

El Tecolote

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 59, Issue 4 / June – August 2021

www.santabarbaraaudubon.org



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING VIRTUAL THIS YEAR

Date: June 23, 7:30 pm, via Zoom
Please see link at end of article

For the second year in a row, we are unable to hold our “Picnic” and Annual Meeting in person. Instead, we’ll hold a virtual Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 23, at 7:30 p.m. Please join us. We hope for a later in-person get together.

Vote on Next Year’s Board

On June 23, you will be asked to vote on this slate of officers for 2021-2022:

President - Janice Levasheff
Vice President - Briana Sapp
Secretary - Kathleen Boehm
Treasurer - Christopher Mersey
At Large - Ron Hirst, Rob Lindsay, Scot Pipkin
Communications Chair - Mo McFadden
Conservation Co-Chairs - Jessie Altstatt and Lori Gaskin
Education Chair - Dotti Pak
Field Trips Chair - Peter Thompson
Membership - Samantha Macks Franz
Programs Co-Chairs - Aaron Kreisberg and Emily Kreisberg



Dolores Pollock is stepping down as president after eight years of dedicated service to the chapter. Janice Levasheff, who is stepping up, has served on the Board since 2015, first as Publicity Chair and then as Membership Chair, her current post. Along the way, she has worn many other hats and brings extensive knowledge of the organization to the office.

Lee Moldaver, who has held leadership positions in SBAS over several decades, is on extended medical leave of absence.

Briana Sapp, Director of Marketing and Communications at the Museum of Natural History, was elected to our Board in January. She brings invaluable experience to SBAS!

Kathleen Boehm and Chris Mersey have served in their respective positions for several years and lent a hand with many of our activities, in addition to doing their jobs diligently.

Teresa Fanucchi, Programs Chair for the last four years, is stepping down. We’ve enjoyed the varied and high-level programs she has brought us and graciously hosted – at Farrand Auditorium and via Zoom – and she will be greatly missed. Thank you, Teresa!

New to SBAS is Membership Chair Samantha Macks Franz, who comes to us from the Santa Barbara Zoo. She recently started volunteering with EITS.

Stepping up to co-chair Programs are Emily Kreisberg and Aaron Kreisberg. Aaron chaired Programs briefly in the past and currently serves on our Conservation Committee.

Shio Chiba, Student Representative to the Board, is leaving us after two years. She is off to college. Shio has found her replacement, Lucy London of San Marcos High School.

We’re grateful to all continuing Board Members for their outstanding service to Audubon. **Currently we have just one board opening, Development.** We can use your ideas and energy to fill this important position, so please e-mail President@santabarbaraaudubon.org or VP@santabarbaraaudubon.org to get involved in the search. (Article continues on page 2.)

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.

(Annual Membership Meeting Virtual This Year, continued from page 1)



Update Our By-Laws

At the Annual Meeting, you will also vote on **updates to our By-Laws**. The updates: 1) replace our former Mission Statement with the current Mission Statement; 2) merge the Conservation and Science committees into one committee, the Conservation/Science Committee; and 3) change the minimum number of Board members from 13 to 12 as a result of merging the Conservation and Science committees. A copy of the By-Laws with these suggested changes appears on our website.

Here's the link:

Topic: Annual Membership Meeting Time: June 23, 2021, 7:30 p.m. Pacific Time
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84732663357?pwd=eGJRbkptYWxPSTIzZ0RRaXEycDFvZz09>
 Meeting ID: 847 3266 3357 Passcode: 928458

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 SBAS Zoom outreach programs at local retirement communities. (Contact Dotti Pak to set up.) • Presenting Eyes in the Sky raptor ambassadors to schools and other groups. (Contact Hannah Atkinson.) • Presenting monthly Evening Programs via Zoom. • Sharing new SBAS video <i>Why are Birds Important?</i> at Santa Barbara Earth Day festival and beyond. https://santabarbaraadubon.org/videos/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete school year teaching of Meet Your Wild Neighbor curriculum at 12 local 1st-3rd grade classrooms. • Evaluate our new “pandemic style” 2021 Winter Bird Count 4 Kids event and brainstorm 2022 event. • 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., work plan for the City of Goleta’s Public Works Department, Baron Ranch Master Plan, letters of support for other environmental nonprofits). • Using science to inform advocacy for bird and habitat protections for Goleta creeks and watersheds and City of Santa Barbara Community Wildfire Protection Plan. • Running the Breeding Bird Study (BBS) 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build advocacy to protect local open spaces, wetlands, bird habitats, and ecosystems. • Outreach to key departments within the City of Goleta, City of Santa Barbara, and SB County to advocate for bird and bird habitat protections. • Continue support for saving San Marcos Foothills.
Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together with Goleta Coast Audubon to conduct the 12th year of Nest Box monitoring of breeding Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds at Lake Los Carneros (LLC). • Processing aquatic invertebrate data for Coal Oil Point Reserve and North Campus Open Space to provide quantitative data in support of understanding and evaluating ecosystem health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect breeding data for Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds at 22 Nest Boxes at LLC. • Research proposed off-shore wind turbine energy projects off the coast of Santa Barbara County.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR FLOCK!

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

Randy Akens**	Clay Dickens**	Tom Jackson**	Shelly Rosen***
John Anagnoson**	Nancy & John Doner**	Mari Jones**	Darian Rubow*
Elizabeth Bent**	Phoebe Dubin**	Agnes Kalisher**	Lynne Schabert**
Rich Block*	Marge Erickson***	Carla Kroman**	Gabe Scussat*
Tracy Bowen**	Honora Evans**	Michael Love*	Stephen Sekeres**
Sylvia Boye**	Randy Evered & Lisa Olszewski*	Theresa Lueck*	Marcy Simmons**
Elizabeth Bret**	Mike Farmer**	Helene Marsh**	Mary Jane Slater***
Cameryn Brock**	Deborah Farris**	Emily Martin**	Trudy Smith**
Sally Bromfield*	Sarah Fenstermaker**	William Master**	Mary Spencer**
Bonnie Burgess*	Louise Gailey**	Sally McElrath**	Jack & Judy Stapelmann**
Stacy Byers**	Sally Gill**	Sandra Miller**	Violet Stepan***
William & Margaret Callahan**	Kathy Gleason**	Sara Miller McCune**	Galen Stucky**
Nancy Campbell**	Richard Goodstein**	Richard Nielsen**	Clayton Tanga**
Carmen Castrejon**	Diane Green**	Bonnie Passy**	Diana Thomas***
Elliott Ciampi***	Deanna Gregg**	Stephanie Pawlowicz**	Leslie Thompson**
Ana Citrin***	Gloria Hall-Murray**	John & Jennifer Pet***	Barbara Thurber**
Jordan Clark**	Walter Harris**	Henry Rangel***	Marion Toms**
Susan Clark***	Gregg Hart**	Hugh Ranson*	William Volmar**
Sue Cook*	Beryl Hebert**	Bonnie Ray***	Margo G. Walker**
Lorraine DarConte**	Virginia Hemphill**	Barbara Reid**	Duane Walsh***
Susan Davidson***	Mary Hoffman**	Jason Rick**	James Youngson**
Sarah Degen**		Katherine Rose**	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 chapter membership to others. Your support 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 Membership Chair at Membership@santabarbaraaudubon.org.

HOT OFF THE PRESS! NEW SANTA BARBARA BIRDING COLUMN

We are thrilled to announce that SBAS member Hugh Ranson is writing a new Santa Barbara Birding column in the *Santa Barbara Independent*. Hugh's column brings the joys and wonderment of birds to a whole new audience of aspiring naturalists. We thank the *Independent* and Hugh for sharing the beauty of Santa Barbara birding with our community. The column will appear each month.

Keep your eyes peeled!



Photo by Betsy Mooney



MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

A SERIES INTRODUCING THE DIRECTORS OF OUR CHAPTER

INTRODUCING BRIANA SAPP, VICE PRESIDENT

By Briana Sapp

Hello, fellow birders. My name is Briana Sapp and I'm honored to be the new Vice President of Santa Barbara Audubon Society. I joined the organization as a volunteer with Eyes in the Sky in 2017, shortly after becoming Director of Marketing and Communications for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. I'll never forget my first Thursday at the museum, as it was the first time I saw the raptors under the Oak Tree. I couldn't believe how close I could get to these amazing birds of prey, and after hearing their stories and learning about EITS, I asked if I could volunteer. I soon joined the Saturday crew led by the formidable Richard Nordli, who helped me work my way from naughty Kanati all the way up to Max. But Kisa's incredible spirit and ability to energetically connect stole my heart.

I love to travel and spent most of my 20s in Europe and Africa. I started my undergraduate career in microbiology at Cal Poly SLO with a minor in French, but after studying abroad in Paris my junior year, I made a momentous life change and transferred to the American University of Paris, switching my studies to international politics, and starting a 10-year journey working for an embassy and international NGOs in Brussels, Belgium, focusing on advocacy for sustainable economic and environmental development in sub-Saharan Africa. I returned to my native California in 2011 and worked for the University of California Education Abroad Program, which serves all 10 campuses and operates in 41 countries. Moving to the museum was another major change in my career, and I've been lucky to fall into my dream job working for an organization whose vision "to connect people to nature for the betterment of both" aligns so well with my own passions and beliefs.

I see my work with Audubon as an extension of that work and I'm committed to doing my best to help the organization grow and thrive.



STUNNING NEWS THAT DELIGHTS US

On March 18, the California Coastal Commission took two monumentally important steps on behalf of the environment:

- It voted unanimously to completely phase out off-highway vehicle access at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area over the next three years, cutting two years off earlier plans for the phase out.
- It stated that massive coastal development and introduction of off-road vehicles planned by Parks and Recreation near Oso Flaco Lake cannot be approved under the Coastal Act.



Photo by David Levasheff



Photo by Glenn Kincaid

These decisions will greatly reduce human degradation of the fragile habitats in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex, which are home to many threatened bird species (e.g. Western Snowy Plover and Least Tern) and imperiled fish species (like Steelhead Trout and Tidewater Goby).

Thanks to all members who heeded the call in our January blast to submit comments to State Parks and the California Coastal Commission. Informed citizens can make a difference!

For more detailed information about the approved changes to vehicular access at Oceano Dunes, along with proposed (but unapproved) changes to the Oso Flaco

Lake area, please visit

<https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/california-coastal-commission-orders-end-to-off-roading-at-oceano-dunes-2021-03-19/>
and <https://ca.audubon.org/press-release/audubon-california-stunned-and-delighted-decision-ending-road-vehicle-access-oceano>.

SBAS: EITS NEWS

REMEMBERING KISA

By Hannah Atkinson, EITS Director

This spring, we lost Kisa, our beloved Peregrine Falcon. She joined Eyes in the Sky in 2011 as a young bird, and hers was one of our most compelling stories: She had been shot with a pellet gun and survived with the pellet still in her shoulder! For ten full years, she awed and inspired crowds as an ambassador for her species.

In 2020, Kisa was diagnosed with heart disease. She was cared for tirelessly by volunteers and spent her last days in the constant company of admiring visitors and loving friends. She passed in late February 2021.



Kisa was one of the stars of EITS. She was the bird that first brought me to the program: Seeing her on a handler's glove was my first up-close raptor experience. Bright, clever, and attentive, she had an incredible spirit. She bonded with so many people and left a mark on each one.

Soon after asking volunteers to share their memories of Kisa, I found myself flooded in photos and messages about this amazing bird. The outpouring of love for her was more than could fit into a single article. In her honor, we now have a memorial page on the SBAS website that holds a collection of photos, stories, and memories, all shared by those who had close bonds with Kisa.

We thank all those who have loved her over the years and join you in saying: We will miss you, Kisa.

Kisa's memorial page can be found at:
<https://santabarbaraudubon.org/eits-memorial>



TECOLOTE CIRCLE MEMBERS 2021

Tecolote Circle donors sustain Audubon's core programs in perpetuity through their vision and generous donations to our endowment. They gave a one-time donation of \$1000 or more to the endowment or named SBAS in their will and let us know. Many continue to donate. Endowment gifts are invested, and income generated supports our work. Our Circle is growing — consider becoming a member by contacting president@santabarbaraaudubon.org! Connect the community with nature...now and for generations to come.

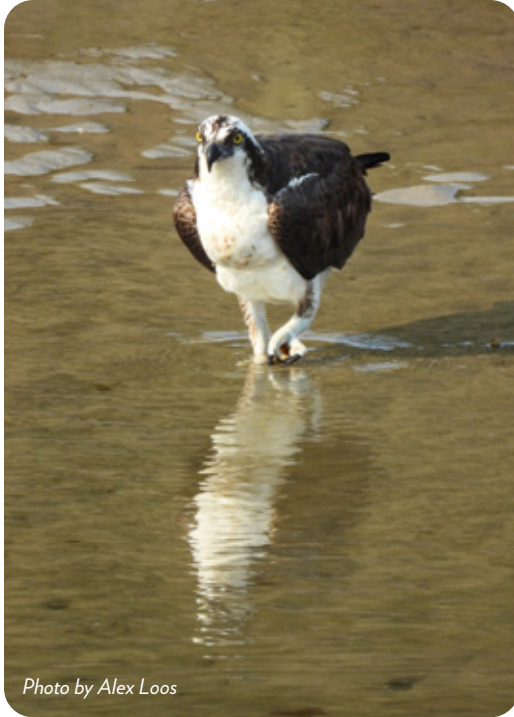


Photo by Alex Loos

Susy & Carroll Barrymore
Valerie Bentz
Helen Brown
Cecilia Brown
Wendy Bruss
Joyce & Alex Carasa
Darlene & Sam Chirman
Nancy & Tom Crawford
Betty & Steve Ferry
Vasanti & Joel Fithian
Gerald Franklin
Catherine Graham
Virginia Hawley
Judy Hogan
Sally & Brent Kitson
Julie & Marc Kummel
Joan Leipnik
Susan & Andy Lentz
Janice & David Levasheff
Mary Ellen & Robert Logan
Roxane & James Mattinson
Marla Mercer & Rick Herzog
Sharon Metsch
Marlene Maes Mills

Nancy Nielsen
Jan Oetinger
Bobbie Offen
Gail Osherenko & Oran Young
Dolores & Bill Pollock
Arlene & Bill Radasky
Gage Ricard & George Azelickis
Melissa Riparetti-Stepien
Cathy Rose
Susan Shields
Tomi & Bob Sollen
Nancy States
Ann Steinmetz & Steve Senesac
Karen & David Telleen-Lawton
Mary D. Thompson
Marge & Don Thornton
Cherie Topper
Lila Trachtenberg & George Handler
Virginia Turner-Scholl
Sally Walker
Lawrence Wallin & Kathy Scroggs
Paula & Richard Whited
Norman Yiskis

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MOVIE, WHY ARE BIRDS IMPORTANT?

Our stunning brand new 4-minute movie by Audubon enthusiast Michael Love of Sage Hill Productions is raising awareness in our community about why birds matter. With beautiful imagery of local birds and our unique open spaces, viewers join SBAS in our journey to protect birds and their habitats. Thank you to Michael and the Santa Barbara Foundation for their generous support to create this film.

We encourage you to share this movie with three new acquaintances, friends and/or family members who are interested in learning about birdlife. Thank you for spreading the word! <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/videos/>



WINTER BIRD COUNT 4 KIDS A VIRTUAL SUCCESS!

By Judy Blue, Co-Chair, WBC4Kids - 2021

Due to Covid-19 guidelines, this year we adjusted Winter Bird Count 4 Kids from our traditional in-person group gathering to a socially distanced event. Individual families went birding at Lake Los Carneros on their own schedules. Two hundred children were registered by their parents, and we are thrilled with the community enthusiasm for the modified program. Most of the families have children who attend schools in Goleta.

Participants received a Birding Checklist to identify birds at the lake, a Bird Bingo card, a signature Santa Barbara Audubon Society t-shirt designed by Karen Schroeder, and other educational and fun goodies. For those who missed registration, the Bird Checklist and Bingo are available on our website at: <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/2021-wbc4k/>.

A big thank you to the City of Goleta for providing a grant to support our growing event. We are also grateful to committee members Katherine Emery, Janice Levasheff, Dolores Pollock and Dotti Pak for their innovative ideas and contributions. A special thanks to my WBC4Kids Co-Chair, Joan Cotich, for folding t-shirts, marking and filling 200 bags.

It's exciting to see parents bring the joys and wonderment of birds to their young families.

Happy Birding!



Photo by Kate Kasdin

Many families, including that of Goleta Council member Stuart Kasdin, enjoyed the event



Our tireless organizers, Judy Blue and Joan Cotich



Photo by João Hespanha



Photo by Jennifer Mislang



Photo by Sara Weld

GABRIELE SCUSSAT WINS 2021 JOY PARKINSON SCIENCE FAIR AWARD

By Dotti Pak, Education Chair

After a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Santa Barbara County Science Fair was held virtually on March 12, 2021. Goleta Valley Junior High 8th grader Gabriele Scussat won the Santa Barbara Audubon Joy Parkinson Award for his project entitled “Impact of Ecological Restoration on Wildlife in the Goleta North Campus Open Space.”

Inspired by restoration projects he participated in as an elementary student, Gabriele wanted to determine the impact of restoration of the North Campus Open Space (NCOS) since the closing of the Ocean Meadows Golf Course in 2012. He conducted weekly monitoring of Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) coverboards in the NCOS and recorded the presence of 30 species of small vertebrates and invertebrates. By comparing his data from 2020-21 with coverboard data collected by CCBER in 2013-14, he found that while the overall encounter rate has not changed, different species have responded differently, with encounter rates of some groups increasing while others decreased. He concluded that long-term monitoring is necessary to observe the slow recovery of the space.

The Joy Parkinson Science Fair Award is given annually by Santa Barbara Audubon Society in honor of Joy Parkinson, who was a founding member of the chapter and a community environmental activist. Congratulations to Gabriele for his outstanding work; he went on to win Best in Fair in the Junior Division of the Science Fair.



THANK YOU

Judy Blue and **Joan Cotich** for co-chairing our seventh annual Winter Bird Count 4 Kids. This year's event required special creativity. Everything came together at the end of April, when a record 200+ kids participated in a Covid-careful event. **Thanks to Trader Joe's for the shopping bags and thanks to the City of Goleta for their continuing support of this community event.**

Shio Chiba for serving as our student representative on the Board for two years and initiating a column to introduce new SBAS members! Very best wishes as you go on to college.

Dotti Pak, Rob Lindsay, and Katherine Emery for judging at the County Science Fair, held virtually this year.

Michael Love of Sage Hill Films and the **Santa Barbara Foundation** for their support in the production of our new video *Why are Birds Important?* Michael reports, “We love working with you guys and doing work that raises awareness about birds and the environment.” See the video at <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/videos/>

To the friends of **Judy Blue**, who celebrate her birthday each year with donations to SBAS in her honor.

To the **Santa Barbara Independent** and Santa Barbara Audubon member **Hugh Ranson** for the exciting new Santa Barbara Birding column. Watch for it!

To all our **Eyes in the Sky Volunteers** who have patiently and steadfastly helped maintain the program during this past year.

To the estates of **Robert Sollen** and **Norman Yiskis** for generous bequests to Santa Barbara Audubon this year.

To **all our friends** for supporting Santa Barbara Audubon in a challenging time! The birds thank you too!

YOUNGER GENERATIONS ARE MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT

By Dotti Pak, Education Chair

Marissa DeVille, a college student who is already practicing and teaching good environmental stewardship

Marissa DeVille's interest in birds began in elementary school, when she would spend hours bird watching at her family's home in Northern California. She has continued to pursue her interest through volunteer work at a wildlife rescue center near her home, through the UCSB Goleta Coast Audubon chapter, and with SBAS, while also recognizing the importance of birding in her life as a means for contemplation and reflection.

Marissa began her association with Santa Barbara Audubon as an intern for Mark Holmgren, assisting with the Breeding Bird Study. When the COVID-19 lockdown sent schools online in the spring of 2020, she reached out to high school students to introduce them to the social, emotional, and environmental benefits of birding. She developed a virtual curriculum based on the Breeding Bird Study database to involve students in community conservation science. In addition, through her participation in the SBAS Education Committee, she developed a five-day bird focused Zoom curriculum for 4th-6th grade students, which has been enthusiastically embraced by teachers at Goleta Family School and Foothill Elementary. Says teacher Teri Briggs, "Marissa is amazing. Her passion is infectious."

Marissa will graduate from UCSB this spring with a B.A. in Environmental Studies. She plans to pursue her interest in environmental education through a summer position at NatureBridge Coastal Camp leading 1st to 6th grade students on explorations in the Marin Headlands, and hopes to become a Climate Corps Education Outside Fellow teaching elementary students, using garden spaces as an outdoor classroom.



Rui Rebich Hespanha, a young artist-entrepreneur who gives back



Photo by Stacy Rebich Hespanha

Seventh-grader Rui Rebich Hespanha loves making origami and other kinds of art and selling it locally. In December he donated \$1 to local nonprofit organizations for each origami ornament he sold. The buyer can choose which organization to support: Foodbank of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Audubon Society, or Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition (SBBIKE). In June, his creations will be on display at Goleta Coffee Co, where he hopes to raise more donations in support of SBAS and other community organizations.

Rui's thoughts on why he started this project: "I enjoy the process of making origami, and it is fun to make things that other people think are interesting or beautiful. I decided to sell origami ornaments and donate part of the money I earned because I care about making our town and our earth a nice place to live."

WHY I JOINED AUDUBON: INTRODUCING CHRISTIAN PUGA

By Shio Chiba, Student Representative to SBAS



New chapter member Christian Puga was born in Ibarra, Ecuador, and raised in Los Angeles from age one. After high school, Christian served in the US Air Force as a critical care flight medic. His interest in the environment was ignited by the emotionally compelling *Our Planet* series on Netflix, which led him to focus on conservation at UCSB, rather than pursuing his initial plan to enter medical school.

Though he had little outdoor recreational opportunities while growing up, his love of dogs inspired a constant concern for animal welfare, and he now enjoys the aesthetics of birding, capturing natural beauty through a camera.

Christian has noticed the diversity present in the membership of Goleta Coast Audubon at UCSB and wishes to reach a larger audience outside of school as well. He'd like to make increasing representation in Audubon a main focus to show that conservation and advocacy are things that everyone can do. Christian explains that the more substantial action we take to diversify, the more we can teach the public about the importance of environmental conservation, irrespective of economic, social, or racial background.

In the future, Christian would like to combine his interests in conservation, photography and filmmaking, and working with dogs. He's currently planning to make a short documentary on the Carrizo Plain, which is home to numerous endangered species. Please visit his website at www.chrispuga.com to see some of his work.

A TOOL TO START A CONVERSATION: BEST PRACTICES FOR BIRDS

By Karen Dorfman

Have you ever informed a property manager about a bird safety concern or noticed rodenticide use or nest destruction at a property? Many people are unaware that their decisions can impact birds and other wildlife, or they may be unaware of alternative solutions. Informing them about your concerns and alternatives can lead to improved habitats for birds.

The following is a list of **Best Practices for Birds** at multiunit residential and commercial properties. Please share it widely and help make a large property become more bird-friendly.

1. **Control rodents without rodenticides.** Poison used to kill rodents can sicken pets and wildlife (including hawks, owls, bobcats, and coyotes) that prey on them. Read about alternatives at poisonfreemalibu.org/rodents/.
2. **Make large windows safer for birds.** An estimated 1 billion birds die in the US each year by striking glass they cannot see. Large clubhouse windows and commercial building windows pose the greatest risks. Read about cheap and easy ways to make glass visible to birds at <https://birdsafeca/> (Article continues on page 11.)



(A tool to Start a Conversation: Best Practices for Birds, continued from page 10)

3. About those mud nests under rooftop eaves...? Please **DO NOT DISTURB active swallow nests!** It is cruel and it is against federal and state law. California Department of Fish and Wildlife considers swallow nesting season to be **February 15 to September 1**, during which time it is illegal to disturb the nests without a permit. Violations are punishable by up to six months in jail or up to a \$15,000 fine. After nesting season is done, all baby birds have fledged, and nests are empty, removal and preventive deterrents can be done legally (see www.ipm.ucdavis.edu Cliff Swallow Pest Note #7482).
4. Most birds nest in spring and summer. **Schedule major pruning of trees, hedges, shrubs, and even ivy-covered walls and fences in autumn and winter to prevent accidental destruction of nests.** Remind gardeners to look before pruning. Some nests are hidden in tree crevices, some hang like socks under leaves, and hummingbird nests are tiny! If an accident does occur, call the SB Wildlife Care Network for advice at 805-681-1080.
5. Here's an easy one: **Cap open vertical pipes.** Thousands of birds die each year when they go in but can't fly out.
6. **Avoid pesticide and herbicide use.** Common neonics (artificial insecticides) are deadly to birds and pollinators. Many herbicides are toxic to people, pets, and wildlife. If needed, choose a product safe for use near children, pets and wildlife.
7. **Deter cats from hunting birds.** Cats are nonnative predators that kill over two billion birds in the U.S. annually. The good news is that cats are healthiest kept indoors. Most can be happy on a sunny windowsill or in an enclosed outdoor "catio". Some cats can learn to be walked outside on a harness and leash.



Thanks for creating a BIRD*-Friendly Property!

***Bird Informed and Responsible Development**



Please remember our virtual annual membership meeting. Here's the link:

Topic: Annual Membership Meeting Time: June 23, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Pacific Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84732663357?pwd=eGJRbkptYWxPSTIzZ0RRaXEycDFvZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 3266 3357 Passcode: 928458

We hope you will attend.



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

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SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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santabarbaraaudubon.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Katherine Emery

Director@santabarbaraaudubon.org

EYES IN THE SKY DIRECTOR

Hannah Atkinson

EITSDirector@santabarbaraaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

President	Dolores Pollock	President@santabarbaraaudubon.org
Vice-President	Briana Sapp	VP@santabarbaraaudubon.org
Secretary	Kathleen Boehm	Secretary@santabarbaraaudubon.org
Treasurer	Christopher Mersey	Treasurer@santabarbaraaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

At Large	Ron Hirst	
At Large	Rob Lindsay	
At Large	Scot Pipkin	
Communications	Mo McFadden	Publicity@santabarbaraaudubon.org
Conservation	Jessica Altstadt	Conservation@santabarbaraaudubon.org
	Lori Gaskin	Conservation@santabarbaraaudubon.org
Development	OPEN	
Education	Dotti Pak	Education@santabarbaraaudubon.org
Field Trips	Peter Thompson	FieldTrips@santabarbaraaudubon.org
Membership		Membership@santabarbaraaudubon.org
Programs	Teresa Fanucchi	Programs@santabarbaraaudubon.org
Science		

BOARD APPOINTED POSITIONS

Newsletter	Joyce Carasa	Newsletter@santabarbaraaudubon.org
Webmaster	David Levasheff	Webmaster@santabarbaraaudubon.org

President Emerita Darlene Chirman

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.

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