EITECOIOTE NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 61, Issue 1 September – November 2022

www.SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, SEPTEMBER 2022

By Janice Levasheff

After a two-year pause, Stow Grove Park was again a shady oasis for our Annual Membership Meeting and Get-Together on June 11. It was delightful to see new and familiar faces! While Glendessary Jam provided lovely music, over 50 members and their families shared hors d'oeuvres, perused the free raffle and give-away tables, and caught up with friends. We celebrated a year of accomplishments, paid tribute to former President Dolores Pollock, and thanked departing board members Dotti Pak (Education) and Emily and Aaron Kreisberg (Programs). By unanimous vote, the members present elected our slate of officers to the fiscal year 2022-2023 Board, as shown on page 12.

Thanks to your memberships and donations, our finances are in good shape.

Our member/donor records are now in an integrated system which should aid in efficiency. As with any system changes, however, there will be the occasional hiccup along the way, and we appreciate your patience – and feedback! Along those lines, we have an experienced person, Vanessa Delnavaz, to help us with data entry and other tasks as needed. We are very fortunate to have her on our team.

As you'll see in this issue, we are planning for in-person events where possible and have some exciting speakers lined up for fall. I hope you can join us at one or more of our events.





 ${\it Bluebird parents feeding nestlings by Chuck Cagara~www. Magical Light Photography. com}$



Graphic by Mélanie Bélanger.

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.

FROM THE DESK OF KATHERINE EMERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Through our Education Committee and our Conservation/Science Committee, SBAS is actively working on many projects related to our three main focus areas.

CURRENT PROJECTS

GOALS

Education

- Continuing to welcome the public to visit the Audubon Aviary and view the SBAS Eyes in the Sky (EITS) birds of prey every day except Tuesday at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Thank you, EITS leaders and volunteers!
- Continuing to provide our EITS educational live bird presentations at preschools, retirement communities, and camp locations. (Contact Hannah Atkinson.)
- Sharing the stunning new SBAS outreach film by Michael Love, Birds of Lake Los Carneros, which is free to watch and available to classrooms, community centers and others from our SBAS website: https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/learn-ing-resources/
- Schedule next set of Meet Your Wild Neighbor (MYWN) classroom presentations in at least 12 Santa Barbara and Goleta lower elementary classrooms beginning this autumn.
- Organize 10+ inspirational Evening Programs this year with new Board member, Roman Baratiak.
- Provide 32 morning bird walks/field trips this year. For updates, see https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/activities/
- Communicate informative fun bird-related stories to new and experienced naturalists through SBAS Hugh Ranson's Santa Barbara Birding column in the Santa Barbara Independent (monthly). Thank you, Hugh!

Conservation/Science

- Meeting with agency decision-makers, providing public comments, and/or authoring conservation letters to promote birds, habitats, and biodiversity protections for Santa Barbara area projects. Thank you, Conservation/Science Committee leaders and members!
- Finishing collection of 7th year of Breeding Bird Study records. Total of 189 species of birds contributed by the public over time. Thank you, BBS contributors, and Mark Holmgren and Adrian O'Loghlen!
- Summarizing results from 13th year of SBAS Nest Box monitoring at Lake Los Carneros (LLC). Eleven volunteers made observations at boxes and banded birds. Fledged: 87 Tree Swallows (TRES) and 22 Western Bluebirds (WEBL), the second highest ever for TRES and the highest ever for WEBL at LLC. Thank you, Don Schroeder, Steve Senesac, Conor McMahon, and volunteers!

- Strengthen conservation efforts to protect local open spaces, wetlands, bird habitats, and ecosystems.
- Use scientific data to continue outreach to the City of Goleta, City of Santa Barbara, and SB County to advocate for bird and habitat protections.
- Support UCSB Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) students researching SBAS aquatic invertebrate data for Coal Oil Point Reserve and North Campus Open Space to understand and evaluate ecosystem health important to birdlife. Thank you, Ann Steinmetz and Steve Senesac!

THE BIRDS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HAS BEEN UPDATED

Daul Lehman has once again updated his publication *The Birds of Santa Barbara County, California*. The May, 2022, edition can be freely downloaded (as an epub or pdf file) here: http://www.sbcobirding.com/lehmanbosbc.html,

When relying on this resource, please use the recommended citation: Lehman, P. E. *The Birds of Santa Barbara County, California,* Revised Edition, May 2022, available at http://www.sbcobirding.com/

<u>lehmanbosbc.html</u>, 2022. Original edition: The Vertebrate Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1994.

Paul also eagerly seeks input from the birding public. Details are available on the sbcobirding website at the link above.

Jamie Chavez, sbcobirding webmaster and listserv monitor reminds us: "We all owe Paul a debt of gratitude for continuing to update this invaluable resource. Additional thanks go to Wim van Dam for preparing the files for upload to sbcobirding."

Tree Swallows by

Jamie Chavez

SBAS: EITS NEWS

IVAN

By Hannah Atkinson

his summer, we lost one of the avian founders of our program. Ivan, our Redtailed Hawk, came to us in 1998, the same year we gained Max, our Greathorned Owl. These two birds served as the core of our education program for more than two decades.

Ivan lived an impressive life. As a wild bird, he was struck by a car and survived the ordeal with one blind eye and a permanently damaged wing. Later, he fought off aspergillosis, which is among the deadliest of raptor diseases. Despite his disabilities, he became a fantastic ambassador: He wowed tens of thousands of children and adults every year. Originally called "Ivan the Terrible" for his wild nature, he came to be known as our oldest and perhaps most striking bird, the most commonly visible local raptor in our lineup...and, later, one of our gentlest ambassadors to work with.



Ivan by Betsy Mooney



Ivan by Karla Shelton

Just like the falcons we've lost during the pandemic, Kisa and Kanati, Ivan passed due to heart disease, a testament to his incredible age. The oldest Red-tailed Hawk on record was about 30: Ivan was at least 26.

Thank you to Ivan for all he has given the world, and to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and attention to him throughout his 24 years in our care. He lived a long life full of love.

We hope to welcome a new Red-tailed Hawk to our aviary later this year

KEEPING BIRDS SAFE NEAR BUILDINGS

Text and photo by Karen Dorfman

After many sad thuds, we installed decals on the large windows of the Encina Royale clubhouse to deter bird strikes. We were thankful to find this affordable solution and get it done despite many competing priorities. The actual installation took just one hour. The decals interrupt the clarity and reflectivity of the glass but appear pale to human eyes. We look forward to seeing an improvement for birds.

Check out National Audubon's website: https://www.audubon.org/ news/help-birds-avoid-deadly-collision or consider a "Do It Yourself" window decal project on New York Audubon's website, https://ny.audubon.org/conservation/how-create-window-decals-prevent-bird-collisions



THANK YOU, FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 DONORS

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in memory of Dr. William Ure

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Gerrold & Barbara Rubin

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Patricia Schuette, in honor of Judy Blue

Kevin Scott

Carole Sebits, in honor of Judy Blue

Karla Shelton Jo-Ann Shelton Julie Stark Anonymous Mary Suydam Carol Terry

Michele Tornabene Brian Trautwein Sally Walker Jayne Wamsley Jeffry Waxman Gretchen Wenner,

in memory of Dr. William Ure

Phylene Wiggins

OUR THANKS ALSO TO...

Judy Blue and Joan Cotich for laying the groundwork for Winter Bird Count 4 Kids 2023.

Joyce Carasa, Betsy Mooney, and CJ Oliverson for their patience and professionalism in putting together this beautiful newsletter.

Jamie Chavez for his work as webmaster of sbcobirding.com and moderator for the sbcobirding group list-serve.

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

Julie Van de Wyngaerde, Maureen Russell, Hannah Atkinson, and Betsy Mooney for representing SBAS at Lotusland's "Birdsong" event in July and to Peter Thompson for offering to lead the bird walk that SBAS contributed as a Silent Auction item.

Nick Lethaby, Jeff Hanson, Peggy Kearns, Guy Tingos, and Cruz Phillips for their leadership in helping Rob Lindsay with special field trips.

Dolores Pollock and Dotti Pak for advising us even after stepping down from the board.

Emily and Aaron Kreisberg for assisting our new Programs Chair, **Roman Baratiak**, by taking care of the September and January programs.

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 and col-laborative spirit that they extend to SBAS in so many ways.

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

WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT MY BACKYARD BIRDS

Article by Steve Ferry, photos by Betsy Mooney

While having my breakfast under the sycamore trees in my back yard, as I usually do when the weather is nice, I heard a melodious bird song that sounded like it was far away. I looked up and saw a Scrub Jay (aka Jabe) perched on a chair not five feet away. It was softly



singing a beautiful melody, far different from the raucous squawks usually heard from that species. In subsequent days I found that if I whistled a tune, often the jay would join me in a duet! This was one of many things I learned about my backyard birds.

One day I threw out peanuts (unsalted, in the shell) for the jays. They gleefully selected their favorites and flew off to bury them. Suddenly, a California Thrasher (aka Cap'n Hook) darted out from the bushes and grabbed a peanut! The thrasher takes the peanuts and eats them immediately; they don't cache them. I've found that the thrasher has some difficulty getting into the peanuts, so I usually crack them before I throw one to the thrasher.

Occasionally there would be disputes over the peanuts between the jays and the thrashers. The jays were generally dominant, but I learned that this was very much a function of the personalities of the individual birds. Sometimes a jay would chase off a thrasher, but when a different jay came in, the thrasher dominated and would chase off the jay! Who would have guessed?

Thrashers and jays are not the only peanut lovers. A Spotted Towhee (aka Spotty) will often watch the peanut action from a safe place under the bushes. When the coast is clear of the bigger birds, the towhee sneaks out and snatches a peanut before the bullies return. The towhees also prefer to have the peanut shells cracked so they can get at them immediately and eat them.

It's really been fun watching the backyard bird behavior. I'm looking forward to seeing what happens next!





MEET YOUR AUDUBON BOARD

A SERIES INTRODUCING THE DIRECTORS OF OUR CHAPTER

By Roman Baratiak



ello, El Tecolote readers, SB Audubon members, and friends-

I've recently had the honor of joining the SBAS Board as Programs Chair. For over 40 years I was involved in the planning, management and production of public lectures, film screenings, and special events for the UCSB Arts & Lectures Program. I recently retired as Associate Director from this beloved program.

When I was two years old, my family obtained refugee status and immigrated – via boat – to the U.S., settling in a hard scrabble Ukrainian neighborhood in Chester, Pennsylvania, where pigeons were the alpha species. Following years of hard work and sacrifice by my parents, we moved to a safer working-class suburb, where I spent countless hours inside the public library perusing bird and wildlife books, journals, and, of course, *Audubon* and *National Geographic* magazines. Fascinated by the cardinals, Blue Jays, robins, sparrows and starlings, my older

brother and I decided to form the "Junior Audubon Society" in our town. We were the only two members — he was president, and I was vice-president! It was great fun. The greatest thrills were the rare sightings of a Ring-necked Pheasant and the honking from an occasional migrating flock of magnificent Canada Geese on a brisk fall day. The call of the wild and a harbinger of winter on the way!!

After high school I was miraculously accepted by UCSB and eventually graduated with a degree in Geography and Environmental Studies. As a work-study student at Arts & Lectures I discovered the arts and was hooked! UCSB A&L was my home for more than four decades. Now as a pensioner and wanna-be flaneur, I look forward to continuing the programming legacy of previous SBAS Programs Chairs Emily and Aaron Kreisberg, Teresa Fanucchi, and their predecessors.

Please check out the Fall programs schedule below and on the following pages, and be sure to say "hello" at the Bald Eagle event on November 3 or via Zoom on November 30 when the topic will be the owls of North America and the Caribbean. I look forward to meeting you and working with an Audubon chapter with more than two members!!

SBAS: **PROGRAMS**

By Emily and Aaron Kreisberg, retiring Programs Co-chairs, and Roman Baratiak, incoming Chair

PLEASE NOTE: Our fall programs are scheduled differently than in the past:

- They are not all on a Wednesday.
- We have no program in October, but two in November.

Starting times vary

• Venue and means of access vary.

SEABIRD MONITORING IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Speaker: Jim Howard

Wednesday, September 28, in person at 7:30 p.m., (Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

Location: Farrand Auditorium, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

The California Institute of Environmental Studies (CIES) works with the National Park Service and other cooperators to restore native habitat and monitor seabird species on the Channel Islands. Jim will discuss some of the interesting trends and highlights from the seabird monitoring work that has been done over the last several years, from the majestic Western Gulls



Photo by Jim Howard

SBAS: PROGRAMS



of Anacapa to the secretive Ashy Storm-Petrels nesting among the cliffs and sea caves at Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara Islands.

Jim Howard is the lead seabird biologist for CIES on the Channel Islands National Park seabird projects. He has worked in and on the Channel Islands since 2007, when he began working on Santa Rosa Island as an island fox biological technician. He began working on the CIES seabird projects in 2012. Since his first trip to Orizaba Rock to help set up an audio attraction system for the Ashy Storm-Petrels, he has enjoyed the challenge and variety of working with seabirds. He'll never admit to liking the murrelets most.

Western Gull Chicks by Jim Howard.

THE BALD EAGLE: THE IMPROBABLE JOURNEY OF AMERICA'S BIRD

Speaker: Jack E. Davis

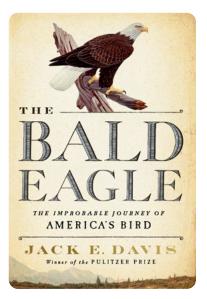
Thursday, November 3, in person at 7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6:45 p.m.)

Advance registration is recommended. Visit the Santa Barbara Audubon Society or UCSB Arts & Lectures website to register. Location: Fleischmann Auditorium, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Presented by UCSB Arts & Lectures, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and the Santa Barbara Audubon Society. Courtesy of Chaucer's Bookstore, books by the author will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

Jack E. Davis' book, *THE BALD EAGLE*, is an astonishing work of cultural and natural history that forces us to reconsider the story of America through the lens of our relationship to the natural world. As Davis reveals, no other animal in American history (certainly no avian species) has been the object of such adoration and cruelty as the Bald Eagle – first beloved and hailed as an emblem of the rarefied natural environment of North America, then hated, and, ultimately, revered and protected. For centuries, Americans have celebrated the Bald Eagle as majestic and noble yet savaged the living bird behind the national symbol as a malicious predator of livestock and, falsely, even a snatcher of babies. Taking us from before the nation's founding, when indigenous peoples lived peacefully beside the eagle, through two nearly inconceivable resurgences in the 20th century when it was – not once, but twice – nearly brought to extinction by hunting and DDT, Davis recounts a panoramic history of the bird and the icon, unearthing nothing short of the story of the nation and its tenuous relationship to the environment through nearly five centuries.





THE BALD EAGLE does more than tell the story of the fate of a particular species. In resurrecting the voices of environmental prophets who warned against DDT, the efforts of a remarkable cast of bird advocates and rescuers who – state by state, nest by nest – climbed trees, rescued eggs, and reintroduced fledglings into the wild; and finally, charting the ecological redemption born from bipartisan legislation, Davis reveals the glimmer of a potential path forward

SBAS: PROGRAMS

as we grapple with environmental peril on a larger scale. THE BALD EAGLE is also, Davis notes, a tale of American values, showing that while patriotism and environmentalism may seem at odds today, "in the American historical context they are complementary at their core."

Jack E. Davis is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Gulf: The Making of An American Sea* and An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century. Davis is the Rothman Family Chair in the Humanities at the University of Florida.

OWLS: SOUL OF THE NIGHT

Speaker: Scott Weidensaul

Wednesday, November 30, via Zoom only (not in person) at 6:30 p.m. Please note early start time.

Join the Zoom program at:

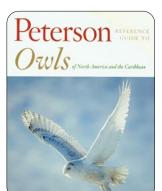
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89756066069?pwd=SjJ5dHpyRFpnZSt3ZVczWIROcVBJdz09

Meeting ID: 897 5606 6069, Passcode: 415467

Presented by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Santa Barbara Audubon Society in conjunction with the Museum's John and Peggy Maximus Gallery exhibition, **A Parliament of Owls**, October 7, 2022 thru February 5, 2023.

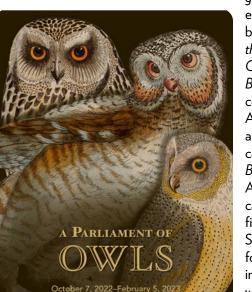
Owls: Soul of the Night

Everyone loves the beauty, mystery and charm of owls, but science is still unlocking many of the secrets of owl biology and ecology. Join Scott Weidensaul, author of the *Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean*, for an exploration of



the weird and little-known world of these mostly nocturnal hunters, and the exciting new discoveries being made not only about tropical species like the Stygian Owl, but even the most common and widespread owls in American back yards.

Scott Weidensaul is the author of nearly 30 books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Mi-*



gratory Birds and his latest, the New York Times bestseller A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds. Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon and writes for a variety of other publications, including Living Bird. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society and an active field researcher, studying Saw-Whet owl migration



for more than two decades, as well as winter hummingbirds in the East, bird migration in Alaska, and the winter movements of Snowy Owls through Project SNOWstorm, which he co-founded.

Courtesy of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

SBAS: FRIDAY BIRD WALKS 2022

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 possible.
- > Masks be worn in carpool situations.
- > Prior to attending a trip, visit santabarbaraaudubon.org/activities for directions and event updates.

Detailed directions to the events can be found on santabarbaraaudubon.org/activities.

GOLETA BEACH/ATASCADERO ESTUARY

September 9, (8:30-10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Waterfowl, egrets, shorebirds, herons

ENNISBROOK TRAIL

September 23, (8:30-10:30 a.m.)
Target Birds: Woodpeckers, warblers

ROCKY NOOK PARK

October 14 (8:30-10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Kinglets, warblers, woodpeckers

TORO CANYON PARK

October 28 (8:30-10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Raptors, hummingbirds, towhees, warblers

STEVENS PARK

November 11 (8:30-10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Titmice, towhees, warblers

ELINGS PARK

November 25 (8:30-10:30 a.m.)
Target Birds: Raptors, wrens, sparrows

SANTA BARBARA HARBOR

December 9, (8:30-10:30 a.m.)
Target Birds: Shorebirds, waterfowl

SAN MARCOS FOOTHILL PRESERVE

December 23 (8:30-10:30 a.m.)
Target Birds: Raptors, sparrows, quails

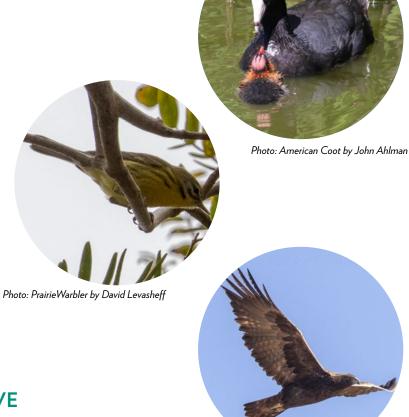


Photo: Golden Eagle by David Levasheff

SBAS: FALL FIELD TRIPS 2022

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 possible.
- > Masks be worn in carpool situations.
- > Prior to attending a trip, visit santabarbaraaudubon.org/activities for directions and event updates.

SANTA BARBARA HARBOR AND ANDREE CLARK BIRD REFUGE

Saturday, September 17, 2022 (8:00-10:30 a.m.)

Target Birds: Shorebirds and waterbirds

Leader: Rob Lindsay (ThisisRobLindsay@gmail.com)

Directions: We will start at the base of the breakwater at the Santa Barbara Harbor to bird that area. From there, we will drive to the Andree Clark Bird Refuge to explore this freshwater ecosystem. Many migrant and resident seabirds and waterbirds are expected.

SBAS: FALL FIELD TRIPS 2022

LAKE LOS CARNEROS COUNTY PARK

Saturday, October 15, 2022 (8:00-11:00 a.m.)

Target Birds: Freshwater ducks and other waterfowl, raptors, winter woodland birds.

Leader: Rob Lindsay (ThisisRobLindsay@gmail.com)

LAS CRUZITAS RANCH, NEAR SANTA YNEZ

Saturday, November 19, 2022 (8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

Target Birds: Goldfinches, buntings, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Phainopeplas, Yellow-billed Magpie, Prairie Falcons, nuthatches, hummingbirds, and maybe a Golden Eagle

Trip Leader: Cruz Phillips, 805-688-8233, cruzitas@aol.com

Directions: Meet Peter Thompson (SBAS Field Trip Chair) near the ranch at 8:30 a.m. Visit santabarbaraaudubon.org/activities for directions to the meeting place.

Reservations are required. Limit of 25 SBAS members only. To reserve a space contact Rob Lindsay (ThislsRobLindsay@gmail.com) and provide the name, email address, and phone number of each member applying. Your reservation will be confirmed promptly.

HOLLISTER RANCH

Saturday, December 10, 2022

Reservations required. Limit of 17 SBAS members only.

Leader: Contact Rob Lindsay (ThisIsRobLindsay@gmail.com). Reservation requests must include the name, email address, and phone number of each member applying.

PREMIERE FIELD TRIP TO POINT MUGU NAVAL AIR STATION TRIP

Santa Barbara Audubon Society is pleased to announce a return to NBVC Point Mugu on Friday, December 2, 2022. This unique opportunity allows us to visit some 2,000 acres bordered by the Pacific Ocean and some of the most bountiful agricultural land in the Central Coast. Marsh, coastal wetlands, riparian areas, and grasslands provide a stopover for thousands of migrating birds each year and includes habitat for seven endangered species. The area is so rich in wildlife that we typically count 80 species including waders, rails, songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and more.

This year we ask that participants be members of either the Santa Barbara or the Goleta Coast Audubon Society. If you are not a member, go to the Santa Barbara Audubon website and click on the "Join Today" tab in the upper right of the main page. Priority will be given to members who have not yet visited Point Mugu. 14 spaces are open and will be taken upon receipt of the completed Navy form.

This field trip takes us to an active Navy Base. All participants must be US citizens and are required to fill out an Access Pass Registration Form.

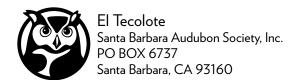
This form requires submitting personal information 30 days before the event. You must be approved before entering the base. Sorry, NO CAMERAS allowed on base. The Navy reserves the right to cancel this event if necessary due to Covid.

To sign up, go to the Mugu link on our website. Read over the 3-page Navy Access Pass Registration Form with instructions and special instructions. This is to ensure you will qualify and are comfortable with filling out the form. It can then be filled out electronically or printed out and done by hand. Paper or scanned forms in PDF format are acceptable. Once completed, they can be sent to Jeff Hanson at jlh749@cox.net

The opening date to receive completed forms is September 28th. Closing day is October 26th. Please send them to Jeff Hanson at <u>ilh749@cox.net</u> You can also address any questions or problems to Jeff or leave a voicemail at (805) 964-8854.

VEGETATION TRIMMING REMINDER

esting activity is winding down, so September is the month to start cutting back vegetation. You can find helpful resources and download our "Guide to Bird-friendly Vegetation Trimming" from our website here: https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/additional-resources/



DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE

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SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

805-964-1468 | santabarbaraaudubon.org/contact-us/

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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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