

WESTERN TANAGER

The Los Angeles Chapter of
The National Audubon Society

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THE JOY OF AGING

OR,

THE MIND IS THE SECOND THING TO GO

BY ERNEST R. ABELES



There are some advantages to getting older. Not many, but some. For the birder, along with one's many lists, notes, sketches and ever-expanding library, there are the memories — of people, of places, of birds, of experiences — both good and not-so-good.

In almost 50 years of birding, I have been fortunate to acquire some memories which will be with me forever. I have been asked to share them with you. Please forgive me if the dates are not exact; note the title of this piece.

It was at Cape May, New Jersey, in the early '50s. We were birding the beach when a huge black car pulled up and out stepped a tall red-haired man wearing a plaid tam-o-shanter. Binocular and cameras (several, I think) slung

over his shoulders, he approached our group. A murmur of recognition ran through the crowd. The man walked up to me, a big grin on his face, stuck out his hand and said, "Hi, what are you looking at? I'm Alan Cruickshank." One of the few (in those days) big names in birding. My first actual real live authority in the flesh!

The realization that there are very few young people interested in birding is not new. As far back as 40 years ago, concerned birders lamented this fact, and most of us welcomed the opportunity to encourage any youngsters who showed an aptitude for the hobby. So it is with a feeling of satisfaction — of having contributed somewhat to the growth and success of the game — that I am reminded of the following two stories.

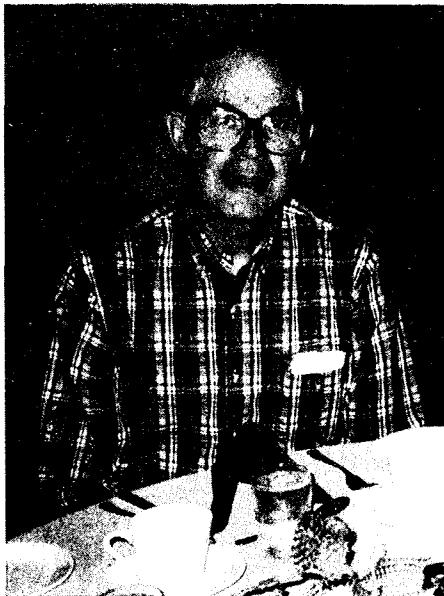
In those early days we belonged to the Hackensack (New Jersey) Audubon Society, now the Bergen County Audubon Society. Three bright, eager young people, teens and pre-teens, a girl and her two brothers, came with their parents to just about every meeting and on every field trip. Their enthusiasm was unbounded and a delight to see. And their talents were equally impressive. They were helped and encouraged willingly by all of us. We took pride in their accomplishments. One of those young boys was Frank — and is now Dr. Frank B. Bill of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, a world-renowned ornithologist.

In 1968, when we first came to California, I had the good fortune to meet Chuck Bernstein. Over the years we

became fast friends and spent many, many days in the field together birding, arguing, needling each other, digging cars out of mudslides, and just having great times together. Sometimes there would be just the two of us, sometimes with our good friend, Hal Ferris, sometimes with Jean Brandt and her gang, sometimes with what seemed like the entire LAAS.

One day Chuck called to ask if I would mind if we took along some 14-year old from Encino, "The kid's a fantastic birder. He can call birds better without a binocular than we can with one. But he's too young to drive and he has no transportation." So for a number of years, we schlepped up the Encino hills to pick up the kid, then watched in amazement as he did all that Chuck raved about and more, then schlepped the kid home; all three of us exhausted but gloriously satisfied. One day the kid announced that he had his driver's license and a car, and a little piece of our birding lives was lost. But thanks for the memories, Jon Dunn.

In 1952 and for a few years thereafter, there was, in Stone Harbor, New Jersey, a wonderful place known as the South Jersey Audubon Center. It was run by Burritt Wright, a former school teacher with a feeling for the intermingling of man and nature that was almost awesome. At one time his sanctuary was sponsored by the National Au-

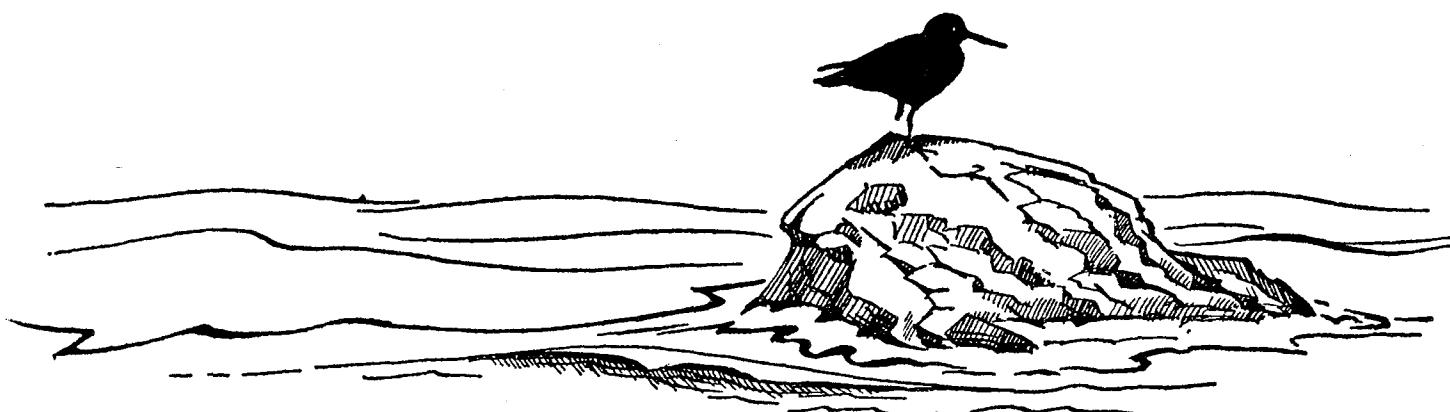


Ernest Abeles

dubon Society, but he was dismissed because he allowed hunting on parts of the property to help pay for the educational programs he gave all year throughout South Jersey.

We became good friends with Burritt Wright. During one visit, he said enigmatically, "Let's take a ride. I want to show you something." We drove to a wet, slough-like area alongside the highway and looked down at a heron-shaped bird, but washed with brown and buff, with a shorter stubbier bill than any heron or egret with which we were familiar. It was, of course, a Cattle Egret, the first ever seen in New Jersey and only the third in the United States. How things have changed!

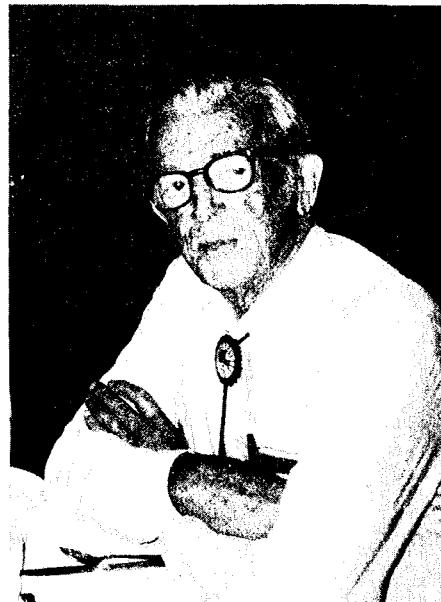
Another memory arising from my membership in the Hackensack Audubon Society: it was there that I, a relatively novice birder, met some of the best of the early-day naturalists and made life-long friends. One of these friends, Jim Albera, retired and moved to Florida in the early '60s. An outstanding photographer and avid birder, he soon became deeply involved in the activities at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Reserve; there is a plaque dedicated to him at the Visitor's Center. Nancy and I planned a visit to Florida and, of course, stopped off to visit with Jim and his wife, Connie. Connie told us that we could find Jim at Lox — and to make sure to look for him *before* he got out of the canoe. She didn't say why. We rushed over to Lox in time to see Jim in the canoe with a passenger — a tall gray-haired gentleman wearing glasses around his neck and holding a camera with a huge telephoto lens in his lap. We waited for them to land, and there were greetings and introductions all around. Jim said proudly, "Nancy and Ernie, I'd like you to meet Roger Tory Peterson. Roger, these are dear long-time friends from New Jersey." Roger wanted to photograph at Loxahatchee, and Jim, a medal-winning canoeist as well as birder and photographer, was asked to guide him. And we had the thrill of meeting the author of *that* book in my pack!



In 1976, a business move took us to Chicago. It was not easy to leave California's beauty, birds and friends, but on the other hand, here was an opportunity to experience another magnificent city and to start a whole new state list! And to pick up a few midwestern lifers: Dickcissel, Connecticut Warbler, Kirtland's Warbler (in Chicago!), LeConte's and Grasshopper Sparrows, Smith's Longspur, among several other species. And no midwestern birder's life is complete until he has experienced Wisconsin's Horicon Marsh in the fall. You all know the bird-life there. In addition to feeling a sense of awe at this avian spectacle, we had the pleasure of meeting one of American ornithology's true deans.

It was a cold, windy day. We were trying to stay warm on the lee side of a building while I pointed out the various ducks on the marsh below to my wife, Nancy. A few yards away two men stood silently, also with binoculars up. One of the men, quite a bit older than the other, was bundled up so that his face was hardly visible (a wise move!). The other man approached us and said, "You seem to be interested in our wildlife, and you know your birds." He introduced himself. Unfortunately I've forgotten his name, but remember that he was a professor of Ornithology at the University of Wisconsin. "Perhaps you'd like to meet the gentleman with me," he added. "That's Joe Hickey."

In June 1943, Dr. Joseph Hickey, a professor of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin wrote *A Guide to Birdwatching*. This book became the forerunner and prototype of all the "how to" books on birding with which we are deluged today. Back then, the birder had, and needed, three books: Peterson, the 3-volume Pough (if one was lucky) and Joe Hickey's classic. It covers chapters on beginning bird



Gordon Meade

study, migration, bird counting, distribution, banding, and the art of bird-watching. Also included are some 30 tables of information about everything from songs and censuses to roosting and habitat effect. A truly avid birder could be occupied for a lifetime following Dr. Hickey's suggestions for an "Outline for a Life-History Study."

There are those who are birders. There are those who are gentlemen through and through. There are those who are warm, witty and a delight to be with. If you know someone who combines all of these attributes and more, you are indeed fortunate.

Nancy and I are indeed fortunate to have been friends of Gordon Meade. We first met in the '60s as members of the aforementioned Hackensack Audubon Society. We birded together in New Jersey and whenever Gordon came to California to attend medical conferences. It was a great day for both of us when I showed him his first Condor, as a sort of thank-you for the bird he showed me several years before. We considered it a fair and even exchange.

Gordon was leading a field trip to Brigantine and Tuckerton. We were enjoying a bird-filled day, seeing every-

thing we expected to see and then some. And then we were invaded by a birding group from Brooklyn. Constant loud chatter, calling back and forth, pushing in front of us, with remarks about those hicks from New Jersey not knowing what they were looking at. As I have said, Gordon was quiet, a man of refinement. But he could take no more of this. Turning to the leader, he said, with great restraint, "If you people would close your mouths and open your eyes, you just might see, if you bothered to look, a bird which most of you have never seen before." And he was right. It was a Curlew Sandpiper in full breeding plumage, one of the earliest sightings of a species which later became fairly regular along the Jersey coast. They looked, they saw, and left without a thank-you, without a word. I like to think that they were spellbound. Or chagrined.

I have a fairly good life list. Not outstanding, not within a cannon-shot of 700 (when I started out in this game, the magic number was 600 and only three people had reached it!), but it's mine, and it's clean, and I can remember when, where and how I first saw just about every bird on it.

There are people who have seen more birds in a few years than I have seen in a lifetime. But I often wonder which of us has had more fun, has gathered more stories to tell, has made more friends. I know the answer, I think you do too. 

Ernie and Nancy Abeles live in San Jose, California and are working on his life list. Ernie hopes for a Pullet Surprise for his work on this article.

Illustrations of the Curlew Sandpiper and the Black Oystercatcher are by John Henry Dick from A Gathering of Shore Birds.

Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

A quick survey of the Southern California conservation scene.

Ballona Wetlands

There has been little change since our last report on the development of the colossal Playa Vista project. Environmentalists and neighbors are awaiting a final Environmental Impact Report with some anxiety.

The wetlands are holding up reasonably well despite an inadequate water supply. An encouraging note is the recent survey that reported 13 singing Belding's Savannah Sparrows that have survived the red fox invasion. The education program in the wetlands for grade school children has completed another successful year. A splendid aid for this venture is the innovative children's field guide developed by Jonathan Alderfer. Each child receives a copy that contains 40 superb black-and-white drawings of common birds that can be seen in the wetlands, Ballona Creek and the marina channel. National Audubon's Education Division has produced similar guides by Jonathan for Sepulveda Basin and the San Joaquin marsh education programs.

Quail Lake

Well, there goes the neighborhood. On 5 May, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors gave their final approval to the giant factory outlet center near Gorman. The 95 stores, 3 restaurants, 2 gas stations and an 80-unit motel will destroy the wonderful uncluttered view of the magnifi-

cent wildflower display in the Gorman hills. There is no doubt that this monument to greed will stimulate the development of more business and residential clusters in the same area. Concern over those northward-creeping tracts along I-5 at Castaic pales before this kangaroo leap to Gorman.

Brace yourself, gentle reader. We turn now to...

San Emidio

Another leap-over the Tejon Summit, down the grade to Grapevine. Here in the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains is the site of a brand new city with 63,000 people on 10,000 acres. The blueprint includes 7 villages, 3 golf courses, 10 schools, a college, 2 resort hotels, 3 artificial lakes, some industry and business. Opponents insist there is no water other than saline ground water 1,000 feet down. The site is on or near 9 earthquake faults and the smog is the second worst in the nation.

National Audubon is suing Kern County and the developer for violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The lawsuit charges that many vital issues were inadequately addressed: the water source, air quality, earthquake, traffic, impacts on wildlife habitat. Wildlife corridors between the Tehachapis and the Sierra Nevada will be disrupted if unrestrained development follows San Emidio, reducing biodiversity. The endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox and foraging areas for the California Condor will be seriously affected.

Under pressure, Kern County re-

cently agreed to conduct studies to comply with CEQA, and Audubon has settled the suit, retaining its legal standing to challenge future Environmental Impact Reports.

Sepulveda

On 25 April, as part of the Great L.A. Cleanup, a couple hundred vigorous souls picked up a smorgasbord of cans, bottles, paper, defunct tree branches and especially PLASTIC in the wildlife reserve, much of it washed in with the annual floods. On the same day, 48 Fremont cottonwoods were planted at the north entrance to the reserve on both sides of the creek. In a few years these six-foot, fast-growing trees may become a handsome urban woodland with nesting orioles and migrating warblers and vireos. The work was a bit strenuous, but the spirit of the gathering was upbeat and enthusiastic. City Recreation and Parks people were extremely helpful, supplying trashbags for the cleanup, digging holes and dispensing advice to the amateur tree planters.

The environmental coalition is moving right along. Planning for revegetation of the 108-acre reserve is in progress and the group is exploring the expansion of reserve boundaries to adjacent agricultural land. The environmental education program in the Basin for school kids was concluded in May and a new session will begin in the fall. It was very popular with students and teachers. The program, funded by LAAS, was organized by Melanie Ingalls and Dan Kahane of National's Education Division with docents from

the Topanga-Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District.

The 11-acre lake in the reserve was drained last year during the summer but will remain filled year round from now on. This will allow the development of a vigorous ecosystem that will support many more waterfowl than before. Early fall migrant shorebirds might well be attracted by the lake's mudflats. In the late '70s, an unplanned wetland developed in the same area, and in August and September it boasted Baird's, Pectoral and Solitary Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red-necked and Wilson's Phalaropes. With any luck we may get a re-run this year.

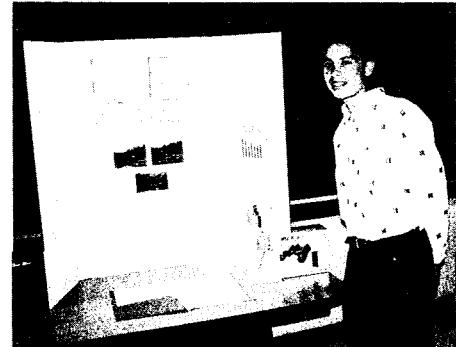
State Initiative

Get ready, folks, the California 1994 Parks and Wildlife Initiative is on the way! Like last year's astonishingly successful Prop A in Los Angeles County, this will provide money for open space, parks and myriad environmental projects statewide. We are being asked not only to sign the forthcoming petition but to get others to sign. Onward and upward! 

Audubon Gives Special Award at County Science Fair

The Los Angeles Audubon Society honored two students whose science projects won special Audubon awards at this year's Los Angeles County Science Fair. Projects fitting the category "Urban Wildlife: Exploring Nature in the City" were evaluated by judges Pat Little, Bill Principe and Dan Kahane.

In the junior division, the panel selected Joshua Fisher's fine project, "Bird Feeders: which bird feeder will birds eat from first, most and why?" (See photo at right.) Joshua attends 7th grade at Parkman School.



Photos by Daniel Kahane

The senior division award was given to Jared Stiffler (left) for his exemplary project, "A four-year study of recovery from a brush fire—a model of plant succession." Jared is a graduating senior at Claremont High School.

Both students received binoculars, a set of field guides to the common birds of local wetland areas and a handsome certificate generously donated by WP Plus. Members of the Society can take pride in their support of science education in our schools. 



Skimmer Watchers Wanted

In recent years, Black Skimmer chicks at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach have been color banded. From 1988 to 1992 this consisted of colored tape being placed around the Fish and Wildlife Service numbered aluminum band, usually on the right leg. The colors used were: yellow (now mostly bleached to white) in 1988, blue in 1989, light violet (appears pinkish in the field) in 1990, red in 1991 and green in 1992.

Starting in 1992, some chicks re-

ceived a larger plastic band on the left leg. These are also green with white characters (one letter and two numbers: A01 to A70) etched into them. In 1993, the bands will be yellow with black letters and numbers.

These bands can be read with a telescope, or sometimes with binoculars, on birds in roosting flocks. All sightings would be greatly appreciated! Please include location, date, flock size, number of banded birds, and particularly the numbers read on any plastic bands.

Send to: Dr. Charles T. Collins or Ms. Kathy Gazzaniga, Department of Biology, California State University, Long Beach, CA 90840 or call (310) 985-4813. Thanks!



EDITOR'S NOTE: ANY color marked or banded bird should be reported. Get all pertinent information and send to Bird Band Laboratory, 12100 Beech Forest Rd., Laurel, MD 20708-4037 or FAX (301) 498-0222. 

Birds Of The Season

by Hank Brodkin

As this is being written, spring migration is still in progress — yet it is not too early to think about fall. In July southbound *Selasphorus* hummingbirds stop at our mountain meadows to sip from paintbrush and penstemon. By August the shorebirds start their return journey along the coast and at our inland waterways. Magnificent Frigatebirds are to be looked for along the coast as well as at the Salton Sea where they may be joined by Brown- and Blue-footed Boobies, Wood Storks or Roseate Spoonbills — as well as the odd hurricane-blown pelagic.

Last year by the middle of May unprecedented numbers of vagrants had blanketed the state. This year so far things have been relatively quiet.

Speaking of lost pelagics — a *Laysan Albatross* was seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on 2 May (Bob McKernan), and on 15 May a *Fork-tailed Petrel* was reported from off the beach at Playa Del Rey (Kevin Larsen).

Three *Snow Geese* were on Silver Lake reservoir on 9 May (Maryanne Cook). The first L.A. County record of *Zone-tailed Hawk* was reported from Malibu Creek State Park on 25 April (Kurt Campbell and Joy Nishida) and another was at Fort Piute in the eastern Mojave on 16 May (Richard Webster). A *Franklin's Gull* was at the Willow Street crossing of the L. A. River on 21 April (Jon Ivanov), two were at the Lancaster Sewer Ponds on 25 April (Kimball Garrett) with four there on 1 May (Ned and Linda Harris). A *Mew Gull*, unusual inland, was at the Ponds on 25 April (KG). A staggering 550

Black Terns were at the Ponds on 8 May (KG) with 12 at Sepulveda Basin on the same day (Bill Principe).

A *Solitary Sandpiper* was at Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base on 8 May (KG), 1,300 *Whimbrel* were reported from the Lancaster Sewer Ponds on 25 April (KG), and a staggering 150 to 200 *Stilt Sandpipers* were near Red Hill at the Salton Sea on 28 April (Bruce Broadbooks).

A *Calliope Hummingbird* was east of Lancaster on 25 April (KG). The first coastal *Willow Flycatcher* report comes from Redondo Wilderness Park on 3 May (David Moody), and there were two L.A. County *Vermilion Flycatchers*; one at Zuma Canyon on 30 April reported by the resident U.S. Park Ranger and the other from Claremont on 10 May (Hank Childs).

A *Brown Creeper* was in the Antelope Valley on 1 May (BP), and a *Brown Thrasher* was seen in Laguna Beach on 7 May (Brian Daniels). Also from Orange County a *White-eyed Vireo* at Huntington Beach's Coldwater Park was reported on 8 May (Phil Swan).

A *Tennessee Warbler* was at Holiday Lake in the Antelope Valley on 8 May (Jon Alderfer), a *Yellow-throated* was at Hansen Dam on 14 May (Dustin Alcala), a *Blackpoll* was at Butterbreyt Springs on 17 May (RW), a *Black-and-white* was at Butterbreyt Springs, Kern County, on 2 May, an *Ovenbird* was at Yucca Valley on 19 May (Gjon Hazard), and a *Hooded Warbler* was photographed at Corn Springs in Riverside County on 29 April (Arnold Small).

The recent rains turned parts of the

eastern Mojave into a sea of grass, so *Cassin's Sparrow* sightings — one on 8 May (RW) and three on 15 May (Mike Patten) in the Lanfair Valley — were not totally unexpected. Three *Black-chinned Sparrows* were singing on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on 12 May (Mark Wimer).

A *Great-tailed Grackle* was seen in Sherman Oaks on 27 April near the 405/101 intersection (Jean Brandt), and four males and three females of this egg-robbing species were reported from Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area on 6 May (BP).

Those of you with well-rounded natural history libraries as well as those of you who have an interest in California flora and want to go one step beyond the photographic field guides will want to check out the new *Jepson Manual—Higher Plants of California*, edited by James C. Hickman and published by the University of California Press.

This book is an identification guide to nearly 8,000 forms (species, subspecies and varieties) of trees, shrubs, herbs, forbs, perennials, annuals, grasses and ferns. It is more than a wildflower book; 4,000 of these forms are illustrated in black and white.

The book contains an illustrated glossary for botanical terms used in the identification keys. Each form also has its own descriptive paragraph that, besides a complete description, features rarity, habitat, elevation and exactly in which California floristic province locations each form is found.

All this information and more is contained in 1,400 8 1/2 x 11 pages. This

is definitely not a field guide and some studying will be necessary to correctly use it, but it far surpasses Munz's books or anything else I've seen. The price is a relatively modest \$65, and the book is available at the LAAS Bookstore.

Good Birding! 

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

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

Ballona Wetlands Docents Needed

The National Audubon Society's Education Division is seeking volunteers to assist with the Ballona Wetlands Education Program. Beginning on August 25, Docents will participate in an exciting educational training program that will focus on wetlands ecology and interpretation in preparation for leading groups of elementary school students in outdoor classroom experiences.

Energy, enthusiasm and a love of children and nature are the only prerequisites. A commitment of approximately four hours per week is needed. For further information, call Dan Kahane at (310) 574-2799. 

PELAGIC TRIPS

Trips Aboard *Vantuna* out of Los Angeles Harbor

Saturday, July 10. Palos Verdes Escarpment to Redondo Canyon; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost \$20. Leaders: Herb and Olga Clarke 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.

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

1993 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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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
213 876-7609 - 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.

C A L E N D A R

E V E N I N G M E E T I N G S

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).

Sunday, July 4 - 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)

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, proceed about halfway along the south side of the lake on Hwy. 18 and turn S on Tulip Lane. The campground will be on the SW side as the road curves. Target birds include Williamson's Sapsucker, Caliope and Rufous Hummers, mountain finches and White-headed Woodpecker. Come prepared for heat and bugs. Bring lunch.

Saturday, July 17 - Bolsa Chica. Leader Irwin Woldman. Shorebirds, Skimmers and a number of tern species likely. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Bolsa Chica estuary parking lot on the east side of PCH. Take the 405 Fwy S to Goldenwest St., take this S to PCH, and turn right onto PCH. Don't miss the small parking lot for the Bolsa Chica Marine Preserve on your right. Some paid parking across the street at the beach may be required. (OC, p.25, D-2)

Saturday, July 17 - Van Norman Reservoir. Leader Dustin Alcala or Doug Martin. Riparian and grassland habitat surround the reservoir and adjacent ponds. Take the 405 Fwy N to the Rinaldi offramp just south of the 5 Fwy interchange. Go W on Rinaldi about one mile to the front gate on the right (N) side. Meet in the lot inside the gate on the left. We will carpool from here at 7:00 a.m., and stop about 12:30. Restrooms on-site.

Sunday, August 1 - Topanga State Park. Leader Gerry Haigh. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See July 4 write-up for details.

Sunday, August 15 - Lancaster Migrants. Leader Kimball Garrett. Shorebirds and early land birds should keep us busy. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Park-and-Ride adjacent to Lake Palmdale off the 14 Hwy. Take the Avenue S offramp east, followed by a quick right into the lot. Stops will depend on scouting reports and accessibility. Come prepared for heat! (LA, p.183, B-2)

Saturday, August 21 - Van Norman Reservoir. Leader Dustin Alcala. Meet at Rinaldi gate at 8:00 a.m., and stop about 12:30. See July 17 write-up for details.

Sunday, September 5 - Topanga State Park. Leader Gerry Haigh. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See July 4 write-up for details.

Saturday, September 11 - Lake Palmdale. Jonathan Alderfer will lead a select few on a tour of this restricted and little-birded bit of L.A. County. In the past, vagrants have been encountered with the waterfowl and migrants. Meet at the new Park-and-Ride adjacent to Lake Palmdale. Take Hwy 14 N to the Avenue S offramp east, followed by a quick right into the lot. Meet at 7:30 a.m. sharp, and finish around 12:30 p.m. before lunch. Sign-up by phone with Audubon House. Maximum 15. (LA, p.183, B-2)

Saturday, September 11 - Oxnard Surf and Turf. Leader Don Des Jardin knows the hot spots and the stakeouts. Seabirds, early migrant songbirds and colorful adult sandpipers with possible Baird's and Pectoral should be coming through. Meet at Mugu Rock south of Oxnard and just south of Mugu overlook on the sea side of PCH at 8:00 a.m. for a full day of birding.

Sunday, September 19 - Franklin Canyon, located between Sherman Oaks and Beverly Hills. Leader Steven Saffier. Meet at the parking lot at 7:30 a.m. From the 101 Fwy take Coldwater Canyon S into the hills. Immediately after Mulholland Dr. merges from the west with Coldwater Canyon, make a 90° right turn onto Franklin Canyon Dr. and continue to the nature center. The lot is past a gated drive on the left. (LA, p.22, B-6) 

Los Angeles Audubon Society
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