

EITecolote



Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Spring 2024



The 124th Christmas Bird Count

Counting in Cuyama:
An Inaugural Bird Count

Winter Bird Count for Kids

Birders of Santa Barbara:
Jeremy Cowan



From the desk of Katherine Emery, Executive Director

Through our Education and Conservation/ Science committees, Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS) is actively working on several initiatives. This update provides an overview of selected current projects, goals, and opportunities for member engagement.

Dear SBAS Friends, Members, and Supporters,

Hope this finds you well and that you are having a happy and healthy start to 2024. SBAS is bustling with fresh energy. We work determinedly to protect area birdlife and habitat and connect people with birds through education, conservation, and science.

We continue to have informative, fun, and free bird walks, field trips, and evening programs, such as the recent owl presentation "What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds" by Jennifer Ackerman. We thank the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for partnership in hosting this and other events. We welcome two new staff members, Sarah Clement, who is helping with administrative work, and Hilary Peattie, an additional teacher for our popular and growing Meet Your Wild Neighbor (MYWN) three-week educational program in local elementary schools. This spring, we are expanding MYWN to reach 16 classrooms, incorporate more bird sounds and music, and integrate a bird walk around school campuses to teach children about the birds sharing their school grounds with them. Thank you, generous donors and grantors, for making this SBAS educational outreach possible.

Year after year, the SBAS Winter Bird Count for Kids thrives. Thank you to the team for making the 10th year a success: City of Goleta, SBAS volunteers, high school students, and bird-loving and nature-seeking families. One parent, Wim van Dam,

wrote: "Thank you to the organizers of the Winter Bird Count for Kids at Lake Los Carneros. It brought back great memories of child-friendly bird walks that I enjoyed myself many decades ago. Despite the rain the birds were cooperative, with the best ones being a Summer Tanager near Stow House and a Violet-green Swallow over the lake."

Thank you, also, to Christmas Bird Count leadership for masterly orchestrating another vibrant event, and to members for braving the rain, donning boots, and collecting meaningful data. On a side note, while the total count was lower than expected (likely due to the storm and lack of a boat survey), I feel like I'm hearing and seeing more birds than ever in our post-rain, very green yard.

Gratitude to the Conservation/ Science Committee for their time and expertise working to increase conservation-focused management of open spaces, riparian zones, and other important bird habitats, and advance habitat protection initiatives, such as advocating for educational signage plans for critical birding areas and advancing research and community science (e.g., the Breeding Bird Study).

We welcome new members to our Board. Please contact SBAS President Janice Levasheff if you're interested in learning more about our open positions on the Board.

Thank you, all, for protecting birds and their habitats.

*Katherine Emery, Executive Director
Santa Barbara Audubon Society*

Our Mission

Santa Barbara Audubon Society protects area birdlife and habitat and connects people with birds through education, conservation, and science.

All are welcome. Learn more at SantaBarbaraAudubon.org.

Eyes in the Sky

Ace the Peregrine Falcon is an Eyes in the Sky ambassador bird who lives in the SBAS aviary at Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.



Photo by EITS volunteer Anthony Galvan III

In the News

We are pleased and excited to announce the launch of Bird of the Month in *VOICE* magazine. Thanks to Roman Baratiak for the idea, to Rebecca Coulter for selecting the bird and writing the copy, and to the various photographers who will be providing the photos. Special thanks to Kerry Methner at *VOICE* magazine. The Bird of the Month selections will be archived at SantaBarbaraAudubon.org/botm

Special thanks to an anonymous donor who sponsored the color printing for this issue of *El Tecolote*.

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

805-964-1468

SantaBarbaraAudubon.org

El Tecolote

The magazine of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society

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Officers and Chairs meet the second
Wednesday of the month September through
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805-964-1468

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On the cover: Orchard Oriole. *Photo by Steve Colwell*



Help Birds Soar!

Join, Renew Your Membership, and/or Donate to Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Please donate online, scan the QR code, or mail this form with your check to **SBAS** (address below).

I'll be a Chapter-Supporting Member! New Renewing

\$26 Basic \$50 Sponsor \$100 Sustaining \$500 Patron \$1,000 Benefactor Other donation

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.

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SBAS, P.O. Box 6737, Santa Barbara, CA 93160
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The 124th Christmas Bird Count

by Libby Patten



Swamp Sparrow. Photo by Sophie Cameron

Do you remember our wet and wild 2022 Christmas Bird Count? There was trepidation again as many of us watched the December 30, 2023 forecast showing a chance of heavy rain during the CBC. We did have significant rainfall overnight, making owling a bit challenging, but it cleared up nicely for daytime birding. Unfortunately, ocean swells and floating debris prevented our boat from launching, thus many pelagic species were missed and our species count lowered. Shorebirds were also harder to find with high tide and storm surge. The final species total of 194 was similar to lower numbers of the last few CBCs, but actually represented a very successful landbird count. All this, thanks to our dedicated participants who numbered 170 this year. Thank you all!

A larger diversity and higher counts of rarer warblers included

Lucy's Warbler at the UCSB Thunderdome, Chestnut-sided Warbler at Chase Palm Park, MacGillivray's Warbler in Isla Vista, five Black-and-white Warblers (Lotusland, Tech Park in Goleta and Bohnett Park), four Nashville Warblers, Hermit Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, four Wilson's Warblers, and three Yellow Warblers. Also boosting our numbers were five oriole species: Bullock's, Orchard, Hooded, Baltimore, and Scott's. These were found in many areas in Goleta and north Santa Barbara. Potentially the high rainfall earlier in 2023 could have helped provide more food for these species.

Emphasis was placed on sea-watches from various cliffs to offset the lack of boat data. These observers were able to find: Black-vented Shearwater, Surf Scoter, and Red-throated, Common and Pacific Loons. Owling efforts in the rain still

produced our typical species: Spotted, Northern Saw-whet, Western Screech, Barn, and Great Horned Owls although the Burrowing Owl in the San Marcos Foothills Preserve was hiding on CBC day. The wintering Warbling Vireo, back for its eleventh year at Bohnett Park, was seen in late November, but not on count day or during count week. The "ancient" vireo resurfaced shortly afterwards. It had been a significant montane year starting last fall, but it was cooling down by the time of our CBC. Some montane species including Red Crossbill (Glen Annie Golf Club and UCSB Thunderdome) and numerous Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen on count day although others such as Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Chickadee, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker and Cassin's Finch were not.

Other notable misses included White-tailed Kite, Redhead, and Rock Wren, among others.

We are starting to dig deeper into analyzing trends for the Santa Barbara CBC over the past 50 years using National Audubon data. One



Mulroy family team at Rocky Nook Park

finding is that the total number of individual birds counted has dropped about 40 percent, from 50,000 to the current level of about 30,000 birds as



Nick and Mary Freeman at Mission Creek outflow

shown in the "individuals" plot (see following page: all plots by Linus Blomqvist). There are likely many factors that may be impacting these numbers. These data also show some species are now more numerous and some have declined. Illustrated are four example cases: Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Gadwall showing increases, and White-tailed Kite and Forster's Tern showing large drops over the 50-year span. As always, CBC

data are so important to tracking the overall health of all our bird populations.

The CBC evening countdown event was led by Mark Holmgren who gave interesting historical perspectives to the species list. We dedicated this CBC to our beloved Joan Lentz, and the event included tributes to Joan. Paul Lehman gave a touching remembrance via Zoom.

(continued)



Members of the Ellwood Mesa CBC crew scan the sea. *Photo by Genelle Ives*



Birders at Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden

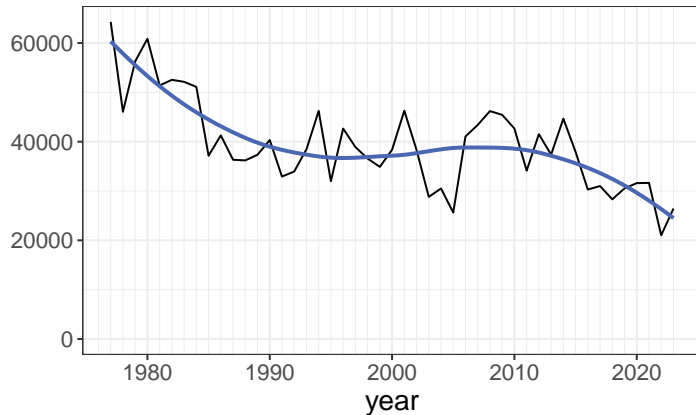
The CBC organizing team changed in 2023 as Rebecca Coulter stepped down in 2022 after many years of great leadership. Thanks, Rebecca! The new team of Libby Patten, Liz Muraoka, Glenn Kincaid, Linus Blomqvist, Conor McMahon, and Mark Holmgren worked

hard using the latest data tools for improving the CBC. Many thanks to this amazing team as well as to SBAS for its steadfast support of the CBC. Finally, huge thanks to all the local and visiting birders who scout, mobilize, and inspire us every year!



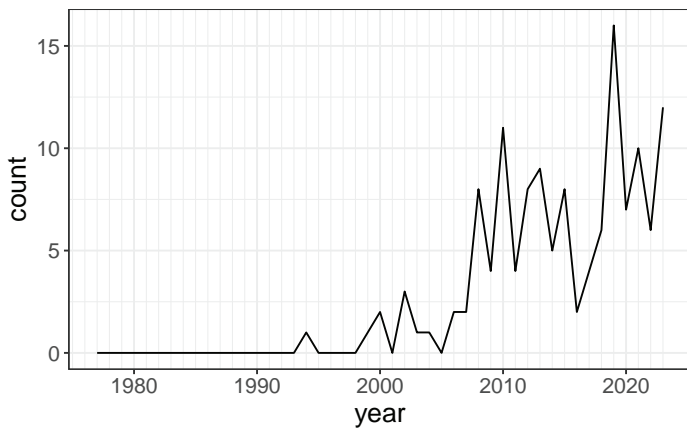
Baltimore Oriole. Photo by Sophie Cameron

Total number of individuals

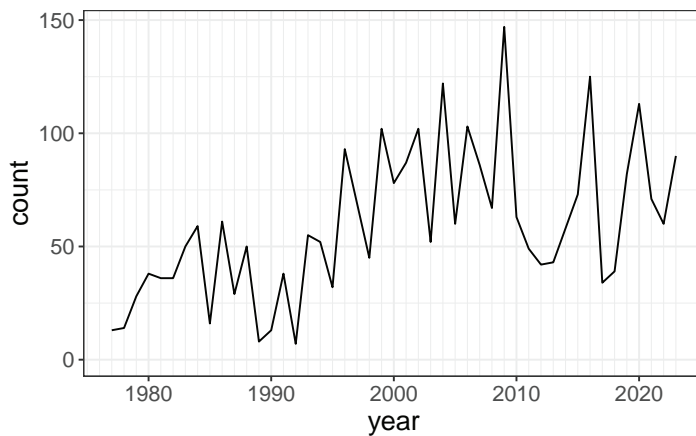


Black line is the actual count and blue line is a smoothed trendline

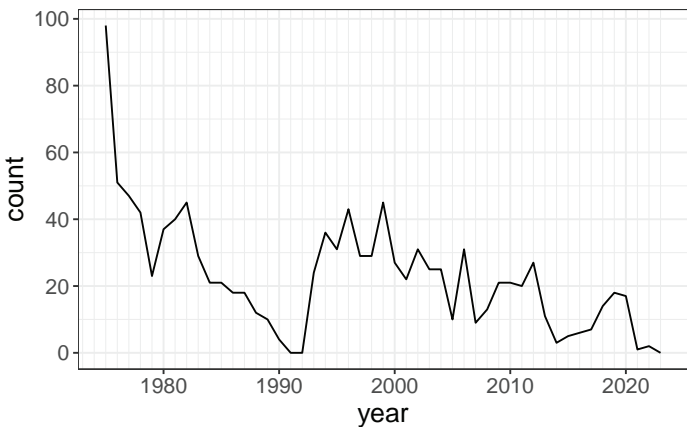
Chestnut-backed Chickadee



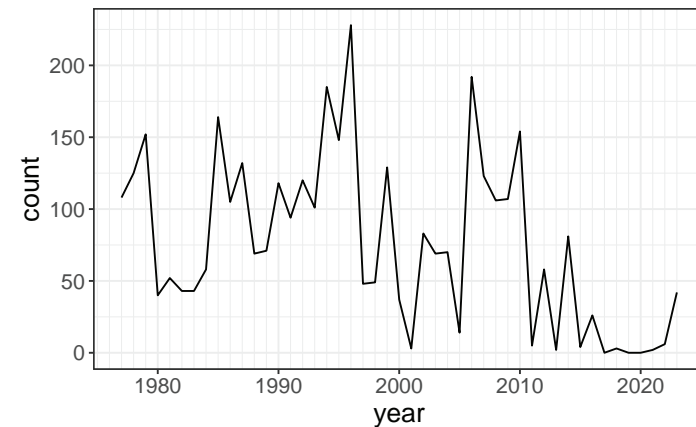
Gadwall



White-tailed Kite



Forster's Tern



For more details: Find the full list of species and numbers of birds recorded on the SBAS website. See data trends spanning six decades of Santa Barbara CBCs on a new web app created by Linus: linusblomqvist.shinyapps.io/cbc_shiny/.

Counting in Cuyama: An Inaugural Survey

by Linus Blomqvist



Cuyama Valley. Photo by Conor McMahon

Cuyama Valley and its environs are—both in terms of habitats and birdlife—unlike any other place in Santa Barbara County. The valley itself features grasslands, pastures, and cropland. Canyons to the east of the valley offer desert habitat. The foothills of the Sierra Madre have a mix of chaparral and broadleaf forest, interspersed with patches of Pinon-Juniper woodland, especially in Santa Barbara Canyon and Dry Canyon. For those of us used to birding on the South Coast, it is like entering a different world. Yet very few birders venture out to Cuyama Valley, in part, perhaps, due to a lack of awareness and in part because of the one to two hours it takes to drive there from major population centers. As a result, far less is known about the area's birdlife

compared to more intensively birded regions.

To improve this situation, 12 volunteers undertook the first Cuyama Winter Bird Survey on January 6-7, 2024. Teams fanned out across the valley, canyons, and foothills, covering 19 eBird hotspots and some other locations. This is likely more coverage than the area normally sees in a whole year, and I want to thank all the participants for their effort. In total, 102 species were recorded. This might not seem like much to those used to birding in more biodiverse areas like the South Coast, but for Cuyama, it is an excellent result, considering that only 158 species have ever been reported there in winter (based on eBird data).

(continued)



Mountain Bluebird. Photo by Linus Blomqvist

What is lacking in terms of quantity of species in Cuyama is made up for by quality. Consider the following highlights: a California Condor, 5 Golden Eagles, 21 Ferruginous Hawks, 3 Lewis's Woodpeckers, 6 Merlins, 6 Prairie Falcons, nearly 1,000 Horned Larks, 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets, over 400 Mountain Bluebirds (!), 4 Varied Thrushes, 14 Chipping Sparrows, 7 Brewer's Sparrows, 36 Bell's Sparrows, 14 Vesper Sparrows, 3 Black-throated Sparrows, and a Green-tailed Towhee. We saw all of the 71 most commonly reported species from the area on eBird, a testament to how thorough the participants were in their survey effort. The biggest misses were mostly waterbirds like ducks and herons, which are irregular in the handful of ponds and wetlands found across the valley.

I hope that the Cuyama Winter Bird Survey can become an annual event, and I am also considering adding a spring/summer survey. If you are curious about the area's birding opportunities, you can search for "Cuyama Valley" at birdinghotspots.org.

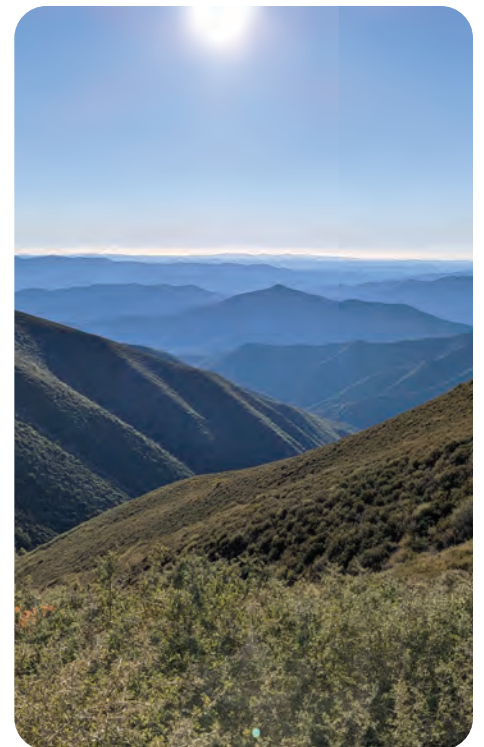


Fox Sparrow. Photo by Linus Blomqvist

Linus Blomqvist is a Swedish expat residing in Goleta since 2019. He has a passion for seawatching and for exploring under-birded spots around the country. In 2023, he did an ABA Big Year, listing a total of 761 species. You can learn more about his Big Year on carpbirdwatchers.org. Linus can be reached at [linus\[dot\]blomqvist\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:linus[dot]blomqvist[at]gmail[dot]com)



Bell's Sparrow. Photo by Linus Blomqvist



Bates Canyon. Photo by Linus Blomqvist



Birders gather at Stow House for the 2024 Winter Bird Count for Kids. Photo by Betsy Mooney

Learning to Bird:

Winter Bird Count for Kids 2024

by Kathleen Boehm, Board Secretary and Winter Bird Count for Kids Committee Chair

What happens when it is raining and it's time to set up for the Winter Bird Count for Kids? On January 20, a buzzing hive of Winter Bird Count for Kids committee members and dozens of event volunteers arrived to face the elements and make this annual SBAS event a success. After a rush to place pop-up tents so registration and scoping stops could proceed protected from the rain, smiles were all around when the first child and parent showed up, and more followed. Stalwart parents with 31 children turned out in rain gear and ready to bird. Joy was in the air

with every bird seen. There is nothing like the wonder of examining a hawk in comparison to a sparrow. The final tally was 49 bird species, a respectable total for a rainy day. Lake Los Carneros is home to some special bird species this time of year. The Summer Tanager was heard, the Tropical Kingbird was seen by all, and a few even saw a Red-breasted Sapsucker.

Thank you to the volunteer crews and group leaders for staying cheerful throughout the rain, and to the City of Goleta for supporting the event. A particular shout out to

five Quasars from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History who gave their Saturday morning to help—Lucy London (designer of the event's new logo and T-shirt), Joaquin Bailey-Musacchio, Kaitlyn Caldwell, Sophia Copeland, and Paul McClain—and to the Winter Bird Count for Kids committee. Many of the event volunteers have helped every year for the past 10 years. We are looking forward to returning next year. You will want to be there to experience the magic of young birders excited to learn!



Scoping the lake for birds. Photo by Betsy Mooney

Spark of an Idea: Building a Birding Event for Families

by Judy Blue

Ten years ago, the Santa Barbara Audubon Board, under the leadership of President Dolores Pollock, discussed ways to encourage kids to learn more about nature and birds. At the annual picnic for SBAS members, Dolores shared an article about a kids' birding event hosted in another part of the country and asked Andy Lanes, a Board member at the time, to create a similar event for our local community. Judy Blue happened to be standing nearby and offered to help. That would mark the beginning of Judy's eight-year run as co-chair of the SBAS Winter Bird Count for Kids. The first two years, Karen Schroeder was the co-chair

(and designed the first event t-shirts), and the following six years Joan Cotich served a co-chair.

Joan and Judy assembled a committee each fall to start planning for the January event. Kids received free T-shirts and a goody bag including a bird list with photos by David Levasheff. The committee established a binocular boot camp to precede the guided walk along Lake Los Carneros and the Stow House grounds.

As is tradition, again this year Andy Lanes gathered participants together after their group walks to count the species they'd seen and marked on their lists. The event has

been held in rain, in shine, and even in an adapted, distanced format during two years of the pandemic.

Many thanks to all the dedicated volunteers and supporters who have helped make this a fun community event for ten years and counting.



Western Gull. Photo by Thorin Rasmussen (age 12), from the 2024 WBC for Kids

Birders of Santa Barbara: Jeremy Cowan

Jeremy Cowan is a UCSB undergraduate student in the College of Creative Studies. He was interviewed by Peggy Kearns, SBAS field trip leader.

Birding Inspiration

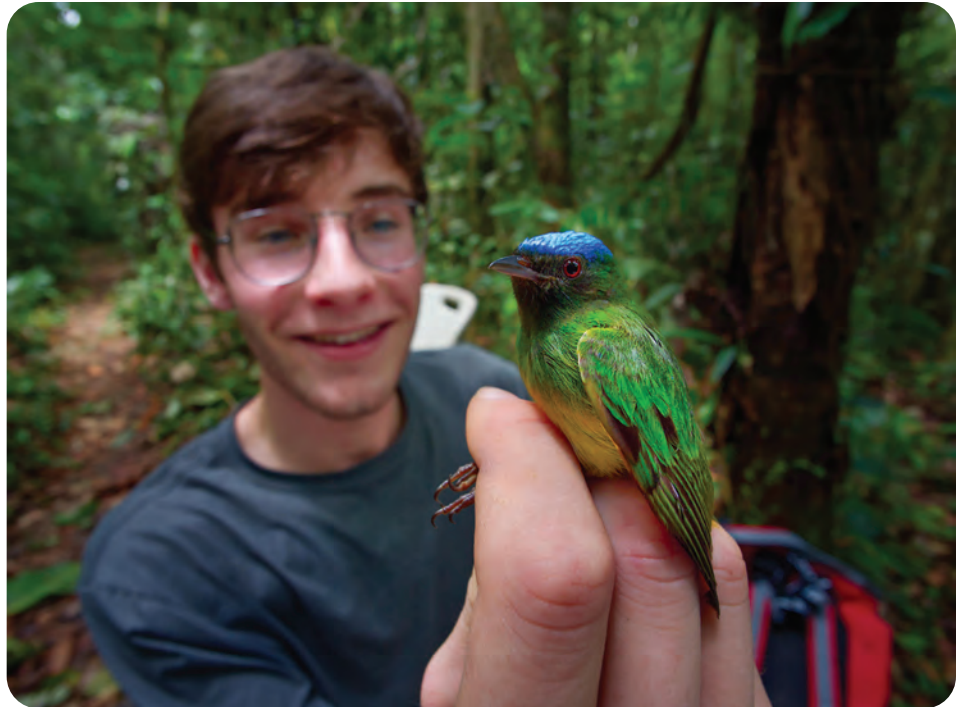
Jeremy Cowan was lucky. His mom got their backyard NWF-certified as a Wildlife Habitat when he was eight years old, and he started birding soon after. He even did the Napa CBC in grade school. By fourth grade, he'd expanded his interest to reptiles and amphibians and started herping.

During high school, Jeremy focused on competitive surfing. On his way to a surf spot in Marin one day, he noticed a Black Vulture. It drew him back to birding. He chose to attend UCSB—with surfing at his front door—where he met Alex Castelain and Max Laubstein, and started avidly birding again.

Studies Near and Far

As a student of ecology and evolutionary biology at UCSB, Jeremy is involved in research on campus and helps with bird surveys at North Campus Open Space (NCOS). Learning the history of NCOS, he was impressed with Lisa Stratton's terraforming to prepare the site for sea level rise: mudflats and islands emerge there throughout the yearly cycle.

After his first year of college, he got an avian research internship in the Peruvian Amazon with Fauna Forever, a Wilderness International rainforest conservation partner. He wanted a "hands-on" field experience in a healthy tropical forest, and the internship did not disappoint. While in the Tambopata National Reserve in Peru, his research included bird banding, placing mist nets, taking



Jeremy Cowan with a Blue-capped Manakin in Peru. Photo by Nicholas Hess

bird measurements, aging birds using their molt, and recording data. Most interns stayed for a few weeks; Jeremy stayed two months. The following winter he was asked to be the avian research coordinator. It turned out to be his most difficult and dire birding experience. Political unrest in Peru caused all but one intern to cancel. Food and water deliveries were no longer guaranteed. Jeremy and the other researchers had to ration protein and hope food shipments would arrive eventually; luckily they did.

In fall of 2023, Jeremy was the sole undergrad involved in a new UC project in the Sierra de la Laguna of Baja California Sur, Mexico. His work involved setting up ARUs (autono-

mous recording units) in the thornscrub forest habitat to record bird and bat vocalizations at programmed intervals. The research site had not been grazed in over 40 years, and some of the plants found during the first expedition had not been seen in 100 years.

Planning for the Future

Jeremy shares his vision: "My life goal is to be outside as much as possible, and grow my understanding of our incredible ecosystems. I want to teach ecology at the college level where I can share my experience and enthusiasm with people who are as interested in our natural world as I have grown to be."

Spring 2024 Programs

Hugh Ranson

Bird Shorts: Made Up Stories about Birds and Birders

Wednesday, March 27 | Santa Barbara Public Library, Faulkner Gallery* | 7:30 p.m. | Free

* Please note this is a new location, updated from previous listings

You are invited to a Santa Barbara Audubon first: A night of bird fiction! Join us for an evening of short stories about birders and the birds that fuel their passion, from the creative mind of Santa Barbara's esteemed bird columnist Hugh Ranson. His recent work focuses on finding new ways to write about the lives of birders, their relationships with one another, and the creatures that send them out into the field on those wild chases.

Hugh Ranson was born in England and lived in Wales before coming to California in 1981. He became a birder at the age of 12. Since retiring from his 32-year career as an elementary school teacher, he gets out in the field every day to look for and photograph birds and bugs. He has had several short stories published and has written two novels for young adults. Ranson currently writes "Santa Barbara Birding," a monthly bird article for the *Santa Barbara Independent*.



Hugh Ranson

Kimball Garrett

Southern California's Other Avifauna:

Trends, Traits, and Troubles of Our Naturalized Bird Species (illustrated)

Thursday, May 2 | Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Fleischmann Auditorium | 7:30 p.m. | Free
Presented by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Having lived in the "outdoor aviary" of Los Angeles County nearly all his life, Kimball Garrett learned early on that non-native ("exotic") bird species were a real and growing part of the region's avifauna. Much of his field work since the early 1990s has been dedicated to learning more about these novel components of our birdlife.

The California Bird Records Committee has admitted 17 non-native bird species to the official California state bird list, and several other exotics are waiting in the wings. Many birders express disdain for such species, and conservation biologists are justifiably concerned about their actual or potential negative impacts on native species and natural habitats. But they are undeniably part of our avifauna and deserve our attention and monitoring, if not our approval. *(continued)*



Kimball Garrett. Photo by Mel Senac



Nanday Parakeet. Photo by Kimball Garrett

Kimball Garrett received his undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley and did graduate work at UCLA before being hired as Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in 1982, a position he held until his retirement in 2022. Garrett is a charter member and Past President of Western Field Ornithologists and a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society. He is a member of the California Bird Records Committee, past member of the American Birding Association's Checklist Committee, serves as regional co-editor

(with Guy McCaskie) for Southern California for *North American Birds* and is an eBird reviewer for Los Angeles County. He has authored or co-authored some 65 scientific publications including *Birds of Southern California, Status and Distribution* (1981) and *Field Guide to Warblers of North America* (1997) with co-author Jon Dunn, and *Birds of Southern California* (2012; new edition due in 2024) with co-authors Jon Dunn and Brian Small. He also was co-author of the *Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas* (2016).

Amy Tan

The Backyard Bird Chronicles: An Evening with Amy Tan

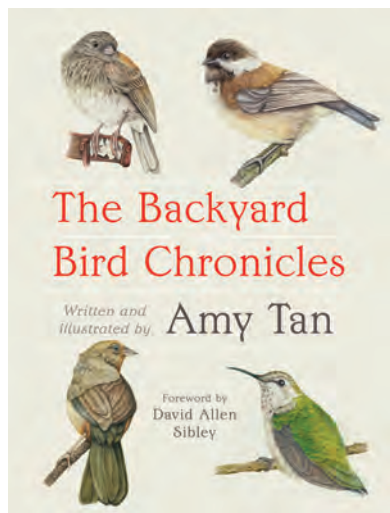
Thursday, May 23 | Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Fleischmann Auditorium | 7:30 p.m. | Free
Advance registration is required. Visit the Museum website to register starting Monday, April 22 at 9 a.m.
Presented by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
Courtesy of Chaucer's, books by Amy Tan will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

Amy Tan, acclaimed author of *The Joy Luck Club* and National Humanities Medal honoree in 2021 will present an illustrated talk based on her forthcoming new book *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*.

In 2016, overwhelmed by the state of the world, Tan turned toward the natural world just beyond her window and, specifically, the birds visiting her yard. But what began as an attempt to find solace turned into something far greater—an opportunity to savor quiet moments during a volatile time, connect to nature in a meaningful way and imagine the intricate lives of the birds she admired.

In her book, Tan combines her literary genius and her drawing talent to chart her foray into birding and the natural world by mapping the passage of time through daily entries, thoughtful questions, and beautiful original color sketches.

Amy Tan is the celebrated author of several novels including *The Joy Luck Club*, *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, *The Kitchen God's Wife*, and *Saving Fish from Drowning*. She is a co-producer and co-screenwriter of the film version of *The Joy Luck Club* and is on the board of the American Bird Conservancy.



Amy Tan. Photo by Kim Newmoney

Many thanks to our hotel sponsor, The Simpson House Inn.



Spring 2024 Bird Walks and Field Trips

FRIDAY BIRD WALKS

**All Friday Bird Walks are 8:30–10:30 a.m.
Free and open to all; no reservation needed**

- March 15: Carpinteria Salt Marsh
- March 29: UCSB Lagoon
- April 12: Tucker's Grove
- April 26: Goleta Beach/Atascadero Creek
- May 10: Farren Road
- May 24: Lake Los Carneros



Royal Terns

SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS

Rancho Santa Barbara (Santa Ynez)

Saturday, March 16

8:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Habitat for: Geese, Common Goldeneye, Wood Duck, Lewis's Woodpecker, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, and other waterbirds and passerines

Reservation required. Free, for SBAS and GCAS members only.

Leader: Rob Lindsay

Contact: Dane St. George, danestgeorge@gmail.com to request a spot.

Hollister Ranch

Saturday, April 20

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Habitat for: songbirds, ocean and pond waterfowl, raptors, and perhaps an owl or two

Reservation required. Limited to 17 SBAS members only.

Leader: Guy Tingos

Contact: Dane St. George, danestgeorge@gmail.com to request a spot. Reservation requests must include the name, email address, and phone number of each member applying. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Nojoqui Falls Park

Saturday, May 18

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Habitat for: Yellow-billed Magpie, Purple Martin, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Barn Owl, vireos, woodpeckers, and orioles

Leader: Rob Lindsay

Detailed directions to the meeting place can be found at SantaBarbaraAudubon.org/field-trips

Free and open to all. No reservation needed.



North Campus Open Space

NOTE: Birding events will depend on weather. Be sure to check the SBAS website for updates prior to the event:
SantaBarbaraAudubon.org/activities

How You Can Help

You know the importance of SBAS's work: conservation of important habitats and education for people of all ages to learn about birds. If you'd like to help with these goals, please reach out for details on how you can get involved and make a difference in our community.

The Development Chair and the Communications Chair positions are open. Descriptions of these roles are available, and veteran Audubon volunteers

are happy to discuss the rewards of these leadership positions. The Board meets monthly, with ongoing opportunities to support events and activities. Additionally, the Conservation/Science Committee needs help with research and letter writing.

To explore these openings, please contact our President at janice.sbas@gmail.com or talk with any Board member (see page 3 or the SBAS website).

Thank you:

- Hardworking Santa Barbara CBC Compilation Coordinators Libby Patten, Liz Muraoka, Glenn Kincaid, Conor McMahon, Linus Blomqvist and Mark Holmgren, and all the birders who participated!
- Everyone who helped with set-up and cleanup of the Unitarian Society's Parish Hall for the CBC Compilation, and Kathleen Boehm for coordinating the rental.
- Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for their support in co-presenting the winter event featuring Jennifer Ackerman.
- Simpson House Inn for providing accommodations for our January speaker, Jennifer Ackerman.
- Winter Bird Count for Kids Committee and volunteers for a successful 2024 event.
- City of Goleta for their generous support of Winter Bird Count for Kids.
- *The VOICE* for publishing our WBC for Kids flyer and the Bird of the Month piece.
- Our Conservation/Science Committee, which works tirelessly and with a high level of professionalism, often behind the scenes, to advocate for our local birds and habitat.
- Our dedicated Eyes in the Sky volunteers who lovingly care for our raptors every day of the year.
- Colette Becker and Dennis Power, our editor and layout designer respectively, for crafting this publication so professionally.
- An anonymous donor who generously sponsored the full-color printing of this issue of *El Tecolote*.

Mark Your Calendar

SBAS plans to be at the Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 27 at Alameda Park, hosting an informational booth (Saturday only).

The SBAS Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 3-5 p.m. at Stow Grove Park, Area 3. This year the meeting is dedicated to Joan Lentz.

- 2024-2025 Board election will be held, with slate to be announced.
- Please bring finger food to share.
- Bring your own plates and cutlery to minimize the single-use disposable items.
- Bring your own beverage.



SBAS booth at last year's Earth Day Festival



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

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Upcoming Events:

Friday Bird Walks

March 15 and 29
April 12 and 26
May 10 and 14

Saturday Field Trips

March 16
April 20
May 18

SB Earth Day Festival

April 27

Programs

Hugh Ranson: March 27
Kimball Garrett: May 2
Amy Tan: May 23

SBAS Annual Meeting

June 8

See details inside.



Red Crossbill. Photo by Barry Rowan