



THE 122ND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By Libby Patten, Liz Muraoka, Joan Murdoch & Glenn Kincaid

We knew when planning for this year's CBC that it would be another socially distanced event, but we're getting to be old hands at this, aren't we? We changed our system for data compilation to leverage eBird, requiring more work by our participants but making data crunching much easier (thank you!). We hoped for rain to help quell the drought and perhaps boost bird abundance for the big day. The weeks of rain in December were a welcome relief, but as CBC approached, we wondered if it had been too much of a good thing. Fortunately, the weather for CBC was clear, crisp and delightful for birding, although the mountain teams were very chilly.

Our final species total of 194 was the lowest in decades and likely reflects many factors. Prolonged drought reduced the food supply that attracts and keeps birds around. Ironically, the significant rain we got just before the count was a mixed bag. It might have helped increase some waterfowl numbers, but mud made some mountain roads impassable, and birding-by-ear near rushing creeks was nearly impossible! Also, COVID continues to impact us. Although the number of participants was higher this year (172) than last (155), we had to scramble to cover areas when participants got sick at the last minute.



Joan, Rebecca, Libby, and Liz Photo by Bill Murdoch

Of course, we still enjoyed the day immensely and had some nice highlights. These included the Warbling Vireo returning for its ninth winter at Bohnett Park (such a rare species in winter that we presume it's the same individual there all these years), Painted Redstart at Rocky Nook Park (there since mid-December), Green-tailed Towhee at a new restoration area in Goleta, Plumbeous Vireo at Chase Palm Park, and Horned Lark at Lane Farms.



Santiago Lupi and Sophie Cameron by Barb Millett

For the third year in a row, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found at Goleta Beach. Amazingly, we found Lawrence's Goldfinch, a bird we usually miss, at three different locations. A high count of American White Pelican (28 total) was found, also at three different spots. We counted seven owl species, including the less common Northern Pygmy, Spotted, Northern Saw-whet and Short-eared (which has been gracing More
(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.

THE 122ND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT *(continued from page 1)*

Mesa since late fall). The warbler count was lower than usual (10 versus 13 species) with rarer ones including Nashville, MacGillivray's, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's. Both Swamp Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow were found (La Cumbre Country Club and the Municipal Golf Course). The pelagic team had reasonably calm conditions on the channel, finding White-winged Scoter and Black Scoter. Among the seabirds, both Clark's Grebe and Caspian Tern were missed, though routinely found in the past.

Orioles were scarce this year (only two Bullock's), likely impacted by reduced eucalyptus bloom. Some other trends noted were big drops in Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Eurasian Collared-Dove, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, American Coot and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Species that showed much higher than typical numbers included Brown Pelican and Brandt's Cormorant.

This was not a montane year, so the CBC reflected that with only a few Pine Siskin. We saw no Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red Crossbill nor Townsend's Solitaire. Brown Creeper was frustratingly elusive although several were found not long before and after the count.

Historical data and observations of longtime birders have seen the abundance and diversity of birds decline significantly over the years. About 10 percent of the species found this CBC were represented by a single individual. Some were birds we rarely get in winter, so were a happy surprise, but others used to be much easier to find (e.g. Sora). A final element in our low total species count is that we've greatly benefited for many years by amazing scouting prior to CBC, often by out-of-town birders of supreme skill. Again, COVID disrupted these scouting activities, leading to fewer unusual finds on CBC day. Other count circles (e.g. Matagorda County, Texas) also noted that their high count had a significant fraction of species in the single digits and so could be easily missed..

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



Glenn Annie Crew



Marilyn Harding, Joan Lentz, Carol Goodell



Tuckers Grove Crew

State and national ranking based on total species count is shown below. The full list of species and numbers of birds recorded for each will be available soon on the Audubon website.

# Species	Count Circle
230	Matagorda/Mad Island Marsh, TX
211	San Diego, CA
200	Morro Bay, CA
195	Freeport, TX
194	Santa Barbara, CA
192	Guadalupe River Delta, TX

FROM THE DESK OF KATHERINE EMERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SBAS is actively working on many projects related to our three main focus areas: conservation and science merged 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

- Celebrating Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 18-21.
- Providing SBAS outreach at local retirement communities. (Contact Dotti Pak.)
- Bringing Eyes in the Sky raptor ambassadors into local schools. (Contact Hannah Atkinson.)
- Collaborating with Goleta Coast Audubon (UCSB Campus Chapter).
- Presenting monthly Evening Programs via Zoom. Recorded programs are available here: <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/additional-resources/videos/>

- Host our 8th Winter Bird Count 4 Kids event in 2022.
- Celebrate new “Bird Month” collaboration with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden in May.
- Create new SBAS outreach film to increase awareness about the importance of birds at Lake Los Carneros (LLC), promote the need to protect this open space for birds and other species, and empower environmental stewardship.
- Expand “Meet Your Wild Neighbor” curriculum to local kindergarten through 3rd grade classrooms.
- Participate in the SB County Science Fair and present SBAS Joy Parkinson Award to local student.

Conservation/ Science

- Meeting with agency decision-makers, providing public comments, and authoring conservation letters to promote bird, habitat, and biodiversity protections.
- Using science to advocate for bird and habitat protections for Goleta creeks and watersheds and proposed wind turbine energy projects offshore of the Central Coast.
- Increasing Breeding Bird Study records for 7th year.
- Assisting UCSB Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration as they now process SBAS aquatic invertebrate data for Coal Oil Point Reserve and North Campus Open Space to understand and evaluate ecosystem health important to birdlife.

- In collaboration with SB County Parks create new educational signage at Nojoqui Falls Park featuring information about the Purple Martin population that breeds in and around the park.
- Continue to 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.
- Looking for a SBAS member and volunteer who would like to burrow into the worlds of Nest Box monitoring of breeding Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds at LLC. This will be our 13th year of Nest Box monitoring. (Contact Steve Senesac <https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/contact-us/>).

SPRING AT THE AVIARY AND BRINGING BIRDS BACK TO SCHOOLS

Article and photo by Hannah Atkinson

As the weather warms up, the birds of Eyes in the Sky are returning to schoolyards throughout the Santa Barbara area. After drawing back from in-person visits during the winter Covid surge, EITS is now returning to its usual presence at elementary schools, afterschool programs, and community spaces – all while greeting daily visitors to the Aviary at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

This winter we’ve returned to the new hybrid Meet Your Wild Neighbor program, designed in 2020 to be taught either in-person or by Zoom. The program is now growing, with the addition of a new teacher: Wendy Kanter, a passionate birder, teacher of more than 30 years, and designer of her own bird-focused curriculum. The program will continue through the remainder of the school year, outdoors or online as needed, engaging kindergarten through 3rd-grade learners with bird activities, lessons, and songs.



Puku

No matter where and how we meet our audiences, our birds and handlers look forward to a warm season of learning and fun.

HELP NEEDED

Do you have a good handle on people who are working in environmental conservation or who study and share information about plants and birds? Perhaps you would like to join us as Chair of our Programs Committee, arranging for speakers to share their experience and knowledge of nature at our eight evening programs. This is a volunteer Board position.

We are also looking for a detail-oriented person to help us with data entry and administrative tasks on a part-time basis. Experience in dealing with databases and Microsoft Office is desirable. This will be a paid position.

If you are interested in either of the above, please get in touch with Janice Levasheff using the Contact form on our website <https://santabarbaraadubon.org/contact-us/>.



NEW BIRD GARDEN ON SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Article and photos by Wendy Kanter

One simple idea to spread the joy of birding to children can be found on a playground at Santa Barbara Charter School, where a small Bird Garden was recently created. It sprouted from the need to move a bird feeding station from its earlier location, leading to the good idea to put the bird feeders where all the students could see them. We chose a quiet corner of the playground because it had the perfect tree to hang the feeders. The feeding station included a tube feeder, a platform feeder, a suet feeder, and a hanging water dish. Adjacent to the tree is a *Pyracantha* bush whose red berries are also a food source for birds. We moved a bench and a large planter next to the tree. A few students in the After School Program helped plant Hummingbird Sage to add another food source. The children help to refill the tube feeder at least once a week and keep the water dish filled. Peanuts or fruit have been put on the platform feeder (e.g., slices of oranges for Orioles and butterflies).



One day, while the tube feeder was being refilled, a small bird landed on the branch from which the feeders hung, as if watching to see what was happening and saying, "Where's the food?" or even "Thank you." After filling the feeders and refilling the water dish, the children and a teacher sat on the bench, and only moments later the same bird came back and ate from the suet feeder, providing a very close look before it flew away.

The Bird Garden includes signage: word documents inside plastic page protectors (very low budget) taped onto the bench as a reference. Images and IDs of the birds that have been observed over the years are on these pages. A Bird Garden needs to include food, water, and cover, as noted on one of the signs. This bird garden now has all of those components.

One of the children who helped to hang feeders on the first day suggested the name "Bird Garden", which seems perfect.

MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

A SERIES INTRODUCING THE DIRECTORS OF OUR CHAPTER

INTRODUCING SAMANTHA (SAM) FRANZ, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

By Sam Franz



Photo by Sam Franz

Hello, fellow birders! I joined this organization as an eager new birder and nature lover, and I was thrilled when asked if I would consider joining the Board of Directors. My true passion in life is connecting people to animals and nature: What better way to do that than as the Membership Chair!

I get to make these connections not only in my spare time with SBAS, but also through my career as a non-profit professional for the last ten years. I have worked in conservation, development, education, marketing, and science for a variety of organizations including the Santa Barbara Zoo, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Sea Center, Long Live the Kings, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute, Washington Sea Grant, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service. I have a Master of Marine & Environmental Affairs (M.M.A.) from the University of Washington and a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science and Biology

from the University of Tampa. I first began birding in graduate school, during a marine birds and mammals course; by happy accident, I ended up with two professors who both studied marine birds, and I've been hooked on birding ever since!

My passion to connect people to nature and animals has led me to pursue a career in fundraising at the Santa Barbara Zoo. As the Corporate Relations Officer, I derive joy by connecting people to Zoo residents, its award-winning education programs, and fieldwork and conservation efforts to save endangered and threatened animals in the wild. My work with SBAS similarly allows me to work for the betterment of people, nature, animals, and the planet!

In my free time, I volunteer as the Conservation Seat Alternate for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and serve as the Vice-Chair for the Conservation Working Group and the Chair for the Climate Change Subcommittee. I love to explore the natural world (both above and below sea level) with my husband, Brian, and our dog, Huckleberry. This year I have a goal to identify 365 bird species – wish me luck!



HOW TO REACH US

Have you ever sent an email to one of our board members using one of the "...@santabarbaraaudubon.org" addresses and never received a response? We are sorry that you didn't hear back from us, but the reason is that your message never got to the intended recipient's In-Box!

We are now offering an improved way for you to reach us: Go to our website (<https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/>), and at the bottom of the page in the green footer please click on the words "Contact Us" (this is also under "Who We Are" in the top menu bar). A form will appear for you to fill out and submit. Your message will be routed to the board member who can best respond to you. Thank you for your patience!

HYBRID DUCK ENCOUNTER ... OR ... LEARNING TO THINK LIKE A BIRDER

Article and photo by Steve Colwell



As a novice birder, every time I look closely at a familiar bird, I learn something new. Before I started birding, a sparrow was a sparrow. Now, a sparrow could be a White-crowned Sparrow, a Grasshopper Sparrow, or any of several other sparrow species. And I've learned that even species ID isn't enough. Gulls, for example, may look quite different each year as they mature. The journey of discovery never ends. This must be how Orni, who my friend David Blue purports to be the birder god, works to keep us entertained.

Still, I thought I knew what a mallard is. Then I noticed some mallards on a pond near the Whittier Drive entrance to NCOS. One looked different, and the journey of discovery began anew. Discussions with local experts Nick

Lethaby and Mark Holmgren (who further consulted a national specialist) point to hybrid Mallard x Mexican Duck. But even they can't say with certainty. Perhaps it has American Black Duck rather than Mexican Duck parentage. Perhaps it is intersex or has some domestic-turned-feral genes. Or perhaps most likely, it had three Mallard grandparents and one Mexican Duck grandparent.

So, again I've learned something, this time about how the experts deal with uncertainty. I've also learned far more about this bird, at the cost of no longer having a simple name for it . . . and that's just fine!

NORTH CAMPUS OPEN SPACE (NCOS) GRAND OPENING

Mark your calendars (at least in pencil): May 12 and 14 are the proposed dates for the long-anticipated opening of the Mesa Trail, parking lot, Carlton-Duncan Visitor Plaza, and Duttenhaver Outdoor Classroom at the North Campus Open Space (NCOS). The Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) anticipates a formal event to acknowledge funding agencies, key individuals, and donors on Thursday, May 12, and a Community Open House on Saturday, May 14, to share the full site with neighbors, supporters and other interested users. We hope we'll be able to get out to the Audubon Overlook!

Please watch your email, our website, and our social media for updates and come help us celebrate!



Photo by Lori Gaskin

CCBR Director Lisa Stratton and SBAS President Emerita Darlene Chirman enjoy the view in the early stages of the work on NCOS

MEET LUCY LONDON, OUR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE *By Lucy London*



Photo by
Theresa London

“There!” The little bird was flitting quickly from place to place displaying its speed, skill, and brilliant red belly. “That’s it!” I yelled, mentally ticking off features of its identification: bright red stomach, black everywhere else, small bill, long tail, white half eye-ring, white outer tail feathers and huge white wing patches - Painted Redstart! This little bird was far from where it was supposed to be, its wintering grounds in the pine, juniper and oak forests of Mexico and Northern Central America. I had just seen it in the back corner of a neighborhood park in sunny Santa Barbara.

I have been interested in birds for as long as I can remember, from trying to attract birds in my backyard with a call machine (it didn’t work, but that didn’t reduce my five-year old excitement) to observing a Bald Eagle nest near our house (in Seattle, where Bald Eagles are a common sight). When I moved to Santa Barbara at the age of 10, I was completely hooked, and spent as much time as possible outside with my binoculars. Over the last five years, I have gradually improved, and can now confidently identify most of the birds that I see.

When not birding or at school, I spend time painting, drawing, reading, tidepooling, hiking, and researching topics that I’m interested in. I also love to volunteer. I started at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Sea Center, where I discovered that I loved telling people about birds and the ocean even more than researching those topics. Later, I joined the Quasars to Sea Stars program at SBMNH, through which I met Shio Chiba, the previous Student Representative. After Shio graduated, I jumped at the chance to join SBAS.

So far, I have attended SBAS Board, Education Committee and Conservation/Science Committee meetings, where I have learned about the ins and outs of conservation and running a nonprofit environmental organization. I have met many amazing people who are passionate about our local bird life, many of whom are accomplished birders. One of my favorite experiences was going on a birding field trip to Las Cruzitas Ranch, where I saw my first Lewis’s Woodpecker and learned how to identify Golden Eagles in flight. Although I have only been in this role for a short time, I have already gained immense knowledge and become a better birder. With the remainder of my time here, I hope to make a positive contribution to Audubon’s work and increase public awareness about the incredible diversity of Santa Barbara’s bird life.



Photo by
Theresa London

Winter Bird Count 4 Kids “BIRD ON YOUR OWN”

Free Birdwatching Fun for Ages 8 to 16!

Pick-up materials Saturday, April 9, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to noon

Free souvenir bird list, free t-shirt (for the first 80 kids)

Email dottipak@gmail.com for pick-up instructions

Pick-up to be held ONLY on April 9, 8 a.m. – noon.

COVID restrictions apply - Bird individually or in family groups.

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



KRS

IN MEMORIAM: REMEMBERING BILL URE

By Janice Levasheff

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Dr. William Ure. His February 7 obituary in the Santa Barbara Independent (<https://www.independent.com/obits/2022/02/07/william-ure-m-d/>) described him thus: "A lifelong ornithologist and member of the Audubon Society, Bill participated in the annual national Christmas count and helped rehabilitate seabirds coated with oil during a spill. He taught wild scrub jays to come at his whistle to eat peanuts from his hand..."

Bill joined our chapter at a pivotal time in the environmental movement, just before the infamous oil spill, and stayed through its aftermath. From our on-line newsletter, we learned that Bill was on our slate of officers in 1969, and in fall, 1970, he volunteered to take charge of the January 1971 Christmas Bird Count. Ironically, the species count for that CBC was 194, the same number as this year's CBC! He took charge of the following year's CBC, too.



His daughters shared some of their own memories:



... I remember my parents sitting around of an evening after the bird count, tallying up totals, to fill in the forms ... [for the CBC compilation. My mother] was always willing to provide large quantities of perfectly functional spaghetti, garlic bread and salad.

... at the new house he tried to save a murre but sadly it didn't make it. I also remember it wasn't the first bird Dad had tried to rehabilitate post-spill.

My parents had a 'Ban DDT' bumper sticker for years... I was delighted to see pelicans returning in the 1980-90s. My sister, visiting my dad a few weeks ago, went walking on the beach and told him she'd seen a huge flock of pelicans – scores of them – flying low over the water. We reminisced about how close they came to extinction, and it may have given him a lot more pleasure than we knew, to think about that near miss.

This last memory gets to the heart of why we wanted to share this with you: What we do matters! We are deeply grateful to Bill's loved ones for providing this inspiration and honored by their request that donations in his memory be directed to our chapter.

THANK YOU TO ...

All those who responded to our annual end of the year appeal for donations! We really appreciate your support! **CJ Oliverson**, for volunteering to do the layout design of this newsletter.

Our **Endowment Committee** (Ron Hirst, Chris Mersey, Peter Thompson, Steve Ferry, Steve Beal, Rod Durham, Cherie Topper), for their energy, expertise, and thoughtful stewardship of our growing endowment.

Judy Blue and **Joan Cotich** for pivoting from a January in-person Winter Bird Count for Kids event to an April "Bird-on-Your-Own" Event!

Everyone involved with the 122nd CBC, especially leaders Libby Patten, Joan Murdoch, and Liz Muraoka, and other members of the compilation team: Dave Compton, Glenn Kincaid, and Wim Van Dam.

Mo McFadden, who handled our publicity during the past year but now needs to focus on her growing business. We also want to thank her for holding a Facebook fundraiser to benefit SBAS. She raised \$369!

Maureen Russell, who has stepped up as Communications Chair. She has hit the ground running with our social media and email activity. You'll read more about her in a future issue.

Ryan Clark, who helped our Breeding Bird Study team find a new survey input tool.

Dr. William Ure and his family. We are grateful to them for their past - and present - dedication to SBAS and helping our local birds.

Thank you – we are stronger because of you!

SBAS: FIELD TRIPS

Please note that we may need to cancel events if pandemic conditions worsen. For everyone's safety, we ask that:

- › All participants be vaccinated, bring a mask to the event, and practice social distancing as much as practicable.
- › Masks be worn in carpool situations.
- › Prior to attending a trip, visit santabarbaraaudubon.org/activities for directions and event updates.

RANCHO SANTA BARBARA

Saturday, March 26, 2022 (8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: geese, Bald Eagles, Wood Duck, Lewis's Woodpecker, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican and other water birds and passerines

Leader: Rob Lindsay

Contact Rob Lindsay (thisisroblindsay@gmail.com) if you have questions.



Short-eared Owl
by Hugh Ranson.

HOLLISTER RANCH FIELD TRIP

Saturday April 23, 2022 (8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) (7:45 a.m. at mandatory carpool location)

Reservations are required due to a limited number of vehicles allowed on the Ranch

Target Birds: songbirds, ocean and pond water fowl, raptors and perhaps an owl or two

Leader: Guy Tingos

Note: this trip is already full. Email Rob Lindsay (thisisroblindsay@gmail.com) to get on waiting list.

NOJOQUI FALLS COUNTY PARK

Saturday May 21, 2022 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Yellow-Billed Magpie, Purple Martin, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Barn Owl, vireos, towhees, woodpeckers and orioles

Leader: Rob Lindsay

The park is in the Santa Ynez Valley. We will park in the parking area nearest the falls. We recommend you bring water, a snack or lunch. Please contact Rob Lindsay (thisisroblindsay@gmail.com) if you have questions.

SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

Please note that we may need to cancel events if pandemic conditions worsen. For everyone's safety, we ask that:

- › All participants be vaccinated, bring a mask to the event, and practice social distancing as much as practicable.
- › Masks be worn in carpool situations.
- › Prior to attending a trip, visit santabarbaraaudubon.org/activities for directions and event updates.

CARPINTERIA SALT MARSH NATURE PARK

Friday, March 11, 2022 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Long-billed Curlew, ducks, teals, egrets, godwits, gulls, herons, raptors, Killdeer. We will meet at the Nature Park entrance at the end of Sandyland Rd.

UCSB CAMPUS LAGOON

Friday, March 25, 2022 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: grebes, herons, dowitchers, ducks, godwits, plovers

We will park and meet at the west end of the Goleta Beach parking lot (nearest the UCSB campus).

NORTH CAMPUS OPEN SPACE (NCOS)

Friday, April 8, 2022 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: raptors, ducks, egrets, waders

Park on Whittier Dr near NCOS entrance.

TUCKERS GROVE

Friday, April 22, 2022 (8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: raptors, warblers, woodpeckers, sparrows



Painted Restart
by Hugh Ranson.

SBAS: PROGRAMS

By Emily and Aaron Kreisberg, Programs Co-chairs

Our monthly programs continue to be virtual presentations. The link for each program is noted in its description below. As each date approaches, you can also 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 (aekreisberg@gmail.com). All programs are on Wednesdays,

ORNITHERAPY: FOR YOUR MIND, BODY, AND SOUL

Presented by Holly Merker

Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89612218301?pwd=Y1Njd25RREE4Qzcybk3c1NrVFNaQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 1221 8301 Passcode: 503580

Ornithery leads to a more mindful approach to the observation of birds and benefits our mind, body, and soul. Research shows that exposure to nature actively reduces stress, depression, and anxiety, while helping build a stronger heart and immune system. Birds are a gateway into deeper experiences with nature, magnifying these benefits. We'll delve into our connections to birds, how to practice Ornithery, and learn about the latest research on the power of nature to enhance overall wellbeing.

Holly Merker has a background in art therapy and now employs birds and nature to improve wellbeing in her work as an environmental educator and birding guide. She has worked as a professional birding instructor for National Audubon, the American Birding Association, and many other organizations. To connect young people to birds, she co-founded the Frontiers in Ornithology Symposium and has facilitated many young birding groups and teen birding camps. She has been state coordinator/reviewer for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird Pennsylvania since 2005. Holly is lead author of the book *Ornithery: For Your Body, Mind, and Soul* and is currently providing workshops and programs across the U.S. In her free time, she spends every possible moment practicing Ornithery herself, which she credits in helping her defeat breast cancer, restoring her health both mentally and physically.



LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST SANTA BARBARA DISTRICT PROJECTS: DISTRICT RANGER UPDATES

Presented by District Ranger Daryl Hodges

Wednesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82228561684?pwd=L0s4N0ZxU3A2bE42MWZ2N00xZUc5UT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2856 1684 Passcode: 853305

Santa Barbara District Ranger Daryl Hodges will provide an update on projects going on within the Los Padres National Forest, including those focused on natural resources, habitat, and recreation. Spanning nearly 3,000 square miles and stretching from Monterey County in the north to Ventura County in the south, Los Padres National Forest includes significant portions of Santa Barbara County. From front country trails behind Santa Barbara to backcountry locations in and accessed via the Santa Ynez Valley, the Santa Barbara District covers a diverse range of habitats; it supports several rare and protected species, including California Spotted Owl, Golden and Bald Eagles, and it includes the historic range of the California Condor. Major current projects include aquatic organism passage improvements, post-fire management, and ongoing maintenance.



Photo courtesy of Los Padres National Forest

SBAS: PROGRAMS

Daryl Hodges is the current District Ranger for the Santa Barbara Ranger District. Before his current position, he was the Forest Fisheries Biologist on the Angeles National Forest in Region 5, where his responsibilities included management and conservation of threatened and endangered fish and amphibian species. He has engaged with our partners and volunteers who assist with aquatic programs.

Ranger Hodges started his career with the Forest Service in 1994 in Region 6 on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest as a Biological Technician/Stream Surveyor. He converted to a Fish Biologist on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and then accepted a position as the Monument Fish Biologist at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. He has worked in the Forest Service in Washington, Oregon, and Florida.

As part of his duties in Region 5 he drafted biological assessments for timber projects with emphasis on habitat inventory surveys and limiting the spread of invasive aquatic species. He also worked on a partnership with USGS, developing a new stream survey protocol.

Ranger Hodges recently completed an Acting District Ranger detail in R3 on the Lincoln National Forest, Guadalupe Ranger District, which includes expansive cave systems, range, and desert environments.

HUMMINGBIRDS, SHOREBIRDS, AND WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Presented by Jayden Washington Samuels

Wednesday, May 25, 7:30 p.m..

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83889017544?pwd=MnV0M1VuclRONEFuRnhoRSszbUx2UT09>

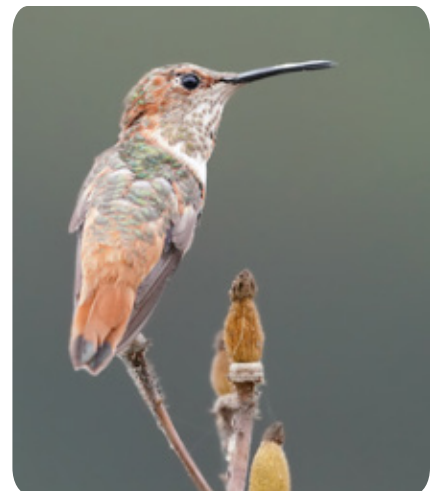
Meeting ID: 838 8901 7544 Passcode: 849187

Jayden Samuels will focus on his experiences in the field with hummingbirds and shorebirds, addressing such questions as:

- › How to photograph these animals
- › How to observe animals ethically, with or without a camera
- › Which locations offer best observations

He will also discuss the opportunities he's had while attending the North Hollywood High School Animal Studies/Biological Sciences Zoo Magnet Center.

Jayden is a 17-year-old Jamaican-American wildlife photographer and animal enthusiast who specializes in the knowledge of birds and reptiles. He runs a California-based wildlife photography account, [@pictilephotography](#), where he mainly posts the best bird shots he gets on his many outings. His love for animals shows in the amazing opportunities he gets to experience, such as his Zoo Magnet program and being a student volunteer at the LA Zoo.





El Tecolote
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Santa Barbara, CA 93160

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SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Members are welcome to attend. Call 805-964-1468



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

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