

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Eyes in the Sky

Bi-Annual Newsletter
10th Issue

Summer/Fall
2013



Hello Friends,

Our EITS Newsletter, which was previously sent only to EITS donors, will now be added as a two-page Newsletter in El Tecolote twice a year, so that all SB Audubon members can stay up to date with Aviary news. In between newsletters, you can also visit our “Eyes in the Sky” Facebook Page for additional updates.

The SBAS Aviary continues to be a popular place for Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History visitors – every day there are children and adults coming by the Aviary or finding us on the Museum campus. Our birds are healthy and thriving. Exceptional new volunteers have joined us -- the volunteer staff has tripled since 2011 to keep up with public visitations and on going bird care and enrichment activities. EITS’ community outreach programs have grown too – summers are especially busy with summer camp activities.

All of this is great news and is testament to the many people in the Santa Barbara community that care about birds, nature and other wildlife.

More good news: continuing to build our partnership with the Museum, we have scheduled two collaborative events, with more coming in the future:

- ♦ **A Chumash-themed Family Day on Sunday, August 18th, 12-3PM** at the Museum’s “Back Yard” with Chumash storytelling, songs, crafts and EITS’ birds of prey.
- ♦ **Our first EITS Open House on Sunday, September 8th, 12-4PM**, throughout the Museum Campus.

This is a personal invitation from EITS staff and volunteers to join us at both of these events to share in the fun and informative talks and activities. We very much hope to see you there!

Many thanks to our supporters, bird adopters, and especially **Island Seed and Feed**, who have sponsored us for several years now.

Wishing all of you a great Summer,

Gabriele Drozdowski

Gabriele Drozdowski
Eyes in the Sky Director



For me, the vast marvel is to be alive. For man, or for flowers or beast or bird, the supreme triumph is to be most vividly and perfectly alive. Al Purdy (1918 – 2000)



Max



Ivan



Kisa



Athena



Kachina



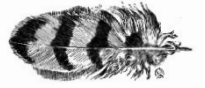
Kanati



Puku

TALONED TUESDAY FIELDTRIPS: they're for the Birds!

By Teresa Fanucchi, Tuesday EITS volunteer



Teresa with Kanati, male American kestrel

Tuesdays with Eyes in the Sky frequently includes a trip up to the San Marcos Foothills.

Karla, Kara, Kisa, Kachina and Kanati, along with a few cohorts whose names happen to begin with a letter other than “K” (aka Zoe, Teresa, and Ivan), pack into a vehicle and head up to the open space near Highway 154 above Foothill Road. (Volunteer Bettie stays back at the aviary with Puku and Athena.) Upon arrival, we walk up the path to a spot that affords fantastic panoramic views of the foothills, town, the sea and the islands. There are even a few large rocks where the birds enjoy perching.

I think that the other Tuesday volunteers would agree that during these fieldtrips, the birds are more content than we've ever seen them. Kisa, Kachina, and Kanati display their happy puffed falcon faces. Ivan drops his wings in relaxation (unless the resident red-tails are flying nearby!). Other times they become excited, especially when the wind is “just right”. While on the glove, they'll spread their wings and face into the wind, deftly navigating the currents; this is a joy for us handlers to witness.

These fieldtrips offer a great change of scenery for the birds, and they often return reluctantly; it seems they get a big reminder of their wildness while up in those hills. It's with some bitter-sweetness that we head back down to the aviary, still grateful for the opportunity to have shared a special outing with the EITS ambassadors.



Bonnie Whitney with Kisa eating mealworms from hat.



Zoe Stevens with Ivan at San Marcos Foothills



Chris Mersey weighs Kisa



*Hawk-proof
Squirrel suit.*

