



BIRDS NEED OUR HELP: A CALL TO ACTION

By Lori Gaskin, Co-Chair, Conservation Committee

If you were alive in 1970, more than 1 in 4 birds in the U.S. and Canada have disappeared within your lifetime.

Gustave Axelson, Cornell Chronicle, September 19, 2019



Gone. . . 1 in 4 birds equates to almost 3 billion birds. This startling, alarming, and disturbing discovery is one of the key findings of a gripping research paper published this fall by Kenneth Rosenberg (lead author), Applied Conservation Scientist at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. The study, entitled “Decline of the North American Avifauna,” appeared in the September 19, 2019 (online) edition of *Science*, the American Association for the Advancement of Science journal. The paper can be accessed via the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology website at <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back> and is well worth reading.

Following publication of the Rosenberg *et al* study, the findings reverberated within the environmental and ornithological communities and across the general population. An excerpt from the abstract of the paper explains why this research has caused such immediate and strong responses:

“Using multiple and independent monitoring networks, we report population losses across much of the North American avifauna over 48 years, including once common species and from most biomes. Integration of range-wide population trajectories and size estimates indicates a net loss approaching 3 billion birds, or 29% of 1970 abundance. A continent-wide weather radar network also reveals a similarly steep decline in biomass passage of migrating birds over a recent 10-year period. This loss of bird abundance signals an urgent need to address threats to avert future avifaunal collapse and associated loss of ecosystem integrity, function and services.”

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology provides further comment about the research findings: *“The first-ever comprehensive assessment of net population changes in the U.S. and Canada reveals across-the-board declines that scientists call ‘staggering.’” All told, the North American bird population is down by 2.9 billion breeding adults, with devastating losses among birds in every biome.”*

Clearly, the pace, breadth, and scope of bird loss as documented in this study have captivated the attention of us all. **Birds need our help now.** In response to these research findings, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology issued a call to action. . . in the form of **Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds** (<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/seven-simple-actions-to-help-birds/>). Santa Barbara Audubon Society urges our members to heed this call to action by putting into practice these seven simple actions:

1. Make Windows Safer

On the outside of windows, install screens or break up reflections (using film, paint, or Acopian BirdSavers or other string).

2. Keep Cats Indoors

These non-native predators instinctively hunt and kill birds even when well fed.

3. Reduce Lawns and Pavement, Plant Natives

Birds have fewer places to safely rest during migration and to raise their young. As compared to native vegetation, lawns and pavement do not offer enough food or shelter for birds.

4. Avoid Pesticides

Most commonly used pesticides have some level of toxicity to birds. These chemicals harm birds directly through contact or if they eat contaminated seeds or prey. Pesticides can also harm birds indirectly by reducing the number of available insects, which birds need to survive.

5. Drink Coffee That’s Good for Birds

The majority of the world’s coffee farms grow their plants in the sun, destroying forests that birds and other wildlife need for food and shelter. Enjoy shade-grown, bird-friendly coffee.

6. Protect Our Planet from Plastics

Studies have documented the ingestion of plastics by many seabirds. Avoid single-use plastics including bags, bottles, wraps, and disposable utensils. Choose reusable items.

7. Watch Birds

Help scientists acquire data about our birds by birdwatching and reporting your sightings. Take part in citizen science.

It is up to each of us to help stem the loss of our birdlife. The need is real. The call to action is urgent.

Dr. Kenneth Rosenberg will speak in Santa Barbara on January 29. Please see details on page 5. Many thanks to our event partners, UCSB Arts & Lectures’ Thematic Learning Initiative and Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, for their generous support.

THE 120TH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By Rebecca Coulter

Preparations for Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), to be held on **Saturday, January 4, 2020**, are well underway as compilers Rebecca Coulter, Liz Muraoka, Joan Murdoch, and Libby Patten put their minds to the massive volunteer effort.

After last winter's decent rainfall, expectations were high that the fall migration might be better than for the past few years. But it wasn't the case, and birders around the region have noted low numbers of expected wintering species, as well. Coupled with bad news from recent national reports about alarming decreases in bird populations, the season has been challenging. Ironically, the rainfall seems to have had a positive effect on the health of non-native eucalyptus and tipu trees, leaving them free of psyllids, the insect buffet that normally draws birds. Nonetheless, we continue to haunt our local patches for positive signs. There are places on the coast where water still flows in creeks, something we haven't seen in the fall for nearly a decade. And the appearance of Red-breasted Nuthatches this season is a tonic, pointing to a moderate "irruption" year for this montane species.

On a much brighter note, North Campus Open Space is a prime example of "if you build it, they will come." Since its official public opening last fall, a wide array of species has populated the diverse habitats that have been painstakingly restored. Now that birders and other enthusiasts can explore this space, we can continue to document its bright future as habitat *gained*.

We take pride as a community in the quality of our citizen science. In this time of change—local, regional, global—participating in the CBC is a way for us to contribute to the truth of the matter, the real numbers, the science. And while it may not be a pretty picture across the board, by putting our efforts out in the field to take a hard look, we may find that in addition to compiling the data, there are gifts to be found in simply witnessing the lands we love and their inhabitants—and in so doing, strive to protect them.

- More information: santabarbaraudubon.org/santa-barbara-christmas-bird-count.
- Questions? Email: infocbc@santabarbaraudubon.org.
- Ready to sign up? Email: signupcbc@santabarbaraudubon.org

The count circle's center point is the intersection of Cathedral Oaks Rd and Highway 154, and 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 | • White-throated Swift | • Common Raven | • Any orioles |
| • Greater Scaup | • Hummingbirds <i>except</i> Anna's or Allen's | • Warbler species <i>except</i> Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, or Common Yellowthroat | • Lawrence's Goldfinch |
| • Mountain Quail | • Sapsuckers other than Red-breasted | • Any tanagers | • PLUS: these montane species: Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire, Varied Thrush, Brown Creeper, or Cassin's Finch. |
| • Virginia Rail | • Horned Lark | • Any grosbeaks | |
| • Wilson's Snipe | • Any swallows | • Lark Sparrow | |
| • Greater Roadrunner | • Rock or Pacific Wrens | | |
| • Owls <i>except</i> Great Horned or Barn | | | |



CBC DINNER

You are all invited to celebrate the Christmas Bird Count tally on Saturday, January 4, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fleischmann Auditorium at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Catered by Jack's Bistro, the dinner will include a choice of meat or vegetable lasagna, green salad, garlic bread, and a delicious chocolate chip cookie.

Please note: Water will be provided, but you must bring your own drinking cup for the water or beverage of your choice. Also, while table service (plates, silverware, napkins) will be provided, we encourage you to bring your own to reduce consumption. Those preferring to bring their own dinner are welcome to do so.

The price of dinner is \$17, and the deadline to purchase tickets is Tuesday, December 31, at 11:59 p.m.

To buy tickets for either meal go to:

meat: https://2019_sbcdbc_dinner_meat.eventbrite.com | **veggie:** https://2019_sbcdbc_dinner_vegetarian.eventbrite.com

See you there!!

Questions? Write osprey123@icloud.com.

LOCAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Carpinteria: Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019

Info: John Callender, jbc@jbcscsystems.com
<http://www.carpwithoutcars.org/cbc/>

La Purisima (Lompoc): Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019

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

Santa Maria/Guadalupe: Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019

Info: John Deacon, iseebirds@verizon.net
 (805) 314-8201

Cachuma: Friday, Dec. 27, 2019

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

Santa Barbara: Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020

Info: infocbc@santabarbaraaudubon.org
<https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/santa-barbara-christmas-bird-count>. Also on Facebook

Santa Barbara Winter Bird Count for Kids:

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020 (See inset at right)



FROM THE DESK OF KATHERINE EMERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This column communicates to current and prospective members the projects SBAS is actively working on related to our three main focus areas: education, conservation, and science. The column will be updated regularly with current projects and goals. The stated current projects are an overview and not all-inclusive. Likewise, the goals summarize what each SBAS committee is working toward with occasional opportunities for current (or potential new) members to become more involved.

CURRENT PROJECTS:

Education

- Preparing to teach Meet Your Wild Neighbors (MYWN) in 6 local classrooms
- Monthly bird walks, evening programs at SBMNH, and daily EITS outreach
- Organize Winter Bird Count 4 Kids (1/25/20)

Conservation

- Researching bird impacts of proposed Lompoc Strauss wind farm
- Providing guidance and input on local fire and fuels management that impact birds and their habitat Protecting area open spaces (Goleta Parks, Facilities and Playgrounds Master Plan)

Science

- Water quality and invertebrate research at North Campus Open Space and Coal Oil Point Reserve
- Observing White-tailed Kites (10 breeding events, 27 fledglings) & Purple Martins (8 nests, ~16-24 fledglings)
- Supporting National Audubon citizen science Christmas Bird Count in Santa Barbara (1/4/20)



SANTA BARBARA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

6th Annual Winter Bird Count 4 Kids

Introducing Young People to the Fun of Birdwatching

Saturday, January 25th, 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.

For more details, go to www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org



Meet at the Stow House Parking Lot - 304 N. Los Carneros Road, Goleta

For more information, please contact Education@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

GOALS

- Pilot 3rd grade MYWN curriculum
- Assist college students in the establishment of Audubon Campus Club at UCSB
- Introduce and welcome 12 new families to SBAS via Winter Bird Count 4 Kids
- Advocacy for Strauss to mitigate negative impact on birdlife
- Increase legal fund to protect local open spaces, wetlands, bird habitats, and ecosystems for future generations
- College student monitoring of Tree Swallow and Bluebird Nest Box project at Lake Los Carneros
- Continue contributing work to archive Santa Barbara County Breeding Bird Study records to inform land management and resource planning

SBAS: EITS NEWS

“MEET YOUR WILD NEIGHBOR” CLASSROOM PROGRAM REVITALIZED

By Hannah Atkinson, EITS Director

For almost two decades, classrooms of first- and second-grade students have clustered in delight around a very special pair of teachers. The star of the show is Max, a rescued Great Horned Owl, surrogate father to more than 70 orphaned owlets, and the more-than-20-year-old lead of the Meet Your Wild Neighbor program (MYWN). The program comes again to Santa Barbara elementary schools for the 2019-2020 school year, where it builds observation skills, respect for wildlife, and a love of nature for years to come.

MYWN is the flagship science and conservation education program of Santa Barbara Audubon Society. Across five weeks of colorful, hands-on learning, young students learn about wild birds and the ecosystems all around them. Founded in 2001 by former EITS Program Director Gabriele Drozdowski and her ever-present avian partner Max, it brought bird songs and riddles to the schools of Santa Barbara until her retirement in 2018.

This year MYWN has a new team at the helm and a vibrant revamp to its classic curriculum. Alongside new SBAS Executive Director Katherine Emery, Education Co-Chairs Jayne Wamsley and Coni Edick, and EITS Program Director Hannah Atkinson, teacher Patti Smart will lead children through a curriculum about flight, anatomy, birdsong, and the lives of wild birds. Patti brings many years' experience as an elementary school teacher, where she developed wildlife curricula and led her students on neighborhood bird walks.

A bird walk kicks off the curriculum. On the first day with each new class, Patti gathers students for a stroll around the school area, softly pointing out feathered friends all around. This gets kids up and moving and introduces them to the concept of birds living active lives all around us as our “neighbors.” Then, the curriculum digs into biology and ecology basics, building week after week on concepts of bird anatomy and life in the wild. Each session focuses on locally common birds, from the Acorn Woodpecker to the Red-tailed Hawk.

The program brings nature right into the classroom, when an EITS raptor handler brings out the day's special star from a sleek black carrier. Seeing a hawk, owl, or falcon on the glove, students learn about the birds' names and stories, what makes them special, and how they would live in the wild.

A final session returns outdoors on a field trip to Lake Los Carneros led by Patti and experienced EITS volunteers. There, equipped with a short birding list and new knowledge of birds and birdsong, kids get to circle the lake and meet their “wild neighbors” out in the sunshine, immersed in nature.

This year, the program is planned to visit half a dozen classrooms at schools throughout Santa Barbara. The 2019-2020 school year also debuts the program's 3rd-grade curriculum, building on its success with 1st- and 2nd-grade classes.

With its faithful crew of volunteers, birds, and administrators, Meet Your Wild Neighbor has delighted classrooms for many years—and hopefully will continue for many more to come.



Photo by Janice Levasheff

From top left: EITS Program Director Hannah Atkinson, SBAS Education Co-chairs Coni Edick and Jayne Wamsley, and new MYWN Teacher Patti Smart meet to develop new curriculum for 2019-2020.

IN MEMORIAM

The birding community lost a good friend with the passing of Roger Milliken, who died in September. Moving with his family to Santa Barbara in 1967, he became a professor of chemistry at UCSB. Upon retirement, Roger pursued his interest in bird photography and published his photographs in a book he co-authored with Adam Lewis called *Birds of Lake Los Carneros*. Many of us enjoyed meeting Roger while out birding. He was always good natured, helpful, and cheerful. Audubon extends sincere condolences to his family.

THANK YOU

To our generous donors -- we couldn't do it without you!

To all of you who work on our committees and events.

To the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for ongoing support.

To Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson for organizing our sold-out Premier Trip to Point Mugu.

To Trent Watanabe of the *Montecito Journal* and *Santa Barbara Sentinel* for generously and skillfully laying out this newsletter.

FREE

Kenneth Rosenberg

Three Billion Birds Lost: The Disappearance of North American Birds and What We Can Do About It

A landmark study, recently published in the journal *Science*, documents the staggering loss of 1 in 4 North American birds since 1970. An applied conservation scientist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, lead author Kenneth Rosenberg will discuss the analysis that led to this sobering conclusion, what the loss of common birds signals about the health of our environment and what we can do to reverse these trends and restore bird populations.



photo: Andy Eckerson, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Sanderling)

*With thanks to our visionary partners,
 Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin,
 for their support of the Thematic Learning Initiative*

Co-presented with:



SANTA BARBARA
 AUDUBON SOCIETY

SANTA BARBARA
MUSEUM
 of
**NATURAL
 HISTORY**

Wed, Jan 29 / 7:30 PM / Fleischmann Auditorium
 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
FREE EVENT

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 WINTER 2020

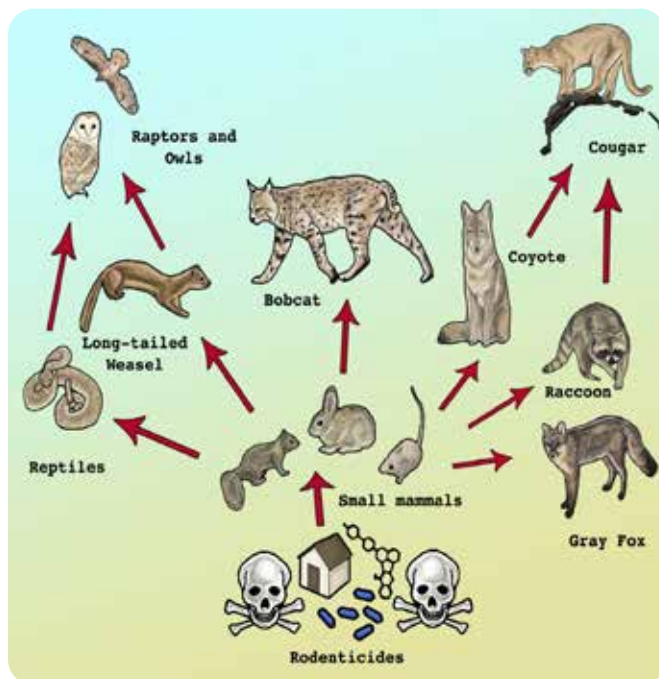
RODENT POISON

By Melissa Riparetti-Stepien

One tragic morning this summer a young California grey fox convulsed and died in our driveway. It had been visiting our yard for about a month, had been acting completely normal, and appeared very healthy. I called Santa Barbara County Animal Services in the early morning hours, as the Wildlife Care Network hadn't opened yet and I hoped to get the fox to an animal hospital. As soon as they arrived, the fox looked straight at me and died, its deep brown eyes turning instantly into gold as life left its precious body. The woman from animal services examined the body and told us the death was consistent with poisoning from eating a rodent or other animal that had itself ingested poison. She carefully wrapped the fox up to take it where it wouldn't harm another animal, who might in turn eat it. I was devastated and heartbroken at this loss.



Rodenticides are having a profound effect on both wildlife and domestic animals, and apex predators especially are suffering as they eat the contaminated rodents, causing lethal levels of chemicals to accumulate in their blood. Scientists call this biomagnification, and it results in the death or illness of these remarkable creatures.



All Things Are Connected
“How Rodent Poisons Are Passed Up the Food Chain”
from the website *Urban Carnivores*

Santa Barbara county foothill neighborhoods, including my own, have witnessed an enormous loss of Great Horned Owls, Barn Owls, Western Screech Owls, hawks, grey foxes, bobcats, mountain lions and coyotes. The loss of these predators perversely causes the rodent populations to increase, as they would otherwise hunt and kill large numbers of pests such as gophers, mice, and rats. Thus, a vicious circle is established, and the problem that the rodenticides were meant to solve only becomes worse.

Many property owners don't realize that their gardeners use rat poisons. And many gardeners themselves are not aware of the effects that these poisons have on wildlife. Please check with your own gardeners, to be sure they do not use these substances.

Michael Kresky, author of the field guide *Animal Tracks and Scat of California*, told me about a Malibu County website that is extremely informative on the subject: poisonfreemalibu.org. It explains how poison travels up the wildlife food web and contaminates our environment. It also offers many effective ways to manage pests naturally, while keeping in mind the health and safety of our children, pets, wildlife and the preservation of the ecosystem here on our beloved California coast.

Every picture tells a story. I hope the image of this noble grey fox's death moves you to make the effort to learn about ways to control pests naturally.

OUR ANNUAL APPEAL

You 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 to donate.)

ERRATA

In our September issue, one of our EITS raptors that attended our Annual Get-together was misidentified: it was Puku, our Western Screech Owl, not Athena, who joined the fun at the picnic.

SBAS: PROGRAMS

LIVING WITH PENGUINS—FILM AND Q & A

Presented by Naira De Gracia and Michael Love

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m. Join us for refreshments)

Location: Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Join biologist Naira De Gracia and filmmaker Michael Love for a screening of *Living with Penguins*, a 30-minute film that chronicles Naira's two 6-month seasons in Antarctica collecting data on breeding Gentoos and Chinstraps. It offers a rare and often humorous glimpse into the life of a field biologist living in a remote outpost with three other researchers. Naira's narration is a reflective journal that both educates about these flightless birds and examines the spiritual rewards of working in a starkly beautiful place. After the screening, both presenters will speak briefly, followed by Q & A. Naira De Gracia is a field biologist who works at remote sites monitoring wildlife and habitat restoration. Michael Love is a prizewinning filmmaker specializing in natural history projects locally and nationally. He has had seven films selected for the Santa Barbara International Film Festival and is now at work on *Endangered in California*, a film and series about endangered species in California that have been brought back from the brink of extinction.



BIRDING PERU WITH FOUR GUIDES FROM FOUR CONTINENTS

Presented by Satie Airame and Jeff Chemnick

Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

(Doors open 7:00 p.m. Join us for refreshments)

Location: Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Known popularly as “the birdiest road in the world,” Peru’s Manu Road spans an enormous elevational gradient from 500 to 11,500 feet, including high Andes, puna grassland, cloud forest, montane forest, and lowland Amazon forest. These diverse habitats are protected in Manu National Park, where more than 1,000 bird species live. Presenters Satie Airame and Jeff Chemnick birded the Manu Road for the first time in June 1999. Twenty years later, in May 2019, they returned with 3 birding experts: Alfred Twinomujuni from Uganda, Phub Dorji from Bhutan, and Raphael Santos from Brazil. In 3 weeks, this multinational team saw and heard 538 bird species! Enjoy an inspiring photographic journey about birds of Manu with informative and colorful narration by Airame and Chemnick.



Portrait by Satie Airame

Satie Airame is Assistant Dean for Academic Programs at UCSB’s Bren School of Environmental Science & Management. She received a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Chicago in 1999. 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.

FLY ME TO THE MOON: BIRD MIGRATION MYTHS AND REALITIES

Presented by Frank DeMartino

Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m. Join us for refreshments)

Location: Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Migration is one of the most amazing feats that birds perform. Humanity has been fascinated by the pattern of appearing and disappearing birds for millennia. Understanding migration is a key step to recognizing the challenges and threats facing birds on a regular basis. We will look at some of the myths that have surrounded migration through the ages and some that persist even today. We will highlight some of the many obstacles migrating birds face and the incredible ways that they have evolved to deal with them. Finally, we will look at current conservation issues that pertain to migration, and at current conservation efforts like Cornell’s Seven Simple Actions to Bring Birds Back.

Frank DeMartino is an avid birdwatcher whose passion for birds has led him to serve on the board for both Ventura Audubon Society and Conejo Valley Audubon Society. Currently, he serves as the President for CVAS and he opened a Wild Birds Unlimited store in Ventura in 2017.



SBAS: SPECIAL FIELD TRIPS

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

Saturday, February 22, 2020, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

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, Jeff Hanson

Please meet us at the Duck Ponds/Wetlands at 8:00 a.m. sharp!

Directions: 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, February 15 and 16, 2020 (This is Presidents Day 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 Shrikes, Lark Sparrows, Blue-winged Teals, Marsh Wrens, Great Horned Owls, plus many other species.

Leaders: Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson, 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 SB depending upon the route.

We will not caravan, but rather each participant will travel from the SB area at approximately 6:00 a.m. on Saturday or sooner to the CASHP campground. We will meet just outside the park at 12:00 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. 🐦



Photo by David Levasheff

SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

LAKE LOS CARNEROS COUNTY PARK

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

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

Leader: Rob Lindsay

Directions: From HWY 101, exit at Los Carneros Rd and turn inland. Proceed 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.

Contact Rob Lindsay (ThisIsRobLindsay@gmail.com) if you have questions. 🐦

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED...

HOLLISTER RANCH

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (7:45 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

Leader: Guy Tingos

Reservations are required:

Please email Rob Lindsay (ThisIsRobLindsay@gmail.com) on or before **January 4** to reserve your place. Please let Rob know if you are willing to drive your vehicle and how many people it will hold. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Directions: The carpool will be organized near the entrance 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 and goes uphill. Just beyond the top of that hill is a parking area 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!

LAKE CACHUMA WINTER WILDLIFE (EAGLE) BOAT CRUISE

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (9:45 check-in time at boat dock)

Cost: \$15 for the boat trip payable on the boat, plus \$10 per car fee for entering the Lake Cachuma County Park

Limit: 30 people. You must email Rob Lindsay (ThisIsRobLindsay@gmail.com) to make a reservation on or before **February 1**. He will confirm your reservation.

Leader: Park Naturalist Rosey Bishop

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

Directions: Take Hwy 154 to Lake Cachuma County Park and park near the boat launching area and the Fishing and Tackle shop. 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!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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

James Balker**

Dolores Barcroft**

Duffie Bart**

Patrick Bartz*

Victoria Blunt**

Paul Bower**

Peter Brunjes**

Meredith Byrne*

Mirna Cannon*

Dorothy A. Chasse*

Patricia A. Cokeley**

Silvia Corral**

Margaret Dear**

Nancy Donahoe**

Dennis Doordan*

Sally & Steven Faulstich***

Richard Garcia**

Carolyn Geiger*

Stephanie Glatt***

Marcia Green**

Mimi Hildbrand**

Pamela Hull*

Vikki Hunt**

Wendy Kanter*

Mary Kehano**

Tandy Kenward**

Michelle Labrecque & Jeff Haller*

Aliisa Lee**

Ann Lewin**

Francisco Lomeli**

Lenore Los**

Kathy Lu**

Nancy Lynn**

Elsie Magennis**

Maxwell Martin*

Sharon McBride**

Duncan & Suzanne Mellichamp***

Susan Montpas**

Salvador Munoz**

Jerami Prendiville*

Kimberly Pueschel**

Rachel Rhodes**

Sereta Robinson**

Dorothea Rodman**

Louise Russell**

Martha Sadler*

Carol Saunders**

Nancy Schooler***

Victoria Shorr**

Patti Smart*

Andrea Speraw*

Betty Stein**

Mary Stillman**

William Stratton**

J. Talbott**

Carlos Tolar**

Rose Walter**

Jane Warnet**

Stephen Wheeler*

Roger Wilde**

Jeri Williams*

Gisela Wright**

* - Chapter Member

** - National Member

*** - Chapter and National Member

Many thanks to those of you who have recently joined or renewed. Your chapter membership is key to our success!

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.

SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

Join us for two Friday Bird Walks each month.

For questions, please contact Peter Thompson at Birdwalks@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org.

SANTA BARBARA HARBOR

December 6, 2019 (8:30 a.m - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Waterfowl, shorebirds, Peregrine Falcon(s), songbirds

Directions: We will meet on the sidewalk next to the Sea Landing Sport Fishing Building (301 W. Cabrillo Blvd). All birders should park on Bath 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 20, 2019 (8:30 a.m - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Warblers, woodpeckers, raptors

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

BONUS SPECIAL BIRD WALK/FIELD TRIP FOR SB AUDUBON MEMBERS ONLY:

SAND POINT ROAD BIRD WALK/FIELD TRIP (SANDYLAND)

January 10, 2020 (8:30 a.m - 10:30 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 Bird Walk/Field Trip—don't miss this one! We have received permission to offer a Friday SB Audubon Birding Field Trip for a limited number (20) of SB Audubon Society members (only) at the Sand Point Rd private-gated community.

Enjoy this opportunity to bird the Carpinteria Salt Marsh from Sand Point Rd. Unfortunately only a limited number of birders will be allowed to sign up for this bird walk/field trip, so if interested please email Peter Thompson at sbasbirds@yahoo.com asap. Leave name and phone number or email address and Peter will confirm your reservation.

Directions: To get to the Sand Point Rd entrance, take the Santa Claus Lane 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.

NORTH CAMPUS OPEN SPACE

January 24, 2020 (8:30 a.m - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Herons, egrets, raptors, waders

Directions: From Hwy 101 in Goleta, exit at Storke Rd. Turn toward ocean, proceed to Whittier Dr, and turn right. Proceed to first cross-street (Whitman) and park on the street. We will meet at this intersection.

LAKE LOS CARNEROS

February 7, 2020 (8:30 a.m - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Waterfowl, winter songbirds, raptors

Directions: From Hwy 101, take the Los Carneros exit offramp and head toward the mountains (Stow House on the right). We will park behind the fire station.

ANDREE CLARK BIRD REFUGE

February 21, 2020 (8:30 a.m - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Waterfowl, herons, egrets

Directions: From Hwy 101, exit at Hot Springs Rd and turn toward the ocean. Turn right on Los Patos Way and park in the lot on the left. We will meet at the lot.

SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE...

Gift a Chapter Membership!

It's a gift that gives all year to your giftee and local birds! Chapter memberships are separate from National Audubon memberships. 100% of your dues is put to work locally toward our efforts in education, conservation, science, and advocacy. Personal contact information is never sold or shared with a third-party organization. Membership application can be found in this newsletter, or go to our website at <http://santabarbaraaudubon.org/join-sbas/>

Smile! Remember to do all your on-line shopping through smile.amazon.com. Register once and select Santa Barbara Audubon Society as your charity. Thereafter, every time you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase amount to SBAS – all year round and at no extra cost to you!

Double down for the birds!

Many corporations have a program where they will match their employees' donations to charity. Consider asking your employer if they have 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. There are other tax advantages as well. Certain rules must be met. Please consult your financial/tax advisor and IRA administrator first.



Photo by David Levasheff

Santa Barbara Audubon hosted Audubon California's Central Coast Council Meeting on September 21 at Coal Oil Point Nature Reserve.



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

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 805-964-1468 SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

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 Katherine Emery Director@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

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

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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