

El Tecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.



Volume 59, Issue 1 / September – November 2020

www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

AUDUBON BOARD ANNUAL RETREAT

By Dolores Pollock, President

For the first time, the Audubon Board held its annual retreat via Zoom while the person taking notes (our Secretary, Kathleen Boehm) was in Wisconsin! July 9 saw 20 Board Members and others like *El Tecolote* Editor Joyce Carasa and Field Trips leader Rob Lindsay assembled virtually for a shortened version of our usual all-day Retreat. Much was accomplished, including refreshments (delivered by gift cards in the mail).

Dolores Pollock is starting her eighth and final year as Santa Barbara Audubon's President. At her request, Janice Levasheff has convened a four-person Nominating Committee with the goal of finding a new President and Vice President for 2021-22.

A deficit budget was approved. Expenses, already small, have been pared. Expectations for donations and grants are modest. We hope to exceed them. Prudent handling of funds in the past provides us with a buffer, which we do not want to deplete but which wards off budget cuts that would harm the organization.

Those present shared their pride in accomplishments of the past year such as completing a new 5-year Strategic Plan, integrating a new Executive Director, winning major concessions for birds in the Strauss Wind Energy Project, partnering with UCSB Arts & Lectures and the Museum of Natural History to host Cornell's Dr. Ken Rosenberg in a packed Fleischmann Auditorium, greatly expanding Meet Your Wild Neighbor in local schools, updating the website and making necessary adjustments to proceed with important work while challenged by Covid-19.

The two hours concluded with assignment of tasks to committees and individuals so that we can move forward on the goals of our Strategic Plan (copy at www.santabarbaraaudubon.org).

LOOKING AHEAD

By Dolores Pollock, President

First of all, I hope this finds you in good health. At Santa Barbara Audubon, we're doing fine, and although many of our activities are on "pause" and times are so uncertain, we remain surprisingly busy. We held our annual Board Retreat via Zoom, approved a new budget for the year and a new Strategic Plan for five years, prepared this newsletter, and bird-protecting committees are hard at work. We hope in our own way to continue contributing to the wellbeing of our community, offering (as the leader of another organization here in town said) "gentle optimism."

This is my last year as Santa Barbara Audubon's president and there is now a Nominating Committee, chaired by Janice Levasheff, charged with finding a new president.

Changes this year affect our bird walks and field trips (see Peter Thompson's article) and programs (see SBAS: PROGRAMS, p. 8). This is the tenth anniversary of the building of the Audubon Aviary at the Museum of Natural History and we hope to host an appropriate celebration.

With the country upset by disease and strife, Audubon believes that we all share one world, and it is our responsibility to make it better for everyone. We truly hope our values and actions help make it so.

A NEW LOOK FOR OUR DONOR WALL

Approaching the tenth anniversary of the completion of the Audubon Aviary at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, we refurbished the wall on which generous donors to that effort are named. Thank you again!



Photo by Betsy Mooney

Santa Barbara Audubon Society protects area birdlife and habitat and connects people with birds through education, conservation, and science. While we continue to champion birdlife and its importance to a healthy and vital ecosystem, we do so fully aware of and engaged in doing our part to address the pandemic, attendant economic hardships, and systemic racism. We are committed to bringing opportunities to all community members to enjoy nature and birds regardless of skin color, age, gender, mobility, religion, and economic and cultural background.

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY INTERIM BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

(to be confirmed at Annual Meeting, date to be announced)

President - Dolores Pollock
Vice President - Lee Moldaver
Secretary - Kathleen Boehm
Treasurer - Chris Mersey
Communications - Alexandra Loos
Conservation - Jessie Altstatt & Lori Gaskin
Development - OPEN
Education - Dotti Pak
Field Trips - Peter Thompson
Membership - Janice Levasheff
Programs - Teresa Fanucchi
Science - OPEN
At-Large - Ron Hirst

With many thanks to retiring Board Members
 Jayne Wamsley, Ken Pearlman, Steve Senesac, and
 Coni Edick for years of dedication and hard work
 for our Chapter. Fortunately, they have all found
 ways to continue working with SBAS through
 education, conservation, and science.

Welcome back, Ron Hirst,
 former SBAS President.

FROM THE DESK OF KATHERINE EMERY, Ph.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SBAS is actively working on many projects related to our three main focus areas: education, conservation, and science. This column will be updated regularly with an overview of selected current projects and goals (project list is not all-inclusive). Likewise, the goals summarize what each SBAS committee is working towards with occasional opportunities for member involvement.



Photo by David Levasheff

CURRENT PROJECTS	GOALS
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating digital outreach and learning materials to share Eyes in the Sky (EITS) raptor ambassadors with local schools, Scout clubs, & retirement communities. Developing interactive online Meet Your Wild Neighbor (MYWN) curriculum to support local 1st-3rd grade classrooms with distance learning for Fall 2020. Building outreach with UCSB Goleta Coast Audubon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share new SBAS Learning Resources and EITS video. https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/learning-resources/ Deliver adapted MYWN wildlife education program to local classrooms in the 2020-21 school year. Safely reintroduce in-person outreach programs with live raptors at Santa Barbara's Museum of Natural History, redesigned for socially-distanced audiences. Create "socially distant" adapted bird walks, bird sits, and monthly evening programs.
Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with agency decision-makers, providing public comments, and signing local conservation letters to promote bird, habitat, and biodiversity protections. Using science to inform decision making for bird protections and habitat for Goleta creeks and watersheds and City of Santa Barbara Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Encouraging use of Santa Barbara County Breeding Bird Study records as a tool to inform land management and resource planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build advocacy to protect local open spaces, wetlands, bird habitats, and ecosystems. Collaborate with Goleta Parks & Open Space Manager, SB County Flood Control staff, and others to preserve birdlife and habitat at regional open spaces (Lake Los Carneros [LLC] & Ellwood), creek corridors, and Coal Oil Point Reserve [COPR]). Remind agencies that fuels reduction should occur during non-breeding times, specifically during the months ending with "r": September, October, November, December.
Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completing 9th year of Nest Box monitoring at LLC to understand Tree Swallows (TRES) and Western Bluebirds (WEBL) breeding more deeply. Invertebrate project perseveres in reduced capacity. Finishing Purple Martin nest cavity surveys at Nojoqui Falls Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize Nest Box breeding data at LLC & COPR. Complete data analyses about invertebrate research at North Campus Open Space & COPR. Explore research and conservation fund to protect Purple Martins.

FLASH! The SBAS mailing address has changed. Please use the following address when you wish to get in touch:
Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., P.O. Box 6737, Santa Barbara, CA 93160.

If you have recently sent us something to our old P.O. Box, it will be forwarded. Should any mail you've sent to us be returned as undeliverable, it is in error. Please notify Janice at Membership@santabarbaraaudubon.org. Thank you!

MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

A SERIES INTRODUCING THE DIRECTORS OF OUR CHAPTER

By Dotti Pak



New Education Chair Dotti Pak joined the Board in July and is excited about the opportunity to help develop new ways to share the mission of SBAS with local students, teachers, and the public.

Originally from Indiana, Dotti received her A.B. in Geology from Mount Holyoke College and her M.S. in Geology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has lived in Santa Barbara since earning her Ph.D. in Earth Science from Columbia University in 1996.

Although Dotti is new to Audubon, she has worked in informal education for over 20 years. She is currently the Education Director of the UCSB Materials Research Laboratory, where she is in charge of developing and implementing education programs for K-12 students, teachers, undergraduates, and the public. In addition, she is a researcher in the UCSB Marine Science Institute, focusing on the last several thousand years of ocean temperature change on the California Margin. She is looking forward to the opportunity to combine her interests in environmental science and climate change and informal education through SBAS.

SBAS: EITS NEWS

OUR RAPTORS AND VOLUNTEERS HOLD STEADY

By Hannah Atkinson, EITS Director

At Eyes in the Sky, birds and volunteers alike continue to weather unusual times. As visitors move slowly through the Backyard of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, they find our six raptor ambassadors relaxing in their aviaries, tended to by a team of behind-the-scenes volunteers.



Normally, the EITS volunteer teams present the birds to crowds of Museum visitors. Though that outreach hasn't yet resumed, work goes on. The caretaking crew has grown from the spring "skeleton crew" of five volunteers and now numbers thirteen, each volunteering several hours out of every week. These raptor-care volunteers clean aviaries, monitor the health of the birds, and bring them out into the sun for enrichment.

As the lull continues, our full EITS volunteer teams wait for an opportunity to get back into the aviary with the birds they love. In the meantime, the EITS outreach programs are going digital: Max, our Great Horned Owl, can now Zoom into classrooms for a visit on live video, and the Meet Your Wild Neighbor classroom curriculum is being adapted for distance learning. Though the birds are staying home, they continue to inspire wonder throughout our community.



BREEDING BIRD STUDY

By Mark Holmgren

Have you wondered which bird species breed in your neighborhood? Do you think about how many birds nest in telephone poles or in palm trees? Do your students need to devise a project involving breeding birds? The Santa Barbara Breeding Bird Study (BBS) provides a starting point for these and many more inquiries. BBS is publicly available in its new Web Map Application and Database format by going to Santa Barbara Audubon's website, santabarbaraaudubon.org, selecting Santa Barbara County Breeding Bird Study under the "What We Do" menu, and clicking on the "Explore the Data" button.



Photo by Adrian O'Loughlen

The purpose of the BBS is to bring together information on all breed-

ing birds in all parts of the county to facilitate explorations of the relationships between birds and land. These explorations can inform conservation, bird watching, research, environmental planning, and education at several levels. By connecting breeding activities to specific locations and dates we get a better understanding of breeding birds specifically in our county.

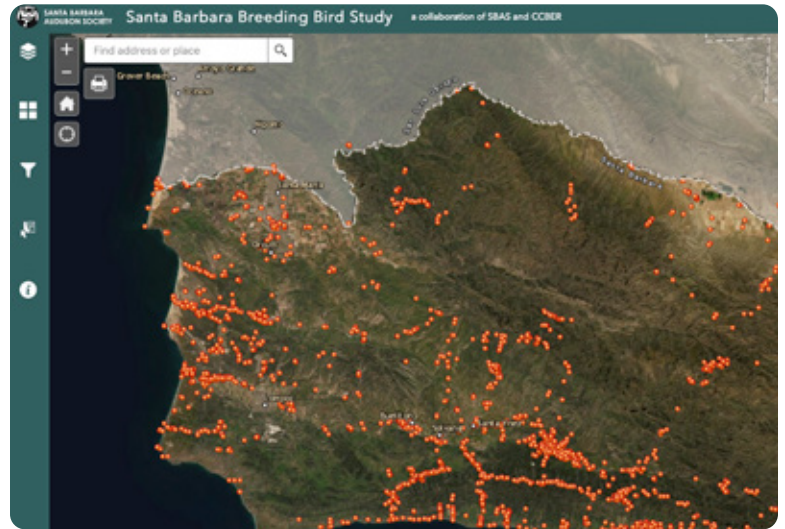
A particular strength of the BBS is the 1500 photos of breeding that provide evidence and examples of where and how breeding takes place.

To make this resource available to the public we have released the link to the BBS as we develop other materials. We now have a repository on Santa Barbara Audubon's website where one can view tutorials, examine other data displays, obtain background information on the project, and read about our data collection methods.

You can submit breeding bird events that you detect either by clicking on the "Online Data Submittal" button on the BBS page, or go here: <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/sb-breeding-bird-survey-data-submittal/>

For more information, go to <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/santa-barbara-county-breeding-bird-study>

We've had generous assistance from SB Audubon's co-sponsor in this project, UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (<https://www.ccber.ucsb.edu>).



PROTECTIONS FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS RESTORED!

In *National Audubon Society v. Department of the Interior*, U.S. District Judge Valerie Caproni struck down a Trump administration decision to scale back U.S. government protections for migratory birds enshrined since 1918 in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The proposed change would have released companies from responsibility (and fines) for accidentally killing migratory birds during the normal course of business. In her 31-page decision, Judge Caproni wrote "there is nothing in the text of the [MBTA] that suggests that in order to fall within its prohibition, activity must be directed specifically at birds," adding "Nor does the statute prohibit only intentionally killing migratory birds. And it certainly does not say that only 'some' kills are prohibited."

Heavily advocated by environmental groups at the outset, the MBTA received clarifying interpretations over time, specifying that both purposeful and incidental bird killings were illegal. Shortly before he left office, the Obama administration issued a legal opinion that the MBTA does include the incidental killing of birds, but in 2017 the Department of the Interior released a new legal opinion, arguing that the original law never mentions incidental take and ending industry accountability for it, and in January of this year, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service released a proposal to codify this interpretation. Caproni's ruling – prompted by lawsuits filed by National Audubon and other environmental organizations, along with eight states – overturns that suspension, restoring the interpretation that any violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$15,000 and imprisonment for up to six months.



Photo by David Levasheff

NEW BOOK FROM JOAN EASTON LENTZ

By Dolores Pollock, President

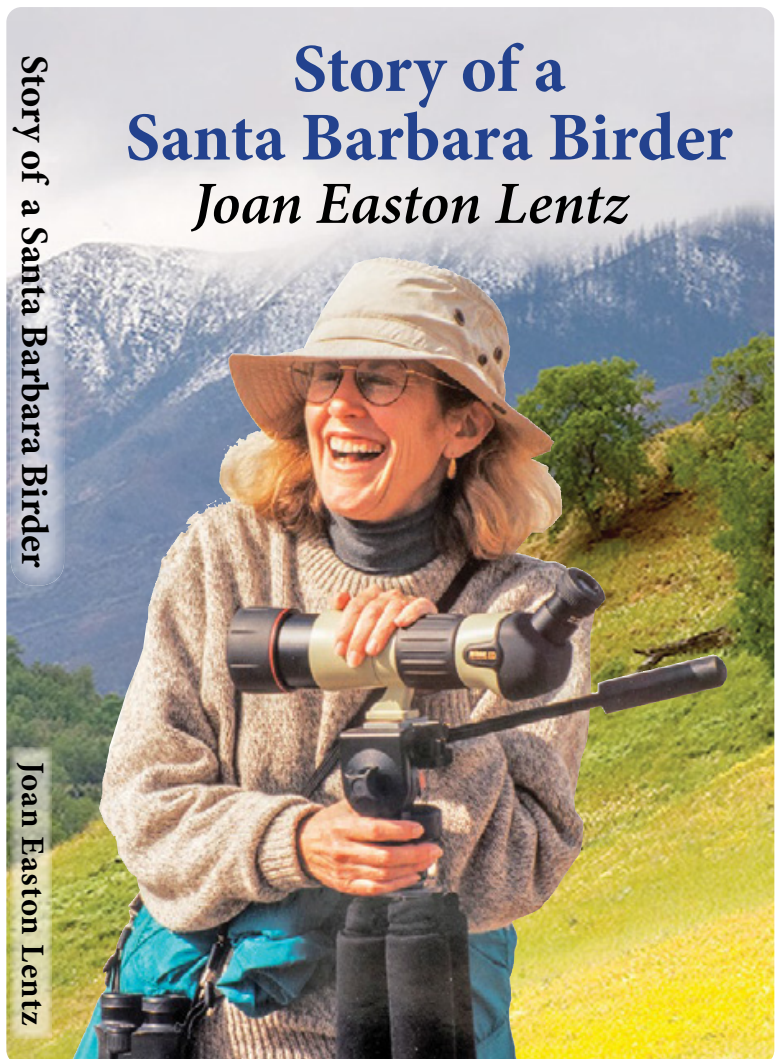
In her more than thirty-five years as a serious student of our region's natural history, Joan Easton Lentz organized 17 of our Christmas Bird Counts, wrote several books on area birds and natural history, and taught many of us our first birding lessons. We are happy to introduce her newest publication, **Story of a Santa Barbara Birder**.

For the first time, Joan invites us to view her life in Santa Barbara and how growing up here engendered her passion for birds and nature. Sharing her journey from novice to seasoned birder, she relives local bird adventures, describes the spectacle of bird migration both on and offshore, and gives us a ringside seat at the birth of our local birding community. Joan writes the book is "neither a memoir nor a bird book, but a story woven from both text and photos – an intimate portrait of a woman's life devoted to family and nature."

Kimball L. Garrett, Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County shares this endorsement:

"Story of a Santa Barbara Birder is a precious offering from a gifted teacher and writer, Joan Easton Lentz, to all who enjoy nature. From those who have long been immersed in Santa Barbara's beautiful and fascinating biodiversity, to those who might only now be discovering the wonders of the natural world around them, this is a book about birds and birding and about the magic and abundance of the Santa Barbara region. But most importantly, Joan shares her personal story about a woman's awakening to the gifts of nature, and chronicles a journey that shows, ultimately, the tangible and demonstrable benefits that Nature itself gives to all of us."

The book is available in B/W and color editions at amazonbooks.com (and smile.amazon.com), Missioncreekstudios.com – distributor – dave@missioncreek.com, and joaneastonlentz.com.



SBAS HELPS KEEP DOGS ON LEASHES

Santa Barbara Audubon Society Conservation Committee is hard at work advocating for a number of principal bird protections in our community. We thank City of Goleta staff and Parks and Open Space Manager, George Thomson, for putting up new and essential "Dogs Must Be On Leash" signs at Lake Los Carneros (LLC). They look great! SBAS is committed to working with City of Goleta to increase signage at LLC and Ellwood, preserve our natural open spaces, and protect birds and their habitats.

SBAS: NEWS

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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



Heather Annese**
Sharon Baumert-Kysely
& Arden Kysely***
Olivia Benbow**
David Blue***
Rita Boss**
Erin Boyd**
Carol Bury**
David Byers*
John Callender*
Barbara A Clark***
Rabbi Steve Cohen**
Justine Cooper**
Kristin Cothorn**
Sean Cummings*
Julia Delgado***
Nancy Donald***
Gregory Donovan*
Beatriz Salome
Dussan-Duque**
Alice Edwards***
Roy Ellison**

Cinda Erdman**
Nicole Evans*
Laura Fariss***
Gloria Fletcher**
Jean Gardner*
Louis Goldich*
Rich & Sarah Hanna***
Nancy Hassett**
Fred Hayward**
Ruth Hellier & Tim Cooley***
Ian Jackson**
Barbara Johnston**
Kylie Kershaw**
Patricia Kinnahan**
Claudia Knudson**
Don & Carol Lauer***
Kathleen Laurain**
Corinne Laverty*
Hsingyi Lin*
Carol Lingham**
Dana Loughlin*
Mark Matthias*

Susanne Meyer***
Anaiya Mussolini*
Alexa Mutti*
Laura Nelson**
Jeffrey Nugent*
Thompson Ogilvie**
Dotti Pak*
Edward Parrish**
Alistair Paterson**
Steve Penner**
Craig Peterson**
Susan Petrovich**
Fletcher Phillips**
Diadre Quinn**
Wendy Rogers**
Carol Schmidt**
Wendy Scott**
Anne Shelton***
Nancy Shepherd***
Patricia Sheppard***
Jim Small*
Garilynn Stanfield*

Phil Stanovich**
Debra Stewart*
Susan C Stonich**
Judith Stulberg**
Nancy Terman**
Carol Terry***
William Underwood**
Robin Vanderlip**
Susan Vick*
Laura Vogel**
Eric Waldo**
Diana Washburn*
Bonnie Weinberg**
Gretchen Wenner**
Jim & Nancy Wiggins*
Arnette Zerbe**

* - 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!

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.

Sketches by Betty Levasheff



YOU CAN HELP GROW SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON

We are all justly proud of the work our chapter does in improving the environment and educating our community about the wonders of nature. Imagine how much more good we could do with more members! There is surely a pool of talent among our friends and acquaintances, and Executive Director Katherine Emery has dived in and invited friends and colleagues to join SBAS.

Additionally, Lori Gaskin, Conservation Co-Chair, recently tried this approach in an email chat group. Here is what she wrote:

"I am going to engage in a little shameless promotion for Santa Barbara Audubon Society. For the others on this email. . . my name is Lori Gaskin and I am on the Board of Santa Barbara Audubon Society. If you are not a member, please consider joining. We work really hard to advance our mission of protecting area birdlife and habitat and connecting people with birds through education, conservation, and science. Check out our website: <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org>".

Both of these dedicated individuals encourage all of us to do the same. Please join our efforts to increase our flock.



Photo by Glenn Kincaid

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all for donations and membership renewals, especially appreciated right now.

For using Amazon Smile--small amounts add up.

For your understanding as we adjust to the health needs of our community.

FIELD TRIP AND BIRD WALK UPDATE

By Peter Thompson, Field Trip Chair

Hello Birding Friends: Due to ongoing need for social distancing, SBAS has decided to continue our suspension of trips through the fall quarter. We want to be out there birding as much as you do but, for the immediate future, we must avoid unnecessary risks.

Stay in touch through our website (santabarbaraadubon.org) for future updates and please remember: the birds are still here, nature is doing just fine, so grab your binoculars and field guide and head for your backyard or an open space and enjoy a fun birding experience.

Field Trip planners meeting by Zoom



Photo by Jeff Hanson

NEW INFORMATION ABOUT MAKING A DONATION

In these troubled times, birds have given us great pleasure and comfort, and we pledge to keep them and their environment safe. Please consider helping us with a donation. Your support right now is greatly needed and appreciated.

The new CARES Act offers interesting advantages when you make a donation, beginning in 2020. First, even households that do not itemize their taxes may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300. The CARES Act also relaxes the limit on donations for itemizers – increasing the amount that can be deducted from 60% of adjusted gross income to 100% of adjusted gross income. Both of these provisions explicitly exclude enhanced deductions to donor advised funds (DAFs), so if you regularly give to a DAF you might consider making additional gifts outright to take advantage of the extra tax advantages. Finally, if you are above age 70.5 you can still make charitable donations from your IRA, even if you are not yet taking distributions. As always, consult with a tax advisor to optimize the giving plan that is right for you.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SAVELLY (SAM) CHIRMAN, 1929-2020

By Dolores Pollock, President

Born in Belgium, Sam Chirman spent most of his adult life in Santa Barbara, impacting the community as a physician, father, husband, and philanthropist. He died on May 9 in Portland, OR, where he moved in 2013 with his wife, Darlene Chirman (SBAS President Emerita).

During World War II, Sam's family fled Nazi-occupied Belgium. His parents sent him alone to the US under the care of Quaker American Friends Service. Sam learned English, went to college, served in the Korean War, and decided to become a doctor. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1959. Moving to Santa Barbara in 1964, Sam worked for the County and Cottage Hospital and became Director of Internal Medicine at Rehabilitation Hospital of Santa Barbara. He and Darlene married in 1979.

Sam loved to travel. Working vacations took him far and wide. Interests included bicycling, cooking, reading and do-it-yourself projects. He contributed hours of time and labor at Coal Oil Point and Arroyo Hondo Preserve and at Zenger Farm in Portland. Sam built nest boxes for Santa Barbara Audubon and was always ready to help.

He will be fondly remembered and missed by his family and the communities he touched.

A memorial gathering will be held in California in the future. If you wish to share recollections of Sam, please e-mail them to darlene.chirman@gmail.com--they will be shared with the family.



Photo by Adam Lewis

SBAS: PROGRAMS

By Teresa Fanucchi, Programs Chair

Our monthly programs are going virtual! As in past years, our programs resume in the fall, but this time we will be gathering via Zoom. As each date approaches, look for an email—or consult our website or social media—for a connection link. Are you new to Zoom? Please don't let that deter you from joining us. Programs chair Teresa Fanucchi can help you get started. Call or email her: (805) 705-3796; Programs@santabarbaraadubon.org. All programs are on Wednesdays, beginning at 7:30 p.m.: September 23, October 28, and November 18.

FROM SEA TO SUMMIT: THE MARVELOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Presented by Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom (link will be posted on our website and social media as date approaches)

From Alaska to the high Andes of South America, join Benny Jacobs-Schwartz as he leads us on an exploration of the magic of hummingbirds. With over 360 species recognized globally, he will discuss their remarkable biology, expansive range, ecological significance, and the best way to attract them to your yard. Benny's presentation is enhanced by stunning photos and educational videos. Plus, a local hummingbird ID section is included.

Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz (aka BIJS) works seasonally as a naturalist, expedition trip leader, and international bird guide. He has worked in coastal Alaska, Trinidad and Tobago, and the cloud forest of Ecuador. At home base in Los Angeles, he leads birding adventures to urban hotspots, where he inspires others to conserve the open spaces around them and look up more often from their phones. A passionate photographer, he specializes in birds. He is owner and operator of BIRDS by BIJS (pronounced Bee-jus).

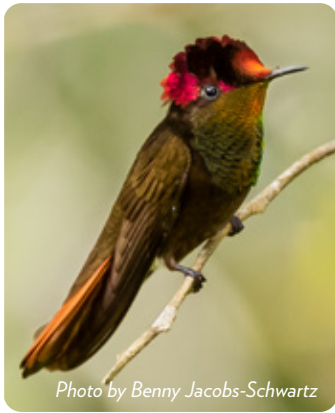


Photo by Benny Jacobs-Schwartz



Photo by Jenny Murolo

RODENT CONTROL WITHOUT POISONING OUR CHILDREN, PETS, & WILDLIFE

Presented by Kian and Joel Schulman with Cathy Schoonmaker

Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom (link will be posted on our website and social media as date approaches)

Rodenticides abound 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, along with National Park Service ranger Cathy Schoonmaker, will discuss how this is unnecessary and describe alternative methods, presenting recent efforts to protect wildlife at the city, county, and state level.

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 part of a coalition to pass state legislation restricting rat poisons.

Cathy Schoonmaker is an Outdoor Recreation Planner for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. With a degree in Environmental Biology, she has over 10 years of experience working with our native Southern California wildlife, specifically coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions. Ms. Schoonmaker currently works on the Nature Neighbor Program, sponsored by the National Park Service, providing outreach and education to local communities about our wildlife's success and struggles living adjacent to urban areas and how residents can coexist with these animals.



Photo by Kian & Joel Schulman

SBAS: PROGRAMS

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

Presented by Scot Pipkin

Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom (link will be posted on our website and social media as date approaches)

Plants are the foundation of most ecosystems. 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 closer look at your habitat goals and identify specific California native plants that can help you maintain bird-friendly habitat year-round.

Scot Pipkin is Director of Education and Engagement at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Born and raised in San Diego, he received a degree in geography with emphasis in biogeography from UCLA. He has spent his career acquiring and sharing an understanding of the natural world that emphasizes the interconnections of all life forms. These efforts have taken him to some of the most beautiful and ecologically rich places in the Southwest, including Yosemite, the redwoods of the San Mateo Coast, Tejon Ranch, Saguaro National Park in Arizona, and the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. Along the way, he received a degree in landscape architecture from the University of Arizona and spent countless hours identifying plants, birds, butterflies, and anything else that has come his way.



SBAS: NEWS

BECOME A BREEDING BIRD STUDY CONTRIBUTOR FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME

By Jessie Altstatt, Conservation Committee Co-Chair

Bird watching is a soothing activity any time, but especially now while many of us are at home. If you have a window or yard, you can observe birds. Consider looking for birds in our urban forest of street trees while out for a walk or from your front door. Although nesting season is just about over for the year, you might get lucky and observe a straggling fledgling crying for food or flying awkwardly. When spring returns, be on the lookout for nest-building and collecting food for babies. With these observations, you can become a contributor of valuable data to our Breeding Bird Study (p.4). What to look for? Here are some simple tell-tales. A bird carrying a stick is probably building a nest. A bird carrying an insect may be taking it to feed its young. Watch the direction that the bird flies. You may see the bird return within a few minutes. Back-and-forth trips will confirm your suspicions. Note that you do not have to locate a nest to submit an observation of breeding behavior! Listen carefully while watching. Do you hear the parent bird scolding you for getting too close? Do you hear the begging of hungry young birds? Valuable observations like these make up the nearly 10,000 records in our Breeding Bird Study, and you can help!



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**FOR
BREAKING
SBAS NEWS**

THANK YOU, 2019-2020 DONORS!

Great Horned Owl (\$25,000+)

Susanne & Carroll Barrymore
Steinmetz Foundation

Condor (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

May & Bill Allison Foundation
Ann Steinmetz & Steve Senesac
Mary D Thompson

Eagle (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Anonymous
Darlene Chirman
Estate of Robert Sollen
Julie & Marc Kummel
Mosher Foundation
Roger A Clarke Classical Trust

Falcon (\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Valerie Bentz
Cecilia Brown
Wendel M Bruss
Nancy & Tom Crawford, Jr.
Joel & Vasanti Fithian
Mark Holmgren
Glenn Kincaid
Sally & Brent Kitson
David & Janice Levasheff
Marla Mercer & Rick Herzog
Sharon Metsch
Janet Oetinger
Gail Osherenko & Oran Young
Patagonia
Dolores & Bill Pollock
William & Arlene Radasky
Melissa Riparetti-Stepien
Catherine Rose
Lisa Stratton & Peter Schuyler
SoCalGas/Goleta Storage Facility
Nancy States
Richard & Paula Whited

Meadowlark (\$500 to \$999)

Alex & Joyce Carasa
City of Goleta
Nancy L Donaldson
Lori Gaskin
Peggy Kearns & Jeff Hanson
Laurel Luby & Thomas Beland
Kate Schepanovich
Mary Sheldon
Barbara Wagner & Martin Scharlemann
Philip & Carolyn Wyatt

Roadrunner (\$100 to \$499)

Barbara & John Ahlman
Courtney Andelman
Jill Barnitz
Nancy Baron
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Peter & Linda Beuret
Donald & Diana Blackwill
Kathleen Boehm
Tom & Joan Bolton
Tara Brown
Roland Bryan
Doug & Lee Buckmaster
Lynne Cantlay
Dave & Margaret Carlberg, Keep
up the good work!
Dorothy A Chassé
Marni Cooney
Susan & Jim Deacon
Rodney Durham
David & Ann Dwelley
Sally & Terry Eagle
Coni Edick
Ronald J Ehmsen
Sue Ehrlich
Katherine Emery
Sally Enthoven
Teresa Fanucchi
Stephen & Betty Ferry
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Leslie Griffin
Gayle & Robert Hackamack
Helen Harris
Alice Henry
Karl & Nancy Hutterer
Kerry Katch
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Joan Kent & John Bridgwater
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Melissa & Stephen Murdoch, in
honor of Joan Murdoch
Wendy Pelton & Maryann Rainey
Lanette Perry
Jeff & Mandy Phillips, with regards
to Katherine Emery
Kathy Piasecki
Janet S Pickthorn
Jennifer J Plana
Hjalmar & Minie Pompe van
Meerdervoort
Colleen Poulsen
Anonymous
Nanci Robertson
Anne Roediger

Gerrold & Barbara Rubin
Paul & Sandy Russell
Steven W Russell, in honor of the great
work of Jeff Hanson & Peggy Kearns
Ann Sanders & Gerry Winant,
Thank you!
Jack & Cathy Sanford
Alice & Sheldon Sanov
Santa Barbara Social Club
Briana Sapp-Tivey
Douglas & Diane Scalapino
Steve Senesac
Jo-Ann Shelton
Holly & Lanny Sherwin
Lucia Snowhill
Gordon & Melba Sprague,
Thanks for your work
Malcolm Stevens, in honor of
Zoe Stevens & Merry Christmas!
Debra Stewart, with thanks to David
Levasheff
Peter & Mary Thompson
Donald & Marge Thornton
Susanne Tobey
Nancy Tobin
Cherie Topper, in support of Audubon's
work on behalf of birds and the
environment
Vincent, Nancy, & Mirra Tubiolo
Janet Uribe
Anonymous
Virginia Urschel
Jayne Wamsley
Thomas Whittemore
Don & Anna Ylvisaker
Robert & Katy Zappala

APPRECIATION FEELS GOOD

We really enjoy the nice notes we sometimes receive from our members and donors. They brighten our spirits, strengthen our resolve to protect our local birds, and help us look forward to the day when we can reconnect with you in person! Below are a few examples – we thought we would share the uplifting moments they bring ...

*I'm so happy we are
able to support Audubon
and the very important
work that's being done!*

Friend of Audubon

*Hi -
I'd appreciate
\$500, at least, to
go to the Conservation
Committee. They
are doing amazing
things and I think
they have some
needs that money
can help!*
Slainte
Sharon Petersch

THANK YOU, 2019-2020 DONORS!

Snowy Plover (\$1 - \$99)

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you do!
Zoe Stevens
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Susie & Donnie Wells
Steve & Sheila Wiley
Jim Williams

Dear Janice,

I sent my membership renewal earlier this month (basic \$26), but sitting on the patio, reading El Tecolote this morning, I was so enchanted. Please

use this check to move

my membership to
Sponsor level.

Thanks for not losing
spirit during these trying
times.

Patricia

Dear S.B. Audubon Society,

In these challenging times of Covid-19, protesting for George Floyd, folks losing their lively hoods, isolating that can be lonely at times. What has saved me are the birds in our garden and meadow. The adorable baby quail, the Western Bluebird babies in our nestbox, The heron catching gophers, the woodpeckers and jays antics. The gorgeous orioles and coopers hawk visit daily. Because of these amazing birds that lift my heart and soul I am donating a \$1,000.00 to your wonderful organization. I trust and honor all of you who are protecting the birds, wildlife and environment of California and beyond.

In deep appreciation to
S.B Audubon. Team

Sincerely, Melissa Riparetti-Stepien
P.S. The fox family is alive! ^{one fox} visited yesterday. ☺



El Tecolote
Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 6737
Santa Barbara, CA 93160

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

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EITSDirector@santabarbaraaudubon.org

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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



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.**

I'll be a Chapter-Supporting Member!

☐ New ☐ Renewing

☐ \$26 Basic ☐ \$100 Sustaining ☐ \$1000 Benefactor
☐ \$50 Sponsor ☐ \$500 Patron

Chapter memberships are separate from National Audubon memberships. 100% of your dues stay local and keep SBAS strong and sustainable so we can protect birds and their habitat now and into the future. You enable us to continue sharing the joys and importance of birds with all.

We urge you to join SBAS and invite friends, colleagues, neighbors, and 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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City, State, Zip Code

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()

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Contact Membership@santabarbaraaudubon.org if you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically and/or to gift a membership to someone.

Mail membership form with check to:

Santa Barbara Audubon Society, P.O. Box 6737, Santa Barbara, CA 93160

If you prefer to join/donate electronically, visit: santabarbaraaudubon.org/join-sbas

SBAS does not share personal information with other organizations.

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