



# WESTERN TANAGER

The Los Angeles Chapter of  
The National Audubon Society

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## *Birding the Angeles Crest Highway... Half A Mile At A Time*

by Kimball Garrett

You've undoubtedly spent many a pleasant day birding the Angeles Crest Highway, that two-lane route that wriggles down the spine of the San Gabriel Mountains, one of southern California's highest and most spectacular ranges. You've hit the figurative high points — Buckhorn Camp, Lightning Ridge Trail, or Table Mountain — and marveled at the scenery between your stops. You've gone back in other years, struck by a few differences here and there but generally soothed by how things seem to stay the same.

There's a different way to bird the Angeles Crest, one I've been simultaneously enjoying and suffering nearly annually for twenty years. The hours are lousy and the pay is zilch... but somebody's got to do it. I refer to the Breeding Bird Survey, a yearly run route designed to provide a standardized index of bird abundance over the years. The survey (hereafter BBS) is sponsored by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Of over 2,000 routes run in 1989, 117 were in California. And there's always room for more, in case this article gives you the BBS bug!



Though the stated purposes of the BBS center around assessing population trends and mapping relative abundance, there is an especially rewarding corollary for the surveyor who runs a route for many years – an intimate familiarity with the habitats and birdlife along the route. This familiarity comes from the rigor of the survey protocol – you bird your route half a mile at a time, making fifty three-minute stops during the course of the survey. And you begin *early*, half an hour before sunrise (that's 5:06 on my route!). The route is completed in about four and a half hours, well before the worst of the day's heat and winds.

\* \* \*

Imagine it's quarter 'til five in the morning, and you've just driven up to Big Pines along the Angeles Crest just west of the San Bernardino County line. Of course you had to stop to listen for Flammulated and Saw-whet Owls along the way, so you haven't exactly had much sleep. Though it's mid-June, there's a chilling bite in the air, and you worry that the breeze that is whispering through the pines and white firs might gain strength (when you're listening for birds, wind is enemy number one). The eastern sky is already glowing orange, and you wonder if Violet-green Swallows ever sleep. The chipping of a couple of dozen swallows is augmented by the "peee-ur, pur-willip" of a Western Wood-Pewee and the "phew" notes of Western Bluebirds. It's barely light enough to perceive flying shapes of swallow-ghosts, but bird activity is frenzied, and you realize how critical a knowledge of bird calls is when embarking on a BBS.

In this article I'll take you along on a route (grab a strong cup of coffee) and then use the data I have gathered while running these surveys to shed some light on bird distribution and abundance in the San Gabriels. The start of the route is a bit more than half a mile up the Table Mountain Road from the Big Pines intersection. From the Big Pines intersection, the route follows the Angeles Crest Highway until Stop 50, a couple of miles west of



Steller's Jay

Larry Sansone

Buckhorn Campground. I'll give locations in terms of "Stop Number," so keep in mind that stops are half a mile apart; thus "Stop 20" is about 9.5 miles along the route, or about 9 miles west of Big Pines.

#### Table Mountain and Big Pines

Stop 1 is just south of Table Mountain Campground, nestled in a woodland of Jeffery pines, white firs, and black oaks. Down below is the Arch Picnic Area in the canyon that runs down the Valyermo Road. For several years in the late 1970s I was greeted on this stop by a calling Whip-poor-will (usually only the first stop or two is "early" enough for nightjars and owls). But the dominant sounds are from the Violet-green Swallows, wood-pewees, and Western Bluebirds. Stops 2 and 3 are extensively wooded with black oaks, and Acorn Woodpeckers, American Robins, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Rufous-sided Towhees appear annually. Frustrating for the BBSer are nice bits of habitat

exactly *between* stops! A nice little meadow with breeding Lincoln's Sparrows and MacGillivray's Warblers sits neatly out of hearing range between Stops 2 and 3 near the foot of the Mountain High ski resort.

#### The Blue Ridge

After five stops of woodland birds, Stop 6 offers the first real taste of a different habitat – an extensive stand of montane chaparral dominated by ceanothus. Here, at the start of the Blue Ridge Road, I always hear Black-chinned Sparrows and numerous Green-tailed Towhees on the extensive open brushy slopes. The brain and the ears are locked in battle as you try your annual crash-course on distinguishing the songs of Green-tailed Towhees and Fox Sparrows. Dusky Flycatchers give their "see-lick, prrp, sweet" songs as I strain to hear warblers (both Nashville and Virginia's Warblers have bred near this spot), usually without success.

#### The High Road

Between Stops 20 and 30 the route winds through open fir and pine forests around the 7,000 foot level. Birds are not numerous in these high, arid woodlands, but I occasionally encounter some true high country denizens: Red-breasted Nuthatches and Hermit Thrushes, for example. Clark's Nutcrackers, Townsend's Solitaires and Cassin's Finches are numerous, along with the ever-present Mountain Chickadees and, overhead, the darting Violet-green Swallows. Of particular interest are several ravines with willows and (in most years) rushing snow-melt water. In the low dense growth in these ravine bottoms are singing Wilson's Warblers and, occasionally, MacGillivray's Warblers. Particularly good wet ravines are found at Stop 27 and at Cortelyou Spring near Stop 34. A singing Willow Flycatcher at Cortelyou on the 1981 route shows just how late (17 June) migrants of this species are encountered. Within the better conifer stands,

such as near Dawson Saddle (Stop 24), singing Hermit Warblers are sometimes encountered, and Audubon's Warblers are numerous here.

### The Tunnels

At the junction of now-defunct Highway 39 (Stop 35), the route once again shifts into open chaparral. Black-chinned Sparrows sing from the ceanothus patches and yucca stalks, and Wrentits once again put in an appearance. Acorn Woodpeckers yak downslope in the tall pines, and the mellow "wook" of a Mountain Quail is not uncommonly heard. From here to the west end of the tunnels (Stop 37) I always tally a couple of Rock Wrens. Stop 37 sometimes produces a Canyon Wren as well, and Bighorns are usually found on the rock slopes just above the mouth of the more westerly tunnel. The tunnel stop produced a Painted Redstart on the 1982 survey.

### Buckhorn

The best woodland stop of the route — with mixed conifers, black oaks, and alders — is at Stop 44, the "Buckhorn Exit." Red-breasted Sapsuckers are counted annually here, and Wilson's and MacGillivray's Warblers are usually both present. A singing Golden-crowned Kinglet here on the 1987 route suggests the possibility of nesting in the vicinity. In 1973 we found a Red-faced Warbler near Stop 45, but only *after* the conclusion of the survey!

### The End

The BBS comes to a rather unimpressive close just below Cloudburst Summit (Stop 50, west of Mt. Waterman). I've never had a "birdless" BBS stop, but I've come close on Stop 50. Usually at least a Western Wood-Pewee will break the silence. But Stop 50 does produce an overwhelming sense of relief — another exhausting survey is in the books! Funny how a day or two later you are already looking forward to next year's survey.



Violet-green Swallow

Herbert Clarke

### Some Tidbits Of Results

The following results are compiled from ten survey years since 1978 (a couple of years were missed); they help paint a picture of the birdlife of the high Angeles Crest:

— The number of species recorded on my BBS route has varied from 47 to 57 in the ten years the route was run since 1978; the average number of species is 49.8, and in all but two years the number has been in the 48-52 species range.

— In eight out of those ten years, the most common species has been the Violet-green Swallow (averaging 162.4 birds per year). In 1987 Pygmy Nuthatch dethroned the swallow (166 to 156), and in 1990 Mountain Chickadee shaded the swallow by a scant two individuals.

— The only species to make the "Top Ten" every year have been: Violet-green Swallow, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Chickadee, Steller's Jay, Cassin's Finch, and Fox Sparrow (*stephensi*). Other species to

crack the top ten are: Pygmy Nuthatch, Western Wood-Pewee, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Tanager, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Bluebird, and Band-tailed Pigeon.

— A useful index of "findability" generated by the Breeding Bird Survey is the number of stops a species is encountered along a route. There are 50 stops, so simply double these numbers to get a "findability percentage." The all-time champ is Green-tailed Towhee, which in 1982 was recorded on 48 (96%) of the stops. Only the following six species have ever been recorded on more than 40 (80%) of the stops: Mountain Chickadee (six times), Green-tailed Towhee (three times), Violet-green Swallow (twice), and Western Wood-Pewee, Steller's Jay and Cassin's Finch (once each).

— Each survey is characterized by local or difficult-to-detect species, those birds found at only one stop. Over the ten years analyzed, I have found from five to twelve species (average = 7.4) on only *one* stop.

### Epilogue

Perhaps no aspect of birding is more rewarding than learning the fine points of status, distribution, and habitat requirements in a well-defined, local area. Conducting a Breeding Bird Survey through the years quickly brings this kind of familiarity with an avifauna. Each stop is subtly different, as is each year. Despite the survey's limitations (after all, three minutes isn't a very long time to bird an area!), the rewards are immense. There are many other 24.5 mile stretches of road out there begging for a surveyor, so hone your listening skills this summer and sign up for a 1992 route.



Interested in running a BBS route? Contact Robert McKernan, Southern California BBS Coordinator, San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA 92373.

# Conservation Conversation Conservation

## *The Nature of Postmodernism and Postmodern Nature:*

### *Significant Ecological Areas in Los Angeles County*

by David White

I expect nearly everyone has heard of postmodernism. MTV hyps itself as "Postmodern Music Television." Entertainment Weekly claims to be "the postmodern Farmer's Almanac." But who knows what postmodernism means? I think the real hallmark of the Postmodern Era is that everyone knows it's here but no two people agree how to define it. So forget a lengthy, carefully constructed, precise definition. Let's go for a definition of postmodernism in true postmodern fashion, seeking a hit-and-run, one-word denotation to

provoke an image and strike a nearly wordless pose.

Postmodernism is... fragmentation. Fragmentation of nation-states, of alliances, of families, of the self; fragmentation of understandings and sensibilities, right on down to the presumption that there is a reality which is supposed to make sense. The only thing absolute is that... it's all relative.

It isn't just cultural. There's also postmodern nature. Bill McKibben said in *The End of Nature* (Anchor Books, 1989), "We live in a postnatural world." McKibben is thinking mostly of global climate change, but the phrase applies as well to fragmentation of natural habitat. William Newmark, an ecologist, says only 10% of all bird species are found on islands, yet 90% of documented bird extinctions occurred on islands; parks and preserves replicate the tenuous habitats of islands. Habitat fragmentation (1) restricts and isolates large wide-ranging animals, (2) leads to diminished genetic variability, (3) leads to loss of species which are narrowly adapted to specific habitats, and (4) opens the landscape to adventi-

tious vegetation and opportunistic wildlife which thrive in more developed surrounding areas.

Los Angeles is the prototype of postmodern cities, her urban grid stretching from Pacific Palisades to Claremont, Sylmar to Long Beach, and beyond; were it not for rough terrain in the Santa Monica Mountains, and federal land ownership in the San Gabriels, L.A. would probably stretch without a pause to Leo Carrillo Beach, Gorman and Hi Vista. In the Santa Monicas and San Gabriels, there are extensive remnants of natural habitat. Elsewhere throughout the county, nature persists in shreds and patches.

In 1980, as part of its General Plan, L.A. County identified 61 "Significant Ecological Areas" or SEAs. These included remnants of diverse endangered habitats: rocky beaches, wetlands, dunes, coastal sage scrub, marshes, chaparral, riparian woodland, oak woodland, walnut woodland, Joshua Tree woodland, sagebrush, and grasslands. Many of our favorite birding locations are SEAs: Ballona Creek, Malibu Lagoon, Point Dume, Zuma Canyon, Chatsworth

## *URGENT!!! Help the African Elephant!*

**A**frican Elephant populations have declined 8% annually over the past decade, partly because of poaching and ivory sales and partly because of habitat fragmentation and loss. The USFWS is proposing to reclassify African Elephants from threatened to endangered. Letters should express support for this because "endangered" status provides greater legal protection.

The proposed rule would leave African Elephants in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa classified as "threatened" because those populations are stable and seem adequately protected. But the final rule may be quite different from the proposed rule, either leaving even more populations designated as "threatened" or classifying all as "endangered."

Designating only certain populations as endangered would be reasonable if habitat loss were the sole problem. But it isn't, and the USFWS proposes to permit continued trade in non-antique ivory now inside the U.S. on the presumption that it was legally imported (it was not until June of 1989 that we banned imports of elephant ivory, and there are still exceptions for "sport-hunted trophies.") We think the USFWS should declare *all* African Elephants endangered and impose tight controls on all trade in ivory (raw ivory could be registered, and any ivory later traded without proof of legality would be presumed to have been smuggled). Failure to do this seems almost certain to allow a continued market, thereby encouraging poaching.

Send letters by July 16, to: Chief, Office of Scientific Authority, Arlington Square, Room 725, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240. 

# Conversation Conservation Conversation

Reservoir, Santa Clara River, and Big Rock and Little Rock Washes, to name a few. Some SEAs, like the Rio Hondo College Wildlife Sanctuary, were already designated as refuges or, like Griffith Park, Harbor Lake, and Whittier Narrows, were under County management. Many were without protection. The County announced good intentions: SEAs would be protected from "incompatible development" and there would be efforts to acquire those most threatened. What happened?

First, the County made no effort to fund the purchase of SEAs. Second, it neglected to monitor development in SEAs. Third, it approved residential, commercial, and recreational developments in SEAs. Fourth, it advanced its own incompatible projects: a road through Palo Comado Canyon in Agoura, and trash dumps in the Santa Susana and Santa Monica Mountains. Fifth, it has been accused of hindering the National Park Service and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in their efforts to acquire property including SEAs.

Meanwhile, many SEAs once un-

der county jurisdiction are now in recently incorporated cities where no commitment for protection exists, even on paper. Interestingly, the 1980 General Plan included SEAs because the Coalition for Los Angeles Planning in the Public Interest won a lawsuit against the County in 1975 and had the previous General Plan voided.

When the *Los Angeles Times* investigated SEAs, and contacted County Supervisors back in December of last year, one could almost hear the yawns. An aide to Deane Dana said he was unaware of any controversies; an aide to Mike Antonovich said developments in SEAs have been compatible. What do we have in mind? The golf course that took 100 acres of El Segundo Blue Butterfly habitat? The 500-acre dump expansion proposed in Sunshine Canyon? The 21,000 homes planned for California Springs west of Lancaster?

Supervisor Ed Edelman said he thinks SEAs should have higher priority, but one of his aides said local environmental groups aren't paying much attention and commitments only get attention when "people hold your feet

to the fire." Perhaps the *Times* article provided a bit of foot-warming; maybe the recent change in composition of the Board (the election of Gloria Molina) gave reason for hope. At any rate, in mid-March, Supervisor Edelman suggested strengthening the rules on development in SEAs.

Mr. Antonovich is, expectably enough, not happy about this. A delay was arranged. What do we need to do to impress upon the Board of Supervisors that we care about the SEAs and aren't happy about how they're being abused? Some letters wouldn't hurt, but it may take more than that. Personally, I think the county needs to take a hard look at how they're managing the habitat already under their direct control. Call me old-fashioned: I don't think it's "relative," I think it's a real mess. For example, consider the County's persistent ambitious commercial development plans for Bonelli Regional Park. In a future column, I'll comment on the designated "raptor management area" that is now a strawberry patch, and some other things that have gone on at Whittier Narrows. Stay tuned. 

## Wetlands – Endangered Again

**A** well-financed coalition of industry groups including the Farm Bureau, oil and chemical industry, timber industry, homebuilders, and road construction lobby have been hammering on the Congress, the governors and the White House for several months claiming that Section 404 of the Clean Water Act which protects wetlands is causing all kinds of problems for farmers and developers.

Congressman Hayes, (D-LA) has introduced a bill, H.R. 1330, which would destroy wetlands protection as we know it, although the bill is titled "Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1991." The bill already has 53 cosponsors. A companion bill by Senator John Breaux, (D-LA) will soon be introduced. Breaux claims he already has 30 cosponsors for his bill and is demanding early action by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

These bills would: designate the Corps as the sole regulatory authority and eliminate EPA's ability to veto Corps' 404 permits; narrowly redefine wetlands to eliminate seasonal, ephemeral and isolated wetlands not inundated for at least 21 consecutive days in the growing season; create a system of high-, medium- and low-value wetlands and limit the amount classified as high value to 20 percent of a county.

But this is only part of the story. The Bush "No Net Loss" administration is about to redefine wetlands more narrowly so that fewer controversial wetland acres can be protected – making a No Net Loss policy a joke – as tens of millions of acres of such habitat could be affected.

Please write your House member and two Senators and ask them to oppose HR 1330 and the Breaux bill when it is introduced. Let them know you want no weakening of Section 404 protection for wetlands and that the definition for wetlands should remain broad and inclusive. 

# Birds Of The Season

by Hank Brodkin

The first two weeks of June still have the ability to produce vagrants — so diehard vagrant seekers will still be combing the desert hot spots (in temperature as well as the quality of birds produced) and the more productive coastal areas.

More sensible birders will head for the mountains. Places like Chilao and Buckhorn in the San Gabriels, Mt. Piños near the Grapevine, and the Baldwin Lake/Arrastré Creek areas in the San Bernandinos are some of the favorites. The last mentioned area is most interesting, with several species of sparrows, Common Nighthawks, and the possibility of nesting Virginia's Warblers near the lake, and a chance of nesting Hepatic Tanagers and *Plumbeous* Solitary Vireos along the creek, with Gray Flycatchers and Gray Vireos a little further east near Rose Mine.

Further afield, the more adventurous might want to scour the canyons of the eastern slope of the Sierra or White Mountains, listening for the distinctive call of the male of the newly split Cordilleran Flycatcher.

Thanks to the rains of March, the floral display in our local deserts added to the pleasure of April's passerine migration. Again those who heeded nature's clock and were out in the favored canyons and oases were not disappointed, with one observer reporting 200 Nashville Warblers and 40 Black-throated Gray Warblers one April morning in Placerita Canyon.

On 7 April, 140 White Pelicans were reported from Bolsa Chica on (Steve Mlodnow). One of our few Swainson's Hawk reports this spring was one overflying Chilao Flats on 9 April (Jeff Tufts).

A Solitary Sandpiper, scarce in spring, was at Madrona Marsh on 4 April (Martin Biehower) and another one was found along the L.A. River near Glendale on 21 April (Kimball Garrett). An early Yellow-footed Gull was at the south end of the Salton Sea on 31 March. The first Least Tern report comes from Bolsa

Chica on 7 April (SM). Twenty-nine Black Skimmers on Venice Beach on 24 March (Hank Brodkin) and two at Malibu on 29 March (Bob Pann) perhaps indicate birds looking for a nesting site on our crowded beaches.

Our first Lesser Nighthawk report was from Franklin Canyon on 1 April (Steve Saffier) and the first Calliope Hummingbird was at Descanso Gardens on the early date of 30 March (Gayle Benton).

A Lewis' Woodpecker was in the Arroyo Seco on 31 March (Judy Rothman) and two Purple Martins returned to their nesting site at Nojoqui Falls, Santa Barbara County, on 14 April (Art and Jan Cupples).

A Steller's Jay was found far from the mountains on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on 1 April (MB) and the first report of a Hermit Warbler comes from Westminster on 31 March (SM).

The earliest Blue Grosbeak report is from Rancho Sierra Vista on 12 April (Dick and Bea Smith), with probable nesters returning to Sepulveda Basin on 14 April (Dexter Kelly). Grasshopper Sparrows were at the San Jose Hills on 28 March (Bruce Broadbooks) and at Rancho Sierra Vista on 15 April.

Two female and one male Great-tailed Grackles were at Legg Lake on 20 March (Ed Navajosky) and three

pair were reported there exhibiting nesting behavior on 31 March (Ray Jolsen).

Four Red Crossbills were at Chilao on 9 April (JT) and a holdover Evening Grosbeak was at Jackson Lake on 12 April (D&BS).

Again I would like to thank all of you who have written, called, and left messages with your bird reports. I am not always able to get back to you due to time constraints, but I really appreciate hearing from all of you. Without your reports there would be no Birds Of The Season. Thanks again and Good Birding. 

Records of rare and unusual bird sightings reported in this column should be considered tentative pending review by the American Birds regional editors or, if appropriate, by the California Bird Records Committee.

Send your bird observations with as many details as possible to:

Hank Brodkin  
27 1/2 Mast Street  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292  
(213) 827-0407  
- or -  
David Koeppel  
(213) 454-2576

## PI C N I C

Sunday, June 23, 1991  
Charlton Flat Picnic Area  
Nature walks begin at 7:30 a.m.  
Picnic from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You're invited — and please bring the whole family!  
Bring a picnic lunch (grills are available).  
LAAS will provide liquid refreshments!

Activities include:  
Birdwalk: 7:30 a.m. — Nature walk: 9:00 a.m.  
Children's activities: after 10:00 a.m.  
PLUS: A repeat of last year's outrageous "Bird Charades!"

# C A L E N D A R

Continued from page 8

information on the trip and lodging, reserve with SASE per field trip policy.

**Sunday, June 30 - Malibu Lagoon.** Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the lagoon parking lot. The lot is on the ocean side of PCH, just W of the lagoon bridge, but you can turn right into town for street parking. The lagoon lot has a daily fee. This walk is under the leadership of a member of Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society. (LA, p.114, B-5)

**Sunday, June 30 - Big Bear Lake and Vicinity.** Co-leaders Louis Tucker and Nick Freeman. Meet outside Coldbrook Campground in Big Bear at 8:00 a.m. Take Hwy 18 or 38 to Big Bear Lake, then proceed about halfway along the S side of the lake on Hwy. 18 and turn south on Tulip Rd. The campground will be on the south side as the road curves. Target birds include Williamson's Sapsucker, Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds, mountain finches and White-headed Woodpecker. It should be warm and there may be bugs, so come prepared. Bring lunch.

**Sunday, July 7 - Topanga State Park.** Leader Gerry Haigh. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See May 5 write-up for details.

**Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14 - San Jacinto Area.** Meet Monte Taylor at Hurkey Campground at noon on Saturday. Bird, camp, and bird again on Sunday. Night birding included. No fee, but reserve by phone or SASE. You must be on the reservation list to participate.

**Saturday, July 27 - Bolsa Chica.** Tom Shell leader. Shorebirds, skimmers and a number of tern species likely. Meet at 8:00 a.m.

in the Bolsa Chica estuary parking lot on the east side of PCH for a morning of birds. Take the 405 S to Golden West St., take this south to PCH, and turn right onto PCH. Don't miss the small parking lot for the Bolsa Chica Marine Preserve on your right. Some paid parking across the street at the beach may be required. (OC, p.25, D2)

**Sunday, August 4 - Bird/Botany Walk in Cooper Canyon.** Leader Dustin Alcala of the Theodore Payne Foundation. Fairly strenuous walk descending 900 ft. in 1 mile to a stream, and back. Spectacular wilderness. Trees, shrubs, lateflowers and birds. Eat lunch and continue birding at Chilao afterwards. Take Angeles Crest Hwy. past Chilao to Cloudburst Summit and park in the paved lot on the left, across from the 7,000 ft. elevation marker. Meet at 8:00 a.m. (LA, p.199)

**Sunday, August 11 - Mt. Piños Vicinity.** Leader Shirley Rubin. Hummingbirds, woodpeckers, Hermit Warbler, etc. Anticipate the elements, and bring a lunch. Take Hwy 5 N past Tejon Pass to the Frazier Park offramp, turn left, and follow Frazier Mountain Park Rd. bearing right onto Cuddy Valley Rd. Meet at the "Y" formed by the junction of Cuddy Valley Rd. and Mil Potrero Hwy. at 8:00 a.m. promptly, and park in the obvious dirt clearing. Rain cancels. (CAL, p.88, C-1)

**Thursday, September 12 - Seabird Workshop.** Alcids, petrels, etc. reviewed by Arnold Small before Saturday pelagic trip. Lecture participants are guaranteed spots on the Saturday, September 14th pelagic trip (\$60.00 - boat trip only and \$12.00 - workshop only). 7:30 p.m. Location TBA. 

## P I C N I C

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Highway 2, Angeles Crest Highway, north from the 210 Freeway in La Cañada. It is about a 40 minute drive up into the mountains to Charlton Flat, which is a well-marked picnic area on the left side of the road.

When you enter Charlton Flat, take the first right turn and proceed to the lowermost picnic sites. Watch for the Western Tanager signs.

For more info and to RSVP, call Audubon House at (213) 876-0202. Reservations necessary to insure sufficient liquid refreshments.

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Renewals of membership are computerized by National Audubon and should not normally be sent to LAAS. New memberships and renewal of lapsed memberships may be sent to Los Angeles Audubon House at the above address. Make checks payable to the order of National Audubon Society.

Non-members may subscribe to the *Western Tanager* for \$15 per year. The newsletter is sent by first class mail to subscribers and members who pay an additional \$7. Make checks payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

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(213) 876-0202 - office  
(213) 874-1318 - bird tape  
(updated Thursdays)

### RESERVATION AND FEE EVENTS (Limited Participation) 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 Millie Newton, LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

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

Millie Newton is available at Audubon House on Tuesdays 10 - 3 to answer questions about field trips. If you desire to carpool to an event, she can also provide contacts for you. Our office staff is also available Tuesday- Saturday for most reservation services.

# C A L E N D A R

## E V E N I N G   M E E T I N G S

Meet at 8:00 p.m. in Plummer Park  
ID Workshop precedes the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 11, 1991 - Birding in Eastern South Africa.** On his recent birding adventure in South Africa, Raymond Schep photographed his way through some of the country's birding hot spots. The Crowned Crane, Sacred Ibis and Crowned Eagle are among the many remarkable birds featured.

ID Workshop - To Be Announced

Next meeting will be September 10, 1991. Have a nice summer!

woodlands? For reservations, call the Santa Monica Mountains Restoration Trust office Monday through Friday, 9:00-5:00, at (213) 456-5625. **Saturday, June 15 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park.** Join David White on this regular morning walk to see resident birds and spring migrants. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave. in South El Monte, off 60 Fwy between Santa Anita and Peck Dr. exits, W of 605 Fwy. (LA, p.47, D-5)

**Saturday & Sunday, June 15 & 16 (17th optional) - Southern Sierras Weekend with Bob Barnes.** Limited participation. 152 species seen last year. Fee \$22 plus \$10 for optional Monday extension. For more

*Continued on previous page*

## P E L A G I C   T R I P S

**Saturday, August 17** - Orange County trip (from San Pedro); Catalina to Lausen Sea Mount; 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$36. Leaders: Brian Daniels and Lee Jones.

**Sunday, August 18** - Los Angeles toward Santa Barbara Island; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Lee Jones.

**Saturday, September 14** - Ventura to the back side of Santa Rosa Island - weather permitting; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$60.

**Saturday, October 12** - Los Angeles to Santa Barbara Island and beyond; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Herb and Olga Clarke.

**Saturday, November 16** - Los Angeles to Santa Barbara Island and beyond. Trip is planned to look for ALCIDS; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Arnold Small and Herb Clarke.

Note: Surcharge may be required for all trips if fuel costs rise.

See Reservation Policy on page 11

Non-Profit Organization  
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Glendale, CA

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Los Angeles Audubon Society  
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90046

## F I E L D   T R I P S

### CALL THE TAPE!

Before setting out on any field trip, call the Audubon bird tape at (213) 874-1318 for special instructions or possible cancellations that may have occurred by the Thursday before the trip.

Notations in parentheses after trip listings refer to Thomas Bros. map page and grid coordinates (county, page number, grid coordinates).

**Sunday, June 2 - Topanga State Park.** Gerry Haigh will lead participants through this nearby area composed of sycamores, grasslands, scrub oak and chaparral. This is an ideal trip for a beginning birder or for someone new in the area. From Topanga

Canyon Blvd. heading SW from the Valley, take a very sharp turn E (uphill) on Entrada Dr. (7 miles S of Ventura Blvd., 1 mile N of Topanga Village). Follow the signs to the state park, and meet in the parking lot of Trippet Ranch at 8:00 a.m. \$3 parking fee. (LA, p.109, D-4)

**Saturday, June 8 - San Gabriel Mountains.** Leader David Koeppl. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Charlton Flat campground entrance. Full day of birding at Chilao, Buckhorn, Dawson Saddle and Grassy Hollow. (LA, p.G, C-2). See picnic announcement on page 7 for directions.

**Saturday, June 8 - Cold Creek Canyon Preserve.** Ted Kinchloe, Professor at Pierce College. If you were a bird, would you choose grassland, chaparral or oak