwy 101 take the Los Carneros off-ramp and head toward the mountains (Stow House on the right). We will park behind the fire station.

## SAND POINT BIRD WALK/FIELD TRIP

*Sand Point Road (Sandyland)*

*Special Bonus for SB Audubon Members Only*

February 22, 2019 (8:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.)

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

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

A bonus birding bird walk/field trip you don't want to miss. We have permission to offer a Friday Field Trip for 20 SB Audubon Society members only at the Sand Point Road private gated community. Enjoy this opportunity to bird the Carpinteria Salt Marsh from Sand Point Rd. As we are limited to 20 participants, please email Peter Thompson at [sbasbirds@yahoo.com](mailto:sbasbirds@yahoo.com) if you wish to participate; leave your name and phone number or email address and he will confirm your reservation.

**Directions:** Take the Santa Claus Ln exit off Hwy 101 and follow Santa Claus Ln to the southeast end. Parking is available in the business area just before Santa Claus Ln enters Hwy 101 south. We will meet near the Sand Point Rd entrance and proceed from there on foot.

# SBAS: ADDITIONAL BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

## DUCK PONDS/WETLANDS (NEXT TO POINT MUGU NAVAL AIR STATION)

Sunday, February 24, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon (7:00 a.m. carpool time)

No reservations are necessary

**Target Birds:** Waterfowl, Virginia Rails, Peregrine Falcons, American Bitterns, White-faced Ibises, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Vermilion Flycatchers, etc.

**Trip Leaders:** Peggy Kearns and 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 Ave and go toward the ocean, straight to the Hueneme Rd turnoff. Head west on Hueneme Rd and turn left on Casper Rd. Proceed about a mile to the end of Casper Rd. Turn left into the Duck Ponds/Wetlands. Please park on the paved road near the drainage ditch. We will bird on foot for approximately 3 miles. We must remain as a group. This is a private area and a wonderful opportunity.

## SANDHILL CRANE OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

Saturday and Sunday Feb 16 and 17 of 2019 (This is Presidents' Holiday weekend.)

You must arrange your own travel and overnight accommodations. You do not need to reserve a space on the field trip itself.

**Target Birds:** Sandhill Cranes, White-faced Ibises, Burrowing Owls, Common Moorhens, Horned Larks, Loggerhead Shrike, Lark Sparrows, Blue-winged Teal, Marsh Wrens, Great Horned Owls, plus many other species.

**Leaders:** Peggy Kearns, Jeff Hanson, and Jack Sanford (Leader Emeritus)

**Cost:** Campground fees \$20 per night plus a \$7.99 charge per reservation. Motels are 20 minutes away in Lost Hills or Delano, cost varies.

**Questions?** Contact Jeff at 805.964.8854 or jlh749@cox.net

This SBAS field trip will visit the Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park (CASHP), 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. CASHP has a nice campground with showers. As a backup we can primitive camp at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Participants must make their own vehicle arrangements and bring the necessary camping and personal gear, layers of clothes, food and drink, plus birding equipment.

It is approximately 230 miles to CASHP from Santa Barbara, depending upon the route.

We will not caravan but rather each participant will travel from the SB area at approximately 6 a.m. on Saturday or sooner to the CASHP campground. We will meet just outside the park at 12 noon +/- 15 minutes.

By car, 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 CASHP.

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

We will bird Allensworth for a very short time, looking for 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 and 5:00 p.m.), we will travel to Pixley National Wildlife Refuge and view the Sandhill Cranes and Ibises coming in until dark. After Sunday breakfast we will bird the Kern National Wildlife Refuge for several hours (9:00 a.m.-noon) and then begin our return trip home.



The Blue-winged Warbler was enjoyed by local birders during an October visit to Carpinteria Creek.

Photo by David Levasheff

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This Mountain Plover was spotted during CBC 2017.

Photo by Robb Hamilton



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Santa Barbara County Birding <http://sbcobirding.groups.io/g/main>  
 Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month September through June  
 Members are welcome to attend. Call 805-964-1468

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 Join or Donate to Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS)!!  
 Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to the address below. Make checks out to: Santa Barbara Audubon Society.

Enroll me as a Chapter-Supporting Member.  
 I am:  New  Renewing  
 \$26 Basic  \$50 Sponsor  \$100 Sustaining  
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Support SBAS and your local birds - become a Chapter-Supporting Member! SBAS depends greatly on its Chapter-Supporting Members. We collaborate with National Audubon Society (NAS) on issues of mutual concern, but very little of our funding comes from NAS. Your Chapter-Supporting Membership ensures we can continue our local restoration and conservation efforts and provide you with educational and enjoyable programs because all of your chapter-supporting dues stay with SBAS.

*If you're not already a Chapter-Supporting Member, we urge you to join SBAS and invite your friends, neighbors, relatives to join us, too.*

Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, EIN 23-7051362. Your membership and any additional donation are tax deductible.

*Thank you and welcome!*

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