



SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND GET-TOGETHER

Sunday, June 23, 2019, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Stow Grove Park, Space #3

JOIN US FOR FRIENDS & MUSIC

VOTE ON REVISED BY-LAWS

and

ELECTION OF NEXT YEAR'S BOARD

Bring hors d'oeuvres or finger food to share

BYOB

OLD-TIME MUSIC BY GLENDESSARY JAM



by Janice Levasheff

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR ELECTION TO SBAS BOARD

President - Dolores Pollock
Vice President - Lee Moldaver
Secretary - Kathleen Boehm
Treasurer - Chris Mersey
Publicity - Alexandra Loos
Conservation - Jessie Altstatt & Lori Gaskin

Development - OPEN
Education - Coni Edick & Jayne Wamsley
Field Trips - Peter Thompson
Membership - Janice Levasheff
Programs - Teresa Fanucchi
Science - Steve Senesac
At-Large - Ken Pearlman

UPDATING OUR BY-LAWS AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING

At our annual meeting on Sunday, June 23, in addition to the camaraderie, fine music, and food that are hallmarks of the event, our membership will be asked to vote on revisions to our by-laws. As SBAS evolves as a non-profit entity, our structure, processes, and procedures require updating to keep pace with organizational change. It is valuable to review the organization's by-laws on a recurring basis to ensure they are current and reflect our practice and structure. We hope you'll read the copy of the revised by-laws that you'll receive by email early in June and be prepared to vote on June 23. Thank you for participating in our annual meeting and helping us keep this vibrant organization up-to-date.

THE WESTERN TANAGER

Text and photo by Charles Cagara,
www.MagicalLightPhotography.com



Often elusive because it forages high among the treetops, the Western Tanager presents a special treat when it comes into view fully and clearly.

**NO PROGRAMS IN
JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST
PROGRAMS RESUME IN SEPTEMBER**

A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Until about five years ago, SBAS had no Executive Director, not having felt the need for one. Upon hiring Cherie Topper, however, the Board quickly learned what the right person could bring to the organization. Sadly for us, Cherie has found it necessary to leave the post and attend to other matters.

With well-honed communication skills, Cherie crafted numerous documents for SBAS, including grant proposals and press releases, and she often served as the public face of the organization in meetings with foundations and public entities. She provided support and assistance to all our committees and moved SBAS forward technologically. Thanks to an excellent memory and well-developed organizational skills, Cherie made vital contributions to all planning activities: strategic long-term goals, budget, and events. A resourceful problem solver, she was especially good at keeping the big picture well in mind while focusing on important details. Cherie's integrity, sensitivity, and innate sense of discretion fostered a level of trust that is key to the success of this position. She also brought a calm attitude and can-do spirit to some onerous but critical tasks, such as dealing with insurance and the licensing of our EITS raptors.

True to her strong work ethic, Cherie has let us know that she "is working on a succession plan and documenting the quotidian rhythms of the job to ease the transition to a new director as much as possible."

We thank Cherie for her inestimable service. We will miss her energy and good cheer, but we are happy that she will be spending more time with her family and is about to celebrate her daughter's wedding. And we are grateful that she plans to offer her support during and after the transition.



MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD: ALEX LOOS, PUBLICITY CHAIR

A SERIES INTRODUCING BOARD MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS OF OUR CHAPTER

Story and photo by Alex Loos, SBAS Publicity and Chair



Alex Loos grew up near Paris, France. Her attraction to birds started as a child when she used to observe her dad raise canaries as a hobby. Soon, she helped him with various duties such as carefully collecting a freshly laid tiny egg from the nest with a spoon and moving it to a matchbox lined with cotton. She would then swiftly place a fake egg back in the nest and store the matchbox with the precious egg in a safe place. She would repeat the same process with a new freshly laid egg three or four days in a row until the female was done laying. Alex would then replace all the fake eggs with the actual eggs in the nest so the female could start incubating them. Her dad had explained to her that this would allow all the eggs to hatch on the same day and since hatchlings would be the same size, the youngest would have more chance of survival.

After moving to Santa Barbara in the late 1990's, Alex and her husband, Matt, went on wildlife adventures off the beaten path in Belize, Costa Rica, and Panama. Alex recently realized the Santa Barbara region has amazing bird diversity and attended Rob Lindsey's and Guy Tingos' birding classes to learn more.

Alex enjoys taking pictures and recording videos while birding. Her favorite spot is by the mouth of the slough at Goleta Beach Park.

Alex is a seasoned professional in accounting, finance and human resources currently providing consulting services to help organizations optimize their processes. She joined the SBAS Board in January 2019 as Publicity Chair. She enjoys publishing content related to birds on social media. She recently coordinated with EITS volunteer Richard Nordli, who has a camera set up in a nest box, to publish videos of an Oak Titmouse family. It was fun to observe the nest being built, eggs hatch, six chicks grow so fast and finally fledge, leaving an empty nest.

UCSB'S NORTH BLUFF LIGHTING FIX PROTECTS GOLETA SLOUGH

Story and Photos by Jessie Altstatt, SBAS Conservation Co-Chair

Our Conservation Committee meets monthly to discuss new and on-going situations that may affect birds and bird habitat, and to decide on action SBAS can take to make our natural world a better place. We depend on Audubon members and the general public to tell us about these matters, whether large or small.

In January, a birder scouting for the Christmas Bird Count noticed a glaring instance of light pollution and brought it to our attention. Night lighting is detrimental to the ecology of both diurnal and nocturnal animals, and unfortunately is widespread in our urban landscape. Birds in particular are negatively affected by artificial lighting, as they have evolved to use starlight and moonlight to navigate, hunt, and migrate.

This specific case involved street lights along UCSB's Mesa Road that not only illuminated the roadway and trail, but also spilled light out far over the Goleta Slough, which is officially designated Environmentally Sensitive Habitat. UCSB's policies include requirements "to minimize to the maximum extent feasible, all forms of light pollution," in addition to being protective of sensitive habitats like the Goleta Slough. Our Committee wrote a letter to UCSB requesting that this problem be addressed in adherence to their policies. We were delighted to receive a quick response promising a fix, and in late April we were informed that the offending lamps had been tilted to adjust the light angle toward the roadway and away from the Slough. These nine lamps have now been scheduled for future replacement within the 10-year timeframe of the University's Outdoor Lighting Retrofit and Replacement Program (by the end of 2025). This case is a perfect example of how our Conservation Committee serves birds and our community. Many thanks to UCSB for being receptive to community requests and for addressing the problem in a timely manner.



JOY PARKINSON 2019 SCIENCE FAIR AWARD WINNER

Story and Photo by Steve Senesac, SBAS Science Chair

Romy Greenwald won Santa Barbara Audubon's Joy Parkinson Science Fair Award this year for her research and presentation, "The Final Straw," an evaluation of several purportedly biodegradable drinking straws. Plastic drinking straws account for 4% of total ocean plastic pollution and are responsible for injury or death to a disproportionate amount of sea life.

In her project Romy tested alternatives to plastic drinking straws for their capacity to decompose. She obtained samples from different manufacturers of several types of drinking straws: Paper, PLA (polylactic acid), Hay (wheat stems), Bamboo, and Sugar Cane Husk.

RespirTek, a consumer product biodegradability testing lab, advised her of the four bio-degrading environments that they consider in their testing: freshwater (lake or stream), ocean, stomach acid, and compost.

She tested 20 samples of each kind of straw, first weighing them and placing them into labeled test tubes. A different biodegrading agent (freshwater, ocean, stomach acid, or compost) was added to four of each sample type, and four were left with just air as a control.

She then left the samples for 30 days, removed them, let them dry for 48 hours, and weighed them again.

The straw material that degraded best was Hay (after all, they are called straws), next was Sugar Cane Husk, followed by Paper, which degraded half as well as Hay. PLA was the worst in every category by far. Paper was not good in freshwater and ocean water.

Compost was generally the best biodegrading agent, and stomach acid the worst – bacteria being the main agent in biodegradability.

Overall, Hay decomposed slightly better than Sugar Cane Husk, and the rest were much farther back in the pack.

Romy is in 8th Grade at La Colina Junior High School and wants to go on to the engineering academy at Dos Pueblos High School, where she would like to focus on environmentally friendly product design.

She is also a self-published author. Her children's book about conflict resolution, called *Micken the Chicken and the Wishing Puddle*, is available on Amazon.

All the best for you and your promising future, Romy!





Dolores Pollock, Cherie Topper, Jayne Wamsley, and Janice Levasheff (left to right) greet visitors at our SBAS 2019 Earth Day Booth.

by Steve Senesac

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SPECIES MILESTONE REACHED

By Janice Levasheff

In early January of this year the local birding community learned that the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) accepted the record of the Blue-winged Warbler found October, 2018, in Carpinteria Creek by Nick Lethaby, bringing our county species total to 500! Then, in early April, CBRC accepted the record of the Varied Bunting that Wes Fritz



by Wes Fritz



by David Levasheff

saw and photographed back in November 2018, increasing the county species total to 501*. For more information, please go to: <http://www.sbcobirding.com/birdlists.html>. This website, sponsored by SBAS and maintained by Jamie Chavez, is a treasure trove of information on birds and birding in Santa Barbara County. Please check it out!

**Note to eBirders: this total differs from what is in eBird. For the purposes of monitoring populations, eBird permits the counting of a few exotics (such as Mute Swan, for example) which have not been added to the official state list maintained by the CBRC.*

NEW VOLUNTEERS STEP UP

By Hannah Atkinson, Director of Eyes in the Sky

Warmer weather brings more visitors to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and the busy season is beginning for the birds of Eyes in the Sky. As the birds shake off the last of the rain, a small wave of newly hired volunteers step up to be their handlers.



by Richard Nordli

Since New Year's Day, Eyes in the Sky has begun building its volunteer numbers. The roster has jumped from 40 active volunteers as of January 1 to around 50 in May, with still more applicants awaiting assignments to administrative, education-focused, and other roles.

The new raptor handlers begin their training under the new Program Director, and also under the teaching of the program's smallest raptors, such as Kanati the American Kestrel. The program's most colorful little bird has a bright personality: he navigates his aviary in hops and jumps, becomes restless if he isn't allowed onto the highest perch, and spooks easily at sudden movements. By watching his body language and learning his moods, new handlers come to understand how these birds communicate, and learn the rhythms of their daily routine.

Once new handlers have learned the ropes from the smallest raptors, they step up to the challenge of caring for and handling larger birds, including Ivan, our Red-tailed Hawk, with his own tendency to startle off the glove, but now with the power of a four-foot wingspan behind every jump.

As the EITS crew continues to grow, it means the birds spend more time outdoors meeting the public. With every new volunteer, Eyes in the Sky gains an opportunity to share these birds and their stories.



by Betsy Mooney

SBAS: MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON

MASSIVE VICTORY FOR BIRDS AS BIPARTISAN CONSERVATION BILL PASSES CONGRESS

By David Ringer for National Audubon

On February 26, 2019, the House of Representatives followed the Senate and passed the Natural Resources Management Act of 2019. Significantly, this legislation permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund, widely seen as one of the country's most effective programs for protecting wildlife habitat. The legislation also reauthorizes the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act through 2022, providing habitat protection for more than 380 species including the Golden-winged Warbler, Marbled Murrelet, and Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

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SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

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

HOLLISTER RANCH

Saturday, June 8, 2019, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (7:45 a.m. at mandatory carpool location). Reservations are required.

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 Rob Lindsay at ThisisRobLindsay@gmail.com as soon as possible 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: The carpool will be organized near the entrance to the ranch. It is important to arrive promptly (even early), as we will not delay our entry to the ranch. Exit Hwy 101 at Gaviota State Park (20 miles north of Santa Barbara). As you approach the park entrance, keep on the road that forks right (Hollister Ranch Rd) and goes uphill. Just beyond the top of that hill is a parking area on the right where carpooling will be organized. 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. 


COAL OIL POINT ESCAPEDE

Saturday, August 10, 2019, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Target Birds: Snowy Plover chicks, Least Terns, migrating ocean and shorebirds

Leader: Rob Lindsay

Directions: We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end of Del Playa in Isla Vista.

Join us for an opportunity to see some late summer Santa Barbara specialties. We are certain to see this year's new batch of Snowy Plover chicks. It is also a good time of year to see Least Terns if we are fortunate. These birds sometimes nest with the plovers at the reserve and, if so, can be found bringing food to their young. It's never certain they will be there, but this is a good time to try for these delightful birds. After we have scoured the plover reserve, we will set up spotting scopes above Coal Oil Point in hopes of seeing early migrating birds (loons, sea ducks and geese, and whatever else may be flying by). As with the Least Terns, there is no guarantee we will spot anything, but this is a chance to practice a sea watch at one of the best local spots. 


SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

CARPINTERIA SALT MARSH NATURE PARK

June 7, 2019, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Target Birds: Curlews, ducks, teals, egrets, godwits, gulls, herons, raptors, and killdeers

Leader: Peter Thompson


Directions: Coming from the north on Hwy 101, take Linden Ave off-ramp. From the south on Hwy 101, take Casistas Pass Rd off-ramp and turn right on Carpinteria Ave, then left on Linden Ave. Follow Linden Ave toward the ocean. Turn right on Sandyland Rd and proceed to the end, which is the Nature Park Entrance. We will meet here. 

LAKE LOS CARNEROS BIRD WALK

June 21, 2019, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Leader: Peter Thompson

Target Birds: Waterbirds, songbirds

Directions: Take Hwy 101 and exit at Los Carneros off-ramp. Head toward the mountains (Stow House on the right). Turn into the driveway between the fire station and the park. We will meet in the parking lot behind the fire station. 

FRIDAY BIRD WALKS WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER, AFTER A HIATUS IN JULY AND AUGUST

Invitation to join....

TECOLOTE CIRCLE

DONORS TO SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON'S ENDOWMENT

Connecting the community with nature...now and for generations to come.

Join us in building our endowment fund to sustain and further develop our core programs.

HOW TO JOIN THE TECOLOTE CIRCLE:

A minimum \$1000 donation or

A yearly pledge or

Mention us in your Will and let us know you did

Contact: Santa Barbara Audubon, PO Box 5508, Santa Barbara, CA 93150

Your support enables Santa Barbara Audubon Society to provide ongoing funding for a variety of positive community-oriented environmental programs in education, science, and conservation.

You are building our future!

Tecolote Circle Members 2019

Susy & Carroll Barrymore
Valerie Bentz
Cecilia Brown
Helen Brown
Wendy Bruss
Joyce & Alex Carasa
Darlene & Savelly Chirman
Nancy & Thomas Crawford
Betty & Steve Ferry
Vasanti & Joel Fithian
Gerald Franklin

Catherine Graham
Virginia Hawley
Judith A. Hogan
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Julie & Marc Kummel
Joan Leipnik
Susan & Andy Lentz
Janice & David Levasheff
Mary Ellen & Robert Logan
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Marla Mercer & Rick Herzog

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Bobbie Offen
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Dolores & Bill Pollock
Arlene & Bill Radasky
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Susan Shields
Tomi & Bob Sollen
Nancy States

Ann Steinmetz & Steve Senesac
Karen & David Telleen-Lawton
Mary D. Thompson
Marge & Donald Thornton
Lila Trachtenberg & George Handler
Cherie Topper
Virginia Turner-Scholl
Sally Walker
Lawrence Wallin
Paula & Richard Whited
Norman Yiskis

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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

Ryanne Bee*
Barry Belkin**
Jo Bongers**
Margie Bradley**
Scott Campbell*
Carole Clarke**
Hans Conried*
Michael Crookston**
Jeri Edwards*
Ronald J. Ehmsen**
Christine Emmons*
Robert Emmons*
Jean Gardner**

W.N. Guddal MD***
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Russell & Debbie Louks*
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John McManus*
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Carl Nielsen**

Billie K. Olson***
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John W. Peca**
Courtney Purcell*
Susan Romanyk*
Annika Rosenberg*
Patricia Ruja**
Jaime Rutiaga*
Dane St. George***
Judy Stewart**
Randy Sunday***
Nancy J. Tibbitts**
Mary R. Van Der Kar**

Amir Van Gieson*
Lisa White**
Grace Wu**

* - Chapter Member
** - NAS Member
*** - Chapter and NAS Member

Questions about Membership?
If you have questions about your membership status, or want to know more about the difference between national and chapter memberships, please contact Janice Levasheff, Membership Chair, at Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

THANK YOU

Audubon Board for your 100% support of our Annual Appeal, in addition to untold volunteer hours donated to leading our Chapter.
All of our Bird Walk and Field Trip leaders through the year, including: Peggy Kearns, Jeff Hanson, David Levasheff, Rob Lindsay, Cruz Phillips, Jack Sanford, Peter Thompson, and Guy Tingos.

Karen and Don Schroeder for the loan of their pop-up for our Earth Day Booth.

Trent Watanabe of the *Montecito Journal* and *Santa Barbara Sentinel* for his time and talent in putting this newsletter together.



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

**DATED MATERIAL
 PLEASE EXPEDITE**

NON PROFIT ORG.
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SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY
 805-964-1468 SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Cherie Topper Director@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

EYES IN THE SKY DIRECTOR
 Hannah Atkinson EITSDirector@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President | Dolores Pollock | President@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Vice-President | Lee Moldaver | VP@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Secretary | Kathleen Boehm | Secretary@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Treasurer | Christopher Mersey | Treasurer@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Conservation | Jessica Altstatt | Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| | Lori Gaskin | Conservation@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Development | OPEN | |
| Education | Jayne Wamsley | Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Governance | OPEN | |
| Membership | Janice Toyo Levasheff | Membership@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Programs | Teresa Fanucchi | Programs@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Publicity | Alex Loos | Publicity@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Science | Steve Senesac | Science@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| At Large | Ken Pearlman | |

BOARD APPOINTED POSITIONS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Field Trips | Rob Lindsay | FieldTrips@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Bird Walks | Peter Thompson | Birdwalks@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Newsletter | Joyce Carasa | Newsletter@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| Webmaster | David Levasheff | Webmaster@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org |
| President Emerita | Darlene Chirman | |

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*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
 \$500 Patron \$1000 Benefactor
 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!
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: (____) _____

This is a Gift Membership for:
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: (____) _____

*Mail membership form with check to:
 Santa Barbara Audubon Society P.O. Box 5508, Santa Barbara, CA 93150*