

El Tecolote

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FINDING A SILVER LINING AND A CALL TO ACTION: THE 120TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By Rebecca Coulter, Liz Muraoka, Joan Murdoch, & Libby Patten

Let's just get this on the table: North American birds are in trouble. In late January, Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Dr. Kenneth Rosenberg spoke at the Museum of Natural History about the *Decline of the North American Avifauna*, his recent article and its message of three billion birds lost since 1970, which fell upon the national birding scene like a ton of bricks. As a community of birders and conservationists, we — like Rosenberg — have been astonished at the extremes evident in the data.

Just three weeks earlier, Fleischmann Auditorium was also filled to the brim with birders, but the mood was much more festive. The 120th CBC compilation dinner was the end of a planning cycle for organizers, and just the beginning of the number crunch for the compiling team. It was a time to come together as a community of people passionate about birds. Old friends were reunited, stories embellished, and new birders were enveloped in the glow of a room full of people *talking about birding!* The **final species total of 203** was better than expected. Though there were no big surprises, there were highlights: the male **Tufted Duck** returned for a 7th year to Lauro Reservoir; **Mountain Quail** were found along Camino Cielo; three **Greater Roadrunners** were found; and the elusive but recently regular **American Bittern** was in its favorite spot at Lake Los Carneros. We counted eight owl species, including the uncommon **Northern Pygmy**, **Burrowing**, **Short-eared**, **Spotted**, and **Northern Saw-whet**. Missed last year, the **Warbling Vireo** returned for a seventh winter at Bohnett Park. (This species is so rare in winter that we presume it is the same individual favoring the same small park each year.) We had three swallow species: **Northern Rough-winged**, **Tree**, and **Barn**; two uncommon sapsuckers: **Yellow-bellied** and **Red-naped**; and a surprising **Lawrence's Goldfinch** at Gibraltar Dam. Uncommon warblers were scarce this year, but we found multiples of **Black-and-White**, **Nashville**, **Yellow**, **Black-throated Gray**, and **Wilson's**, plus one each of **Lucy's** and **Hermit**. And for the 4th consecutive year, we added a new species to our CBC list: two immature **Yellow-crowned Night-herons** at Goleta Beach, a species that has been steadily expanding its westward range and is now becoming regular along the California coast. This article continues on our website:

<https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/the-120th-christmas-bird-count>.



WHO'S COUNTING BIRDS? KIDS!

By Betsy Mooney

Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future, stated John F. Kennedy over fifty years ago. This holds true today, as 83 young birders attended SBAS's 6th Winter Bird Count 4 Kids (WBC4Kids) on Saturday, January 25, 2020, reinforcing the finding that children are still the best hope for the future, and in this case, the future for birds. With the help of over 30 volunteers, these young birders, representing over 27 local schools, learned about the species of birds at Lake Los Carneros.

On a sun-filled Saturday, the kids lined up to sign in by the (toy) Snowy Owl and receive their WBC4Kids T-shirts that matched a perfect blue sky. They also received a booklet with the names and photos of birds that inhabit Lake Los Carneros Park.

The next step was Binocular Boot Camp. SBAS lent binoculars to the youngsters and provided instructions to these budding birders. The kids practiced focusing on toy birds, then gathered in groups with experienced birders to explore the habitat around Lake Los Carneros. Scopes were set up for the young birders to get closer looks at a few specific birds.

"What I remember was that we were with a volunteer and he walked us all the way around the lake and found all sorts of birds that we would never notice ourselves. He would suddenly surprise us with a bird sighting and then tell us interesting facts about the birds. Also, he found lots of really beautiful birds for us. It made us appreciate the lake so much more! But what really made it special was to be with someone who was so knowledgeable and enjoyed what he was doing so much. And I think he really enjoyed explaining to the kids (and adults) everything he knew about these pretty birds."

-Terry

The final step was to tally the number of birds while the youngsters replenished with snacks. They'd seen and heard American Crows and California Scrub Jays; witnessed White-tailed Kites and Red-shouldered Hawks flying high or perched in a tree; watched Mallards, American Coots, and Northern Shovelers swimming on the lake; spied Black Phoebe and Bewick's Wrens, and marveled as a swan took flight over the water. The final count was 59 species of birds! Then all got together for a group photo.

Thanks especially to Judy Blue and Joan Cotich for creating yet another successful WBC4Kids!



Photo by Betsy Mooney



Photo by Dolores Pollock



Photo by Steve Senesac

“3 BILLION BIRDS LOST” LECTURE: FROM “WHAT IF?” TO FULL HOUSE!

By Janice Levasheff, Membership Chair

We feel fortunate that we were able to bring Dr. Kenneth Rosenberg here, from Lori Gaskin’s “what if” idea, to Katherine Emery’s reaching out to a fellow Cornell alum with the enticement of a January visit to sunny Santa Barbara, to UCSB Arts & Lectures arranging his trip and talk as part of their Thematic Learning Initiative, and to the S.B. Museum of Natural History graciously providing their recently renovated Fleischmann Auditorium as the venue for his talk. This was truly the happy result of a successful collaboration among our three organizations!

Thoughts from our Co-Presenters:

Roman Baratiak, UCSB A&L: “Last night was a perfect example of why collaboration works!! Three outstanding organizations with talented and engaged teams communicating with their constituents and the public about an event on a very important topic.

Congratulations and sincerest thanks to each of you!! It was a real pleasure to be a part of the team!”

Luke Swetland, SBMNH: “Thank you for letting the SBMNH be part of your flock!” (Article continues on our website, <https://santabarbara-audubon.org/3-billion-birds-lost-lecture/>.)



Photo by David Levasheff

FROM THE DESK OF KATHERINE EMERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Photo by David Levasheff

This Executive Director 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. Recent highlights are exciting events SBAS members and volunteers just led. 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.

SBAS: RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Christmas Bird Count: 220 Participants; 203 Species identified in SB County.
- WBC4Kids: 83 children, 50 accompanying adults, 30 SBAS volunteers; 59 Species observed.
- Dr. Satie Airmé & Jeff Chemnick Birding Peru Evening Program. Standing room only.
- Dr. Ken Rosenberg, Cornell Lab of Ornithology & American Bird Conservancy, *Science Presentation*: New 3-way collaboration SBAS-SBMNH-UCSB; 350 Guests.

CURRENT PROJECTS

GOALS

Education

- Piloting new 1st and 3rd grade Meet Your Wild Neighbor (MYWN) curriculum in local schools.
- Supporting Audubon Campus Club at UCSB.
- Monthly bird walks, evening programs at SBMNH, and daily Eyes in the Sky (EITS) outreach.

- Provide MYWN to 4 more local classrooms in spring.
- Expand outreach in Goleta (Science Nights) and with partner organizations.
- Apply for grants to provide programs free as needed: City of Goleta (WBC4Kids) and other grantors (MYWN, EITS & Audubon Raptors Interactive Education for Seniors [ARIES]).

Conservation

- Strauss Wind Energy Project advocacy to protect birdlife and habitat in Santa Barbara County.
- Using science to inform decision making in the protection of local streams and riparian corridors.
- Protecting Goleta open spaces (including Lake Los Carneros [LLC] & Ellwood) by providing guidance to Goleta City Council, Commissioners and Parks Staff.

- Communicate to the greater SB public the impacts of the Strauss wind energy project on birdlife.
- Increase advocacy to protect local open spaces, wetlands, bird habitats, and ecosystems now.
- Collaborate with Goleta Parks and Open Space Manager to preserve birdlife and habitat at LLC & Ellwood.

Science

- Water quality and invertebrate research at North Campus Open Space and Coal Oil Point Reserve.
- Preparing for new season of Nest Box Project for breeding Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds at LLC.
- Contributing work to archive Santa Barbara County Breeding Bird Study records to inform land management and resource planning.

- Provide baseline monitoring to aid in understanding the dynamics of Devereux Slough and provide students with more experience in scientific research.
- Provide habitat for cavity-dwelling birds and opportunities for people to encounter and understand birds more deeply.

MEET OUR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

By Shio Chiba

I have always had a passion for nature and animals, which I think was fueled by growing up with pets, going on hikes with my family, hearing about my father's past career in veterinary medicine, and simply living in a beautiful place where I could be immersed in all kinds of habitats from trees covered with butterflies to the breezy beach. This passion also stems from my dream of pursuing a career in zoology, specifically medicine and field work, which has been my goal ever since I can remember.

Along with juggling school work and extracurriculars, I invested time in volunteering at animal shelters and reading any book I could get my hands on that had to do with animals and nature, including anatomy studies, photography compilations, and fictional works. Even my hobbies, such as drawing and horse-back riding, have revolved around the beauty of the natural world.

As a high school student, I looked for more volunteer opportunities that could further help me pursue my career goal, and I was able to get into the amazing Quasars to Sea Stars program at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, where I met Diego, the student representative before me. He told me about the activities he did with Audubon, so when he mentioned that he was looking for a replacement once he graduated, I jumped at the chance to expand my knowledge on conservation and to get more involved with the community.

I started going to the Conservation Committee meetings and was immediately inspired by the driven and knowledgeable people I met there. Not only have I been able to learn more about birds, but I have also been slowly learning about the dedication it takes to run a non-profit organization and the more nitty-gritty, logistical side of environmental conservation work. As I near the end of my junior year of high school and begin preparing to apply to colleges, I hope to continue to learn from Audubon and contribute more to their cause as student representative, as well as working to be like the incredibly supportive and insightful people I have met there.

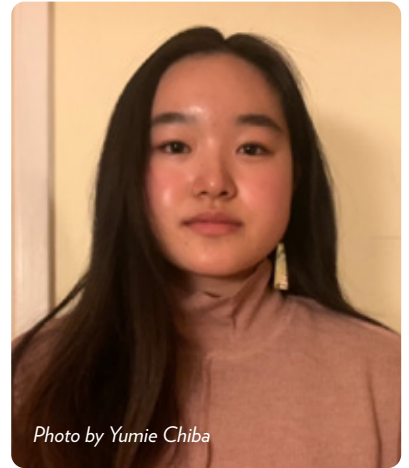


Photo by Yumie Chiba

THANK YOU!

To the hard-working Christmas Bird Count team:

Rebecca Coulter, Liz Muraoka, Joan Murdoch, and Libby Patten and their compilation helpers Dave Compton and Bill Pollock.

To our well-organized Christmas Bird Count Dinner team:

Nancy States, Gayle Hackamack, and Kathleen Boehm. Nancy has said she'll lead this effort again next year!

To Joan Kent for personally baking those great chocolate chip cookies enjoyed at the Christmas Bird Count dinner!

To all who helped host Dr. Kenneth Rosenberg during his January visit:

UCSB's Arts & Lectures, the Museum of Natural History, Mark Holmgren, Cris Sandoval, Lisa Stratton and many others!

To Carroll Barrymore for his support of WBC4Kids.

To Alex and Joyce Carasa for translating our newly revised release forms into Spanish.

To Christ Lutheran Church and the South Coast Railroad Museum for sharing facilities with the WBC4Kids.

GOLETA'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

By Scott Cooper, Conservation Committee member

A recent focus of SBAS's Conservation Committee has been planning efforts and practices that protect and restore Goleta's open space areas, like Lake Los Carneros and the Sperling Preserve/Ellwood Bluffs (Ellwood), as well as initiatives to provide public access, nature education, and the enforcement of environmental laws in these areas. Toward this end, we have worked closely with the City of Goleta over the past year, as the City developed its Parks, Facilities and Playgrounds Master Plan. Our efforts included meetings with City staff and consultants, and a series of written and oral comments to Goleta's Parks and Recreation Commission and its City Council. City staff, particularly Parks and Recreation Manager JoAnne Plummer, worked closely with us to incorporate SBAS's suggestions and ideas into the Master Plan, which was approved by the Goleta City Council on January 16, 2020. At the City Council's request, the Goleta Parks and Recreation Commission prioritized the goals and objectives contained in the Master Plan at the Commission's meeting on February 5, 2020. (Article continues on page 5.)

GOLETA'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE (continued)

Through this planning process, City staff and the Master Plan clarified that active, developed parks were under the purview of the Neighborhood Services and Public Safety Department, whereas undeveloped open space areas, like Lake Los Carneros and Ellwood, were managed largely by the Public Works Department. The City of Goleta has hired a new Parks and Open Space Manager, George Thomson, with whom SBAS has worked in the past. At its February 5 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission listed issues related to open space restoration, protection, and management as its top three priorities, which will engender budgetary proposals. As a result, we believe that we have had considerable input and impact on the parks and open space planning efforts. Our future goals include working closely with the Parks and Open Space Manager and lobbying the Goleta City Council to provide funding for the planning and management of these areas, such as the development of an updated Master and Habitat Management Plan for Lake Los Carneros. We hope that our efforts contribute to the preservation and restoration of Goleta's open space areas, which are treasured by SBAS members and Goleta's citizens because of their natural habitats, birds, and other wildlife.

NEST BOXES

By Steve Senesac, Science Committee Chair

In 2004, Jan Wasserman presented the Tree Swallow Nest Box Program that she was doing in Ventura, igniting interest in some of our members: Dave Eldridge was instrumental in building many of the boxes and Don Schroeder developed a scientific methodology for monitoring them, as well as the basic training materials we still use. In time, the reins passed to Andy Lanes and Richard Figueroa, who brought in UCSB students and evolved our basic training program. Elaine Tan, Peter Thompson, Betsy Mooney, Jayne Wamsley, Diane and Leah Vasquez, and Don Schroeder have been the mainstays of the program for years, and interest continues at UCSB. Recently, Conor McMahon started a UCSB chapter of Audubon and is injecting new vigor into our UCSB connection, and the program overall. David Kisner has developed a parallel program at La Cumbre Country Club. Lots of activity!



Photo by Steve Senesac



Photo by Steve Senesac

Program Results

Birds: Even though the original intent was to provide habitat for Tree Swallows, we also have a significant number of Western Bluebirds at Lake Los Carneros, and there is an occasional refugee of another stripe, such as a Violet Green Swallow. Last year, our 22 boxes there had full occupancy.

In 2019, 20 boxes had Tree Swallows and only two had Western Bluebirds. Numbers vary from year to year. While it is not clear how long these birds live in the wild, and this may be decreasing each year, at Lake Los Carneros, about twice as many chicks fledge each year as adults arriving.

In 2017, Don Schroeder, Elaine Tan, and crew began banding the birds, and some interesting tendencies have appeared. The Western Bluebirds seem to come back to the same nest box each year and with the same mate. Not so, the Tree Swallows; one of the pair may come back to last year's box, or one close by, but not generally with the same mate. And, while many of the Tree Swallows do two nests in one box per year, the second nest is often with a different mate – a lot of genetic diversity there!

The Nest Box Program has a lot of little puzzles, the joy of watching the birds develop from egg to fledging and all the birds' antics, as well the comradery of the other people doing the monitoring with you. If you would like to be a part of this, contact either Steve Senesac (Steve31416@gmail.com) or Conor McMahon (conor.mcmahon@geog.ucsb.edu).

For a full data report about the project, please visit <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/sbas-nest-box-program>

WHAT AUDUBON ACCOMPLISHED ON THE STRAUSS WIND PROJECT

By Steve Ferry, Project Leader

The Strauss Wind Energy Project is a wind farm slated to be built on 3,000 acres of range land about four miles south of Lompoc. It will comprise 29 wind turbine generators (WTGs) about 500 feet tall, near the end of San Miguelito Road. The site has exceptional plant and bird diversity, particularly raptors, and the project presents a significant risk to raptors, as most fly within the rotor-swept zone of the WTGs.

Accordingly, SBAS members invested countless hours (in meetings, research, and conferences) trying to make the project safer for birds and vulnerable plant species. In the end, the County decision makers were highly motivated to approve the project as submitted, due to their need to achieve their renewable energy goals. Despite this disappointment, we are proud that,

AUDUBON SUCCEEDED IN GETTING IMPORTANT PROTECTIONS FOR BIRDS ON THE PROJECT.

These include:

- Active control technology that will detect large birds and automatically curtail WTG operation.
- The wind farm operator must obtain a Golden eagle “take” permit.
- An Adaptive Management Plan will be implemented.
- If collision mortalities exceed certain thresholds, a public hearing will be required.
- Transmission line wires spaced to accommodate the California Condor.
- Markers on transmission lines.
- Meteorological towers without guy wires.
- Carrion to be removed from within 500 feet of each WTG.
- San Miguelito Road will be left open to the public for recreation, including birding.



Further, as a result of Audubon’s diligent efforts, developers and the County now know that they must consider bird conservation more seriously in future development projects.

For a more detailed report on this project, please visit our website at <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/audubon-accomplishments-on-strauss>.



Photo by Katherine Emery

SBAS: PROGRAMS

RODENT CONTROL WITHOUT POISONING OUR CHILDREN, PETS, & WILDLIFE

Presented by Kian and Joel Schulman

Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

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

Location: Farrand Auditorium, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Rodenticides are abundant throughout the ecosystem from residential and commercial usage, poisoning wildlife predator species including owls, hawks, foxes, bobcats, coyotes, and mountain lions at 80% to 90% exposure rates. Presenters Kian and Joel Schulman will discuss how this is unnecessary and describe alternative methods. Recent efforts to protect wildlife at the city, county, and state level will be presented.

Kian and Joel Schulman founded Poison Free Malibu in 2013 to work to stop the poisoning of wildlife. The effort started in Malibu, and spread to nearby cities and counties, and then statewide as a part of a coalition to pass state legislation restricting rat poisons.



Photo by Kian & Joel Schulman

NO SBAS PROGRAM IN APRIL

SBAS canceled our April program because it would have conflicted with an event that is sure to be of interest to our members:

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, environmental scientist, marine biologist, and MacArthur fellow **Jane Lubchenco** will present a talk entitled:

**From a Rude Awakening to a Bold New Vision:
The Path from a Disastrous Oil Spill to a Sustainable Future**

We encourage you to attend this free event at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, in UCSB's Campbell Hall.

In addition, please visit our SBAS booth at the annual Earth Day event in Alameda Park on Saturday, April 18.



Photo by Alan Schmierer

PLANT FOR BIRDS: USING NATIVE CALIFORNIA PLANTS TO CREATE HABITAT AT HOME

Presented by Scot Pipkin

Wednesday, May 27, 2020, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open 7:00 p.m. Join us for refreshments)

Location: Farrand Auditorium, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Plants are the foundation of most ecosystems on earth. To create rich, diverse, and resilient habitats in our yards and communities, we must start with the appropriate plants. In this program, we will explore the importance of native plants to our local birds as sources of food, roosting, nesting, and more. We'll take a close look at specific California native plants that can be used to enhance the habitat quality of our yards and communities and practices for maintaining bird-friendly habitat year-round.

Scot Pipkin is Director of Education and Engagement at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Scot was formerly director of community education at Audubon New Mexico in Santa Fe. He attended UCLA and received a degree in Geography with emphasis in biogeography and he also holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Arizona.



Photo by Sally Isaacson

THANK YOU, EITS VOLUNTEERS!

By Hannah Atkinson, EITS Director

This February, the volunteers of Eyes in the Sky (EITS) gathered for the group's annual training. It's a rare opportunity for all EITS volunteers—typically scattered across many weekly shifts—to come together in one place.

EITS is an organization made up almost entirely of volunteer caretakers and educators. Each week, more than forty volunteers donate their time to care for rescued birds of prey and to bring wildlife presentations to the public. Many volunteers take on multiple shifts each week, drive an hour or more to care for the birds, and continue to give their time after many years of service. Without a doubt, EITS volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization.

Below are the active volunteers who chose to be named here; there are still more who have dedicated time and attention to our birds and our community. Thank you, EITS volunteers, for your incredible skill and dedication!



Alex Shu
Amir Van
Ben Wolfe
Bernard Untermann
Betsy Mooney
Bettie Cox
Bonnie Whitney
Briana Sapp-Tivey
Celine Eising

Coni Edick
Courtney Purcell
Danielle Peters
David Byers
Deby Laranjo
Dylan Sherman
Gail Pine
Griselda Velazquez
Hans Conried

Jayne Wamsley
Jeff Hanson
John O'Brien
Joyce Carasa
Karla Shelton
Laura Calderon
Laurel Luby
Laurie Koc
Lisa Nelms

Marguerite Williams
Mary Eising
Mo McFadden
Pat Woodruff
Richard Nordli
Ryenne Bee
Sarah Prindle
Scott Fritsch-Hammes
Shelly Rosen

Teal Young
Teresa Fanucchi
Vicki Gardner
Wendy Bruss
Zoe Stevens

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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

Kristen Acosta**
Monique Allen**
Samuel Babcock**
Jocelyn Belloni*
Pat Bixler*
Barbara Blinderman*
Linus Blomqvist*
Barbara Burger**
Elliott Ciampi**
Jeanette Cibull**
Julia Cirincione*
Paul Cronshaw***
Barbara DeGroot*
Nancy Donahoe***
Tracie Doordan*
Stephen Drummy***
Laura Fariss**
Leslie Fisher**

Rebecca Garbett*
Alfonso Graziano**
Mrs. Gwen Guddal*
Lisa Hall*
Dennis Hall*
Patricia Halloran**
Bruce Hanna*
Barbara Hoffman**
Leslie Holtzman**
Gary & Corinne Horowitz*
Carolyn Jabs*
Pamela Lombardo*
Mary MacGregor-Villarreal*
Frances Marcuse**
Linda Mathews**
Kate McCurdy*
Daryl Metzger*
Kurt Meyer**

Cheryl Mignone*
Richard Morgan**
Frances Morris**
Isabelle Mort**
Barbara Neher*
Nancy Nielsen*
Helen Noble**
Victoria & John Perkins***
Elizabeth Perry*
Lynne Portnoy*
Spencer Price**
Christian Puga*
Joyce Raymond*
Emma Recher & Pascal
Lassaigne*
Nicole Rekstein**
Ray Riezman**
Linda Rose**

Alexander Rurik*
Anne Sander**
Martha Selfridge**
Alyssa Simonsen**
Melody Sullivan*
Theresa Sullivan*
Alison Tamminga*
Gloria Torres**
Trent Watanabe*
John Wilke**
Amanda Wilson*
Jeffrey Zukin*

* - 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.

WEST COAST SURVEY OF THE CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN

By Libby Patten, Santa Barbara County Coordinator

The California Brown Pelican was removed from the Endangered Species List in 2009, but its breeding success is still of concern. Several long-standing professional programs have monitored breeding colonies, primarily on offshore islands in Mexico and Southern California. During the non-breeding season, pelicans range as far north as British Columbia, foraging on coastal pelagic prey. Monitoring pelican distribution and abundance away from island breeding colonies provides valuable information on population status, availability of prey, and terrestrial habitat. This opportunity caused Audubon California and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in May 2016 to initiate a different approach to Brown Pelican population assessment using citizen science and surveys along the coast.

The newer survey's goals are to describe the distribution, abundance, and population structure (% adult, % subadult) of the Brown Pelican using volunteers to simultaneously count pelicans at roost sites near dusk up and down the West Coast. The counts are conducted biannually, once during the breeding season (May) and once during the post-breeding period (September). Since May 2016, volunteers in Santa Barbara County and those at approximately 100 other known coastal roosting locations have participated. Our Santa Barbara teams have primarily surveyed roosts in Santa Barbara Harbor and the Santa Maria River Estuary.

Key objectives are to count the total number of pelicans at each roost and categorize them as either adults (white-headed) or subadults (any brown on head). Understanding the age structure of the population is very helpful to researchers trying to assess breeding success. In general for the West Coast, many more pelicans are observed at coastal roosts during the non-breeding season (approximately 20,000) as expected, versus during the breeding season (approximately 6,000). Also the percentage of subadults tends to increase at higher latitudes (about double the % of subadults in Oregon and Washington versus in California). Santa Barbara County often has shown a fairly high percentage of the total coastal pelicans with about 1,000 seen for both surveys in 2019. Weather can skew the results, however, with a record high number (~800) seen during the breeding month of May, 2019, when rain may have caused birds to hunker down in the harbor.

More information on this multi-year survey can be found at: <http://ca.audubon.org/brownpelicansurvey>.



Photo by Deborah Jacques



Photo by Alex Loos

We appreciate the wonderful volunteers who braved weather and other issues to support the 2019 surveys: Alex Abela, Barbara Ahlman, Paul Bryant, Joan Kent, Libby Patten, Cathy Peterson, Dennis Ringer, and Meg White.

SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

Join us for two Friday Bird Walks each month.

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

FARREN ROAD

March 6, 2020 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Western Bluebirds, raptors, California Quail

Directions: From SB area take Hwy 101 north. Take the Winchester Canyon Rd exit. At the end of the ramp, go straight on Calle Real past the stop sign at the bridge and continue to the end of the road. Continue until Farren Rd is on your right. We will park on the side of the road at the beginning of Farren Rd.

ELINGS PARK

March 20, 2020 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Raptors, songbirds, juncos, warblers, finches, Hutton's Vireo, California Thrashers

Directions: From Hwy 101, either direction, take the Las Positas offramp and head toward the ocean. Look for the Elings Park entrance sign and turn left onto the Jerry Harwin Pkwy. Proceed to the Battistone Foundation soccer parking lot in front of the park office building. We will meet there and bird the area.

ENNISBROOK

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

Target Birds: Woodpeckers, warblers, towhees

Trip Leaders: Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson

Directions: Exit Hwy 101 at San Ysidro Rd and turn south onto N Jameson Ln. Turn left onto Hixon Rd. Turn right onto San Leandro Ln. We will park and meet in front of the small maintenance building along San Leandro Ln.

TUCKER'S GROVE AND KIWANIS MEADOWS

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

Target Birds: Cooper's Hawks, towhees, American Robins, Lesser Goldfinches, etc.

Directions: Take Hwy 101 and exit Turnpike Rd offramp. Turn toward the mountains, cross Cathedral Oaks Rd, and enter Tucker's Grove Park. We will park and meet near the playground restroom area.

UCSB CAMPUS LAGOON

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

Target Birds: Grebes, herons, dowitchers, godwits, plovers, ducks, etc.

Directions: From Hwy 101 south take the Ward Memorial Blvd exit. Take the Goleta Beach County Park exit and park at the west end of the Goleta Beach parking lot (near UCSB campus). Coming from the north on Hwy 101 take the Fairview Ave offramp and head toward the ocean. Follow Fairview Ave, which turns into Fowler Rd, and turn right into the Goleta Beach County Park. We will park and meet at the west end of the Goleta Beach parking lot (near the UCSB campus).

SAN JOSE CREEK & OPEN SPACE

May 22, 2020 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Hummingbirds, woodpeckers, songbirds, and maybe an owl

Directions: Take Hwy 101 to the Patterson Ave offramp and turn north toward the mountains. Turn left on Parejo Dr (second street from Hwy 101). Follow Parejo Dr to the end. Turn right on Merida Dr. We will meet and park at the end of Merida Dr.

FRIDAY BIRD WALKS continue on page 11.

FRIDAY BIRD WALKS CONTINUED...

CARPINTERIA SALT MARSH NATURE PARK

June 5, 2020 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Killdeer, curlews, ducks, teals, egrets, godwits, gulls, herons, raptors

Directions: Coming from the North on Hwy 101, take Linden Ave offramp. Coming from the South on Hwy 101, take Casitas Pass Rd offramp. Turn right on Carpinteria Ave, then left on Linden Ave. Follow Linden Ave toward the ocean and turn right on Sandyland Rd. Go to the end of Sandyland Rd to the Nature Park Entrance. We will meet there.

LAKE LOS CARNEROS

June 19, 2020 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Waterbirds, songbirds, raptors

Directions: Take Hwy 101 and exit Los Carneros offramp. Head toward the mountains (Stow House is 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.

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: ThisIsRobLindsay@gmail.com for details or questions.

RANCHO SANTA BARBARA

Saturday, March 14, 2020, 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Target Birds: Geese, Common Goldeneyes, Wood Ducks, Lewis's Woodpeckers, Clark's Grebes, American White Pelicans, and other waterbirds and passerines

Leader: Rob Lindsay

Directions: The Rancho Santa Barbara is located at 4001 Hwy 154. Meet at the Ranch entrance. We will enter as a group. Wear walking shoes. Binoculars and spotting scopes are useful. Bring water and a snack. Enjoy ranch owners Lee and Charles Carr's hospitality at one of the best inland birding areas in the county.

HOLLISTER RANCH

Saturday, April 4, 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 **March 29** 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!

NOJOQUI FALLS PARK

Saturday, May 16, 2020, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Target Birds: Yellow-billed Magpies, Purple Martins, Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Barn Owls, vireos, towhees, woodpeckers, and orioles.

Leader: Rob Lindsay

Directions: Take Hwy 101 north to the Nojoqui Falls turnoff (the next right turn-off after a large truck parking area at the top of the grade beyond the intersection with CA Hwy 1 to Lompoc). We will hike to the falls (an easy walk) and then bird the entire park. We will park and meet at the parking area nearest the falls. We recommend bringing water, a snack, or lunch.



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

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Santa Barbara County Birding <http://sbcbirding.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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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.

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☐ \$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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