



# WESTERN TANAGER

The Los Angeles Chapter of  
The National Audubon Society

Volume 59

Number 9

June 1993

## *Exploring the Other California*

### *Part 2*

*by Dexter Kelly*

#### The Mountains

**T**he mountain ranges that run down the central spine of the Baja Peninsula are an extension of the peninsular range of Southern Alta California. This cordillera includes the Santa Ana, San Jacinto and Laguna Mountains. South of the border the Lagunas become the Sierra Juarez, and south of the Ojos Negros saddle that links Ensenada to San Felipe on the Gulf rises the Sierra San Pedro Martir which contains Baja's highest peak, the Picacho del Diablo. These northern Baja ranges are similar to the California ranges, except in one respect: they are sparsely settled, with no towns and only a few isolated ranches. The most significant human presence is in the national parks.

The best way to explore the Sierra Juarez is from the north. It is easiest to cross the border at Tecate and proceed east on Highway 2 toward Mexicali. At La Rumorosa, turn south on a graded dirt road signed to the Parque Nacional

de la Constitucion de 1857. At first, the road leads through a sagebrush-covered plateau. After about six miles, it rises into a pinyon forest where, in spring, at almost any stop you may hear Gray Vireos singing. In March 1992, in a single drive through this area, we heard seven singing males and found one nesting pair without much difficulty. Apparently cowbirds have not yet penetrated this area.

Besides the vireos, there were many Pinyon Jays in this area. After the pinyon forest, the road enters a burned-over area before descending into a ponderosa forest and enters the national park. Here the road levels out, passing a colony of weekend cabins before ending up at Laguna Hanson, a large seasonal lake set about with tall pines and striking rock formations.

There are many campsites along the shore (a small fee should be paid at park headquarters), and most were empty in May. Canvasback and Red-head have been among the ducks wintering here. We found the usual mon-

tane birds along with May flowers. The road from La Rumorosa had a few steep, rocky dips, but we were able to negotiate it easily in a Corolla station wagon. Most roads in Baja do not require 4-wheel-drive vehicles, since few Mexicans own them; they should be driven gingerly, with restraint, and not in a hurry!

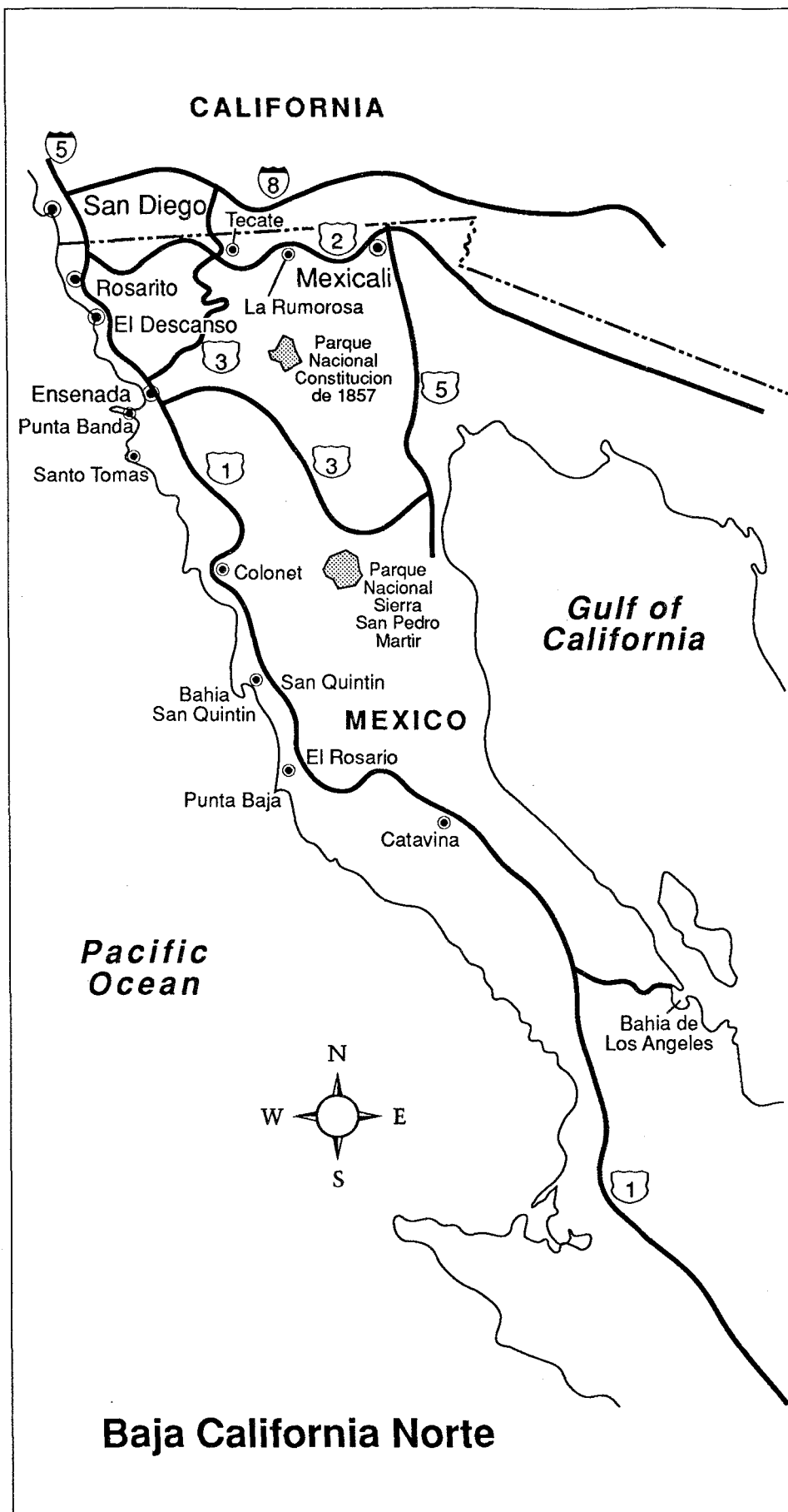
The San Pedro Martir is reached from a side road off Mexico 1, south of Colonet, as previously described. After passing through the small town of San Telmo, the road passes out of a canyon into an open plain. The marsh to the left contains what is probably the southernmost breeding population of Yellow-headed Blackbirds; in winter, we drove through a gigantic mixed flock of four species of blackbirds, free from cowbirds and starlings. The road continues to climb through barren hills for some 13 miles before dipping into a small valley where the Meling Ranch is located. Willow groves along streams near the ranch should host many migrants in season.

Beyond Meling Ranch, the road climbs steeply to the plateau of the San Pedro Martir. At the entrance to the park we stopped to pay the nominal entrance fee and found three species of sapsucker: Red-naped, Red-breasted and Williamson's. This massif marks the southern limit of the *daggetti* Red-breasted Sapsucker's range.

Past the entrance the road levels out and winds between rock outcroppings and tall pines. It terminates in the meadows below the National Observatory, where automobile access is forbidden in order to keep the dust clouds down. This area has the clearest skies north of the Andes, dry and almost free from light pollution. The Observatory, manned chiefly by French astronomers, may be visited (discreetly) on foot. There are magnificent views of both coasts and the Picacho del Diablo nearby. Watch for Golden Eagles; if any are left in Baja, they should be found only in this area. The meadows below are excellent for camping, although cows frequently are herded in to munch on the endemic plants. Trails lead off through the pine forests. Such Mexican rarities as Cassin's Finch, Clark's Nutcracker and Mountain Bluebird should be sought. Needless to say, the stargazing cannot be equaled anywhere in Alta California. Bring a reflector scope if you have one.

### The Rest of Baja

Southern California readers of *A Sand County Almanac* will be astonished at Aldo Leopold's account of his visit to the Colorado River delta in 1922. At that time, the river still ran through it in myriad channels through a vast, rich wetland of marsh and riparian woodland, bordered and dotted with mesquite thickets and cottonwood groves. Thousands of cranes, geese, ducks and shorebirds came and went, and permanent residents included egrets, quail,



bobcats, raccoons and coyotes. Back then even a few jaguars still roamed the jungly tangles of the delta.

But now the river has been turned off; not a drop of Colorado River water has reached the Gulf for decades. The dried-up estuary has been turned into farmland where possible and otherwise left as barren salt flats. Few areas in the Americas have suffered such ecological degradation without being paved over. In several trips through the part of Baja lying south and west of Mexicali, we have not found any habitat worth the time and trouble it takes to get there. The few patches of mesquite left are not enough to support a population of Lucy's Warblers, let alone Bay-winged Hawk. Burrowing Owls have disappeared from this area, and even Abert's Towhee is not easy to find. The only halfway decent birding in the whole area is around the golf course of the Club Deportivo Campestre de Mexicali a few miles south of town on Mexico 5 on a signed road leading west. Many vagrants hard to find in Mexico have been seen here; it used to be the only place in Mexico where the Ring-necked Pheasant could be located, but we haven't seen one in years. You might want to continue on to San Felipe to see some gulf birds like Brown Boobies and Yellow-footed Gull, if you can take the time to get there and can put up with hordes of ORVers and bikers who turn the town into a noisy drunken dust bowl on weekends.

A much more pleasant way to discover the Gulf is to take a few days off and visit Bahia de Los Angeles, reached from a paved road leading east from Mexico 1 about 65 miles south of Catavina. The bay itself is magnificent, clear and cobalt blue, framed with mountains and distant islands. The water provides excellent snorkeling, diving, fishing and even windsurfing. Campsites are plentiful along the

beaches. Both Blue-footed and Brown Boobies can be found here along with Neotropic Cormorants, various herons (in the mangrove estuary south of town), Wilson's Plovers and Ospreys.

My only trip south of the Bahia junction was as part of a caravan of nonbirding scuba divers traveling at top speed to get to Mulege in two days. There was no time to stop and look for birds, but I couldn't help noticing them. I spotted a Bay-winged Hawk on a Cardon cactus in the Vizcaino Desert. The shelf of land between the first Las Virgenes Grade should be an excellent hawk flyway in October, judging from what I saw—or thought I saw—while barreling across it. The oasis of San Ignacio has a pond surrounded with brush that is the northernmost habitat of the Belding's Yellowthroat. The Xantus' Hummingbird should be looked for among the Costa's that swarm around flowery hedges in Mulege and Loreto, but it is most easily found on mountain slopes too steep for cattle to graze and along roadcuts in the Sierra Giganta. If you fly south to the Cabo region, the marsh in San Jose del Cabo should be checked out. If you can rent a car, you might be able to get far enough into the Lagunas to find a San Lucas Robin. Crested Caracaras are common in the desert around Cabo San Lucas. There is plenty of territory to explore in Baja Sur, and October is the wet season when the flowers come out and the resident birds are most active.

### Books and Other Resources

The shelf of books and journals on Baja is growing, and there is not enough space here to describe all the potentially useful publications. The Auto Club *Baja Guide* and map are sufficient information sources about the principal routes and places to stay and eat.

More serious backroad explorers should obtain the gigantic *Baja Explorer*

*Atlas* (Alti Publishing, La Jolla) that marks nearly every cowpath but is ambiguous about driveability. A must for every eco-explorer is Walt Peterson's *The Baja Adventure Book* (Wilderness Press, Berkeley). Although Peterson is not a birder, he is articulate and authoritative about every other aspect of the land's geography, geology, oceanography and history, and he seems to have been over every inch of the peninsula and its islands. I have discovered many good potential birding locations by reading his descriptions of various back country routes. Also indispensable is Norman Roberts' latest edition of his *Baja California Plant Field Guide* (Natural History Publishing Company, La Jolla), a colorful, comprehensive and user-friendly guide to Baja's magnificent flora with its many endemics. The only bird book solely consecrated to Baja is Sanford Wilbur's *Birds of Baja California* (University of California Press, Berkeley). This book attempts to cover the status and distribution of Baja's avifauna, but in my opinion the amount of data it contains does not justify its hefty \$50 price tag. As more information about this still little-known subject is amassed, a more comprehensive second edition may be published. In the meantime, birders may obtain the most up-to-date records from *The Euphonia*, a new quarterly devoted to the birds of Mexico. All who bird in Mexico are invited to report their sightings and contribute articles to the editor, Kurt Radamaker.

The first two issues contain several items about Baja sightings plus information about good birding spots in the rest of the Republic. To subscribe, send \$15 to *The Euphonia*, P.O. Box 8045, Santa Maria, CA 93456-8045. 🐦

*Dexter Kelly will be leading a 3-4 day field trip in Spring '94 for LAAS. We will visit many of the areas mentioned in these two articles.*

# Conservation Conversation

## Reality Check for Ancient Forests

Expert testimony at the April 2nd conference called by President Clinton to discuss the future of Pacific Northwest ancient forests conclusively demonstrates that the timber industry's vociferous arguments to continue logging not only defy environmental conscience, they defy economic and social realities.

Only ten percent of the Pacific Northwest's ancient forests remain, and all of it is on public lands. Testimony at the conference made it clear that preservation of the remaining ancient forest ecosystem is an economic as well as an environmental necessity. Representatives of Northwest commer-

cial and sport-fishing groups — which employ more workers than the timber industry — testified that 60,000 jobs related to salmon fishing are in jeopardy if logging of the ancient forests continues unabated. The logging erodes hill-sides causing siltation of salmon streams. Thus the issue is not jobs versus owls so much as jobs versus jobs.


The timber industry complains about shortages of wood supplies. However, a year's supply of federal timber is currently under contract and we still continue to export one-quarter of our own logs to Japan. The industry complains about rising lumber prices, yet timber prices are as low today as they were in the 1970s.

The timber industry has suffered but not for the reasons it states. The majority of the losses have been due to automation of timber mills and raw log exports which are not milled here but

sent directly to Japan and other Pacific Rim countries. Between 1979 and 1988, 195 mills closed and over 25,000 jobs were lost, mostly due to these causes.

Our remaining public ancient forests are biological and wildlife treasures. We cannot permit their further destruction.

As a result of the conference, it is clear that our national campaign to save the ancient forests has now reached a critical point. The President charged his Cabinet to come up with a plan in 60 days. Your effort now to maintain the momentum of the conference is critical. Demand the permanent protection of ancient forests. You can do it by calling (202) 456-6224 or writing the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20500.


*By Peter Berle, President of the National Audubon Society.* 

## Sepulveda Basin Workshop

On Saturday, June 5, an important workshop will be held on the future of wildlife in the San Fernando Valley. Environmental organizations will be able to present their vision of the highest and best use of the Sepulveda Basin as a critical wildlife habitat.

A keynote address by Dr. Hartmut Walter of UCLA will include discussion of the role of the Basin and other publicly-owned tracts of land in the Valley as significant habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife. The workshop will explore the exciting concept

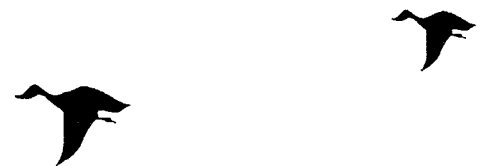
of an Urban Wildlife Refuge, a new program advanced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to set aside natural areas close to large population centers. A representative from the Portland regional office of USFWS will describe the process used to achieve an Urban Wildlife Refuge designation protecting these areas. Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the city Department of Recreation and Parks will also be invited to participate.

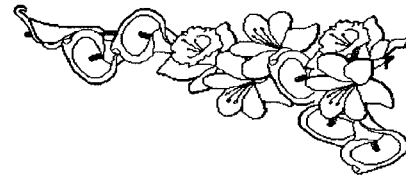
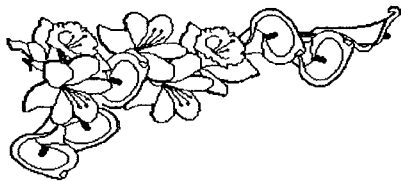
There will be questions, answers and open discussion. Everyone is invited. Your ideas are welcome. 

Saturday, June 5th  
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sepulveda Garden Center  
16633 Magnolia Blvd.  
(West of Hayvenhurst)  
Encino

Call (818) 344-8531  
for further details





## Los Angeles Audubon Society's Annual Picnic

Sunday, June 27 • Nature Walk – 8:00 a.m. • Picnic – 10:00 a.m.

Birds • Butterflies • Botany • Baseball

Everyone is invited. Meet at the picnic area at Charlton Flat along the Angeles Crest Highway in the San Gabriel Mountains. We will gather near the lower parking area — look for LAAS signs. Charlton Flat is about 45 minutes north of the Foothill Freeway in La Cañada-Flintridge.

Botanists, bug people, softball fans and all others are encouraged to attend!

Bring a lunch — LAAS will supply the drinks.

## Congratulations...

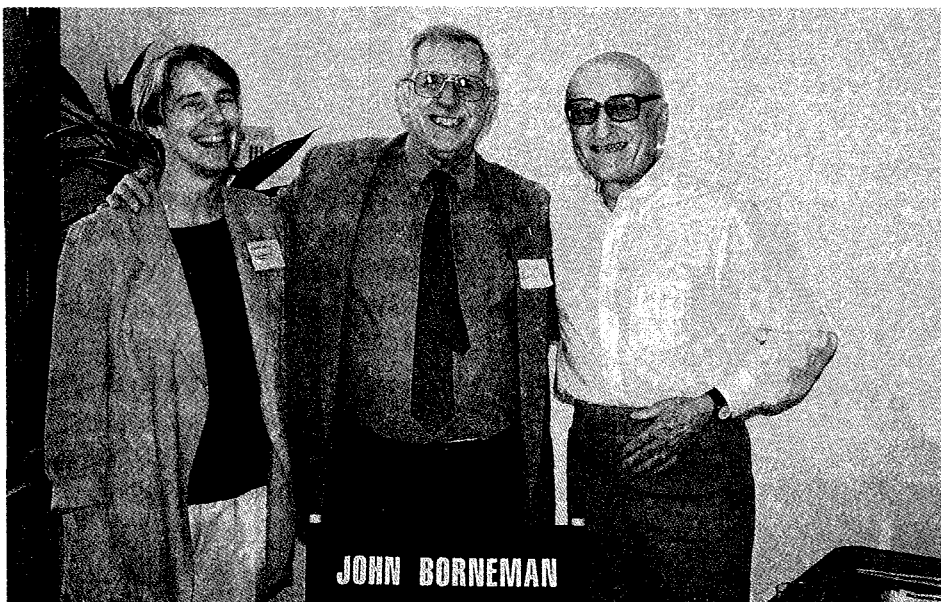
John Borneman is retiring after 31 years with National Audubon. John has led a varied career. After graduating from Indiana University in 1953 where he was a tenor in the opera department, he worked in summer stock as a character actor and comedian. He joined the Fred Waring Pennsylvanians, a band and glee club, and later co-founded the Dapper Dans of Disneyland Barbershop Quartet.

In 1961, National Audubon hired John as a teaching naturalist at the Audubon Center of Southern California in El Monte. In 1965, he became a Condor Warden for NAS and served in this capacity for 16 years. Topa Topa, one of John's *cathartid* charges, just became a father, making John a very proud grandfather.

In 1981, John became one of Audubon's Western Regional Representatives, where he has been a mainstay in coordinating chapter relations.

Everyone who ever worked with John will always remember his unfailing good humor — and sometimes painfully punny sense of humor. He has always been a friend of LAAS and we will miss seeing him, working with him and learning from him.

We wish you all the best, John! 🐦



(Left to Right) Melanie Ingalls, John Borneman and Ken Kendig, LAAS President, at a reception in John's honor held at the NAS Education Division.

## A Reminder for Those Who Change Their Address

At the end of this article is a list of the cities which are within the boundaries of LAAS. If you move and live in an area that is not listed, a transfer will be made by the National Audubon Society to the local chapter. NAS will need a letter from you requesting to remain in LAAS.

At present you may be our member living outside our area. Just a move next door will effect a transfer by NAS. If you have any questions, please call (213) 876-0202 on Tuesdays and ask for either Evelyn or Pat.

### Cities Included in LAAS

Los Angeles (all 900 zip codes), Bell, Bell Gardens, Beverly Hills, Compton, Culver City, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Lomita, Lynwood, Maywood, Redondo Beach, South Gate, Torrance. 🐦

# Birds Of The Season

by Hank Brodtkin

**T**he first two or three weeks of June can still produce some very unusual bird sightings. Most of the regular migrants will have already passed through the usual vagrant traps. Those that still show up should be studied carefully as the chances of their being lost and out of place are increased. Males will be singing this time of year, so listen for the unfamiliar.

Our local mountains will be green and well watered this year. Food for birds should be plentiful. Favored spots include Mt. Pinos west of Frazier Park, Chilao and Buckhorn in the San

Gabriels, and Bluff Lake, Baldwin Lake and Arrastre Creek in the San Bernardinos.

Spring migration really picked up around 14 April with good numbers of birds passing through several of our local canyons.

Numbers of **Black Brant** were seen along the coast on 27 March, with 40 seen off Pt. Mugu (Irwin Woldman) and 100 off Pt. Fermin (Martin Byhower). A **Eurasian Wigeon** drake was at Little Lake, Inyo County, on 23 March (Bill Principe).

Most unusual were calls of **Mountain Quail** heard on the northwest side

of the Santa Monica Mountains at Circle X Ranch on 9 April (David Koeppel).

**Lesser Night-hawks** were first noticed in Tujunga Wash on 31 March (Dustin Alcalá). The first **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported on 2 April in Veteran's Park, Sylmar, and the first **Hammond's** was seen on 3 April at Hansen Dam (both DA). **Eastern Phoebe** reports continue with one at Sepulveda Basin on 21 March (Jon Fisher) and another

reported on 22 March at O'Melveny Park (Shirley Rubin).

An early **Bank Swallow** was at Hansen Dam on 6 April (DA), and a **Phainopepla**, seldom seen far away from mistletoe in the wilder parts of our area, was in a Mar Vista backyard on 21 March (Mike Ditz).

The **Black-and-white Warbler** that wintered at Hansen Dam and one of the **Palm Warblers** that wintered at Sepulveda Basin were still present at least through the first week of April.

The recent rains apparently have given a boost to the **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** population, recently thought to be in serious decline. Many singing males were noted at Pt. Mugu State Park and in Franklin Canyon.

**Black-chinned Sparrows** were seen around Veteran's Park on 8 April (Doug Martin), and a **Swamp Sparrow** was reported from Harbor Park on 20 March (Kevin Larsen).

A spring passage of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** moved through the area on 9 April with a flock of 10 at Sepulveda Basin (Duke Howard).

Good birding! 🐦

•••

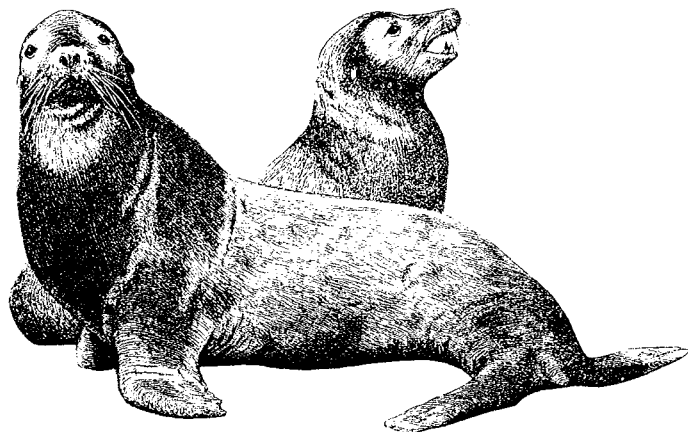
Records of rare and unusual bird sightings reported in this column should be considered tentative pending review by the *American Birds* regional editors or, if appropriate, by the *California Bird Records Committee*. Send your bird observations with as many details as possible to:

Hank Brodtkin OR David Koeppel  
27-1/2 Mast Street (310) 454-2576  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292  
(310) 827-0407

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Photo by Kimball Garrett





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

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

**Saturday, June 5.** 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.** 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.** 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.** 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.** Toward Santa Barbara Island; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32.  
Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Jonathan Alderfer.

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

**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.

### Trips out of Ventura Marina

**Saturday, July 24.** 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.

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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.

National Headquarters, New York  
212 832-3200  
Los Angeles Audubon Headquarters, Library  
and Bookstore are open  
Tuesday - Saturday  
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213 876-0202 - office  
213 876-7609 - fax  
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 90046-6694.

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.

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# C A L E N D A R

## EVENING MEETINGS

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

**Tuesday, June 8 – Charles Bragg** – “On the Trail of Dr. Livingstone.” We presume you will be interested in the creatures of fur and claw and wing in Central Africa, which offers bird and game viewing as good as anywhere in Africa. Join Charles Bragg for a photo safari through Malawi, Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and Botswana, and find out why you will encounter more spotted hyenas (not to mention Wild Dogs) than Americans out in the center of the dark continent.

**ID Workshop: Peter Shen** – *Empidonax flycatchers revisited*

**July and August** – No Program

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14**

## 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).**

**Saturday, June 5 - San Gabriel Mountains.** Leader **David Koeppel**. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the entrance to Charlton Flat picnic grounds. Likely spots along Angeles Crest Hwy. for our full day of mountain birding include Chilao, Buckhorn, Dawson Saddle, Grassy Hollow and Arches. The drive along Angeles Crest is about one hour from La Cañada to Charlton Flat. (LA, p.G, C-2)

**Sunday, June 6 - 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 make a left into the park. Meet in the parking lot of Trippet Ranch at 8:00 a.m. \$5 parking fee. (LA, p.109, D-4)

**Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13 - Yosemite.** Leader **Louis Tucker** will concen-

trate on Goshawk, Pileated and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Pine Grosbeak, Great Grey Owl and Blue Grouse. Trip ends Sunday afternoon in Owens Valley. Possible snow. Strict silence enforced during owl watch. Bring Saturday night sack dinner. Meet 7:30 a.m. Saturday in Mariposa. Reserve with SASE and \$20 to LAAS for information sheet with accommodations and meeting site. Limit 14.

**Saturday, June 19 - Mt. Pinos Vicinity.** Leader **Doug Martin**. Hummers, mountain woodpeckers, Hermit Warbler, etc. 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 7:45 a.m. **promptly**, and park in the obvious dirt clearing. Rain cancels. (CAL, p.88, C-1)

**Saturday and Sunday, June 26 and 27 (25th and 28th optional) - Southern Sierras Weekend** with **Bob Barnes**. This very popular trip covers widely varying terrain on both sides of the Sierras, and should net over 120 species with the extension days. Friday: tour the recently accessible 1300-acre Bloomfield Ranch, Walker Pass, mountains. Saturday and Sunday: Kern River Preserve, Lake Isabella, Great Basin, eastern Sierra. Monday: Western Divide, Giant Sequoias. Hopeful-to-likely species include Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Calliope Hummer, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Willow, Grey and Brown-crested Flycatchers. Limited participation. Fee \$22 for Saturday and Sunday plus \$10 each for optional Friday and Monday. Reserve with SASE to LAAS per field trip policy for lodging information.

**Sunday, July 4 - Topanga State Park.** Leader TBA. Meet at 8:00 a.m. First Sunday each month. See June 6 write-up for details.

**Sunday, July 11 - Big Bear Lake Vicinity.** Co-leaders **Larry Allen** 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 halfway along the south side of the lake on Hwy. 18 and turn Son Tulip Lane. The campground is on the SW side as the road curves. Target birds include Williamson's Sapsucker, Calliope and Rufous Hummers, mountain finches and White-headed Woodpecker. Come prepared for heat and bugs. Bring a lunch. 🐦

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