

El Tecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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THE 121ST CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

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

We've heard it said in every possible way: 2020 was a year to remember. To that end, in October the CBC team began discussing how and whether to hold the count during a pandemic. We debated the pros and cons, and in mid-December decided to go ahead, with the thanks of many birders who were eloquent in their pleas to continue: It was no small gift to have something to look forward to in this year of canceled plans.

Our results were a wonderful surprise, considering the reduced number of participants (155 instead of the usual 225+). The **final species total of 206** reflected a huge effort by dedicated birders who covered our count circle. There were many highlights: The male **Tufted Duck** returned for its eighth year, turning up at Rancho Goleta Lake; **Mountain Quail** were found at several places along Camino Cielo; two sea watch finds—**Black-legged Kittiwake** and a **Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater**—were a great surprise (identified only to genus level but countable!).



Photo by Liz Muraoka

more were also found. **Black-and-White Warbler** was found at UCSB although very few had been seen around the circle lately. **Tennessee, Nashville, MacGillivray's, Yellow, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's Warblers** were all found around the circle after great scouting prior to count day.

Except for the pelagic rarities above, despite calm conditions on the channel, seabirds were few: **Clark's Grebe, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern** and **Caspian Tern** were all missed on count day, though **Clark's Grebe** and **Forster's Tern** were seen during count week. Other birds recorded during count week were **Short-eared Owl, Lucy's Warbler** (actually seen count day, too, but just outside the boundary!), and **Hermit Warbler**. (Article continues on page 2.)



Photo by Liz Muraoka

For the second year in a row, **Yellow-crowned Night-heron** was present at Goleta Beach, and **American White Pelican** surprised everyone at Lake Los Carneros, as did a **Least Bittern** discovered there at dusk. We counted seven owl species, including the more uncommon **Northern Pygmy, Burrowing, Spotted, and Northern Saw-whet**. (The **Short-eared** was not seen on the day, but at this writing it still continues at More Mesa.) The **Warbling Vireo** returned for its eighth winter at Bohnett Park. (This species is so rare in winter that we presume it is the same individual favoring the same small park year after year.) **Hammond's Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher** and **Eastern Phoebe** made a great flycatcher show; mountain species were represented by **Pygmy Nuthatch** and **Townsend's Solitaire** at La Cumbre Peak. A **Lawrence's Goldfinch** was heard calling repeatedly overhead at the Santa Barbara Harbor as a keen-eared birder made his way to the boat for pelagic duty. An unexpected late addition of **Pacific Wren** in a Goleta backyard came from a savvy birder watching the local listserv for reports. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found at San Marcos Foothills preserve, and orioles turned up after scarce reports leading to count day: two **Hooded** at private residences, and **Bullock's, and Baltimore Oriole**.

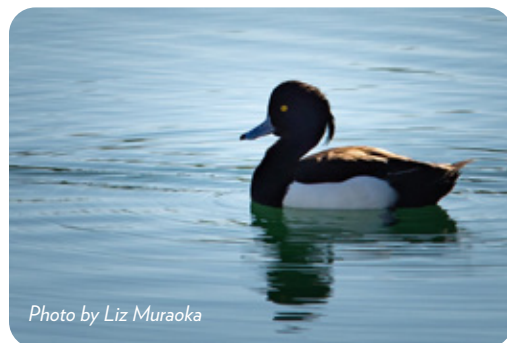


Photo by Liz Muraoka

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.



Photo by Alex Loos

(The 121st Christmas Bird Count continued from page 1)

Thank you for your steadfast support of the CBC: Santa Barbara Audubon, the compiling team, mapping and data crunching experts, Zoom gurus, and all the birders who scout, mobilize, and inspire us to do it every year. Thank you.

State and national ranking for number of species below. The full list of species and numbers of birds recorded for each will be available soon at the Audubon website.

# Species	Count Circle
223	Matagorda/Mad Island Marsh, TX
220	San Diego, CA
213	Guadalupe River Delta, TX
210	Freeport, TX
206	Santa Barbara, CA
202	Morro Bay, CA

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 toward with occasional opportunities for member involvement.

Photo by David Levasheff



CURRENT PROJECTS	GOALS
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing socially distant education & outreach programs to serve our community during COVID. • Teaching online Meet Your Wild Neighbor curriculum at 12 local 1st-3rd grade classrooms. • Bringing Eyes in the Sky raptor ambassadors to local schools and other groups via Zoom for 15-60 min. presentations. (Contact Hannah) • Presenting monthly Evening Programs via Zoom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule new SBAS Zoom outreach program at local retirement communities. (Please contact Hannah or Dotti to set this up.) • Circulate new SBAS Learning Resources and Additional Resources: https://santabarbaraadubon.org/learning-resources/ • Reintroduce in-person raptor outreach at Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. • Continue work with UCSB Goleta Coast Audubon.
Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with agency decision-makers, providing public comments, and authoring local conservation letters to promote bird, habitat, and biodiversity protections. (e.g., Manzanita Wind Power Project Condor Incidental Take Permit, City of Goleta LEDs, and Baron Ranch Master Plan.) • 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. 	<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 and stream corridors. • Run the Breeding Bird Study (BBS) project for its 6th year; gather, edit, and curate the 9300 BBS records & continue promoting breeding data as a tool to inform land management and resource planning.
Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring community science outreach about Nest Box monitoring of breeding Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds at Lake Los Carneros (LLC). • Processing aquatic invertebrate data for COPR and North Campus Open Space to provide quantitative data in support of understanding and evaluating ecosystem health. • Working on Kite Watch, the community-based program of gathering White-tailed Kite breeding data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan 2021 Nest Box monitoring & related outreach. • Strategize adapted Winter Bird Count 4 Kids community science event at LLC. • Devise COVID-safe ways of encouraging community members to gather White-tailed Kite breeding information for the season that began in January and goes till September. (Contact Mark Holmgren.)

SBAS: NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dolores Pollock

Thank you for voting to approve the slate of officers for 2020-2021 (interim until now) and the changes in our Articles of Incorporation, which will be filed with the California Secretary of State.

Meanwhile, the Nominating Committee, chaired by Janice Levasheff, is working hard on the slate of officers for 2021-2022. All parts of the Audubon community are welcome and encouraged to enter suggestions. We hope to hold that election at an annual meeting and picnic during the summer.

As we start 2021, the state of our chapter is secure. Thanks to your generous donations, we have rectified the deficit budget approved for this year. Our monthly programs, Board and committee meetings, the CBC compilation, and visits to classrooms are proceeding virtually—and well. Many thanks to everyone for the hard work, flexibility, and good humor that made all this possible. What a team!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Janice Levasheff

Our current President, Dolores Pollock, is stepping down at the end of June to enjoy the next phase of her life. Board members Teresa Fanucchi, Chris Mersey, Peter Thompson, and I have volunteered to find our next chapter president. Please contact me (Janice Levasheff) at Membership@santabarbaraaudubon.org if you (or someone you know) can contribute time, strategic thinking, and leadership and would be interested in exploring this opportunity.

If you would first like to sit in on a Board meeting to see how we run and learn about all that we are doing for birds and their habitat, please let me know. Our meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month, except for July and August. They run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and are currently held via Zoom. Visitors are indeed welcome!

SBAS: EITS NEWS

RAPTOR OUTREACH FROM AFAR: LONG-DISTANCE VISITS FROM THE EITS BIRDS

By Hannah Atkinson, EITS Director

Through the early months of 2021, Santa Barbara has seen some of its highest-ever rates of COVID-19. Despite the surge, a small and incredibly dedicated team of Eyes in the Sky volunteers has continued to care for the birds. The program's pool of almost 50 volunteers remains tightened down to a skeleton crew of about 15, with some individuals covering multiple shifts every week to ensure that each bird gets individual attention.

With Santa Barbara County still in the state's highest tier of virus transmission at the time of writing, public EITS presentations remain on pause. As visitors return to the Museum in small numbers, they can see the birds in their aviaries, but volunteers continue only behind the scenes, as they did in the summer months. Still, even with in-person programs on pause, the birds have continued to visit hundreds of local elementary school students via Zoom. The Meet Your Wild Neighbor program, which reached only 3 classrooms in past years, is scheduled for 12 classrooms by the end of spring. In addition, digital visits from the owls have delighted students in Santa Barbara and Goleta schools even from a distance.

EITS continues to schedule raptor visits in local schools and retirement communities. To learn more about planning a digital visit from the birds, please contact me at EITSDirector@santabarbaraaudubon.org.



Photo by Janice Levasheff

MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

A SERIES INTRODUCING THE DIRECTORS OF OUR CHAPTER

INTRODUCING SCOT PIPKIN, AT LARGE BOARD MEMBER

By Scot Pipkin

It's a great honor to serve as an At-Large member of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society Board. I identify foremost as a naturalist committed to understanding and protecting healthy ecological systems, so I am inspired to contribute to the chapter's long history of successful conservation efforts.

Over the last two decades, birding has become a critical part of my identity and how I interact with the world. My entrée into birdwatching came during my studies at UCLA, in an undergraduate course on field methods in biogeography. The professor often drew our attention to plant/animal interactions with a particular emphasis on birds.

Then, as I started my first job as an environmental educator in the Santa Cruz Mountains, I began to develop into a birder, committing myself to waking up early every day and quietly walking the grounds, looking and listening. Slowly, I became familiar with the avifauna of the southern redwood forest by sight and ear. I started riding my bike on longer forays, chasing rarities, learning coastal birds, and developing a deeper understanding of seasonal/regional patterns. I am now hooked.

Since that time, I've had the opportunity to live, work, and go birding in some of the Southwest's most incredible bird habitats. From the Madrean oak woodlands in the "Sky Islands" of southern Arizona, to the slopes of the southern Rocky Mountains and the condor ridges of the Tehachapis, I've explored and shared my passion and observations with others. The greatest thrill always comes when I take the time to slow down and absorb the incredible phenomena and life histories all around us.

Now, as the Director of Education and Engagement for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, I find myself approaching birds from a slightly different perspective. I am excited to pursue the shared Audubon/Botanic Garden goal of using native plants to build habitat for invertebrates, mammals, and of course, birds. Lately, I have been reflecting on the words of renowned professor of biodiversity Dr. Thomas Lovejoy: "If you take care of birds, you take care of most of the environmental problems in the world." I'm grateful to be able to manifest that truth through my professional efforts and now my involvement with the SBAS Board of Directors.

Today, as a father of three young children, I don't get out birding as much as I'd like to. When I do, I love to bird by bike. If you want to plan a "green" big day, please drop me a line. I have some routes in mind. Don't be a stranger at the Garden, either. I always have a little time to talk birds, especially if it has to do with the plants that support them.



Photo by Scot Pipkin

INTRODUCING MAUREEN MCFADDEN, COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

By Mo McFadden

Maureen 'Mo' McFadden is owner of McFadden & McFadden P.R. Based in Santa Barbara since 1992, the boutique PR firm handles arts, entertainment, environmental and non-profits.

Mo is positively a people person with plenty of know-how and know who. She has worked on both sides of the PR fence — as a writer and press agent — giving her a highly qualified approach in presenting stories to the media.



Photo by Paul Wellman

McFadden has excellent media contacts and community inroads, capped by a solid reputation for delivering results. Her film festival experience, from the world stage at Cannes, to Ojai and Santa Barbara, gave her a clear perspective that the responsibilities are very similar for any client, small, medium, or large. Working in the entertainment PR trade allows her an adaptable approach, which translates easily to any kind of account. How? By making the account the star, just like the PR machine where she learned the trade does in Tinseltown.

She's written for *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Metro*, worked as an account executive at Rogers & Cowan, is a published photographer, toured the U.S. and Canada for two years on rock 'n roll tours, as well as having studied acting and dance. More recently, she co-produced a documentary *Grasshopper for Grandpa* and hosted her own radio show *Backstage Pass* on KCLU-FM. She created and produced a special TV show for the Santa Barbara Film Festival Santa Barbara Channels (prior to its being named TVSB).

In addition to her work life and volunteering for SBAS, Mo has been a volunteer for the Snowy Plover Docent Program. She recommends volunteering, as "it makes you live longer."

THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR FLOCK!

We wish a warm welcome to everyone who has joined our Chapter, or National Audubon**, or both****

Peter & Mary Ellen Alden*
Julie Allen***
Elena & Tim Anderson*
Libby Appel**
Crispin Barrymore*
Joseph Bergesen**
Chris & Kelly Brand***
Lisabette Brinkman**
Linda Carter*
Caroline Chufar**
Susan Clark**
Kristen Cleveland*
Leslie Cornyn*
Betsy Cramer***
Carol Craviotto**
Helen Curhan**
Kathryn H. Dinkin***
Michelle Doetch**
David & Ann Dwelley***
Kimberly Dwire**
Rubayi & Tom Estes*
Roger Ferris**
Karla L. Fischer***
Ronald Fisk**
Lisa Frey**

M. Christine Gallery*
Michele Goebel**
Phillip Greene***
Nancy Greep**
Joe Hackett*
Richard E. Hammond***
Wade Hansen**
Marilyn B. Harding***
Sherri Harris**
Lindsey Hawkins**
Robin Hennessy***
Kelly Hildner**
Sharon Jenkins***
Russell Johnston***
Billyjack Jory**
Helen P. Keaveney*
Karen & Doug Kirk*
Walter Knapp**
Margo Krystian**
Stephan C. Lenchner***
Susan Lingenfelter*
Kristin Loft*
Judith Lorimer**
Nancy Lynn*
Patricia Malone***

Laura Manning**
Matthew Margulies**
Anita Merriman***
Robert Musser*
Juliette Omori**
Shirley Otto**
Jeff Overeem**
Shirley Parker**
Barbara Parks**
Dale Pavich**
Katrina Perez**
Susan Petrovich***
Sarah Phillips**
Marnie Pinsker**
Jennifer J. Plana*
Wythe Platt**
Heidi Poley***
Spencer Price***
Henry Rangel**
Bonnie Ray*
Lynn Redmond**
Theresa Reilly*
Ray Riezman**
Cynthia Roche**
Gilbert Rodriguez**

Maureen Sander**
Katie Sarpolis**
Ed & Judy Savage*
Dana Sherlock*
Sidonia Slaff**
Maureen Smith***
Barry Spector*
Melinda Staveley***
Sally Stein***
Justin Swabash*
Miki & Ron Swick***
Mary Tanga**
Hillary Tentler*
Deborah Tilley**
Raymond Tracy***
Carolle Van Sande**
Joyce Van Wagoner**
Suzanne Vierling**
Margo G. Walker**
Sherri West**
James Whitson**
Valerie Williams***
Constance Wilson*
Alex Ziegler**

The number of new members in our flock has really grown over the past quarter! Many thanks to those of you who have recently joined or renewed or gifted a membership to others. 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@santabarbaraudubon.org.



Photo by Jeff Hanson

TO ATTRACT MORE BIRDS, BUILD YOUR OWN BACKYARD BIRD FOUNTAIN

By Jessie Altstatt, Conservation Committee co-Chair

Last fall, my backyard was graced for two weeks by a beautiful male Northern Parula, who came to enjoy the burbling bird fountain I'd installed, along with a host of other thirsty more common migrants.

Want to attract more birds to your yard? Here are my tips. My fountain is a 17-gallon galvanized tub with a Little Giant Fountain pump. Your fountain site will need access to power to run the pump, and it needs to be within easy reach of a hose. Note that you will need to empty and flush the tub frequently to keep it clean, so place it where plants can use the water. Being able to see the fountain from a window is nice for us, but not so much for the birds, whose first concern is safety. So, place the tub adjacent to vegetation that offers cover from predators. Mine is next to my artichoke patch, which also offers convenient perches for those birds waiting in line (and good photo ops). The birds will also need a place to shelter while drying, so again, incorporate adjacent native shrubs or even (in my case) a small citrus tree into the design. Taller shrubs and perches will offer escape from domestic pets. I use a metal grate across the tub covered by river rocks. Birds love to bathe in shallow water, so pick rocks with a concavity for the fountain to spill into. Birds are also attracted to the sound of flowing water, so plan to raise the pump hose up a bit to create a stream. Finally, you will also need a piece of hose for a siphon for cleaning, unless you plumb your tub with a drain.

Fill it up, plug it in, and stand back! Both resident and migratory birds will thank you.

Winter Bird Count 4 Kids April 24 through April 29

Free Birdwatching Fun for Ages 8 to 16!

Please register each kid by 5:00PM on April 10

- ✓ Free for the first 100 kids registered: t-shirt, instructions, bird list
- ✓ Register at: SantaBarbaraAudubon.org/2021-wbc4k
- ✓ Pick-up instructions will be emailed to you after you register
- ✓ COVID restrictions apply - bird individually or in family groups



Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society
with generous support from the City of Goleta



BIDEN HALTS ROLLBACK OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT; PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN

By Sean Cummings

Since 1918, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) has outlawed the capture, sale, or killing of almost all native birds in the U.S. In modern times, it has also penalized companies for unintentional but preventable bird deaths—or “incidental take”—caused by industrial activities, incentivizing companies to mitigate threats to birds. A December 2017 legal opinion of the MBTA by the Department of the Interior called to remove that incentive.

On January 5th, the Department finalized the change, which, upon going into effect, will strip away federal authority to hold companies accountable for incidental take. The move joined a slew of last-minute environmental rollbacks, including the removal of protections for 3.4 million acres of habitat for the nearly-endangered Northern Spotted Owl.

Former Trump officials say the change limits the MBTA to its “original intent” and relieves the stress of unexpected fines or prosecution for unintended bird deaths. Conservationists counter that the MBTA has evolved to account for industrial activities that did not exist at its inception; furthermore, precedent shows companies that take measures to reduce incidental take rarely incur fines.

A senior Biden official has promised the change will be reversed, but this won’t come easily: While executive orders, like Trump’s shrinking of national monuments, can be undone with another executive order, reversing policy changes like this one means navigating the legislative process. Biden’s team started on February 5th by delaying the implementation of the new rule, originally scheduled for February 8th, and opening a 20-day public comment period.

Birds need this rule reversed: Despite industry claims to the contrary, a Fish and Wildlife Service impact statement projected reductions in bird protections as a result of the change. With 30% fewer birds in the world since 1970, and 65% of North American bird species at risk of extinction by 2100 under current climate trends, that’s not a loss we can afford.

Deadline for comments is March 1. More information, along with a National Audubon link through which you can submit comments, is here: <https://www.audubon.org/news/biden-halts-trump-rule-gutted-landmark-bird-protection-law>



Photo by Chris Mersey

SBAS COMMENTS ON MANZANA WIND FARM

SBAS is tilting at windmills again! After a years-long effort to make the Strauss Wind Energy Project near Lompoc safer for birds (<https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/audubon-accomplishments-on-strauss/>), SBAS has tackled the Manzana Wind Power Project, an existing wind farm with 126 1.5-MW wind turbines in the western Antelope Valley, along the southern foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains. It has been in operation since 2012.

The main issue with the Manzana Wind Farm is possible impact on the California Condor, whose population has been increasing as its range expands further into the Tehachapis. Condors are now observed somewhat regularly in the vicinity of Manzana and other wind farms. The possibility of condors being killed at Manzana is real.

As a result, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) entered into discussions with the operator of Manzana to try to come up with a strategy to minimize the impacts on condors while also reducing the legal liability for Manzana.

The proposed solution was the following:

- Manzana would be given an incidental take permit allowing it to take (kill) up to two free-flying condors (and two associated chicks) over the 30-year life of the project. This reduces the legal liability on Manzana.
- In return, Manzana would implement risk reduction measures to reduce the chances that a condor would be killed at the wind farm. These measures would include systems that sense when a condor approaches the wind farm and shut down wind turbines to avoid collisions with the blades.
- Also, Manzana would fund mitigation efforts including producing six extra condors in an already existing captive breeding program. These six new condors would offset the two that might be killed by wind turbines.

The USFWS put together an Environmental Assessment (EA) of their proposed plan and released it for public comment. This plan presented a real dilemma for SBAS: we have a strong aversion to allowing a take permit for any iconic endangered species, particularly for the California Condor. Nevertheless, we recognize the realities “on the ground”: wind farms are an important source of renewable energy and Manzana already exists. The danger of harm to condors is real and must be mitigated to the extent possible. Thus, we reluctantly supported the approach that the USFWS and Manzana took to minimize risk and mitigate the potential take of condors.

SBAS got busy. We consulted with Garry George, National Audubon’s Clean Energy Initiative Director, and with the American Bird Conservancy. We attended USFWS briefings to environmental groups including other Audubon chapters, the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club, and Friends of California Condor Wild and Free.

We wrote a long letter to the USFWS on their EA (<https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/Manzana-Wind-comment-letter.pdf>) suggesting many improvements that the USFWS should make to their plans, including:

- Consider impacts to other species, including the Golden Eagle.
- Clarify what would happen if more than two condors were killed over the 30-year life of the project.
- State how close condors have come to the wind turbines in the past.
- Consider possible collisions with stationary objects, such as power lines, adding markers to make power lines more visible, and spacing power lines to accommodate the condor.
- Improve how carcass surveys and carcass removals are done.
- Improve how various condor detection systems are to be implemented.
- Strengthen measures for public accountability and transparency.

This strong letter received several compliments from other environmental groups. We hope the USFWS will use our comments to good effect to improve their plan. Thanks to Steve Ferry for the bulk of the writing, Ken Pearlman for organizing and editing, and valuable suggestions from Lori Gaskin, Mark Holmgren, and Katherine Emery.

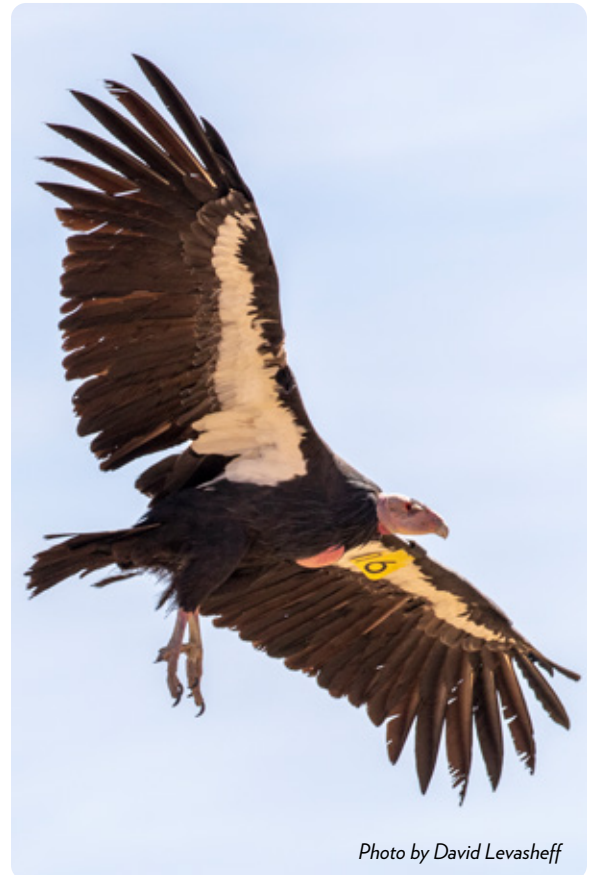


Photo by David Levasheff

MEET MAUREEN SMITH, NEW SBAS MEMBER

By Shio Chiba, Student Representative to SBAS

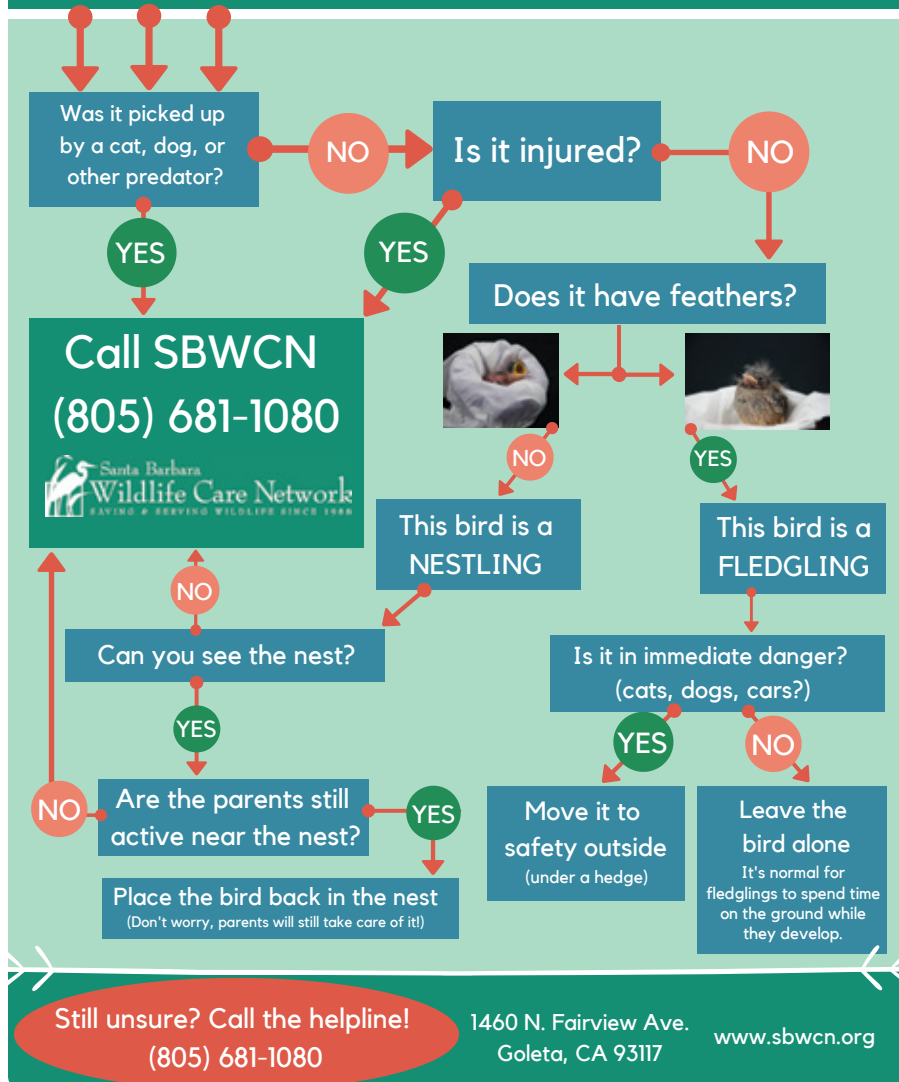
Maureen Smith is pleased to join our chapter, inspired by her mother and stepfather, Peggy Kearns and Jeff Hanson, both longtime SBAS members and volunteers.

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, Maureen graduated from Dos Pueblos High School and attended Santa Barbara City College before transferring to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studied biogeography and the interrelationships of flora and fauna. For the past 13 years, she has taught geography at Saddleback College and she recently returned to Santa Barbara. She credits her mother with inspiring her love of birding and the environment and she seeks to share that inspiration with her students, to raise their awareness of their environmental footprint.



Photo by Elizabeth Horan

So you found a baby bird... now what?



ADVICE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SANTA BARBARA WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK



Photo by Alex Loos

SBAS: NEWS

THANK YOU

Everyone involved with the CBC, especially the leaders – Rebecca Coulter, Liz Muraoka, Joan Murdoch, and Libby Patten – for rising so successfully to the challenges of this year. A special nod to other members of the compilation team: Dave Compton, Glenn Kincaid, and Bill Pollock.

All who are donating generously to SBAS this year! We really appreciate the support.

ART MEETS SCIENCE

By Teresa Fanucchi, Programs Chair

As an Eyes in the Sky volunteer, in mid-January I had the pleasure of participating in an Art Meets Science workshop, offered as a thank you to all volunteers of the Museum of Natural History and presented virtually over Zoom. Volunteer Manager Rebecca Coulter gave a short, engaging presentation on the gorgeous Cedar Waxwings that winter here and their reliance on the native toyon berries as a food source. We were then guided through a brief painting class with art instructor Hilary George, who broke down into easy-to-follow steps that I had formerly thought of as a mystifying watercolor process. Art supply kits were generously provided by the museum and available for pick-up prior to the workshop. It was great fun. Many thanks to SBMNH for their creative and ongoing appreciation of their volunteers!



SBAS: PROGRAMS

By Teresa Fanucchi, Programs Chair

Our monthly programs continue to be presented virtually. As each date approaches, look for an email—or on our website or social media—for a connection link. We hope to see you there! 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@santabarbaraaudubon.org.

THE BREEDING BIRD STUDY (BBS) OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIVE YEARS ON: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Presented by Adrian O'Loughlen and Mark Holmgren

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom (link will be posted on our website and social media as date approaches)

With nearly 9,500 records after 5 years of data gathering, and contributions from over 300 people, we should know some new things about Santa Barbara County's breeding birds! Let's find out as Adrian and Mark present some BBS results. With the help of colleagues at UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) and the Goleta Coast Audubon Society, they'll show not only results, but the scientific, conservation, regulatory, and education uses for the information in the BBS using their new Web Map Application.

Adrian O'Loughlen earned his PhD in Behavioral Ecology from UCSB based on research of song dialects in Brown-headed Cowbirds. He did post-doctoral research at the University of Washington, Seattle, focused on the function of song variation in Song Sparrows. Mark Holmgren was curator of the Vertebrate Collections at UCSB's CCBER from 1984 to 2010. He coordinates Kite Watch for SBAS. Together, Mark and Adrian manage the SB County Breeding Bird Study, and both serve on SBAS's Science and Conservation Committees.



Photo by Adrian O'Loughlen

SBAS: PROGRAMS

THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST: BIRDING IN A SEA OF SORROW

Presented by David Pereksta

Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom (link will be posted on our website and social media as date approaches)

In the Russian Far East, the nearly landlocked Sea of Okhotsk dominates the Northwest Pacific, but it is little known outside of Russia. Its upper regions remain frozen much of the year and it is inhospitable in winter, but the “Sea of Hunters,” as it is translated, provides a

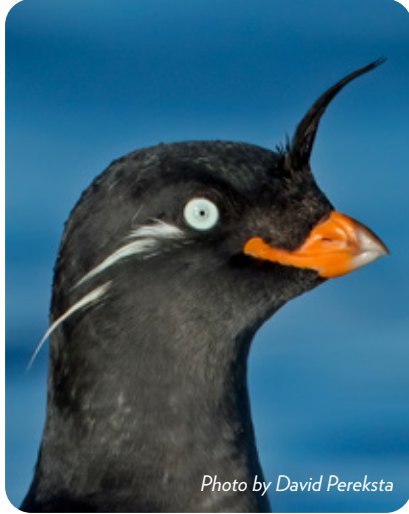


Photo by David Pereksta

clue to the abundance of wildlife found there. Despite historical exploitation of wildlife, marine mammals and seabirds thrive there. One small island is home to an estimated 7 million birds! However, this little-known sea also has a dark history that has been suppressed until recently, and perhaps no other sea in the world has witnessed as much human suffering and misery. Presenter David Pereksta had a rare opportunity to explore this incredible region in June of 2016 and he will share some of his experiences with the wildlife, culture, and history in a talk lavishly illustrated with the highlights of the photos he took while there.

David Pereksta is an Avian Biologist with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, where he studies the effects of offshore oil and gas, and renewable energy development on birds off the Pacific coast and Hawaii. Earlier, he spent 16 years working on endangered species issues with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ventura.



SALINE LAKES IN THE WEST: EARED GREBE MIGRATION AND THE LAKES THEY DEPEND ON

Presented by Nora Livingston

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom (link will be posted on our website and social media as date approaches)

Eared Grebes populate western saline lakes like Mono Lake and the Salton Sea by the millions during their southward migration, but these lakes are in danger due to excessive water diversions and climate change. Learn about the magnificent Eared Grebe and the lakes that it depends on with presenter Nora Livingston.

Nora Livingston is the Lead Naturalist Guide for the Mono Lake Committee. She gives presentations around the state about Mono Lake and birds, and she leads custom guided trips at Mono Lake for birders and nature-enthusiasts.



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www.bobsteelephoto.com*



Photo by Bob Yates



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