



WESTERN TANAGER

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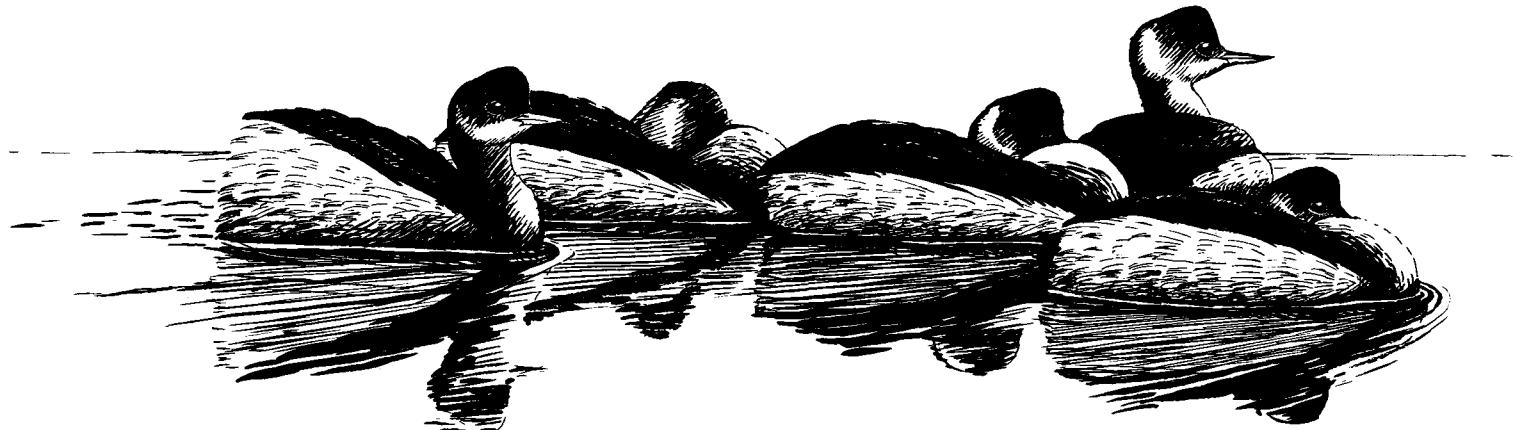
Number 8

May 1985

Identification of Horned and Eared Grebes

by Jon L. Dunn and Kimball L. Garrett

Illustrations by Jonathan Alderfer



Eared Grebes

Two small, slender-billed grebes of the genus *Podiceps* occur in North America — the Horned Grebe (*P. auritus*) and the Eared Grebe (*P. nigricollis*). While there is some overlap in the breeding range of the two species, the Horned is generally more northerly, and its breeding range extends farther east. Both species also nest in the Old World. Horned Grebes winter along both North American coasts and, more rarely, locally in the interior of the continent. In winter Eared Grebes are widespread through the southwestern interior of the continent and along the Pacific Coast south of southern British Columbia. Eareds are casual in Eastern North America, occurring primarily in migration.

In southern California Horned Grebes are winter visitors along the coast; they are rare before mid-October and after late April. Their winter distribution along our coast is spotty (e.g. only very small numbers are usually found on the well-worked coast around Santa Barbara). The species is gen-

erally quite rare inland, but in recent years numbers up to several dozen (exceptionally well over one hundred) have been found on certain deep water reservoirs such as Lake Perris in Riverside County, Lake Cachuma in Santa Barbara County, and Lake Havasu along the Colorado River. On the ocean they are usually seen close to shore, often around bays, piers and harbors.

In our region Eared Grebes are widespread winter visitors and transients, from coastal bays (and even the open sea) to a variety of inland lakes, marshes and reservoirs. Eareds breed on marshy lakes in scattered localities (most notably at Baldwin Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains).

Identification

Alternate (breeding) plumaged birds are well illustrated in the popular field guides — they are easily told by the shape characters discussed below as well as by color of the neck (black in Eared, chestnut in Horned). The remainder of this discussion will deal with basic (winter) plumage; this

is the plumage we most often see in southern California. The following points are illustrated in the figures.

Head and Neck Pattern: Horned is considerably more "contrasty"; the blackish cap and thin dark stripe down the hindneck contrasting with the whitish face and throat give the appearance of a chunky, scaled-down Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). A slight dusky wash on the sides of the neck, present in many individuals, should not lead to confusion with the larger, yellow-billed Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). Horneds molting into alternate plumage in very early spring (March) may show a strong rusty wash on the neck before the conspicuous lateral head tufts molt in; these birds may also suggest Red-necked Grebes. Note that winter Horned Grebes have a white lore spot (absent in the Eared Grebe).

Basic plumaged Eared Grebes show much less contrast: the crown, hindneck, sides of the neck, and area around the eye (includ-

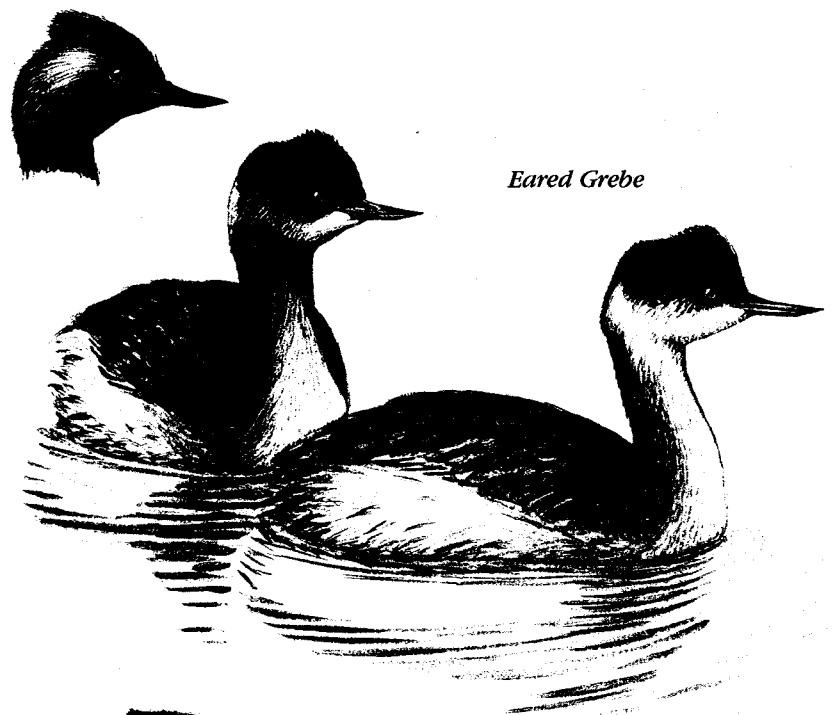
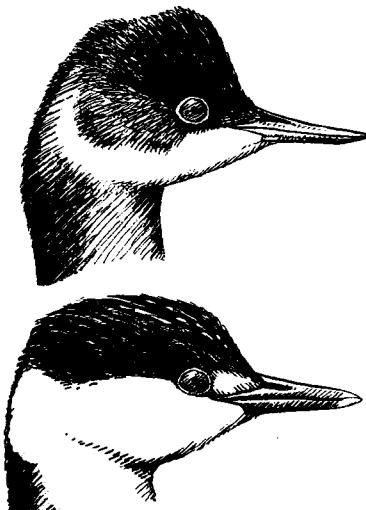
ing the lores) are all dark gray, with indistinct whitish areas behind the ear and on the throat. In some birds the face and sides of the neck may be quite whitish. These birds lack the distinct blackish cap and stripe down the back of the neck found in the Horned; they may also be told by the shape characters discussed below. Examples of dark and light plumaged birds are shown in the figure.

Bill Shape and Color. The pointier, upturned bill of the Eared differs noticeably from the stouter bill of the Horned. There is a noticeable pale tip on the Horned Grebe's bill; this mark is lacking in the Eared.

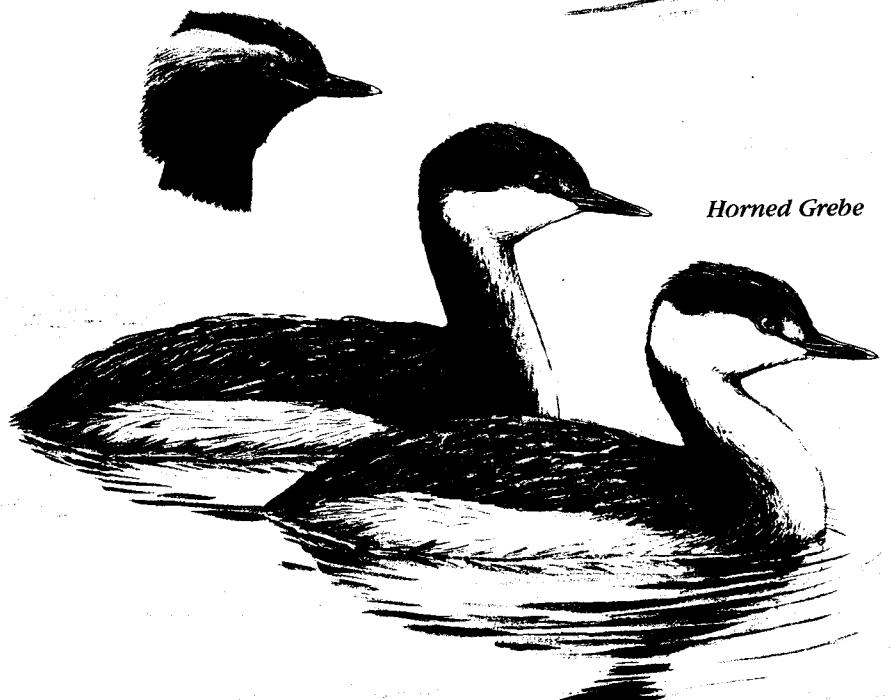
Head and Neck Shape. The Horned appears stouter and shorter-necked; its crown is rather flat. Horned Grebe heads appear more bulbous when viewed from above or behind. In contrast, the Eared usually shows a "bumpy" or "double-peaked" crown and a longer, slimmer neck. Its head looks thinner when viewed from above or behind.

Body Shape. Body shape characters in diving birds must be used cautiously since recent diving activity will often sleek the feathers down. Also, shape may be altered as an adaptive response to temperature and wind conditions (compare the fluffy, rounded silhouettes of coots on a freezing morning on a mountain lake with the sleek, thin, and long-necked appearance of the same species on a midsummer day at the Salton Sea!). In general, the Horned Grebe rides slightly lower on the water and is rather sleeked-down in the rear portion of the body. They rarely, if ever, show the "fluffed out" rear end that is so characteristic of Eared Grebes (see figure).

Top: Eared Grebe;
Bottom: Horned Grebe.



Eared Grebe



Horned Grebe

Alternate plumage (heads only) and two examples of basic plumage.

In summary, Horned Grebes should be told with caution from the similar and more widespread Eared Grebe — especially in late spring, summer and early fall, or anywhere inland (away from the few areas of regular inland occurrence). Horneds show

more contrast on the head, a stouter pale-tipped bill, a stouter neck and a sleeker rear-end profile. Similar cautions in identification apply to the eastern part of North America, where Eared Grebes are only rarely seen.

Frustration Relieved: The Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

by Henry E. Childs, Jr.

Helen and I were on our way from Texas to Tennessee via the Natchez Trace. Our plan had been to follow the spring migration as it proceeded north along the East Coast. The map indicated that the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge was a little off the Trace and as we weren't making 600 miles that day, we decided to see if there were any Red-cockaded Woodpeckers there.

Our first attempt to find this bird was in 1980 at Birmingham, Alabama where a nature guide, Helen Kittinger, took us to a den tree where adults had been feeding young two weeks before in late June. No birds.

At Noxubee headquarters we received a cordial welcome (I had expected ... a Red-

cockaded what?) and directions to an active colony only a quarter of a mile away. Almost two hours at the den tree and no birds. The ranger said "Y'all come back tomorrow, heah, and we'll put you on one for sure." He hated to see a grown man cry.

Our first moments on "Woodpecker Trail" provided us with Pileated, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers plus a Common Flicker calling out of sight. No big deal birdwise, just old friends that don't require help from Jon Dunn to identify.

I was back at the tree at 0630 and one elusive bird allowed me 5 seconds view before disappearing. At 0800 the office opened and I was permitted into the residential area where there were lots of den trees (40) ... and no birds in two hours! More moaning at the office, then back to the original den tree. THERE THEY WERE—THREE OF THEM.

Now about the rare and endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. First, it looks like a white-faced Nuttall's Woodpecker whose call has a Scottish burr.

Second, it is habitat specific for mature pine trees in southeastern United States. As

mature pines are harvested quickly, suitable trees only occur in sanctuaries, refuges, and a few other undisturbed places.

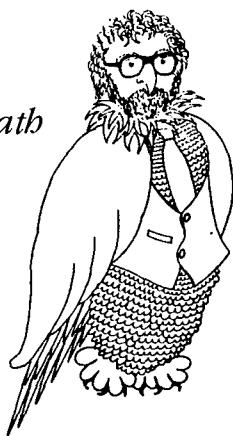
Third, the den trees, i.e. trees with nest holes, are easily identified by the white pitch produced by the woodpeckers' activity. This white blaze may be over ten feet long and is readily visible.

Fourth, this species has the "helpers at the nest" type of social organization. The clan or group, consisting of up to 9 individuals, defends the territory, constructs the nest, incubates and feeds the young, but contains only one breeding pair. In this they are similar to the Acorn Woodpecker and the Florida Scrub Jay.

All this is interesting stuff, and makes birding more than just searching for another tick on the life list. For more information on the biology of this interesting bird, check your Audubon Encyclopedia or Hooper, Robinson and Jackson, *The Red-cockaded Woodpecker: Notes on Life History and Management*, U.S. Forest Service, Atlanta, GA, 1980.

From The Editor

by Fred Heath



Once again, I am embroiled in a controversy over the *Western Tanager* and with my first issue too. The controversy centers around the "Great Brown Ink Experiment." I have received almost as many letters about the brown ink used in the March issue as I did for the April Fools Issue. One large difference is that this time the letters were all negative.

As I mentioned in my first editorial (March '85), I had planned from the start to experiment with paper and ink colors. Part of this decision was forced on me by the fact that the paper stock we had been using was no longer available in a size convenient to make 12 page issues. Thus the type and color of the stock had to change. I said to myself, "Self, why don't we try a different colored ink at the same time". This set the stage for the "Great Brown Ink Experiment" which quickly became the "Great Brown Ink Disaster". The sample of the ink looked great by itself and seemed dark enough against the brown paper stock. But as anyone could plainly see (or couldn't plainly see) the photos looked washed out and the print was difficult to read. For this I apologize. There are some who believe I made it hard to read deliberately so the typographical errors would be difficult to find. I would never do this because it would decrease the enjoyment of a number of readers who relish finding those typos each month.

I took criticism on another aspect of this experiment. In order to use an ink other than black the printing presses must be cleaned before and after each *Tanager* run. This adds one cent to the cost of each *Tanager* printed. There goes my budget. Be that as it may, I still intend to push ahead with a little more experimentation until I find the perfect combination. The April issue was printed on the same stock as the March issue, but with a

darker brown ink. This issue uses a lighter stock (as a matter of fact it is some left over paper of the original stock that was used in past *Tanagers*) with the darker brown ink. Needless to say, I welcome any comments on the various inks and stocks used.

I mentioned in the last issue that I was running short of material for the *Tanager*. As a result of this plea, I am happy to announce that I have enough material to do the June issue . . . and that's it. One of the reasons this *Tanager* is only eight pages (the Book Store List doesn't count) is because it was short on material. As a matter of fact the lead article on Horned and Eared Grebes is more than an update on article run back in the January-February 1982 issue of the *Tanager*. The most significant difference is the all new artwork by Jonathan Alderfer. As you may be aware Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett are in process of writing/updating a book tentatively entitled "Field-Marks" which will be collection of these identification articles. The artwork will be in full color by Jonathan Alderfer and the book will be published hopefully before Christmas by Los Angeles Audubon.

In the meantime not to get off the subject, I need big articles, small articles, drawings, suggestions, etc. to make this bird fly.

Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth



In the early 19th century, with the Industrial Revolution clangong and jangling all around him, Thomas Malthus, a rather obscure English economist, wrote "An Essay on Population." Population, he said, increases faster than the food supply so, in spite of wars and natural catastrophes, the human race is never going to catch up. History since then hasn't disproved his thesis.

From the earliest appearance of the human race — about a million years ago — it wasn't until 1835 that there were one billion people in the world. It took a hundred years before there were two billion. Thirty years later; three billion; fifteen years after that: four billion. This year we're a cozy 4.8 billion. The enormous pressure of this incredible number of people on a finite planet is staggering. There is only so much land fertile enough to raise food or graze cattle on. Water has become a precious commodity. Non-renewable energy sources — oil, coal, natural gas — are being consumed at an ever-accelerating rate. Surprisingly, wood is the most widely used fuel in the world for cooking and warmth. Usually considered a renewable resource, in parts of the world this may no longer be true as desperate people burn all the wood within reach, creating sterile deserts. Lush tropical forests are being destroyed with astonishing rapidity, never to be restored as torrential rains wash away the meager, unshielded topsoil. The frenzy for development of wilderness in a country like Brazil is eliminating habitats, wildlife and native peoples wholesale, leaving the earth impoverished and "civilized."

Millions of people are being driven off the land and into the cities which cannot provide for them. Slums spill over, shanty-towns spring up like mushrooms. (Mexico City has 16 million people, 4 million living in the streets!) Water pollution and inadequate or non-existent waste disposal breed disease and misery. Overcrowding and unemployment foster crime and neurosis and despair. Population pressure is considered a major cause of unrest in Central America. Loss of valuable land occurs when the cities expand out from the center to house the new citizens and build factories to employ them. In the United States, from 1967 to 1975, 6.2 million acres of prime cropland was lost in this way. By the year 2000 the world's cropland is projected to expand by only 4%, the population by 40%. With 42%

of the children of the world suffering from malnutrition, the dream of conquering hunger recedes ever further from our grasp.

Medical progress has been phenomenal since the end of World War II. The growth of population has been promoted in large measure by the development and spread of new drugs and techniques. Insect carriers of disease have been slowed down a bit by government use of pesticides. So people are living longer. The mother who will have seven or eight children in her life may see them all reach maturity, where a generation ago only three or four would be expected to survive. Medicine has developed the means to control births and introduce the revolutionary idea of family planning. The pill and the intrauterine device (IUD) are available all over the world. Voluntary sterilization is widely used in many countries, including our own.

In 1974, responding to the developing crisis of human fecundity, the United Nations sponsored the International Conference on Population in Romania. A World Population Plan of Action came out of the meeting, stimulating governments to develop programs for population control. Along with

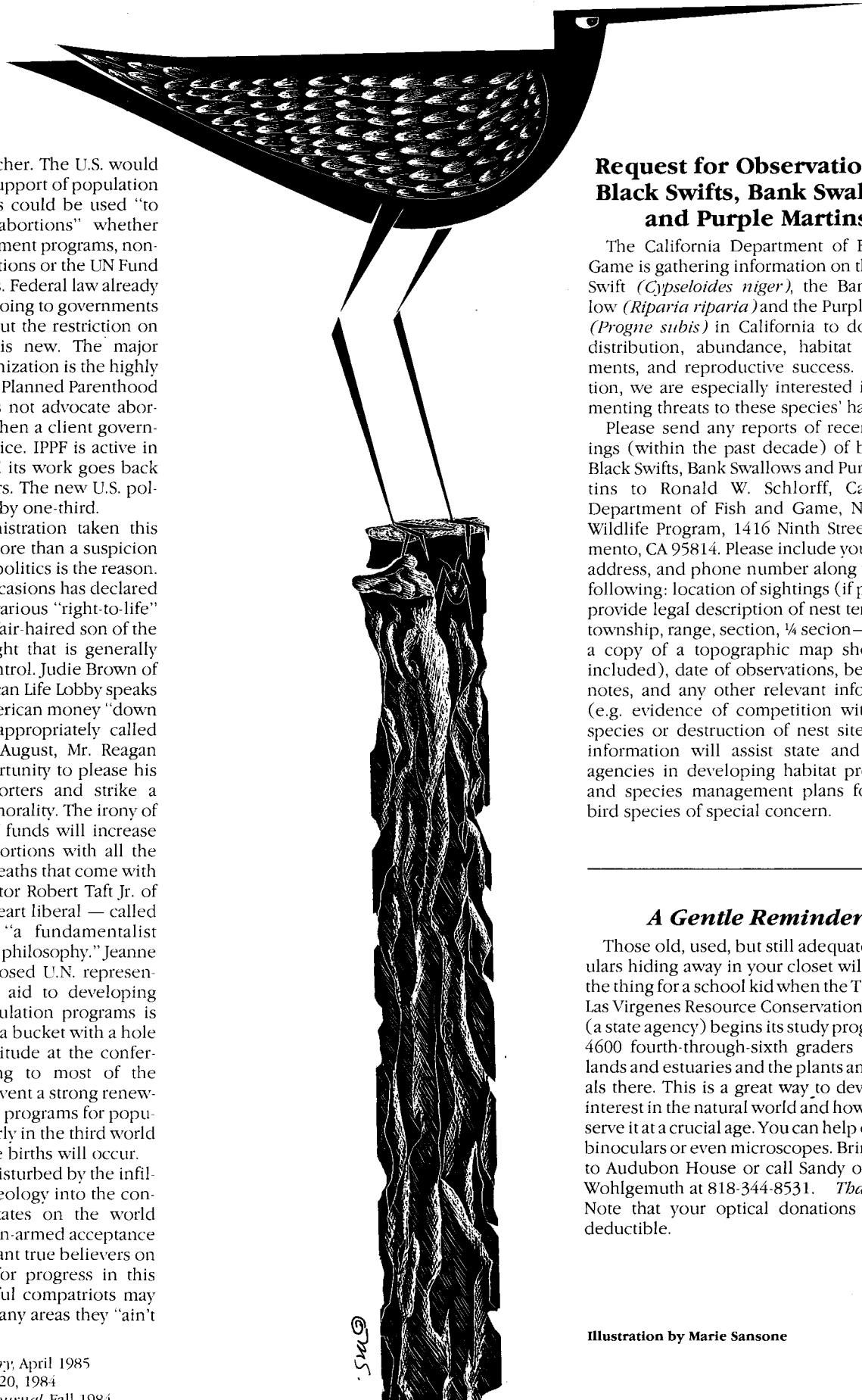
others, the United States responded enthusiastically. Millions of dollars of U.S. foreign aid has gone to encourage family planning through birth control.

Last August, ten years after the first international conference, 3000 delegates from 149 nations met in Mexico City to assess the results of the preceding decade and plan for the future. James L. Buckley, head of the U.S. delegation tossed a bombshell into the meeting when he said, "We reject the notion that we are caught up in a global population crisis." He added, "Population growth is, of itself, neither good nor bad." He argued that the solution to population problems was not government birth control but the fostering of free economies. Economic prosperity leads to a lower birthrate and the American system should be a model. (The *Wall Street Journal* dubbed this "the new supply-side view of population.") To many this seemed an attempt to shove capitalist economics down the throat of the rest of the world. The London *Financial Times* said that the United States "has never before been so isolated at a major international conference; only the Vatican backed its population policy." Indeed, Mr. Buckley stirred up a hornet's nest. One of the mildest but most cogent comments was by Kenya's Vice-President who said, "Even if it were true (that rising standards of living lead to reduced population growth) the time schedule is over 100 or 150 years. No one has the right to ask the developing nations to wait."

(continued on page 5)



Illustration by Karen Jollie



Then came the cruncher. The U.S. would continue its financial support of population programs *but* no funds could be used "to finance or promote abortions" whether through foreign government programs, non-governmental organizations or the UN Fund for Population Activities. Federal law already prohibits money from going to governments involved in abortion, but the restriction on private organizations is new. The major nongovernmental organization is the highly respected International Planned Parenthood Federation which does not advocate abortion but condones it when a client government permits the practice. IPPF is active in some 90 countries and its work goes back far longer than ten years. The new U.S. policy would cut its funds by one-third.

Why has the Administration taken this new stance? There is more than a suspicion that internal American politics is the reason. Mr. Reagan on many occasions has declared his solidarity with the various "right-to-life" movements and is the fair-haired son of the electronic religious right that is generally opposed to *all* birth control. Judie Brown of the anti-abortion American Life Lobby speaks of US aid as putting American money "down the funnel of filth inappropriately called 'family planning'." In August, Mr. Reagan had the splendid opportunity to please his most vociferous supporters and strike a blow for international morality. The irony of it all is that cutting off funds will increase abortions — illegal abortions with all the unsavory injuries and deaths that come with them. Republican Senator Robert Taft Jr. of Ohio — no bleeding-heart liberal — called the U.S. declaration "a fundamentalist 'know-nothing' political philosophy." Jeanne Kirkpatrick, our hard-nosed U.N. representative said that giving aid to developing countries without population programs is like pouring water into a bucket with a hole in it. The American attitude at the conference was disconcerting to most of the nations present and prevent a strong renewal of resolve to improve programs for population control, particularly in the third world where 90% of the future births will occur.

Many observers are disturbed by the infiltration of right-wing ideology into the conduct of the United States on the world scene. Mr. Reagan's open-armed acceptance of the ideas of the militant true believers on population bodes ill for progress in this vital area. His thoughtful compatriots may be concerned that in many areas they "ain't seen nothin' yet."

References: *Natural History*, April 1985
Time, August 20, 1984
The Amicus Journal, Fall 1984

Request for Observations of Black Swifts, Bank Swallows and Purple Martins

The California Department of Fish and Game is gathering information on the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), the Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) and the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) in California to document distribution, abundance, habitat requirements, and reproductive success. In addition, we are especially interested in documenting threats to these species' habitats.

Please send any reports of recent sightings (within the past decade) of breeding Black Swifts, Bank Swallows and Purple Martins to Ronald W. Schlorff, California Department of Fish and Game, Nongame Wildlife Program, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please include your name, address, and phone number along with the following: location of sightings (if possible, provide legal description of nest territory—township, range, section, 1/4 section—ideally, a copy of a topographic map should be included), date of observations, behavioral notes, and any other relevant information (e.g. evidence of competition with other species or destruction of nest sites). This information will assist state and federal agencies in developing habitat protection and species management plans for these bird species of special concern.

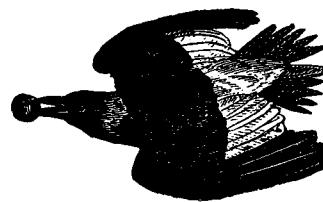
A Gentle Reminder

Those old, used, but still adequate binoculars hiding away in your closet will be just the thing for a school kid when the Topanga-Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District (a state agency) begins its study program for 4600 fourth-through-sixth graders on wetlands and estuaries and the plants and animals there. This is a great way to develop an interest in the natural world and how to conserve it at a crucial age. You can help out with binoculars or even microscopes. Bring them to Audubon House or call Sandy or Marge Wohlgemuth at 818-344-8531. *Thank you.* Note that your optical donations are tax deductible.

Illustration by Marie Sansone

Birds of the Season

by Hal Baxter
and Kimball Garrett



Usually March is a slow month for birdwatching in southern California. Spring migration is gearing up, but the species which have arrived by mid-month (swallows, hummingbirds, Hooded Orioles) offer few surprises. Nesting of our resident species is in full swing, but few observers make the effort to document nesting in the more poorly known areas of our region. Wintering rarities have been pinned down, usually by Christmas Count time, but nearly every year one or two winter gems elude birders until late in the season. This year's example was an immature male **Streak-backed Oriole** in a residential area in Pacific Beach, on the north side of San Diego. The bird was found on 24 February by Richard Webster, but apparently had been present in the area since December. Birders combing a small area to search for a rarity such as this oriole have an uncanny knack for uncovering additional unusual birds. Such was the case on 8 March when Louis Bevier found a **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** in the Streaked-backed Oriole's neighborhood. The flycatcher represented the first record for San Diego County, but could not be refound after the day of its discovery.

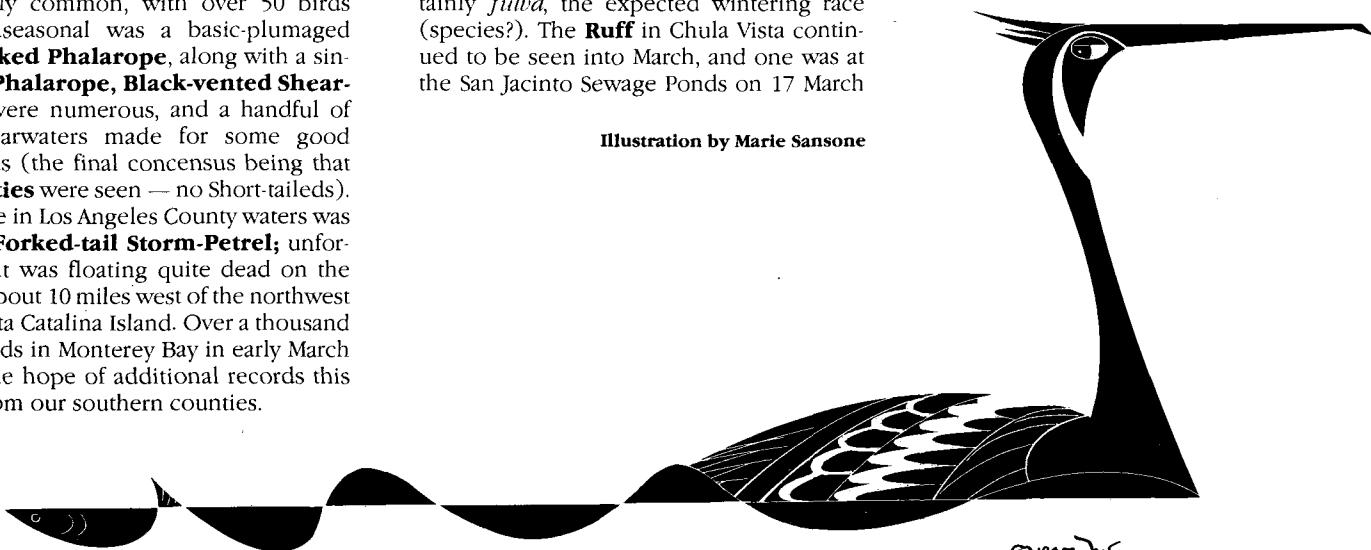
The L.A.A.S. pelagic trip from San Pedro to beyond Santa Barbara Island on 17 March combined calm seas and numerous birds. Alcids were in abundance, especially **Rhinoceros** and **Cassin's Auklets** and **Xantus' Murrelets** (with a couple of **Pigeon Guillemots** around Santa Barbara Island for good measure). **Pomarine Jaegers** were surprisingly common, with over 50 birds seen. Unseasonal was a basic-plumaged **Red-necked Phalarope**, along with a single **Red Phalarope**. **Black-vented Shearwaters** were numerous, and a handful of dark shearwaters made for some good arguments (the final concensus being that only **Sooties** were seen — no Short-taileds). Quite rare in Los Angeles County waters was a single **Forked-tail Storm-Petrel**; unfortunately it was floating quite dead on the surface, about 10 miles west of the northwest tip of Santa Catalina Island. Over a thousand Fork-taileds in Monterey Bay in early March gave some hope of additional records this winter from our southern counties.

(Brian Keeland and John Parmeter). A first-winter **Common-Tern** at Malibu Lagoon on 8 March (Hal Baxter) was unseasonal; it was not present there earlier in the winter. A **Black Skimmer** at Malibu Lagoon on 23 February (Greg Homel) was one of the few recorded in Los Angeles County.

A cooperative **Western Screech-Owl** has been gracing visitors to the Oak Canyon Nature Center in Anaheim (Doug Willick). Exceptional was a roost of up to 7 **Long-eared Owls** in the rocks on Adobe Mountain, in the extreme northeastern corner of Los Angeles County (from 3 March; Brian Keelan). The **Northern Saw-whet Owls** on the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains quieted down somewhat after mid-March, but were still being found by some observers. Brian Keelan's herculean effort of twenty-five owling stops on the night of 5 March yielded only one Saw-whet between Switzer Canyon and Buckhorn Flat, on the coastal side of the mountains (it was near Buckhorn, where the species nested last summer). At least 8 **Lewis' Woodpeckers** were still present at Chilao on 27 February (Hal Baxter and Gayle Benton). Unusual was a male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (of the rare *varius*) near Fallbrook, in San Diego County, through the period.

A **Western Flycatcher** at Charmlee Park in the Santa Monica Mountains on 13 February (Mickey Long) was probably wintering, although breeding birds arrive on territories in the Santa Monica Mountain canyons by the first week of March. Two **Clark's Nutcrackers** at Morongo Valley on 17 March were unusual, since there has been no hint of a corvid invasion this winter (Brian Keelan and John Parmeter). In addition to the

Illustration by Marie Sansone





Bendire's Thrashers in Goleta and at Lake Perris, one has been in a residential area in Coronado, near San Diego, through much of the period (perching on rooftops!) Six **Sage Thrashers** at Windmill Wash near Yucca Valley on 17 March (Brian Keelan and John Parmeter) were spring migrants, as were three a week earlier in the Lakeview area (Brian Daniels and Curtis Marantz). Eight **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in the pines at Rancho Park in West Los Angeles (Bob Pann, 24 February) were among the latest reported.

A **Sprague's Pipit** in the fields along Bridge Road near Gilman Springs Road in the San Jacinto Valley through the first half of March established a first record for Riverside County, and allowed numerous observers to check the field marks of this secretive species. The San Jacinto Valley continued to have **McCown's Longspurs** into early March (off Davis Road), and two **Lapland Longspurs** were in the same fields as the Sprague's Pipit in late February and early March. Three **Scott's Orioles** in the Yucca Valley/Pioneertown area on 17 March (Brian Keelan) represented an early arrival for this species.

Working all of the "musts" of May birding into a 31 day month will prove impossible, but the birder who spends a maximum amount of time afield will be amply rewarded. Spring migration will be at its peak in the coastal canyons and desert oases in the early part of the month, and the latter part of the month will be prime time for vagrants at any locality that can be thoroughly worked. The desert slopes of our mountains and the eastern Mojave Desert stand out as relatively uncharted territory for investigations of breeding bird distribution, but even the local spots, such as the Santa Monica Mountains, will have secrets to uncover. Especially in need of monitoring are the riparian habitats of our lowlands and coastal slope canyons. These habitats are usually rather linear, and therefore relatively easy to cover thoroughly by frequent stops along canyon roads (or a little stream hiking up and down roadless canyons). Pick a canyon and learn it well (or pick two, or three...).

Send any interesting bird observations to:
Hal Baxter
1821 Highland Oaks Drive
Arcadia, CA 91006
Phone # (818) 355-6300

Renew Your Membership Through LAAS

When you receive your annual renewal notice from National Audubon, we strongly urge that you complete the form and send it along with your dues check to Audubon House rather than directly to National Audubon. National has been having difficulties with the data processing firm handling membership. This has led to many errors in chapter records across the country, including ours. It has also resulted in some of our members missing issues of the **WESTERN TANAGER**. By sending your renewal directly to us, many of the problems should be avoided.

Before forwarding your renewal to National, we will photocopy your form and check, and make sure that our records are current. By renewing through L.A. Audubon you will be sure not to miss any issues of the **TANAGER**. We will also be able to confirm that National has placed you in the correct membership category.

We care about your membership, and are willing to make this extra effort to serve you better.

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CALENDAR

CALL THE TAPE!

Before setting out for any field trip, call the Audubon Bird Tape, (213) 874-1318 for special instructions or last minute changes that may have occurred by the Thursday before the trip.

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, MAY 4 — Harold Bond will lead a morning walk through **O'Melveny Park**, one of the Valley's newest and wildest parks where waves of migrants have been seen. From Simi Fwy. 118, exit and go north on Balboa to Senson St., turn west to parking lot at end. Meet at **8 a.m.**

SUNDAY, MAY 5 — In cooperation with the Santa Monica Mountain Task Force, meet leader **Gerry Haigh** for his monthly morning walk through **Topanga State Park**, at **8 a.m.** These oak woodlands and meadows overlook the canyons and sea. In addition to chaparral residents, warblers and other migrants are expected. From Topanga Cyn. Blvd., take a very sharp east turn uphill on Entrada Drive (7 miles so. Ventura Blvd., 1 mi. no. Topanga Village). Keep bearing left on Entrada Dr. at various roadforks to parking lot at end. (\$2 fee).

SUNDAY, MAY 11 — Meet Artist/Birder **Mary Carmona** for a morning walk in **Tujunga Wash/Orcas Picnic Area**. Look for Cactus and Rock Wrens, Roadrunner, Phainopepla and a variety of migrants. Take the 210 Fwy. toward the Hansen Dam Recreation Area; exit at Osborne turning north and immediately right on Foothill Blvd. Go approx. 1 mile to dirt parking area just before Big Tujunga Wash bridge. Meet at **8 a.m.**

SATURDAY, MAY 18 — Join **Roger Cobb** for a beginner's walk through the canyon at **Big Sycamore, Pt. Mugu State Park**, ending by mid-afternoon. Wear comfortable shoes and bring knapsack with lunch and water. Meet at the dirt parking area outside the entrance, about 20 miles north of Malibu, on PCH, at **8 a.m.**

SATURDAY, MAY 18 — Bird the 2 mile trail from **Placerita Cyn. Park to Walker Ranch** with **Jean Brown**. Look for chaparral birds and migrants. Bring picnic lunch and water in knapsack. Take Hwy. 14 north to Placerita exit, then right about 2 miles to Park entrance and right to Nature Center. Meet at **8 a.m.** (If gate still locked, meet in dirt parking lot on rise to left of gate.)

SATURDAY, MAY 18 — Covington Park and Morongo Valley Refuge. **David Koepel** (213-454-2570) will lead the search for Lucy's Warbler, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Blue Grosbeak and other migrants and possible vagrants. Take I-10 to Highway 62. Go north 10 miles to park sign and right to park. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** near Rec Center. Bring lunch. Camping/Motels available in Yucca Valley. Almost 3 hours from L.A.

SUNDAY, MAY 19 — David White will lead a morning walk at the **Whittier Narrows Regional Park** looking for migrants plus a good variety of land and water birds. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave., So. El Monte, near crossing of freeways 60 and 605.

MONDAY, MAY 20 — Reptile/Birding Outing to Antelope Valley, Devil's Punchbowl & Placerita with Harvey Fischer, Reptile Curator, L.A. Zoo. We'll search for desert lizards and other reptiles while enjoying the spring flowers, birds, and other wildlife. Bring lunch and liquids. Be prepared to leave in carpools from the Placerita Nature Center by **8:30 a.m.** (See 5/18 Directions)

RESERVATION TRIPS

TUESDAY, MAY 7 — Take advantage of this special morning access tour of the lovely **Huntington Library Botanical Gardens** at this peak migration period. Former LAAS President and current Director **Jean Brandt** will lead. Free. Maximum 20.

SATURDAY, MAY 11 — Join **Bruce Henderson and Tom Keeney** for this first special access trip into **Banning Canyon/San Gorgonio Creek area**. See various habitats as we travel from 2,000 ft. to 8,000 ft. in search of residents and spring migrants. Limited participation.

WEEKEND, MAY 18-19 — Visit the **Lanfair Valley Area** (near Needles), one of the most interesting and least explored areas in So. Cal. This remote high desert will feature breeding Beldire's Thrasher; other possibilities are: Gray Vireo, Scott's and Hooded Orioles, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Poorwill, Gilded Flicker and other Arizona specialties. Leader **Brian Keelan**, a birder for 19 years, is one of the few people familiar with this area. The trip will be enhanced by Keelan's knowledge of plants, mammals and reptiles. \$30/person. Max. 15.

WEEKEND, June 29-30 — Join this perennially popular trip to see a great diversity of species in four distinctly different habitats of the **Kern River/Greenhorn Mt. Area** with **Bob Barnes**. Some of the possibilities are: Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grouse, Pinyon Jay, Gray Flycatcher, Williamson's Sapsucker. Local leader **Bob Barnes** has banded this area over 12 years and probably knows the regions' birdlife and their secret haunts best. \$20/person. Max. 20.

WEEKEND, JULY 13-14 — See an exciting diversity of plants, animals and birdlife while exploring the eastern Sierra from **Mono Lake to Tioga Pass**. Easy hiking, spectacular mountain views and flower displays in addition to looking for Lewis' Woodpecker, Pinyon Jay, Gray Flycatcher and others. Local leader **David Gaines** is the original spokesman and prime mover in the extensive Mono Lake efforts in addition to authoring "Birds of the Yosemite Sierra, a Distributional Survey." \$20/person.

FRIDAY EVENING/SATURDAY, AUGUST 16-17 Shorebird Seminar and Field Study

with **Jon Dunn**. A slide show lecture will be held in the San Fernando Valley in preparation for a day of field study, location dependant on water levels for maximum number of shorebirds. Plumage will be carefully studied to differentiate juveniles from adults and various differences in peeps and other shorebirds. The approach will be gradual and beginners are encouraged. Lots of time will be spent looking for individual birds. Expect to be quizzed. Do wear shorts and expect to get wet and muddy. The experience is meant to be fun as well as instructive. Dunn has particular expertise with shorebirds, is a professional bird tour leader, was the major consultant of the National Geographic's "Birds of North America," and co-author of both "Birds of So. Calif., Status and Distribution," and the forthcoming "Field Identification of Difficult Species." \$25/person. Max. 20.

PELAGIC TRIPS

SATURDAY, MAY 11: Puffin and Shearwater Trip, Santa Barbara Island and out to sea. Depart 6 a.m., return 6 p.m. Leaders: **Kimball Garrett** and **Richard Webster**. Price: \$24 per person.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10: Shearwater and Jaeger Trip, Santa Barbara Island and out to sea. Depart 6 a.m., return 6 p.m. Leaders: Bruce Broadbooks and Kimball Garrett. Price: \$24 per person.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: Red-billed Tropicbird Trip, San Clemente Island. Depart 5:30 a.m., return 6 p.m. Leaders: Richard Webster and Louis Bevier. Price: \$25 per person.

RESERVATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE:

Reservations will be accepted ONLY if ALL the following information is supplied: (1) Trip desired; (2) Names of people in your party; (3) Phone numbers - (a) usual and (b) evening before event, in case of emergency cancellation; (4) Separate check (no cash please) to LAAS for exact amount for each trip; (5) Self-addressed stamped envelope for confirmation and associated trip information. Send to: Reservations Chairman Ruth Lohr, LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

If there is insufficient response, the trip will be cancelled two weeks prior to the scheduled date (4 weeks for pelagics) and you will be so notified and your fee returned. Your cancellation during that time will bring a refund only if there is a paid replacement.

If you desire to carpool to an event, Ms. Lohr or Art Levine (usually in office on Tuesday) can provide information for you to make contact and possible arrangements.

EVENING MEETINGS

TUESDAY, MAY 14 — Join **Larry Naylor** for a slide illustrated program on the **Chaco of South America**, the vast and unique birding area of Argentina and Paraguay.



LOS ANGELES

MAY 1985

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