



# WESTERN TANAGER

The Los Angeles Chapter of  
The National Audubon Society

Volume 59

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## *Audubon Education: Bringing Nature's Lessons to America's Youngsters*

by Melanie Ingalls and Dan Kahane

The National Audubon Society has been a pioneer in environmental education since its founding. Over the past 80 years Audubon has developed, refined and updated environmental education programs to involve children in the cause of wildlife preservation. In so doing, we have helped raise an army of conservationists. As Frank Graham points out in the *Audubon Ark*, it was not the warden

system or political action, but the millions of youngsters who went through the Junior Audubon clubs that helped Audubon come to function on a truly national scale.

Today, Audubon's membership includes as many children as adults. The Audubon Adventures program now reaches more than 550,000 elementary school students nationwide—and Audubon's new education efforts, fo-

cused on America's urban school systems—are helping to bring a conservation ethic to children who are least likely to have experience of the natural world.

Los Angeles is the focus of some of the most exciting educational developments. Partnerships between National Audubon and its southern California chapters are producing innovative local education initiatives which will

have national significance in the years to come. Our efforts focus on helping urban youngsters learn about the value of wetlands, working to meet the needs of a growing Hispanic population, and developing an exciting new program to bring nature science to preschool youngsters.

With the help of the Los Angeles Audubon Society (which annually sponsors 210 classes) we now provide the Audubon Adventures program to nearly 35,000 local students primarily within the Los Angeles Unified School District. Over the past two years, we have been working with the Office of Instruction to provide a wealth of Audubon education materials to the District's four science centers and present workshops and field trips for local educators and their classes.

As we develop new programs we have listened to the changing needs of our audience. Our focus in the coming school year will be on helping to meet the needs of students and teachers in bilingual classrooms. Audubon has recently published its first Audubon Adventures issue in Spanish (on bird migration) and a Spanish translation of our acclaimed urban environmental education workbook, *A Place to Live*. We are working with the District's Office of Bilingual/ESL Instruction to design a series of workshops on the use of bilingual materials and "sheltered English" techniques to teach science. A grant from the Whitecap Foundation will provide transportation, field trips and camp scholarships for teachers in this pilot program. The outdoor component of the program will be focused on the Ballona Wetlands where, with the support of Maguire Thomas Partners - Playa Vista, we run an outdoor classroom.

One exciting part of the Ballona Wetlands education program is the opportunity it offers for urban youths

to experience nature firsthand. Direct observation of nature brings about the interest and the passion children need to become better stewards of the world around them. Even with the current degraded state of the wetlands, it is possible to have an illuminating visit—to see fiddler crabs scurrying over the mud, herons roosting in the trees, a Least Tern plunge-diving into a tidal

sors at Loyola Marymount University; Maris Sidenstecker II, founder of Save The Whales, Inc.; Jim Burcheri of the Cabrillo Marine Museum; and Dr. Rudi Mattoni, a *lepidopterist* and ecologist who is restoring the El Segundo dunes. Training was centered at our offices in Playa del Rey and each session included a classroom segment and a trip into the field. Practice sessions helped



*Kids learning how to take biological measurements using a quadrant*

channel, or masses of painted lady butterflies in migration. These experiences can lead to a life-long interest in the natural world and growth of an environmental ethic.

In order to prepare volunteer naturalists to lead school tours at the wetlands, Dan Kahane, our environmental education specialist, began a docent training program last December. Over the course of the winter, twenty enthusiastic docents, some of them veterans of other outdoor education programs, attended a series of training sessions on biology and interpretive techniques. Teachers included Kimball Garrett and Lynn Barkley from the County Museum of Natural History; Constantine Dillon from the National Park Service; Dr. Roy Houston and Dr. Howard Towner, wetlands experts and profes-

them hone their skills, and beginning in April we hosted hundreds of school children and their teachers in very rewarding field trips at Ballona. We will be training a new group of docents this fall, and beginning in October, we will offer school tours to our Audubon Adventures classes two days a week on a first-come, first-served basis.

Before their visit to Ballona, school groups receive a package of information and activities including a general introduction to the nature and values of wetlands, a short history of Ballona, information on animals and plants of the salt marsh, and a full-color wetlands poster. The exercises they do in the classroom before they come are based around the poster of a pristine marsh and a discussion of that habitat—what animals use the marsh, how

they use it, and what the youngsters could hear, see, smell, and feel if they were there.

On the day of their trip, we meet the youngsters at Del Rey Lagoon City Park. After a brief introduction and review of the "take only pictures, leave only footprints" ethic, the classes are divided into groups of 10-15 students. Over the next two hours they engage in a series of activities on plant and animal identification, marsh ecology, adaptation strategies, and the salt marsh food web. Children experience the thrill of looking through binoculars and spotting scopes to observe the shuffling of a Snowy Egret; hearing the chatter of a Belted Kingfisher; peering into a microscope to discover some of the tiny aquatic creatures that live in the channels; exploring feathers, bones and nests at a bird discovery station; and learning about the Gabrielino Indians who lived in the Wetlands hundreds of years ago.

We also try to help students to become aware of the difference between the manmade and the natural world. Ballona is a challenging site in which to present an outdoor education program. The channelization of the creek, the remnants of oil drilling, the houses built on the dunes, the marina dug into half of the original wetlands, have all taken a toll on the fragile environment. These developments are presented as choices, choices people make and consequences they live with. Youngsters leave with a better sense of their own connectedness to the world around them and a knowledge that they can make a difference in the future of our planet.

Audubon's Ballona Wetlands program has helped us broaden our educational outreach beyond Los Angeles. The Joan Irvine Smith and Athalie R. Clarke Foundation has given Audubon a generous grant to develop a similar wetlands education program at the San

Joaquin Marsh in Irvine. The program, which is being developed in cooperation with the Sea and Sage Audubon Society, includes Audubon Adventures enrollment for more than 60 classes in grades four through six in the Irvine Unified School District, staff development workshops, and development of a freshwater marsh interpretive program on the grounds of the Irvine Ranch Water District.

Trude Hurd, former Assistant Director of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica, has been hired by Sea and Sage Audubon Society to head the outdoor interpre-

tive program. The Irvine Ranch Water District has restored a building on their property for use by Sea and Sage as an office and meeting place. Trude and Dan will work to coordinate the Ballona and San Joaquin programs in order to link youngsters, teachers and local chapter members in a network of wetlands supporters in southern California. We are thrilled that noted artist Jonathan Alderfer has agreed to illustrate a children's guide to birds of the Ballona Wetlands and the San Joaquin Marsh for use in our education programs.

## New Program Targets Preschool Youngsters

The latest in the series of partnerships between Audubon and America's educators is *Hello World!*, a nature science curriculum for three- and four-year-olds and their teachers in the national Head Start program. The premise is that making the most of children's curiosity is the key to engaging young minds in outdoor science. Ada Graham, author of the *Audubon Adventures* newsletter, has created this colorful and engaging publication for teachers in Head Start.

The first issue of *Hello World!* on rain gives lively and engaging insights into common phenomena—how a squirrel uses its tail for an umbrella, why we see earthworms after rain, how to think about evaporation (the invisible), how birds keep dry in a downpour. Teachers and students are encouraged to explore the natural world together through a process of open-ended questions (How are the clouds moving? Fast? Slow? What do the clouds look like?) Subsequent issues will explore birds, squirrels, and insects.

We plan to pilot the program in Head Start centers in Los Angeles and

on the East Coast and then compile the results into a manual that can be used by teacher trainers in Head Start and preschool settings. We will also develop a videotape demonstrating the activities and approach described in the manual. Participating teachers will receive a copy of *Hello World!* each month along with a page for parents, in Spanish and English, which brings the lessons home and makes the parents active participants in their children's science education. We believe this program has tremendous potential for helping youngsters develop the language and thinking skills necessary for future success in science, and sets the stage for development of a life-long environmental ethic.

Audubon's long-standing commitment to environmental education has created a climate of support and involvement in our local schools. We will continue to look for new ways to promote the cause of wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to develop new programs which bring these ideas to those least likely to have them. 

## The Scientific Uses of a Pleasurable Day

by Larry Allen

When you think of the Malibu Christmas Bird Count, what comes to mind? A crisp morning sunrise over the mountains? The interplay of light and shadow amongst the shoreline detritus as you search for shorebirds? The camaraderie of birding with old friends? The opportunity for a solitary excursion into a canyon you would never otherwise visit? Or do you take pride in the thought that the Malibu CBC is among the top 20 in the continent in terms of numbers of species found?

Withal, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that an activity which most of us engage in for pleasure can have real scientific value. For example, in just the last year, I have provided data from the Malibu CBC to:

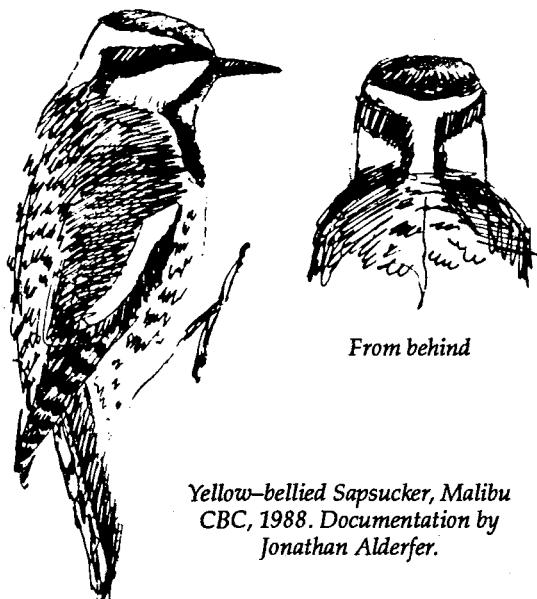
- A researcher from UC Davis who wanted six years of data on 13 species of seabirds in order to construct a baseline for assessing the impact of the 1990 American Trader oil spill off Huntington Beach,
- The Chief of Interpretation for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area who wanted data for the last two years for a project he was pursuing, and
- The Superintendent of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area whose office is compiling a bird list for the entire Recreation Area, and can make use of data from the entire 36-year history of the count.

In addition, I wrote a short paper

and sent it to the *American Birds* CBC Editor containing a statistical analysis of 16 years of Malibu CBC data which attempted to discern any population trends which might be present. (If you wish a copy, give me a call.) My analysis revealed a few surprises. Although total party-hours have declined slightly over the 16-year period, the total number of species reported has been fairly constant (averaging 164 species). However, the species mix has changed over the years. Seven species which were never or rarely reported in the early years are now regularly found (Great, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Allen's Hummingbird), whereas five species which had been regularly reported earlier are now no longer found (Redhead, Common Moorhen, Black-legged Kittiwake, Tricolored Blackbird, and Lawrence's Goldfinch), and Dunlin was reported last year for the first time in five years.

The addition of species to the count can usually be traced to specific causes (such as the restoration of Malibu Lagoon in 1982), but the disappearances are more puzzling. For example, it is difficult to explain the paucity of Redheads in terms of local habitat changes when most ducks have been found in stable or increasing numbers. Both Moorhen and Tricolored Blackbirds were typically found at Century Lake in Malibu Creek State Park in the early years but are no longer reported at that location. This area has not been "developed," but park attendance (and thus disturbance) has probably increased in recent years.

Other mysteries may be more tractable. For example, the 1991 count reported very low numbers of passerines



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Malibu CBC, 1988. Documentation by Jonathan Alderfer.

which are usually found in quantity, such as White-crowned Sparrows. Was this due to the drought? Was this due to burgeoning development in the area? This year's count can provide data to help assess these questions.

This is where you, the count participant, come in. Coverage of areas within the count circle needs to be as complete as possible in order to provide the kind of data useful in studying long-term population trends. Without your time and effort, this information could not be collected. And where else can you provide such valuable scientific input by spending a pleasurable day birdwatching?

This year's Malibu CBC will be on Sunday, December 20th. If you would like to be part of the fun (and science), give me a call at (213) 221-2022. You can look forward to a great day in interesting habitat, a noonday picnic at Tapia Park, and a relaxing celebration over pizza at the end of the day. You'll be glad you participated.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A complete list of southern California CBCs for 1992-93 will appear in the December issue of the *Western Tanager*.

# Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

**M**aybe you've heard about the "Wise Use" movement. A bunch of scoundrels who want to do in environmentalists. Listen to what their loudmouth guru says: "Our goal is to destroy, to eradicate the environmental movement. We want to be able to exploit the environment for private gain, absolutely. And we want people to understand that is a noble goal." This is Ron Arnold. A Class-A kook? Nope. Crazy like a fox.

The Wise Users are a loose coalition of what Arnold says are "500 little non-profit groups, run by grassroots folks, out there spreading the gospel." Behind them, and providing major financial assistance and ideas are organizations with names like People for the West, National Wetland Coalition, Center for Defense of Free Enterprise, National Council for Environmental Balance, Citizens for Truth and Progress. On their boards sit top representatives of mining, oil and industrial interests who stay in the background and let the troops in the small towns write the letters and man the barricades. Manufacturers and users of motorcycles, ORVs and snowmobiles are enthusiastic supporters.

The foot soldiers are emotional, determined activists with a fighting agenda that is pretty strong meat. They would: open all public lands—including national parks and wilderness areas—to mineral and energy development; rewrite the Endangered Species Act to remove protection of "nonadaptive" species; convert ancient forests into oxygen-producing young trees to "reverse" global warming; eliminate anyone legally challenging

"economic action or development on federal lands;" and uphold the 1872 mining law that permits mining companies today to buy federal land at \$5 an acre.

Stewart Udall, the best Interior Secretary we ever had, points out that with the demise of the Soviet Union, the ultra-right, in need of a bogeyman, has substituted environmentalism for communism. He quotes one zealot who accuses us of wanting to "destroy or at least badly cripple industrialized capitalism." Our old buddy Ron Arnold says environmentalism is "the third wave of messianism to hit the planet after Christianity and Marxism/Leninism." (Arnold is no anti-intellectual Bubba but an apostate Sierra Club member.) Wise Use fundamentalists quote the Bible as giving man dominion over the earth and talk about "a holy war between... different religions." We are accused of "worshipping trees and animals and sacrificing people..." Does anyone hear echoes of the James Watt of ten years ago?

This is serious, dangerous stuff and the environmental movement will have to figure out how to handle it. Udall (who calls the Wise Users the "Me First!" movement) says that this too shall pass. "A certifiable conservation ethic, evolved over centuries, has rooted itself irrevocably in our culture and is growing globally." He adds, "... conservation will survive self-righteous opportunists who episodically appear... Bona fide conservation will continue to consist of husbanding our natural inheritance for economic, ecological, aesthetic and spiritual purposes—an inheritance... owned

simultaneously by everyone and no one, and due on demand to trustees not yet born." \*

\*\*"Me First, God and Nature Second" by Stewart L. Udall and W. Kent Olson. *Los Angeles Times*, Opinion page, 7-27-92.

## Proposition A

Los Angeles Audubon endorses Proposition A on the November ballot. This is a bond issue called "The L.A. County Safe Neighborhood Parks Act" and will provide money to improve, preserve and restore park, beach and open space lands as well as recreation facilities throughout the county.

In a period of severe budget constraints, there is talk of closing down county nature centers like Placerita Canyon, Whittier Narrows and Eaton Canyon. Park infrastructure, like our pot-holed streets, has been woefully neglected for much too long. Community parks will be energized to provide more recreational programs that will involve young people and help keep them out of gangs.

Over 100 wide-ranging projects are earmarked in this measure for development and improvement. Included are enhancement of Malibu Lagoon, restoration of Madrona Marsh, acquisition of prime desert habitat in Lancaster and re-vegetation of the wildlife preserve in the Sepulveda Basin.

Proposition A is similar to last year's Proposition B which received 57% of the vote in June but failed to reach the required 2/3. Proposition A needs only a simple majority to pass.

—Please vote YES on Prop A.

# Birds Of The Season

by Hank Brodkin

**B**y November, the fast pace of discovery of rare migrants will decrease but late fall specialties such as longspurs, American Tree Sparrows and Rusty Blackbirds may appear. Plan to cover the desert oases (which will be comfortably cool or even downright chilly), and remember that long distance pelagic cruises in November have produced *Pterodroma* petrels. November is also the month when irregular winter species, such as Northern Shrike, Bohemian Waxwing or even a Snow Bunting, may show up.

The best bird of the month in southern California was the immature **Yellow Wagtail** found at the San Joaquin Marsh in Irvine on 19 September, though it was eclipsed by California's first Fork-tailed Flycatcher at the Russian River mount 4-8 September.

A **Mississippi Kite** was seen flying over Palos Verdes on 26 September (Jon Atwood), and single **Broad-winged Hawks** were at Harbor Park on 6 September (Mitch Heindel) and at Hansen Dam Park on 15 September (Doug Martin). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at the Glenoaks settling ponds below Hansen Dam on 5 September (Dustin Alcala), two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were in the L.A. River bottom at Del Amo Street on 27 August (Charles Hood), and a **Ruff** in juvenal plumage was at the L.A. River at Del Amo on 18 September along with an estimated 10,000 peeps (Brian Daniels).

A **Parasitic Jaeger** was at the Lancaster Sewage Ponds (where a few show up every fall) on 8 September (CH). A **Long-tailed Jaeger** was reported from the San Pedro Channel on

6 September (Peter Shen), and a **South Polar Skua** was spotted from Mugu Rock on 30 August (Arnold and Brian Small). A **Sabine's Gull** was at the Edwards Air Force Base Piute Ponds on 30 August (Kimball Garrett), and another was at Malibu Lagoon on 11 September (Barbara Elliott).

A **White-winged Dove** was reported from Seal Beach on 27 August (John Hamilton). At least four **Ruddy Ground-Doves** were at Furnace Creek on 19 September (Mike Patten). Some of these may have summered.

A **Tropical Kingbird** was found at Harbor Park on 15 September (MH), and another was along the L.A. River near Elysian Park the same day (KG). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was east of the Pine Mountain Club near Mt. Pinos on 6 September (Russell Stone). A **Brown Thrasher** was at Furnace Creek on 19 September (MP), and an individual of the eastern "Blue-headed" race of **Solitary Vireo** was at Redondo Wilderness Park on 25 September (MH).

**Warbler** reports include **Tennessees** at Hansen Dam on 5 September (DA) and on the Oxnard Plain on 10 September (Wanda Dameron), a **Virginia's** at Hansen Dam on 5 September (DA), a **Chestnut-sided** on 11 September on the Oxnard Plain (Dave Richardson), a **Prairie** in La Jolla Canyon near Pt. Mugu on 11 September (DR), and a **Blackpoll** and a **Black-and-White** at Banning Park on 14 September (MH). There were six **American Redstart** reports, the earliest at Hansen Dam on 27 August (DA). **Hooded Warblers**, an adult female with a juvenile,

were seen as late as 11 September at Descanso Gardens (Jon Dunn); another—which also may have summered locally—was at Hansen Dam in late August (DA).

A **Summer Tanager** was in Franklin Canyon on 13 September (Steve Saphier), a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found in the fennel at Cal State Dominguez Hills on 21 September (MH), and two coastal reports of **Black-throated Sparrow** were of one at Pt. ~Fermin on 6 September (MH) and another at the mouth of Big Sycamore Canyon on the same day (Don Desjardin). A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, L.A. County's first in decades, was at the Pepperdine Ponds in Malibu on 27 September (Chuck Almdale).

Single **Bobolinks** were at Furnace Creek on 19 September (MP) and at Cal State Dominguez on 21 September (MH). Two **Orchard Orioles** were at Exposition Park on 26 August (Mark Wimer), and two more were at Hansen Dam Park on 12 September (DA).

Perhaps a precursor of the winter to come mentioned above was a report of an **Evening Grosbeak** from Cortelyou Springs on 19 September (Barney Schlinger).

• • •

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 (310) 454-2576  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292  
(310) 827-0407

## P E L A G I C T R I P S

### Trips Aboard the Vantuna out of Los Angeles Harbor

**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.

**Saturday, February 6, 1993.** Palos Verdes Escarpment to Redondo Canyon; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost \$20. Leaders: Herb Clarke and Mitch Heindel.

**Sunday, March 21, 1993.** Palos Verdes Escarpment to Redondo Canyon; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost \$20. Leaders: Bruce Broadbooks and Mitch Heindel.

**Sunday, May 16, 1993.** Santa Barbara Island and Osborne Banks or leeward side of island and out to sea; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Jonathan Alderfer.

**Saturday, June 5, 1993.** Santa Barbara Island and out to sea; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Arnold Small.

**Saturday, July 10, 1993.** Palos Verdes Escarpment to Redondo Canyon; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost \$20. Leaders: Sherman Suter and Mitch Heindel.

**Saturday, August 7, 1993.** Santa Barbara Island and out to sea; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Herb Clarke.

**Sunday, September 19, 1993.** Santa Barbara Island and out to sea; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Arnold Small and Sherman Suter.

**Saturday, October 16, 1993.** Toward Santa Barbara Island; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Jonathan Alderfer.

**Sunday, November 7, 1993.** Palos Verdes Escarpment to Redondo Canyon; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost \$20. Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Herb Clarke.

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

### 1993 Trips out of Ventura Marina

**Friday/Saturday, April 23-24.** A 24-hour trip from Ventura due west to the Continental trough (9,000 ft. depth), 10 hours along this slope and returning by San Nicholas Island. Friday, 11:59 p.m. to Saturday, 11:59 p.m. Cost: \$110. Includes bunk and three meals (beer and sodas extra). Please bring binocs, cameras and wet gear only. Leaders: Guy McCaskie, Kimball Garrett and Mitch Heindel.

**Saturday, July 4.** Seaward side of Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands, via Anacapa Island. 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$64. Leaders: Arnold Small and Mitch Heindel.

**Saturday, September 4.** Seaward side of Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands, via Anacapa Island. 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$64. Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Mitch Heindel.

**WESTERN TANAGER**  
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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.

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212 832-3200  
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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) 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., 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.

November 10 - *Coastal Sage Scrub: Endangered Habitat in Our Backyard*. Jess Morton. This illustrated talk will consist of a survey of southern California Coastal Sage Scrub habitat, including flora and fauna, with an emphasis on the Palos Verdes peninsula, Los Angeles' last remaining stronghold for the California Gnatcatcher. Dr. Dan Silver, founder of the Endangered Habitats League, will also be in attendance.

ID Workshop: Dr. Rudi Mattoni—*Garden Butterflies of Southern California*.

December 8 - Herb Clarke presents "A Florida Bird Fantasy."

ID Workshop: Dr. Henry E. Childs, Jr.—*North American Cormorants and Grebes*.

## 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 pre-1992 Thomas Bros. map page and grid coordinates (county, page number, grid coordinates).

Sunday, November 1 - 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. 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 and turn left into the park. Meet in the parking lot of Trippet Ranch at 8:00 a.m. \$3 parking fee. (LA, p.109, D-4)

Saturday, November 14 - Whittier Narrows. Join Dustin Alcala at 8:00 a.m. to seek late migrants and wintering bird arrivals. Meet at the Nature Center at 1000 Durfee Ave. Take the 60 Fwy to S. El Monte, just W of the 605 Fwy, taking the Peck Dr. exit S, take offramp onto Durfee Ave., head W (right), turn left into the nature center. (LA, p.47, D-5)

Sunday, November 22 - Longspurs. Irwin Woldman hopes to take us where longspurs

are being seen this year. Every year, small groups of longspurs appear about this time—the only question is where. The group will meet at 7:30 a.m. at a location to be disclosed on the Thursday preceding the trip on the LAAS Bird Tape. If there are no reliable sightings being reported, we will meet at the Denny's off the 5 Fwy in Sylmar. Take a right off the freeway at Renaldi, then a right and a right into the lot.

Saturday, November 28 - Upper Bee Canyon. Dustin Alcala leads this 6 mile strenuous walk through real wilderness. Impressive, rugged oak woodland habitat with fair chance to see Purple Finch, Varied Thrush, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Lewis' Woodpecker. Golden Eagle hopeful. Dustin is also familiar with the native plants and trees in the area. Not for lightweights, but not a forced march. Layered clothing, hat, long sleeves and durable lug-soled footwear suggested. Pack light, bring lunch and water. Take 405 Fwy N to 118 Fwy W, take the Balboa Blvd. offramp N, turn left on Jolette Ave. and right onto Meadowlark Ave. Park at the side of the street where Meadowlark dead-ends into Van Gogh St. just outside of O'Melveny Park. Make reservations with Audubon House to learn meeting time. (LA, p.1, E-3)

Saturday, December 5 - Chatsworth Reservoir. Leader Doug Martin. Primarily an "old California" native grassland habitat with a large body of water and oak riparian woodlands in the adjacent arroyos. Take 405 Fwy N to Roscoe Blvd., head W to Fallbrook Ave., then N to the DWP entrance at the end. Meet at the gate at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. No restrooms. Confirm trip in December Tanager or by calling December Bird Tape. (LA, p.6, A-6)

Sunday, December 6 - Topanga State Park. Leader Gerry Haigh. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See November 1 write-up for details.

Saturday, December 12 - Whittier Narrows. Leader Jack Nash. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See November 14 write-up for details.

Saturday, December 12 - Carrizo Plains. Leader Sam Fitton of BLM. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Maricopa. Vehicles \$13 each. Good buteos, eagles, and Mountain Plover for sure! Cross fingers for cranes. Priority given to 4-person cars and carpoolers. Sign-up with Audubon House for exact directions.

Los Angeles Audubon Society  
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