



Santa Barbara Audubon Society Eyes in the Sky

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2011
7th Issue

THE LAST DAYS OF SUMMER

What an incredible season this has been. I swear there IS a heaven—right here, amidst Oak and Sycamore trees, wild birds, a beautiful creek, trails, lots of smiling children exploring the Museum's "Nature's Playground", and it's all located right around our aviary. How I'd love to see this scenario play itself out all over the world.

Please do stop by between 2 and 4 PM when we bring our birds outdoors. We'd love to meet you or see you again.

This summer was our busiest summer ever:



Zoe Stevens with Peregrine falcon Kisa.

Photo by Gabriele Drozdowski



Volunteer Bernard Unterman misting hot campers attending a SBMNH's summer camp.

Photo by Gabriele Drozdowski

- ◆ We presented 21 summer programs for camps, Boys & Girls Clubs, SB Museum of Natural History (SBMNH), SB Botanic Garden, UCSB and others. This included student & family field trips to the Carpinteria Salt Marsh, the SBMNH, Lake Los Carneros, and a family boat cruise at Lake Cachuma. Some of the programs were funded by previous grants, and we also generated \$3,000 in program fees.
- ◆ We now have educational interactions with Museum visitors featuring our live birds between 2 and 4 pm every day of the week. We plan to expand the hours as resources allow.
- ◆ Our number of volunteers has grown to 29 bird presenters and 4 administrative assistants, nearly doubling our pre-move-in numbers. This is great news, as 80% of Eyes in the Sky operates through its volunteers.
- ◆ We recently received two foundation grants: \$15,000 from the **Wallis Foundation** and \$5,000 from the **Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation**. We are grateful for their ongoing support.
- ◆ We also wish to thank
 - **YOU**, for sponsoring the guard rail that now keeps busy faces and hands away from the aviary windows.
 - **Citrix Online** for donating 3-years of GoToMyPC software (valued at \$750) which networks the computers at SBAS's Aviary/Volunteer Headquarters on the grounds of the SB Museum of Natural History and the computer in the home office of the Eyes-in-the-Sky Program Director.
 - **Afar Communications Inc.** for donating internet communications equipment (valued at \$3,500) which connects SBAS' Aviary/Volunteer Headquarters with SB Museum of Natural History's internet.



STICKS AND THRONES

About three months ago, a white-haired visitor with a beautiful hand-made walking stick began stopping by our aviary nearly every single day. He would stay for an hour or two, studying our birds and our interactions with them each afternoon.

Noticing the tall stick our Kestrel Kachina loves to perch on, he offered to make her a very special “walking stick”.



Richard Nordli, Gabriele Drozdowski and Kachina Photo by Dove Joans

Just a few days later it was finished, and Kachina instantly recognized it as her property.

Made from a common Pittosporum branch, patterns carved into the leather-like bark expose the wood underneath in lovely patterns, and gold tacks encircle the top, instantly giving Kachina the nickname “The Queen”, as she now sits on her throne and rules us from there.

Last week Peregrine falcon Kisa also received a new “throne” (*picture below*), so now we have two falcon queens.

And on Saturday, Sept. 3rd, **Richard Nordli** became our 29th bird care volunteer, and began working with Kachina. Welcome, Richard. We were all hoping you would join us.

JOIN US AT “FAMILY NATURE DAY”

SB Museum of Natural History and SB Audubon are jointly sponsoring a free “Family Nature Day” with **Eyes in the Sky** on **Sunday October 16, 2011, 10AM-5PM.**

- Meet and learn about birds of prey
- Watch raptor feeding and exercise demonstrations throughout the day
- A flight presentation with **Max, the Great horned owl** and **Kachina, our American kestrel at 2PM.**

Enjoy other fun activities as we celebrate these amazing animals and our partnership with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.



*Richard Nordli & Lacey Lopez with Kachina & Kisa.
Photo by Gabriele Drozdowski*

LOCAL HUMOR



"Kisa...you're supposed to stay on the scale until I've recorded your weight!..."

Photo by Dove Joans



Kisa is smart... it's really nice up here.

Photo by John Barco

Rarely observed view of Kachina with her tail up, showing her attractive bottom and lovely thighs during a cooling-off session with **Justin Flint** on a hot summer afternoon.



Photo by Gabriele Drozdowski

There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before. **Robert Lynd** (1879 - 1949)

"The sound of birds stops the noise in my mind."
Carly Simon

There is beauty above us, below us, and all around us. **Diné (Navajo)**

*Thank you all, for your support - in all of its shapes and forms!
We hope that you will stay with us, as our dream is yet to be fully realized.
You are much-needed to keep it going and growing!*

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