



# WESTERN TANAGER

The Los Angeles Chapter of  
The National Audubon Society

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## *Kern County — A Birder's View*

by Matt Heindel

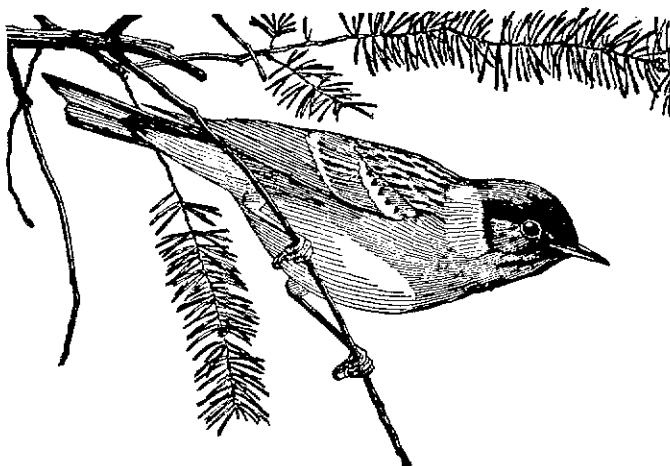
The Kern County desert has become an increasingly popular destination for birders. It is relatively close to the Los Angeles population base and offers exciting springtime birding when coastal areas may be slower. In this article, I will discuss the main birding areas, the "right" time to visit, and sprinkle in a few tidbits on our list of vagrants.



The Yellow-billed Cuckoo, whose last stronghold in California is just "over the hill" at the Kern River Preserve, is a rare migrant at Kern County's desert migrant traps discussed in this article.

Original scratchboard art by Marie Sansone.

## Bay-breasted Warbler



## Where To Go

**Butterbreyt Springs** — The most impressive passage of migrants I've witnessed was at this spot on 27 April 1990. Thousands of passerines passed through the canyon in the first few hours. For reasons poorly understood (by me, at least), this canyon is a major flyway for birds going north. My guess is the birds flying on the western edge of the desert see this canyon as their highway to the mountains as it has a "southeast" entrance and, as such, offers a clear path to the mountains. Whatever the reason, this spot is the best location to watch migrating passerines in the county.

Most people spend their time at the main spring, which has large cottonwoods, willows, etc. In wet years (and this is the first one in a long while), water attracts birds near the mulefat shrubs on the east side of the trees. This is also the leeward side and, as most spring days are quite windy, this is the place to stand. This spot also allows open views to the south and east, where you can watch for incoming migrants. On the minus side here, a large percentage of birds just keep on flying; however, this means you'll get plenty of work on identifying birds on the wing.

As if the regular migrants weren't enough, Butterbreyt has proven to be a great vagrant trap. This may be the only place in the West where Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers were seen in the same field of view — as was the case in late May of '87. (Having been overseas at the time, I'm still in therapy because of this.)

Butterbreyt has hosted numerous county "firsts," including Worm-eating and Prothonotary Warblers. I can't remember a spring that hasn't had a few surprises here.

For the adventurous, a walk down the canyon can be quite rewarding. The sandy wash is dotted with pockets of green, which can be very productive. The last one, approximately one mile from the spring, is the best and has turned up a few goodies. To the west of the spring, the land is dotted with Peach Thorn (*Lycium*). In spring, these are often covered with migrants and are worth some time. Farther up the canyon, 3-4 miles from the spring, Bendire's Thrashers have been found. Scott's Orioles, Black-throated Sparrows and occasional Black-chinned Sparrows can be seen. This is also an area frequented by Pinyon Jays.

The main "rule" visitors need to be aware of is: Do not tamper with the fence that is west of the spring. Cattle need access to the spring; closing the fence could have severe repercussions.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the work of Keith Axelson. He is largely responsible for the preservation of this wonderful spot. Everyone who has enjoyed a day here owes something to Keith.

A word of caution: The roads into this area are rough gravel and subject to flooding.

**California City** — While this was where it started for a few of us a decade ago, it usually isn't as productive as other parts of the county. Certainly some of this is due to the ever-growing

city, which reduces the odds of finding that one bird.

The main birding spot is Central Park, a large combination of trees, shrubs and water. Adjacent to the southern edge of the park is a par-3 golf course. It has a few trees and borders the lake and can be productive, but be aware of golfers as they do have the right of way.

There isn't "one" spot in the park that is "magical;" however, the places we check most frequently include: the hill/waterfall; the piney knolls on the north side; the areas around the hotel; and the peninsula southwest of the hotel. The pines on the east side are part of a private area that is posted "No Trespassing." Please do not abuse this. (The Kern birders are rumored to be a tough crowd and hand out swift and decisive punishment!)

In the early years, we were convinced that the waterfall was the spot, and for some reason mid-morning was the best time. In May of '84 and '85, the 9:30 a.m. list near the waterfall included: Blue-winged, Cerulean, Hooded and Kentucky Warblers!

One final note: When in town, stop by the Desert Deli. Owner Mary Dempsey is a neat person, and they make a great sandwich. She has always been very supportive, giving us our own place to keep an updated list of what is being seen. A request: When leaving notes on something you've seen, please leave specific directions (not just "Central Park") and your name (not initials).

**Galileo Park** — This little oasis, east of California City by 15 minutes, seems to be better in fall than in spring, although in fairness, it doesn't get even coverage in spring. Spring is usually windy and there aren't many places to hide here, making it tough on birds and birders.

The petting zoo is probably the most reliable area and always worth a check. The campground is worth a little time; be sure to check the creosote as it often holds migrants (not to mention a vagrant Kentucky Warbler in May of '87). The road from the zoo to the hotel has a lot of ground cover (e.g., Texas Ranger), which can be good for MacGillivray's Warbler and the like. In May of 1990, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow spent the better part of a week here. The hotel is worth a stop, as

many birds feed on the lawn, especially after it is watered. Finally, the lake is easy to cover and should be given at least a brief look.

Many people come here in search of Chukar, which has been found by the dozens. However, since the "March Miracle" of '91, I've only seen them a few times. Whether they dispersed due to the rain or moved for some other reason is uncertain. Time will tell.

Galileo Park is a private club. The owners have been very accommodating, but have also been irritated by impolite birders. If birders use their heads, we should have no problems. Park in designated areas only (not in the road); do not enter the yard across from the zoo; be sensitive to others that you see as they are the members. Remember, you're a guest here.

## DWP Mojave Closed to Birders

**Mojave** — The large green tract at the northwest corner of the Hwy. 58-14 Junction is owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The future of this spot is uncertain. As of April 1, 1992, this area is **CLOSED** to everyone. Birders are asked to respect the wishes of the DWP while negotiations are being considered. This is a very sensitive situation. Please do NOT add to the problem! Listen to the LAAS Bird Tape for the most current information about this location. We'll let you know as soon as possible about any changes. Meanwhile, just pass by the area on your way to other "hot spots" in this part of Kern County.

The golf course south of town (Camelot) looks appealing but it is also off limits. Even us locals are forbidden! If you're desperate, you can

play 9 holes at a cost of \$4 and take your sweet time. I've actually done this in a flash of desperation, as it was once a great spot.

## When To Go

The deserts are rewarding at any time of year, but most birders visit in spring. Migration starts in February (actually, sometimes in January): swallows, Turkey Vultures and Cinnamon Teal are amongst the first arrivals. Orange-crowned Warblers are usually noted before mid-March, and it is during March that Lincoln's Sparrows can be quite numerous. Late March will bring the first Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds and Northern Orioles. During the first part of April, Wilson's and Black-throated Gray Warblers are noted along with Black-headed Grosbeaks. At this season, the "Myrtle" Warbler is fairly common (mid-March to mid-April). Mid-April is an exciting time: all the *Empidonax* (except Willow) start falling in, along with Townsend's, Hermit and MacGillivray's Warblers. Hermit Thrush are in good numbers and are the only expected *Catharus* prior to late April. Lazuli Buntings and Lawrence's Goldfinches are regular at this time. Many of our common migrants usually arrive near the end of April. Examples include Western Tanager, Yellow Warbler, Western Wood Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Willow Flycatcher and Swainson's Thrush are more numerous after mid-May.

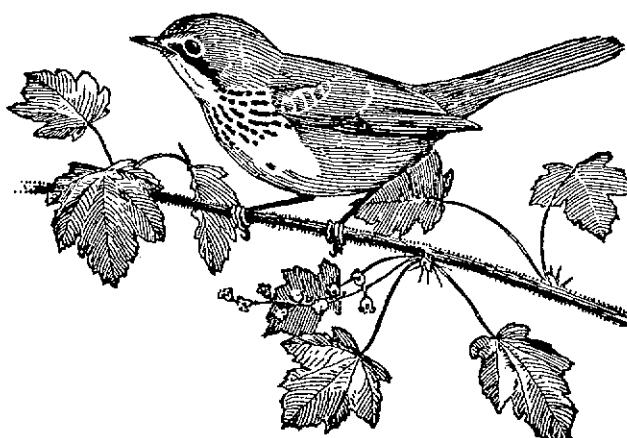
The emphasis earlier on vagrants is unavoidable I suppose, but in my

opinion, the period from mid-April to mid-May is a fantastic time to be out. Much can be learned by observing the large number of migrants that pass through.

Vagrants can be seen at any time, though the latter part of May seems to be the most reliable. Black-and-white Warblers have been seen as early as 27 April, and we have averaged over five each spring. American Redstarts are seen in similar numbers but usually aren't noted before the 10th of May. Once I get to the 10th, I feel it is open season. Paul Lehman (editor of *Birding*) can attest to this. On 10 May '86, a Sunday referred to as "The Mother's Day Massacre," he saw Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Magnolia and Kentucky Warblers, not to mention Kern's only spring Clay-colored Sparrow and a few other goodies. And no, I have no plans of forgiving him!

The down side to birding in late May is that it can be incredibly dull. Most of the migrants are gone, and vagrants are usually few and far between. Use this time to carefully study what you do see. There is a ton to learn.

So, what will the spring of '92 bring? There are some things I will predict: We'll get a few Black-and-whites, a few American Redstarts, and probably an Ovenbird or two (last year we had five!). Certainly a Tennessee or Parula could pay us a visit. And, we'll likely get one of the middle layer vagrants such as a Magnolia or Chestnut-sided. Whatever the projections, there will also be a surprise or two. Last year, it was finding a Gray Catbird in the middle of the desert west of Butterbredit Springs. What will it be this year? 



Canada Warbler

# Lens View

by Herb Clarke

*Continued from the April 1992 Western Tanager*

**O**kay, you have made your decisions. Now how do you carry all this stuff? There are many brands and types of camera bags and cases on the market, each one claiming to be the ultimate answer. Here are some basic requirements: the case must be well made, rugged, not too conspicuous (more on this later), portable and, to me, most important, offer quick access to contents. Presently, there is nothing available that meets all of these requirements. A good compromise is a clam-shell case which can be opened quickly, exposing all gear to view, thus avoiding the frustration of searching through layers of compartments. Additionally, each piece is nestled in protective foam eliminating need for individual cases. This type is usually made of plastic (resists dents better) or aluminum and is dust and water proof. Small, over the shoulder, fabric cases along with photographic vests which provide convenient access to small accessories are useful when travelling afoot. I prefer vests made of mesh material because they are light weight and cooler. Other ways to transport equipment is to use large plastic tubs, slip over cases, boxes and assorted other containers, each suited to tastes of individual photographers.

Straps are sometimes a necessary nuisance. Buy the wide types that disconnect easily. I use a holster-type case around my waist without a neck strap. This case easily contains a camera, lens, spare roll of film and small flash for close-ups, all at the ready. Hands are free to use binoculars without the annoyance of camera and binoculars constantly entangling and banging into each other.

Often ardent photographers travel with nonphotographers thereby creating problems. Normally birding or other activities and intensive photography don't mix. Learn to be tolerant of intolerance or travel alone or with like-minded companions.

Amount of film and its care are important considerations. For average trips, a rule of thumb is one 36 exposure roll a day and then double that amount. Running out of film, especially overseas, can be expensive or it may not be available. On serious outings, take three times the amount you think you will need. Film is cheap when you consider the cost of your trip. You can always use the excess for future shooting. It would be nice but impractical to take along a refrigerator or icebox to keep film cool. Avoid direct sun when handling film, and do not store it in a poorly ventilated spot such as a car trunk or glove compartment. Load the camera in a protected area whenever possible. Use your body to improvise shelter whenever opening the camera. Take film out of cardboard boxes but leave it in the plastic canisters before travelling. This reduces bulk, speeds access, eliminates litter and avoids customs officials questioning possible resale. I put a self adhesive paper dot on unexposed film containers, taking it off

when exposed film is put back in the canister. When travelling abroad, do not check your exposed film with luggage, but keep it with you. Consider the horrible possibility of lost or mishandled luggage wiping out the photographic efforts of a trip of a lifetime. When going through airport X-ray checks, try to have your film inspected by hand. This is not always possible, and I have not experienced or heard of damage caused by these devices, but it's better to be safe than sorry. Most of the above applies to batteries as well.

A major danger when travelling at home or abroad is theft. Thieves are well aware that tourists, birders and photographers carry expensive camera equipment usually in new, conspicuous cases. Unattended cars, parked for long periods in remote areas or at well known tourist locales, with or without window and bumper stickers emblazoned with conservation logos, are prime targets. Here are a few tips, none of which guarantee complete safety. At all times, use common sense. Don't flaunt or assemble gear in public places. Never leave loose items in view in an unattended car. Cover cases with old cloth to make them look like cheap worn luggage. If possible, hold on to camera bags or straddle them with your legs in reception rooms at hotels or airports. Never allow strangers, without proper identification, to guard your equipment.

It's always desirable to have a member of your group watch over baggage if you must leave even for short periods. Have good insurance and carry a copy of the coverage with you to avoid paying duty when returning home. Don't check expensive items with your luggage. All this may sound paranoid, but staying aware will save bitter disappointment.

When abroad, be aware of local customs when photographing. Just as at home, respect property rights. When in doubt, ask permission to take pictures. Be courteous to other photographers, even if they aren't to you. If you can, take and give Polaroid pictures. It's amazing how quickly this overcomes prejudice against foreigners and wins friends.

Happy and safe travelling! 



# Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

In the early days of the Bush Administration this column, in an excess of euphoria, hailed the exciting environmental statements of spokesmen for the new leadership.

**Headline: ACT QUICKLY ON GLOBAL WARMING, BAKER SAYS.** Our new Secretary of State, addressing a panel on climate change of the United Nations, said, "We can probably not afford to wait until all uncertainties have been resolved (on global warming) before we do act. Time will not make the problem go away." He quoted an eloquent line from a Bush campaign speech. "We face the prospect of being trapped on a boat that we have irreparably damaged, not by the cataclysm of war, but by the slow neglect of a vessel we believed to be impervious to our abuse." Wow, heady stuff!

So where are we now, some 3 1/2 years later? I'm afraid the boat is listing badly to starboard. More than 20 industrial nations have agreed to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide which make up about 60% of the greenhouse gases. Sad to relate, the United States, which produces more carbon dioxide than any other nation, has lost the enthusiasm of those bright moments of 1989. While it is true that scientists are still divided over the magnitude of the problem and some insist that we just don't know enough to predict the future, the great majority see real trouble ahead and agree with Mr. Baker.

To seriously tackle global warming we would have to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels by developing alternate sources, conserve energy with improved efficiency, increase automobile mileage — and much more. What has happened between Baker's warning and the President's recent energy bill that ignored all of the above?

**Headline: LUJAN RULES OUT MINING, OIL DRILLING IN U.S. PARKS.** Though we were uneasy about Mr. Lujan's dismal environmental record

as a congressman, it was a pleasant surprise to read the headline. Perhaps it was the President, not Lujan, who was calling the shots and the new Administration's environmental promises would be realized. Once again we see the discouraging gulf between word and deed. While as far as we know, there is no visible move to mine or drill for oil in the Grand Tetons or Yosemite, today our most scintillating crown jewel, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, is greedily coveted by the oil companies with enthusiastic Administration support. It was the same Bush energy bill just mentioned which, among other goodies, called for oil exploration in the ANWR. This bill was defeated in the Senate last December as thousands of passionate letter writers cheered.

However, we have learned the bitter truth in this environmental game: you rarely win, you may just gain a temporary victory. Like an indestructible phoenix, the energy bill rises from its own ashes. The new version of the Senate bill omits drilling in the ANWR, so the moment of rape has been postponed. But a nuclear renaissance is included as well as extensive off-shore gas drilling. As before, the bill is notable for its omissions: higher auto mileage, funding for mass transit and energy efficiency. The nuclear blueprint is worth considering. Power companies would need only one license that would cover construction, operation and final disposal, thus guaranteeing fast, slick acceptance with no public input. The new reactors are promised to be more efficient and less prone to accident. The government would fund the prototype of this new marvel. The House bill is somewhat gentler and does not include the stepped-up licensing of nuclear plants. A spokesman for the Nuclear Information and Resource Service says, "It's still a fossil-nuclear plan. Neither the White House nor Congress seems to have gotten the message that it's time to move to renewables and efficiency." The alliance of the Administration and the energy industry seems to have swept Congress before it and is preparing to run right over the taxpaying consumer.

Meanwhile, back to the future. A nearly full-page ad on March 16 in the *Los Angeles Times*, after a lot of murky double talk and deception, asked the reader to call or write his congressman "to support ANWR and American jobs." No explanation was given as to what ANWR was or who was sponsoring the ad. The ad would have us believe that by opening more of Alaska to oil drilling, 735,000 jobs could be created including 80,000 jobs that would "stay right here in California." No indication as to how this miracle was to occur. This seemed to be the initial ploy of the oil industry to use the serious national unemployment problem as the crowbar to pry open the refuge. Apparently a "jobs bill" is in the making.

The happy promises Mr. Lujan made in early 1989 have become the unpleasant reality of 1992. If the Administration has its way, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the last unspoiled wilderness in North America, will become another North Slope with roads and spilled oil, rusted equipment and fragmented wildlife.

The "environmental President" has had nearly a full term to make his splendid words a reality. Our hopes were raised as we compared those heady headlines with the environmental nightmare of Reagan, Watt and Gorsuch. By now, people are wary of Mr. Bush's lips. "No net loss of wetlands" was a reassuring sound bite. By a colossal sleight of hand, the Administration redefined wetlands so that half of them could be declared non-wetlands and so fall into the eager hands of farming, oil and real estate interests. Environmentally this country is going to hell in a hand basket. Is it too much to ask for leadership that is not going to aid and abet the proprietor of the nether regions? 

# Birds Of The Season

by Hank Brodkin

**M**ay is the month of the vagrant—a term used to describe an out of range bird species. The current thinking is that vagrancy is caused by either weather patterns that push birds off their normal migration route or by a malfunction in the migration mechanism in the bird itself. Whatever the cause, this phenomenon sends the rabid birder off in a frenzied search of the currently favored "vagrant traps" (areas that for some geographical reason seem to attract these lost wanderers).

For the past few years, an extremely popular area has been the desert oases, — both natural and manmade — of eastern Kern County: Mojave, California City Central Park, Galileo Hill Park and Butterbredit Springs. As these areas are combed continuously, a large number of vagrants are turned up here — but there are numerous other oases that have turned up unusual birds, and you may discover the next hot spot yourself! Vagrants also show up along the coast in places like Huntington Beach Central Park in Orange County and Pt. Loma in San Diego County.

Again I would like to appeal to all of you to document your sightings. Please write a complete description and send it to Guy McCaskie, the Southern California Regional Editor of *American Birds*, 954 Grove Street, Imperial Beach, CA 92032. And remember, the more people who can verify your sighting the better — so please share. Call Audubon House,

Dave Koeppel, or myself (phone numbers below) as soon as possible after your sightings.

As of this writing (19 March), the first few reports of spring migration are trickling in even as the wintering birds are disappearing. Even though there were not a great number of reports, there were still a few surprises.

A **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel**, very rare in our waters, was identified from a boat near the San Pedro Escarpment on 21 February (Mitch Heindel/Dave Moody), and a **White Pelican** was at Sepulveda Basin on 8 March (Raymond Schep).

A **Green-winged Teal** of the so-called **Common** race from Eurasia was at Hansen Dam, Sunland, on 15 March (Dustin Alcala). A male **King Eider** coming into breeding plumage was seen at the Hermosa Beach Pier on 4 March (Patrick Boor).

An almost unprecedented winter **Solitary Sandpiper** was reported from Madrona March, Torrance, on 2 February and was verified on 7 March (Martin Byhower). A flock of 50 **Red Phalaropes** with one **Red-necked Phalarope** was seen off the Hermosa Pier on 5 March (MH), and a **Black-legged Kittiwake** was seen off Pt. Mugu on 15 March (Don Desjardine).

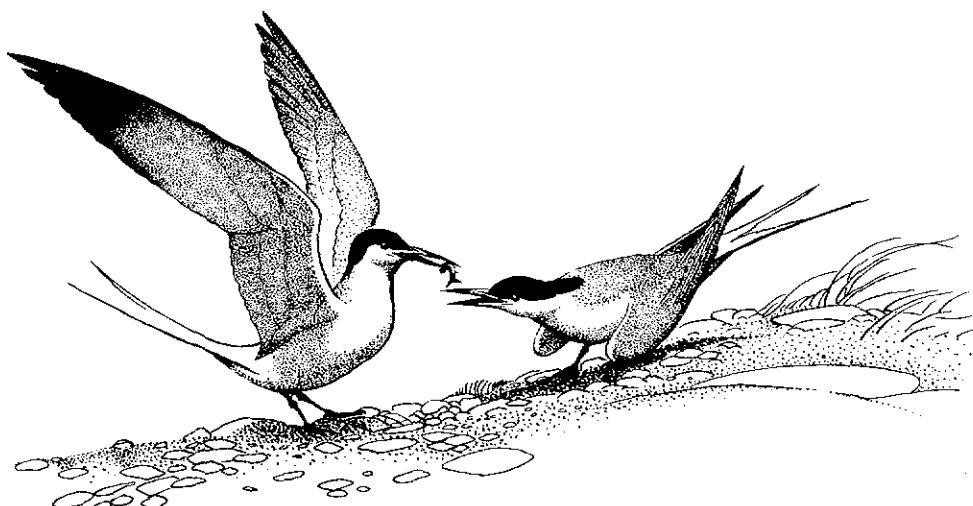
The first **Warbling Vireo** report of the spring is one on 8 March at Whiting Ranch Regional Park, Lake Forest, Orange County (Hank Brodkin). It was at this park that an amazing winter record of a male **Golden-winged Warbler** was found around 24 February by Beau Brown while doing transects in the park. This bird was seen in March by many observers.

A wintering **Yellow Warbler** was on the Oxnard Plain on 17 February (Art and Jan Cupples), and a **Palm Warbler** was at

Wm. R. Mason Regional Park, Irvine, on 15 March (Mike San Miguel).

The first spring **Hooded Oriole** is from O'Melveney Park in Granada Hills on 12 March (DA).

Good birding!



There is a feeling that this is a different bird than the one seen at Seal Beach and Long Beach earlier in the winter.

An immature **Bald Eagle** was at Silver Lake, Los Angeles, on 15 March (David Koeppel). A flock of between 9 and 13 **Swainson's Hawks** roosted near Hansen Dam the night of 5 March (Ned Harris), and a female **Merlin** was at Galileo Park, Kern County, on 13 March (Dick and Bea Smith).

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

# F I E L D   T R I P S

Continued from Page 8

**Special Note - Monthly trips to Whittier Narrows Regional Park** are being discontinued. David White, our leader of this well-attended calendar staple for the last decade, has moved out of state to pursue career opportunities. We all wish him the best.

**Saturday, May 2 - Salton Sea.** Leader Chet McGaugh, compiler of the N.E.S.S. Christmas Bird Count. Breeding desert birds, late migrating shorebirds and other migrants. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at sign-in booth at Wister Refuge on Davis Rd. We will bird Davis Rd., Red Hill and vicinity, then proceed around the South End Refuge, up past Salton City, and perhaps touch on the north end. \$8+ refuge fee, Maximum 20 people. Sign-up with Audubon House mandatory.

**Sunday, May 3 - Topanga State Park.** Gerry Haigh will lead participants through this diverse coastal mountain area. This is an ideal trip for a beginning birder or for someone new in the area. A plant person is usually in attendance. From Topanga Canyon Blvd. heading SW from the Valley, 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)

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 8 thru 10 - Sierra Owl Workshop.** Conducting the workshop will be Steve Laymon, who holds a Ph.D. in Spotted Owl research from Berkeley; and Bob Barnes, who leads our annual South Sierras Weekend. Both will be with the group most of the time. The fortunate 14 participants will meet near Kernville at 7:00 p.m. See April *Tanager* for itinerary. This program is being offered jointly by LAAS and by the Kern River Research Center to which all gross proceeds will go. There is a real potential to see 9 species of owls. Burrowing may be the toughest! Fee \$75. Limited to 14. Reserve with Audubon House.

**Saturday, May 9 - Chatsworth Reservoir.** Leader Dustin Alcala. Being led as a joint venture between LAAS and San Fernando Audubon Society. Primarily an "old California" native grassland habitat with a large body of water and oak riparian woodlands in the adjacent arroyos. Migrants and breeding birds

should be abundant. Finish up early afternoon. Take 405 Fwy N to Roscoe Blvd., head W to Fallbrook Ave., take this N to the DWP entrance at the end. Meet at the gate at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Bring lunch and water. No restrooms. No fee. Sign-up by phone with LAAS mandatory. (LA, p.6, A-6)

**Sunday, May 17 - Mojave Area.** Tour the desert oases surrounding Mojave with Mary Carmona. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the California City Central Park lot. Take Hwy. 14 about 10 miles past Mojave, turn right on California City Blvd. Drive through town about a mile past the shops and the overpass, and turn left at the Central Park sign. The first right turn will take you into the lot. About two hours driving time from L.A., so you may wish to consider local camping or motel options. Bird all day.

**Sunday, June 7 - Topanga State Park.** Leader Gerry Haigh. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See May 3 write-up for details.

**Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14 - Yosemite Weekend.** Knowledgeable leader David Yee. Fee: \$20. Limited to 17. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Yosemite. More details next month. For info and lodging flyer, reserve with SASE per field trip policy.

**Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28 (29th optional) - Southern Sierras Weekend with Bob Barnes.** This very popular trip covers widely varying terrain on both sides of the Sierras from desert to riverine to montaine habitats and should net over 120 species with the Monday extension. Hopeful-to-likely species include Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Calliope Hummer, Wood Duck, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Willow, Grey and Brown-crested Flycatchers. Limited participation. Fee \$22 plus \$10 for optional Monday extension. For more info on the trip and lodging, reserve with SASE per field trip policy.

**CORRECTION:** The second and third place photos on the cover of the April issue were switched.

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Annual membership in both societies is \$35 per year, \$21 for seniors, and presently \$20 for new members for their first year. Members receive the *Western Tanager* newsletter and *Audubon* magazine, a national publication.

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.

National Headquarters, New York  
212 832-3200  
Los Angeles Audubon Headquarters, Library  
and Bookstore are open  
Tuesday - Saturday  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
213 876-0202 - office  
213 874-1318 - bird tape  
(updated Thursdays)

## RESERVATION AND FEE EVENTS (Limited Participation)

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., West Hollywood, CA 90046-6651.

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.

**May 12 – Listening in the Dark: Echolocation in Cave Swiftlets.** Dr. Charles Collins of California State University Long Beach will present a remarkable illustrated account of his field observations on Palawan Island in the Philippines where thousands of swiftlets utilize a vast underground river cave for nesting and roosting. Cave swiftlets are members of one of only two genera of birds known to use echolocation. Can you name the other?

The Education Committee will announce the recipients of the LAAS scholarships to Audubon Ecology Workshops for Teachers in Connecticut; and a special award will be given to the student winner of the Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair.

**ID Workshop:** Kimball Garrett

**June 9 – California Birds. The Stories They've Told Me.** Our final program of this season will feature noted wildlife research photographer B. "Moose" Peterson. His program will highlight some of our state's most intriguing species, and the funny and not so funny struggles they face everyday. It also highlights the efforts to get their story on film. Join us for a multimedia celebration of the Golden State's feathered gold!

## P E L A G I C   T R I P S

**Saturday, May 9** - San Miguel Island and beyond, on the *Jeffrey Arvid*, out of the Ventura Marina; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$68. Leaders: Arnold Small and Herb and Olga Clarke.

**Sunday, May 31** - Santa Barbara Island and Osborne Banks; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Mitch Heindel and Kimball Garrett.

**Saturday, August 15** - Santa Barbara Island and Osborne Banks; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Bruce Broadbooks and Kimball Garrett.

**Saturday, September 12** - Seaward side of Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands, via Anacapa Island, on the *Jeffrey Arvid*, out of the Ventura Marina; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$60. Leaders: Herb and Olga Clarke and Arnold Small.

**Sunday, October 18** - Santa Barbara Island and out to sea; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Herb Clarke and Mitch Heindel.

**Saturday, November 21** - Palos Verdes Escarpment to Redondo Canyon; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost \$20. Leaders: David Koeppel and Mitch Heindel.

**NOTE:** Marine Mammal Expert Linda Lewis will be one of our leaders when her schedule permits.

Destinations may be changed by leaders to optimize bird sightings. All LAAS pelagic trips are on the *Vantuna*, out of San Pedro, unless otherwise noted.

## F I E L D   T R I P S

A complete list of LAAS field trips for the period from May 2 through June 28 is on page 7. We welcome your participation and know you'll find each trip interesting and fruitful.

 Trips highlighted with this symbol are designated Birdathon '92 Trips.

*Continued on page 7*

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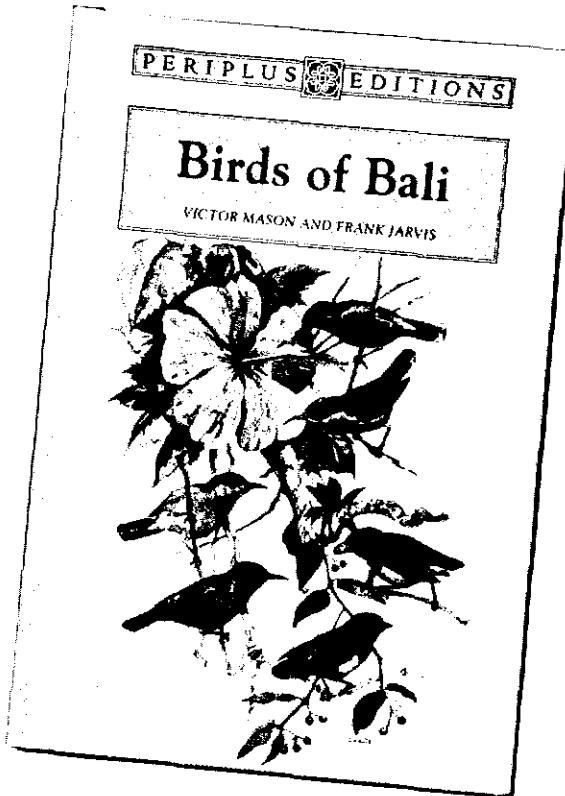
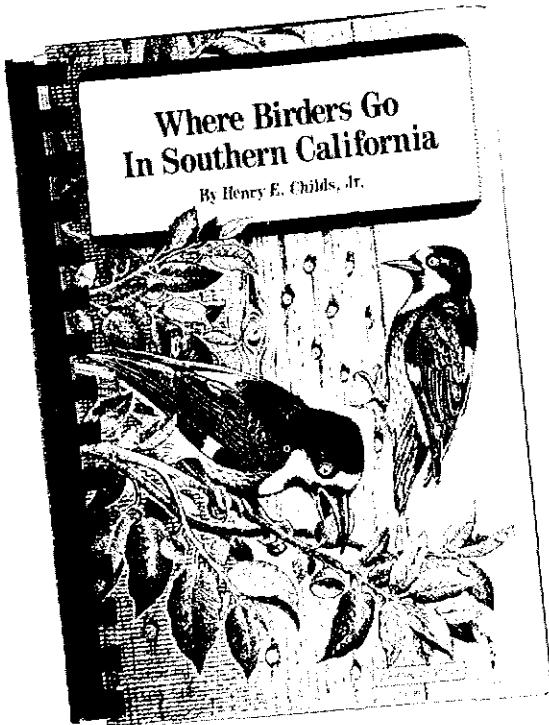
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