

El Tecolote



NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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www.santabarbaraaudubon.org

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

By Dolores Pollock

Janice Levasheff was elected President of Santa Barbara Audubon at our Annual Meeting in June. With seven years of experience on the SBAS Board, during which she served as Publicity Chair and most recently as Membership Chair, she is well prepared to lead. If you know Janice, you know she is an incredibly hard worker. Interested in the environment since her childhood, she loves weekly bird outings with her husband David, enjoys a burst of artistic expression now and then, and maintains the highest standards for her work with Audubon. Armed with our new Strategic Plan and supported by one of our best Boards ever, Janice, I am happy to say, is ready to share her skills and dedication with Santa Barbara Audubon.



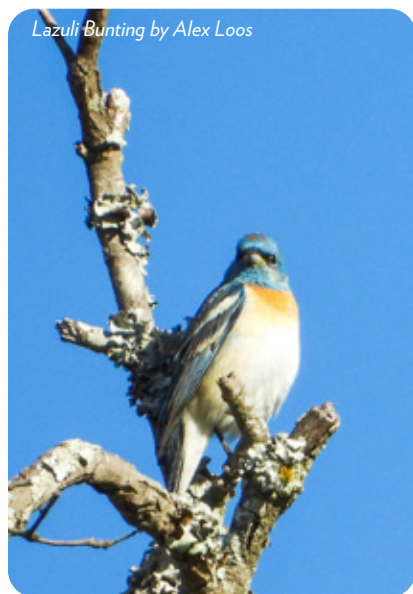
Photo by David Levasheff

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, SEPTEMBER 2021

By Janice Levasheff

Greetings! It seems as if our June Annual Meeting via Zoom was just yesterday, starting with a farewell from outgoing President Dolores Pollock, followed by elections, a "Year in Review" slide show, and Michael Love's *How to Start Birding* video. Interspersed were farewells and messages to Dolores, topped off at the end by a musical tribute – with ukulele – sung by former Executive Director Cherie Topper.

Thanks to your support, we start in a healthy position. SBAS Board, committees, and staff have energetically been preparing since June. We welcome new board members, Sam Franz (Membership) and Aaron and Emily Kreisberg (Programs). We appreciate our dedicated Eyes in the Sky volunteers, who safely share our feathered ambassadors with the community. It is indeed a privilege to work with such a skilled and dedicated group.



Lazuli Bunting by Alex Loos

Though our bird walks and field trips remain on pause through the end of the year, now is a great time to bird safely on our own, as it's fall migration season! As nesting activity drops in September, check for nests, and if you see no activity, you can start cutting back vegetation. You can find resources for beginning birders and a guide to bird-friendly vegetation trimming at www.santabarbaraaudubon.org/additional-resources/.

Our monthly programs resume on September 22 with a talk on UCSB's Goleta Coast Audubon Society. Please see details later in this newsletter and Zoom in for an interesting evening.

On a somber note, we lost a long-time Audubon Board member, Lee Moldaver, on July 28. When I learned of Lee's passing, I thought of his dedication to SBAS and the environment. I was just drafting my first message as your new President, when current board member and former President Ron Hirst shared a copy of Lee's own first President's Message from the September 1993 issue of *El Tecolote*. We thought it would be fitting to share his message with you, along with remembrances from a few current and former Audubon board members.

And as I walk around the many open spaces in our community, I will think of Lee.

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.

An old Chinese curse went “May you live in interesting times,” since times of peace and plenty often seem a bit dull, and are most noticed by their absence. The passage of several seasons (and terms of office) have somehow made me Audubon chapter president this year. Our county, state, nation and the world seem to be passing through “interesting times” now. Southern California is mired in a mini-depression; Washington’s paralyzed by financial crises, partisan discord, and loss of confident direction.

In such times, some may regard our love and pleasure in Nature, in the beauty of Life in clean, open spaces, as somehow less urgent, or ephemeral. I disagree. Audubon, its principles steady, its priorities evolving, its members as hearty and diverse as J.J. Audubon himself, are a tonic and shield against economic gloom. Extinction, deforestation, massive pollutions, loss of open space, continue barely abated worldwide. Too often we note the joy of a bird’s song by its silence or the splendor of rare flowers by their loss. To be Auduboners in Santa Barbara is to resist such disasters from a home base of biological plenty. Yet struggle on we must: toward national reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, and defense of threatened open space here at home.

Wordsworth said that “Any man afield a meadow in bloom of Spring is rich, whatever his station in a town.” True. And the challenge of making Santa Barbara Audubon as good as we can is made easier this year by the addition of Bob Zeman (Treasurer), Jeff Chemnick (Field Trips), and Dave Wass (Programs) to our ’93-’94 Board. Each gain, I must tell you, entails a major loss as well: Elan Sutton (so instrumental to our Wetlands Conference and Earth Day booth) and Ben Berkowitz (whose knowledge of computers AND money gave us our best treasurer ever) have retired. Sally Walker, having set gigantic standards of excellence as President, also has cut back. Words cannot tell how much we shall miss their leadership; they will continue to inspire us to work that much harder by their example and in their stead.

In the end, of course, our members and our traditions are our chapter. And in those, thankfully, we remain strong. I shall need your resources, advice and help to be effective in the days ahead. Together we can do much. As we begin a new Audubon year full of great speakers, trips and special events, do not let anyone dim your zeal for Nature, or challenge your affection for the song of birds on wing or botanics in glorious bloom. They are as worthy of respect today as they were 150 years ago when they took M. Audubon’s breath clean away. They are what Audubon has always been about, and remain, in this, our chapter’s 30th Anniversary Year.

FUN AND STRENGTH IN LEADERSHIP

History was made recently in two ways: Thanks to wonderful community support, including that of SBAS and many of its individual members, the 101 acres of open space now known as the West Mesa of the San Marcos Foothills was saved from development, and it will remain open for all to enjoy. And to celebrate, four of our leaders came together to enjoy this wonderful space. From left to right, they are Executive Director Katherine Emery, President Janice Levasheff, and two Presidents Emeritae, Dolores Pollock and Darlene Chirman.



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

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



CURRENT PROJECTS	GOALS
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continuing to provide SBAS outreach at local retirement communities. (Contact Dotti Pak to set up.)Presenting Eyes in the Sky raptor ambassadors in person at Cachuma Lake, El Capitan State Beach, and Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.Preparing fall monthly Evening Programs.Sharing 3rd fun new SBAS video <i>How to Start Birding</i>. https://santabarbara-audubon.org/learning-resources/	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Teach updated SBAS Meet Your Wild Neighbor curriculum in local classrooms over 2021-2022 school year. (Reached 12 lower elementary classrooms last year!)Provide bird and habitat lessons to older students. (6 upper elementary and high school classrooms visited last year!)Further outreach to local retirement communities and the Santa Barbara Braille Institute. (Provided 5 events last year!)Organize 2022 Winter Bird Count 4 Kids event.Continue working with Goleta Coast Audubon chapter to bring young people into active participation on behalf of birds.
Conservation/Science <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., Heritage Ridge project, Goleta LED Street Lighting Plan, letters of support for other environmental nonprofits.)Using science to advocate for bird and habitat protections for Goleta creeks and watersheds and City of Santa Barbara Community Wildfire Protection Plan.Extending reach of information and photos about the 10,300 records in the Breeding Bird Study.Monitoring SB County's only population of Purple Martins.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 valuating ecosystem health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to build advocacy to protect local open spaces, wetlands, bird habitats, and ecosystems. (e.g., protecting White-tailed Kites and the health of open spaces they rely on).Outreach to key departments within the City of Goleta, City of Santa Barbara, and SB County to advocate for bird and bird habitat protections.Research proposed wind turbine energy projects offshore of the Central Coast.Remind homeowners and agencies that tree-trimming should occur during months ending in the letter "R" to avoid nesting season. Trim in September, October, November and December.Collect and analyze 2021 breeding data for Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds at 22 Nest Boxes at LLC.Complete transfer of invertebrate data program to UCSB Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, and analysis of 2019 data.

THANK YOU!

Bill Pollock for his years of behind-the-scenes support while his wife, Dolores, led our chapter

Alex Loos for designing this beautiful newsletter and volunteering to handle Mail Chimp

Gail Crivello for assisting with mailing Welcome cards and Thank You letters

Darlene Chirman for donating her file cabinets to us, and for being available when we seek her advice

Isabelle Walker for her moving *In Memoriam* article on Lee Moldaver

Joyce Carasa for her patience and professionalism in putting together this newsletter

Judy Blue and **Joan Cotich** for laying the groundwork for Winter Bird Count 4 Kids 2022

All **local bird photographers** whose work adds such beauty to our publications

Leaders and staff of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for the warm welcome they extend to SBAS in so many ways

David Levasheff for doing a Facebook Fundraiser, encouraging his friends to donate to SBAS for his birthday. Thanks to everyone who participated: the donation totals a little over \$600!

In fact, thank you to all our members and donors for supporting our mission!

SBAS: NEWS

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU, DOLORES POLLOCK

By Janice Levasheff

After 14 years on the SBAS Board, including eight as President, Dolores Pollock has many amazing accomplishments to her credit. Here are just a few examples:

- She was a key member of the Development team that successfully raised funds to build our Eyes in the Sky Aviary at the Museum of Natural History. The aviary was dedicated 10 years ago this past December, and our strong partnership with the museum continues to this day.
- She made the decision to hire a part-time Executive Director, bringing a dedicated staffer to SBAS to interface with city and other government officials, pursue grant opportunities, and reach out to the public in ways that board members with other jobs and responsibilities cannot.
- With Chris Mersey and EITS leadership, she facilitated a smooth transition in our Eyes in the Sky program when Gabriele Drozdowski, its founder and the creator of Meet Your Wild Neighbor, left Santa Barbara.
- She was the initiating force behind our successful Winter Bird Count 4 Kids, now in its 7th year.
- She added electronic “blasts” as a frequent means to communicate with our subscribers in between quarterly newsletters.
- Along with her husband, Bill, she formed the nexus of our Annual Appeal campaign for years while we continued our search for a Development Chair.
- She worked with the board to develop and implement a practical yet far-sighted Strategic Plan.
- In her final year as President, she led us through the many challenges of the pandemic and helped build a skilled board and strong financial footing for the year ahead.



Photo by David Levasheff

Adult Hooded Oriole feeding chick by Fernando Calderon



- Even in her retirement, she leapt into action when we learned of Lee Moldaver's passing, encouraging those who knew him well to contribute to his memory page in this newsletter.

Characteristically, Dolores asked to receive no farewell gifts, requesting that well-wishers instead make donations to Santa Barbara Audubon.

We were unable to thank her in person at our Annual Meeting, which we were forced to hold virtually. But we plan to gather for a proper send-off when it is once again safe for us to come together.

In the meantime, we say to Dolores: Our mere words cannot adequately express our appreciation for the countless gifts you have given us, culminating in a strong and vibrant Santa Barbara Audubon Society. We cannot thank you, and Bill, enough for sharing your talent, dedication, and sense of humor.

TECOLOTE CIRCLE ERRATA AND ADDITIONS

We apologize for omitting Jack & Cathy Sanford from the list of Tecolote Circle members in our June issue of this publication.

And now, we welcome our newest members: Ron Hirst and J. Anne Roediger.

REMINDER

Please use the following address to get in touch:

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

P.O. Box 6737 Santa Barbara, CA 93160

As of this month, the U.S. Postal Service will no longer forward mail sent to our old address.

SBAS: EITS NEWS

EITS TAKES WING AGAIN

By Hannah Atkinson, EITS Director

As summer cools down, the Eyes in the Sky birds have taken to the Museum's shaded Backyard to greet visitors once again. Though SBAS remains cautious in public outreach as Covid-19 continues to circulate, many experienced EITS volunteers have returned to handling the birds and greeting audiences, both in the Museum Backyard and at open-air venues throughout the Santa Barbara area.

Last summer, the EITS aviary was sustained by a five-person "skeleton crew" of veteran raptor caretakers. Now, that roster has increased to 25. Handlers have visited Lake Cachuma and El Capitan State Beach to present in open-air amphitheaters, greeting youth and campers with live owls at sunset. Volunteers who have waited more than a year to share their passion with the public are gradually resuming their work.

Given the recent loss of Kisa, our Peregrine Falcon, one of our six SBAS aviary rooms now stands vacant. For the first time in years, the search for a new bird is on. It will be difficult to match Kisa's ability to awe and inspire children and adults alike—everyone is eager to meet the fastest animal on the planet! Still, with luck, we will train a new raptor ambassador later this year.

2020 was a year of adaptation, online curriculum, and long hours by dedicated volunteers. Thus far, 2021 has been a year of change and careful recovery. With strong foundations beneath us, we look forward to a healthier and happier autumn for our birds and humans alike.



Photo by Deby Laranjo

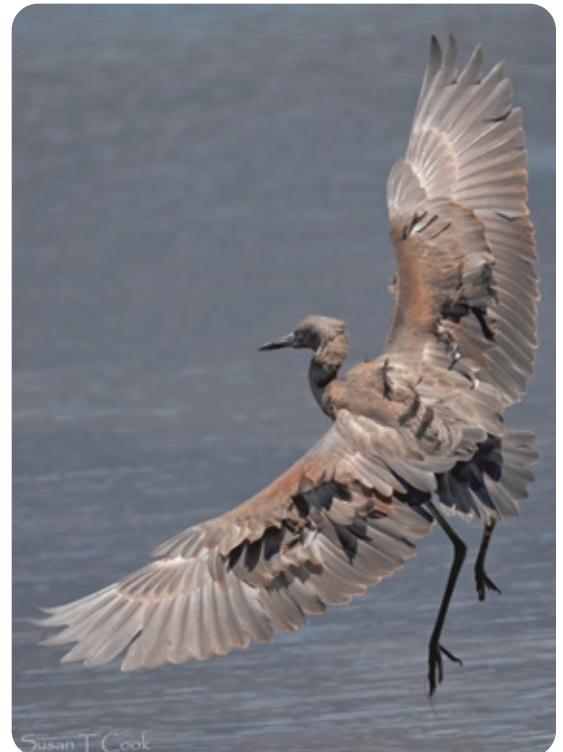


Photo by Adrian O'Loghlen

Recent birding adventures have been rewarded with sightings of at least three species rarely seen in the Santa Barbara area: clockwise from left, a juvenile Little Blue Heron, observed at Goleta Slough; a juvenile Reddish Egret, also found at Goleta Slough; and a Yellow-headed Blackbird, seen at Goleta Beach.



Photo by Jeff Hanson



Susan T. Cook

REMEMBERING LEE MOLDAVER

By Isabelle Walker, former SBAS board member and editor of *El Tecolote*

A decade after I met Lee Moldaver in the offices of *The Santa Barbara Independent*, he asked me to serve as editor of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society's bimonthly newsletter, *El Tecolote*. Novice birder that I was, editing *El Tecolote* sounded like a fun way to learn about birds while supporting Audubon's mission. Very soon, thanks to Lee's legendary recruiting skills, I was up to my elbows in Santa Barbara Audubon's history, compiling an abbreviated version for members to read in *El Tecolote*.

Lee helped arrange interviews with chapter founders Jan Hamber and the late Joy Parkinson, as well as with past presidents like Sally Walker, Ron Hirst, and Rob Lindsay. But never once did he point to his own contributions to the chapter, which, after 22 years on its board (30 years at the time of his death) including three terms as president, were prodigious and diffuse. Only from other board members did I learn of the activist training workshops he arranged with Sally Walker in 1994, inviting environmentalists from all over the state to come here and impart their trade secrets. And that he successfully lobbied his connections at National Audubon for Santa Barbara to be selected as the site of an Audubon-inspired pilot solid waste recycling project. When the project got underway, Santa Barbara vaulted to the forefront of the nation in recycling innovation.

Right after taking over as SBAS chapter president in 1992-1993, Sally Walker drove to the Western Regional Audubon conference with then-vice president Lee. They had never worked together before, and she knew having a good relationship with Lee would be pivotal to her success as president. The trip put an end to every concern about how their collaboration would go. "He and I became not only allies but friends, and it was just unforgettable. In fact, the car broke down on the way up and we basically hung out and developed an understanding and rapport." At that conference they decided to make watershed preservation a chapter priority and expand the chapter's birding trips and education programs.

I don't know how Lee operated on the myriad other nonprofit boards he belonged to, but it's hard to imagine he was any different than he was at SBAS: forward thinking, generous-spirited, remarkably effective, and tireless.

Dave Davis, former head of the Santa Barbara Community Development Department and current Chair of the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD), whose board Lee sat on for over 20 years, said Lee was deeply involved in developing the policies that brought the electric shuttle system to downtown and later to the waterfront at a time when electric shuttles were a revolutionary idea. Lee helped form an institute to study electric transportation at MTD—the Electric Technology Institute. Most of the cities that invested in electric shuttle services at that time ultimately abandoned them. Only Santa Barbara and Chattanooga, TN, made a commitment to stick with their electric fleet. Today, Santa Barbara is on track to have an all-electric fleet by 2030.

(Article continues on the web at <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/remembering-lee-moldaver/>)



Photo by Janice Levasheff

SBAS REMEMBERS LEE MOLDAVER

I first met Lee Moldaver when I became Executive Director of Santa Barbara Audubon Society two years ago and he welcomed me with enthusiasm and warmth. Dolores Pollock, SBAS President Emerita, organized a jam-packed week to onboard me, and Lee dutifully joined us at her dining table each morning at 9 a.m. His institutional knowledge was invaluable. Over the next two years his remarkable memory for names, dates and events continued to impress me. I was fortunate to speak with Lee a few times this past year. He always kept his spirits high and shared gratitude for the good work of SBAS. In Lee's memory, may the birds sing, the sun shine, and the Santa Barbara community forever work together to protect our avian friends and their habitats. We deeply appreciate Lee's service and commitment. – *Katherine Emery*

I always appreciated Lee as a mentor and a strong advocate for the environment. SBAS and the Santa Barbara community will miss him. – *Steve Ferry*



When I first became involved in SBAS, I was introduced to our Vice President, Lee Moldaver. I'd become Governance chair, a position I was highly unqualified for since I was new to the area and did not know many people yet. I needed help with outreach, and it was suggested that I speak with Lee. It quickly became apparent that Lee was everywhere and knew everyone in town. He gave me many names of people outside our organization who might be aligned with our values and helpful with ideas.

Another memory is of seeing Lee all over the community out and about. I would see him and his ubiquitous backpack getting off the bus in front of his office at the Goleta Community Center,...running to catch a bus in front of Gelsons,...and UCSB campus. Always a busy guy with some place to be. Lee will be missed. – *Peter Thompson*



Lee was so integral to all things SBAS and was a longtime and vital member of the Conservation Committee. While we know him as part of the heart and soul of SBAS, he was associated with almost every environmental organization in Santa Barbara. I had the pleasure of serving with him on the City of Santa Barbara's Creeks Advisory Committee. Always a strong advocate for protection, restoration, and conservation, he accomplished these goals through effective advocacy, education, and relationship-building. I don't think there is a person in Santa Barbara who Lee did not know. I came to know Lee long before my affiliation with SBAS, as he was involved in higher education issues in general, and SBCC in particular. He believed in the purpose and mission of SBCC and I was delighted to eventually join him in SBAS. – *Lori Gaskin*

He had an amazing memory, and his reach into politics and social networks was longer and deeper than I ever imagined. I would often spy him waiting for the bus in front of GCC whenever I was in Goleta. – *Julie Kummel*

I have great memories of being around Lee and of his prodigious volunteerism and intellect, and playing volleyball on East Beach with him for a decade on Sunday mornings with the regulars Dave and Dave and Robert and Heike. I recall him being very encouraging of my volunteerism with Audubon and conservation leadership, and the penultimate smart team player in everything he did. – *Ron Hirst*



THANK YOU, FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 DONORS!

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of our beloved Kisa

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We are very grateful to those of you who have set up Facebook Fundraisers, encouraging your Facebook friends to donate to Santa Barbara Audubon. The check that is issued to SBAS does not disclose your name, or the name of your supporters. Please know that we extend our deepest gratitude to you and the people who have donated in your honor. Thank you, so much!

SBAS: NEWS

FIELD TRIP REPORT FROM GOLETA COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY (GCAS)

By Conor McMahon, President of GCAS

On the weekend of August 7-8, Goleta Coast Audubon Society made its first official birding trip since the pandemic began, heading up to Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve on the border with SLO County. We spent a bit of time birding the riparian willows on foot (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S92612369>) and then headed to the beach and estuary (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S92622902>).

Highlights for the trip included sighting Yellow and Wilson's Warblers in the willows, a young Pigeon Guillemot near-shore, a trio of Ruddy Turnstones on the beach, and two Least Terns fishing over the estuary. We devoted significant effort

to locating Swainson's Thrushes in the riparian zone, as it had been reported earlier in the season, alas without success. Ultimately, the show was stolen by a group of whales feeding offshore in a mass of diving pelicans (no tubenoses around). Our cetacean-novice group decided there were at least four and thought they might be humpbacks.

Goleta Coast Audubon Society is a student chapter of the National Audubon Society at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Part of our mission is to get more young people involved in birding and bird conservation, and to that end we partner with SBAS on many of our projects and initiatives. Many GCAS members are also members of SBAS, and vice versa. Voting membership is free but restricted to UCSB students, but anyone is welcome to get involved and participate in events and activities. We hold local bird walks, monthly speaker events, and advocate for birds on and near campus.

For more information, please visit www.goletacoastaudubon.org.



Photo by Conor McMahon



Long-billed Curlew by Conor McMahon

PLEASE HELP US TO WELCOME EVERYONE TO SBAS WITH OPEN WINGS

By Kathleen Boehm, Secretary

Increasing diversity and inclusivity is a current focus of Audubon, and we are looking for ways to bring the joy of nature and birds to all community members, irrespective of backgrounds, lifestyles, abilities, and perspectives.

For example, Christian Puga (who was introduced in the summer issue of *El Tecolote*) and I have been working on ideas for including those who have special needs and reaching out to underrepresented populations. We welcome your input and participation in this effort. Please share your ideas with us by contacting me at 805-687-6218 or Secretary@santabarbaraaudubon.org.

MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

A SERIES INTRODUCING THE DIRECTORS OF OUR CHAPTER

INTRODUCING EMILY AND AARON KREISBERG, PROGRAMS CO-CHAIRS

By Emily and Aaron Kreisberg

We are looking forward to serving as Programs Co-chairs this upcoming 2021-2022 season for Santa Barbara Audubon. As we both attended UC Santa Barbara for our undergraduate degrees, we are grateful for the opportunities to experience the natural splendor of the region. From the peaks of Los Padres National Forest out to the Channel Islands and everywhere in between, the wider Santa Barbara area offers crucial open space, and SBAS's mission to protect and conserve these areas aligns closely with our personal values. Our appreciation for birds has continued to grow as we have gotten to explore across the Central Coast. We look forward to offering programs about both local topics and areas further afield, especially in sharing our passion for protecting open spaces and conserving the natural world.



Emily grew up in Ventura and moved to the Santa Barbara area in 2007 to study at UCSB, where she received a degree in Environmental Studies. She has worked as a biologist, botanist, and habitat restoration expert across Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Work sites include the backcountry of Los Padres National Forest, Pt. Mugu, San Nicolas Island, and the foothills behind Carpinteria, to list a few. Additionally, she has volunteered for the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps leading hikes in Channel Islands National Park. Hiking the many trails of the area is one of her favorite free-time activities, and she loves sharing natural spaces with others. She considers herself a secondhand birder.

Aaron was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Huntington Beach. He moved to the Santa Barbara area in 2008 to attend UCSB. Soon after graduating in 2012, he became involved with SBAS assisting with restoration projects, and his interest in birds was really sparked after he participated in an eagle count at Lake Cachuma. Eventually Aaron served as Programs Chair and then Conservation Co-Chair. The Channel Islands are one of his favorite places to explore, and he spent several years working as a kayak guide in Channel Islands National Park. In Fall 2020, he returned to UCSB to pursue a Master of Environmental Science and Management degree. Going birding and getting out paddling a kayak are his favored activities when he's not studying or working.

We are excited to connect SBAS members to a variety of topics in the upcoming program cycle and look forward to bringing diverse and interesting speakers to our SBAS members. While we look forward to getting back to Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, programs will occur in the format that circumstances dictate at the time. Our goal is to make programs welcoming, informative, accessible, and inclusive to the greatest possible audience, broadening the reach of SBAS's mission in protecting birds and their habitats.

SBAS: PROGRAMS

By Emily and Aaron Kreisberg, Programs Co-chairs

Our monthly programs continue to be virtual presentations. As each date approaches, look for an email – or consult the SBAS website or social media – for a connection link. If you are new to Zoom, we can help you get started. Call 805-679-1578 or email us (programs@santabarbaraudubon.org). All programs are on Wednesdays, beginning at 7:30 p.m.: September 22, October 27, and November 17.



SBAS: PROGRAMS

GOLETA COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY, A NEW STUDENT CHAPTER AT UCSB

Presented by Conor McMahon

Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Founded in 2019 by Conor McMahon, Goleta Coast Audubon Society (GCAS) is a registered campus organization at UCSB and an official campus chapter of the National Audubon Society. Embracing both graduate and undergraduate students, its mission is to protect wildlife and the habitat it needs to thrive, while engaging and educating students and the public on science and conservation issues pertaining to birds. To that end, the chapter organizes birding walks, conservation projects, and advocacy initiatives.

Conor McMahon grew up in Houston, TX. He discovered birding in an ornithology course at the University of Texas at Austin. After receiving a B.S. in biology and Mechanical Engineering from UT, he taught the course that inspired his birding, and later he moved to Goleta for graduate study in Geography at UCSB. He has been active in the SBAS Conservation/Science committee and is always looking for ways to introduce new people to the birding community.



CARRIZO PLAIN, WHERE THE MOUNTAINS MEET THE GRASSLANDS

Presented by Chuck Graham



Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

In 2006, during his first trip to the Carrizo Plain National Monument, Chuck Graham didn't envision publishing a photo book of these stunning grasslands fifteen years later. He now has a collection of images from the last of California's grasslands, time spent in the field chasing light, patiently waiting for wildlife to emerge and anticipating the next Super Bloom. His book coincides with the 20-year anniversary of the National Monument in January 2021.

Freelance writer and photographer Chuck Graham will share what he has learned about this unique grassland biome, which he documents in his first book, *Carrizo Plain, Where The Mountains Meet The Grasslands*. His work has also appeared in *National Geographic for Kids*, *National Geographic Books*, *Natural History*, *American Forests*, *BBC Wildlife Magazine*, the *Washington Post* and other publications.

THE CARPINTERIA SNOWY PLOVERS: A FIRST SUCCESSFUL NESTING IN 60 YEARS

Presented by John Callender

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

The Pacific Coast population of the western Snowy Plover is a federally listed threatened species. A major threat to the plovers is disturbance of their sandy beach breeding habitat due to human use of that habitat. Heavy public use of the beach during the birds' March through September breeding period has led to many historic nesting sites being abandoned. Although Snowy Plovers previously bred at Carpinteria State Beach, the birds had not done so since 1960. John will share the story of the successful nesting by Snowy Plovers in Carpinteria in 2021, including photos and videos of the birds and a discussion of the human efforts that helped them succeed.

A birdwatcher since childhood, John Callender is a computer programmer who lives in Carpinteria. He is the founder of Carpinteria Birdwatchers, the current organizer of the Carpinteria Christmas Bird Count, and the program chair of the upcoming Carpinteria Living Shoreline Festival.





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*Santa Barbara County Birding <http://sbcobirding.groups.io/g/main>
Officers and Chairs meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month September through June
Members are welcome to attend. Call 805-964-1468*



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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.

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