

WESTERN TANAGER



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LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BREEDING BIRD ATLAS:

The Year in Review

by Mark Wimer

Spotted Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker and LeConte's Thrasher. All three species breed in Los Angeles County, but Breeding Bird Atlasers found none in the act of breeding this year. What about breeding Inca Dove or Vermilion Flycatcher? No one confirmed either one as a breeder in 1995, but both species have potential for breeding in the county during the five years of Atlas field work. Birders did find breeding Vermilion Flycatchers prior to the start of the Atlas in 1994, and Inca Doves were also spotted in the county during the 1994 breeding season. So what have the 200-plus Atlas volunteers been doing with their time, if not confirming these species? They spent a whopping 2,230 hours covering blocks in 1995, and what is there to show for it? Plenty, as you will see.

It turns out that the species mentioned above and a handful of others are the only species for which atlasers did not find some kind of breeding evidence. Out of a total of about 200 species that we expect to find breeding in L.A.,

Black Phoebe



Herb Clarke

146 species were confirmed as breeders in 1995. Beyond that, atlas volunteers found an additional 24 probable breeders and seven species that are possibly breeding. Atlasers even added five unexpected birds to the current list of the county's breeders: Double-crested Cormorant, Wood Duck, Brewer's Sparrow, Gray Flycatcher and an exotic, the Nutmeg Mannikin.

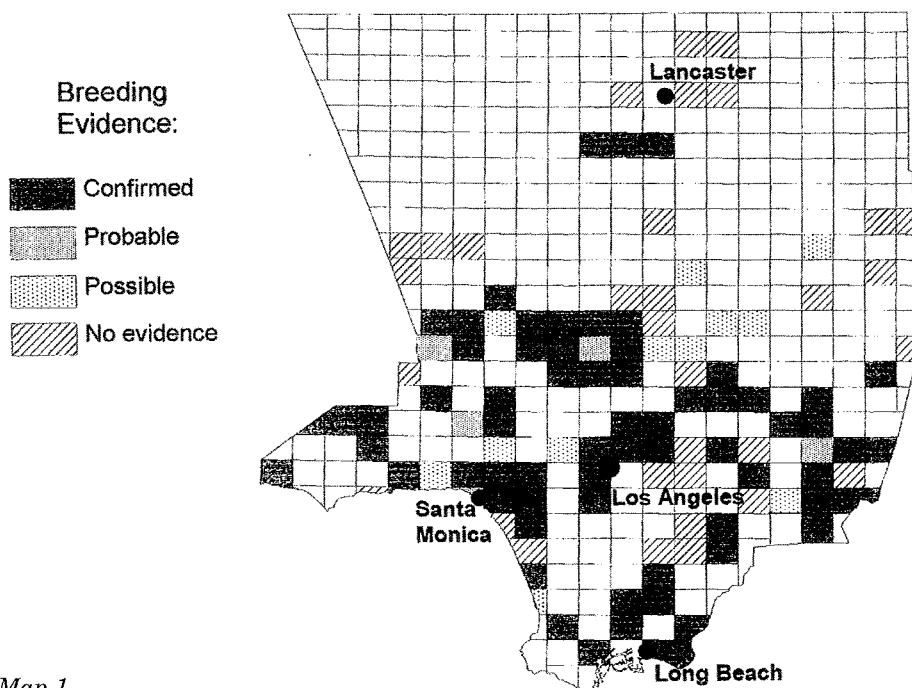
1995 — OFF AND RUNNING

While the finding of new breeding species is fascinating, the real measure of progress of a breeding bird atlas is not the number of species but the amount of coverage. Out of over 400 atlas blocks, atlasers surveyed 108 during this first of five atlasing seasons. In addition, birders spent time finding and reporting casual observations in many blocks, yielding a thousand sightings for the Atlas database. Some of the effort and time that volunteers contributed is evident in the form of a preliminary map.

Map 1 represents the first year's results for one of the more commonly reported birds last year, the Black Phoebe. Read this map by looking for the shaded areas, with the darkest areas being those with the highest level of breeding confirmation. Sightings represent data from people covering blocks and from casual observations. Diagonal hatching represents surveyed blocks where no Black Phoebes were found breeding, which is just as interesting as where they were found. Bear in mind that this is the first year's data, and blank (nonshaded) atlas blocks are unsurveyed blocks. Surveyed blocks showing the bird's absence may be changed to confirmed in the future, since in some cases blocks will not be completed until next year.

Why the Black Phoebe? It is a common bird that most birders in the county have seen. Some birders might even take the Black Phoebe for granted. But part of what a breeding bird atlas is all about is mapping the breeding distribution of every species. We cannot say that the Black Phoebe will always be a

Black Phoebe Breeding Sightings for 1995



Map 1

common bird; and even if it remains common, it is still an important part of species diversity.

WHAT'S IN A MAP?

What can we learn about Black Phoebes from breeding bird atlases? We can get a thorough and detailed picture of the bird's distribution, which is a critical step in learning its status. Most references indicate that Black Phoebes are associated with water. Our preliminary Atlas map already shows this feature of their natural history by their absence from most of the desert. In the Monterey County Atlas, Black Phoebes were clearly associated with water sources. When we have covered more blocks in our project, we will overlay a map of hydrology in L.A. County to see if Black Phoebe distribution similarly corresponds to river channels and areas with ponds. If there is poor overlap between rivers and phoebes, it might be because the birds can use small, unmapped bodies of water such as ponds in city parks. The just-published Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas suggests that artificial water sources and nest sites probably helped boost Black






Phoebe numbers in that county.

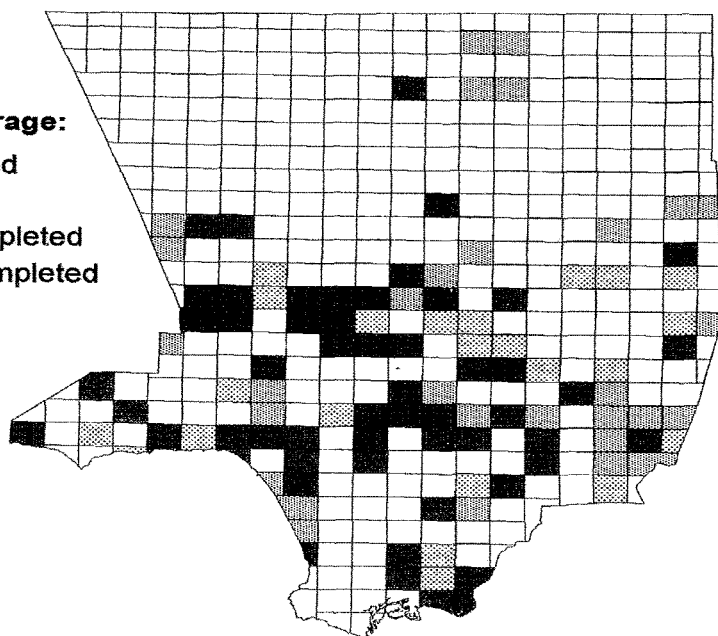
Right now, Black Phoebe populations do not appear to be in trouble. Black Phoebe numbers have increased in southwestern California over the last 30 years, according to results of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). The BBS population trends in our area are derived from several transects, or routes, scattered throughout the county. As such, the BBS is for describing regional population trends, not for giving distributional information detailed to the county level. Imagine what complete coverage of the county will add to our knowledge of phoebe status locally!

Are you convinced yet that a map of Black Phoebe distribution is useful? We birders may someday suspect that phoebes are declining, or we might guess that they are increasingly common breeders. How can one substantiate this suspicion? There are several ways. Besides BBS data and results of Christmas Counts, which both provide regional or national population trends, regular surveys over time at a given locality work well on a very local scale. The Breeding Bird Atlas is

Atlas Block Coverage in 1995

Level of Coverage:

-  Not covered
-  Started
-  >Half Completed
-  Nearly Completed
-  Completed



Map 2

nicely scaled between these local and regional monitoring projects and is one way to think globally and act locally, as the saying goes.

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

In 1995, atlasers surveyed parts of 108 blocks. I say parts of blocks because some will have to be revisited next year. Of the 108 started blocks, 29 were complete, needing no more visits; 28 are nearly complete, needing one or two more visits; 30 are at least half complete, requiring two to four more mornings of surveying. The remaining 21 I refer to as started and may need at least three to five more visits.

Map 2 shows these blocks and where they are in the county. Ideally, one would start and finish a block in the same year so that the block can be checked off as finished and entered into the database for preliminary analyses. In some cases, atlasers (including myself in one of my blocks) spent only a few hours surveying a block. Is this a disaster? No! Especially not the first year, when most of us are learning how to atlas.


YOU TOO CAN BE A BLOCKHEAD

So, 1996 should be a good year for the Atlas. Not only is there a large selection of blocks and habitat types remaining from which to choose, but you have the benefit of information gathered in last year's atlas. Everyone starting a block this year will be able to have a target list of expected birds based on coverage of nearby blocks and similar habitats (but there are always surprises). It is also a crucial year for your help; if too many blocks are left for the last one or two years of the project, some blocks will end up getting more cursory coverage.

If you cover a block, how many species will it have? Well, species diversity varies greatly, from the low 20s to about 80. The blocks with fewer species are those with more uniform habitat, such as strictly urban blocks or all alkali and Creosote bush scrub blocks in the Antelope Valley. The blocks that have 80 breeding species are the ones with — you guessed it — a large variety of habitats. Several blocks in the Santa Monica Mountains have urban, chaparral, oak woodland, grassland, small ponds and riparian habitats. Blocks in higher moun-

tains such as the San Gabriels can have chaparral, mountain meadow, oak woodland, willow riparian and several types of coniferous forest. Remember that there are only 200 or so species breeding in the county, so 80 species is over one-third of the county's breeding species in one block!

Look for upcoming atlas field trips in *Nest Notes*, the Breeding Bird Atlas newsletter, and the *Western Tanager*. If you are not sure you are ready to atlas (or even if you are ready), why not come along on an Atlas field trip and help? If the trip block has not been assigned, maybe you can take it for your very own! If you have not atlased before, these trips can show you that atlasing is fun: it's just birding plus a little extra. The goal is to catch birds in the act. This can mean just seeing a bird carrying food or a twig; you do not have to see cloacal contact to confirm breeding. You also do not have to cover every inch of a block, just every habitat. Some people spent over 50 hours in a block in 1995, but did not come close to finishing the block because they covered only two of five habitat types. This is fine, since they were probably visiting favorite birding spots and having fun. But a few more hours in other habitats would have finished the block.

In 1995, the first sighting turned in to the Atlas was an Anna's Hummingbird that Kathy Molina found on February 1. Not surprisingly, the first reported breeding of 1996 is also an Anna's Hummingbird. Coincidentally, there are two reports of this bird breeding from the same day: Mike San Miguel and Sherry Goldsmith both saw them on January 2. Which sighting should count as the first reported breeder of 1996, the sighting made earlier in the day or the one that was of birds further along in the breeding process? It doesn't matter; both are useful for the Atlas. What matters is getting out there in 1996 and finding those breeders! 

Visit the new Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas web site at: <http://www.lam.mus.ca.us/~lacbba/>



Charles Hood

P E R S O N A L H I G H

by Charles Hood

It was warm inside the bush plane, and the sun shining off the white wing filled the cockpit with radiant light. Outside, the mountains of New Guinea were a deep, saturated green. Brown rivers drained out of v-slot ravines, and ridges folded themselves into complex patterns. The scenery scrolled past the window so effortlessly it was easy to forget that soon I would be down on the ground myself, a small, dim speck crawling over and around those same steep, slick, immense ridges.

A tiny scratch of lighter green, hardly bigger than a felt tip marker's stray mark, caught my attention. Against the darker colors of the forest it was a skinny rectangle the color of billiard baize. The pilot had seen it too and banked steeply right. "Perhaps it is a taro garden," I thought, "or the remnants of a tree fall."

But, no, as we circled down closer I realized that it was a grass airstrip — *our* air strip, the one that I and my Nikes were about to be dumped off on. To land a plane there seemed as impossible as trying to drop a dime into a beggar's cup from a fifth floor balcony. Somehow, though, the pilot set us down exactly in the middle of what turned out to look like, from the ground, a very ratty soccer field surrounded by a palisade of trees. We rolled to a bumpy halt.

Pack hoisted, I began hiking up the one trail. It seemed to me inauspicious that the first bird I saw, some henna blur of featureless passerine, was unidentifiable, and that the first village child I met, coming toward me around a bend in the

trail, stopped, gasped in mortal terror, turned on his heels and fled in the opposite direction as fast as his little feet could go. I had been the first White man he had ever seen, and he didn't want to see another.

Thinking back, I see now that I was wrong, that it *was* a good start. Question: why go birding? Answer:

to be surprised. If we can identify every bird ahead of time, predict every response, guarantee every outcome, then there is no point in setting out at all. Three occasions from the same trip make me feel this way.

Scene one: a highland meadow by the village of Myola. Early morn-



Charles Hood

ing, bit of ground mist to add atmosphere, the light intense and slanting. Smell of wood smoke and wet vegetation. I am sitting on a stump behind grass huts in an overgrown-with-vines garden patch, the forest very near. Glossy Swiftlets — an Asian species with a swift's wings but a Tree Swallow's plumage — are zooming around me, cutting among the vines and grasses so close it seems I could catch one with a fast grab of my hand. And as they fly, the swiftlets are breaking cobwebs with every pass over the ground. Yard-long strands of web stream behind them as the swiftlets arc and bank, each filament a thin, perfect, iridescent streak. The birds themselves are enameled pellets of viridian and white, and the lines of web each bird trails add so much beauty it almost is unreal.

Scene two: interior of the rain forest, a few miles away. A guide has taken me to see the ruins of a World War II American fighter, a P-40 — olive paint job, white star on a blue circle, a tremendous crumpled wreck of a plane. Fifty-caliber ammo is rusted into corrugated figure eights. "*Balus go pinis*," he is telling me. "*Balus i-stap taim bipo*." This means the plane (literally, "bird") has crashed ("gone finish"), and it dates from the old days, the "time before." I can see bullet holes in the wings. Did the pilot eject? The cockpit seems intact but totaled, the way a car looks after a drunk has hit a telephone pole at 60 miles an hour. Had the pilot managed just two seconds of air time longer he would have cleared the trees and made it out to ditch safely in the Myola grasslands. But he didn't, he hit the trees. My father served in the Pacific. I had read books about the Kokoda Trail and other New Guinea campaigns, but not until this moment had I ever appreciated the awful fatality of

combat. For me, this is when war changed from being mere history into being something real, that took the lives of real people. It was a deeply emotional moment.

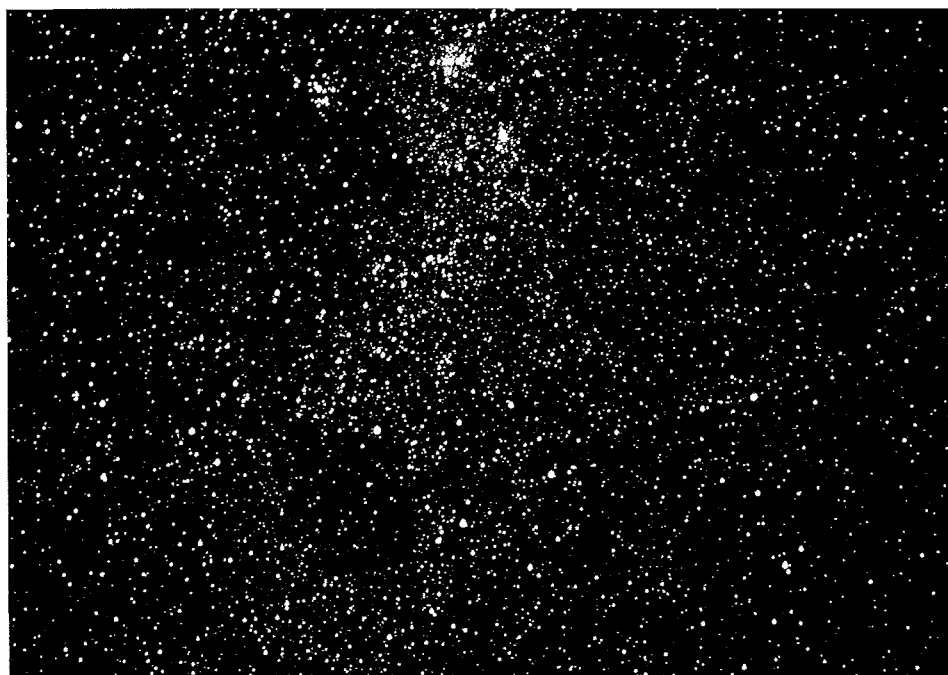
Scene three: same mountain, same village, middle of a clear night. I have gotten up to use the outhouse and to rub circulation into where my too-short cot has indented my too-long ankles. A quarter moon has long since set, and the nearest street light is a hundred miles away, so visibility is perfect. Without a flashlight I pick my way to the edge of the meadow, chilly in the cool, high altitude air, then look straight up. "Oh, Jesus..." The entire sky is tiaras and tassels, an inverted jewel box of stars upon stars upon stars. It is even more intense than I could have imagined. Slide lectures in astronomy class never prepare you for the grandeur of the real thing, with its acetylene luminosity, its profuse density. If the sky were a black lake I had to wade through and each star were a white-hot point, I would not be able to cross even two steps before burning up. There are stars everywhere. What can you do with a sight like that? A camera, even a sketchbook would be useless. All you can do is stand there, soaking it up like a soft, blank paper, until you

begin to shiver so much that you finally find a flashlight, go around to the outhouse, then back to bed, still brimming with the vision.

My point in these accounts is that none of these experiences could be planned for. They happened because I went out looking for one thing and was lucky enough to find another. If all there were to see in nature were birds, and if the birds only ever looked like the artificial silhouettes in the bird guides, I would quit tomorrow. But the longer I am in the game the more I realize that Columbus and Magellan, they were only the beginning. There are hundreds of continents out there, all waiting to surprise us. What they will look like, we cannot know from shore. We just have to set sail and find out. —

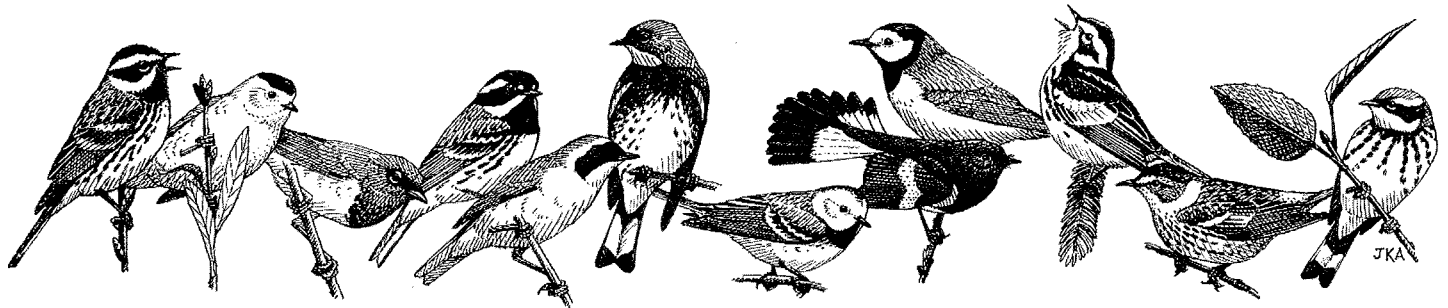
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Charles Hood teaches literature, creative writing and remedial English at Antelope Valley College. He is presently completing a book called The Xopilote Cantos about the Spanish conquest of Costa Rica.



(left) Sunrise Myola village, Papua, New Guinea

(right) Southern Cross, Carina and Coalsack



BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Hank Brodtkin

March will find spring migration starting to accelerate. We are most interested in first-spring sightings of our common species as well as our usual perverse interest in vagrants, so please keep us informed.

This winter has produced the best birding of any winter I can remember since I started birding in 1945. The best bird of the year — and I can't see how its position would be usurped later on in the year — undoubtedly has to be the first-winter **Ivory Gull** at Doheny State Beach on 5 January. Found and photographed by Dr. Joel Weintraub, a biology professor from Cal State Fullerton, and identified with the help of Lucy Lee, Carolyn Rainsford and Irene Horiuchi, this bird was seen by many birders with the last sighting by flashlight at 11:00 P.M. the same night. Even California's fourth **Rustic Bunting**, present since 23 December in Hoopa, Humboldt Co., could not match this completely unexpected sighting.

Also noteworthy were influxes of **Red Phalaropes** and **Ancient Murrelets**. There were also large numbers of **Hooded Mergansers**, with reports coming from every possible pond.

Here is a partial documentation of this amazing season.

The 25 November LAAS pelagic trip that wandered as far as 100 miles from Ventura produced 12 very late **Least Storm-Petrels** and a **Red-tailed Tropicbird** (Mitch Heindel).

Three **Ross' Geese** were at the Lancaster Sewage Ponds on 4 December (Irwin Woldman), an amazing 20 **Wood Ducks** were on Malibu

Lake on 7 January (Robert Weissler), a **Tufted Duck** was found in Pyramid Lake on 10 December (Kimball Garrett, Mike San Miguel and Tom Wurster), an inland **Oldsquaw** was reported from Riverside on 29 November (Brian Prescott), and a **Common Golden-eye** was seen in the increasingly birdy L.A. River channel in Atwater on 15 December (Richard Barth).

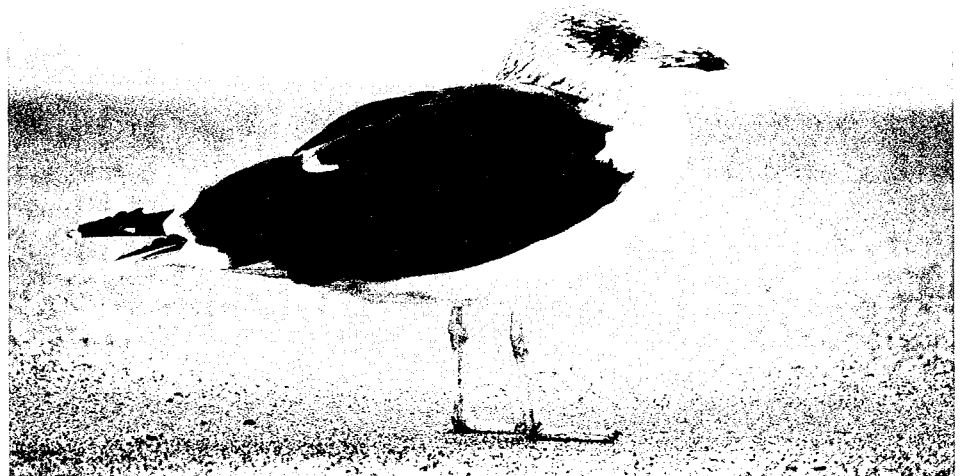
An immature **Mississippi Kite** was reported over Encino on 2 January (Dustin Alcalá). Two **Zone-tailed Hawks** were reported — one at Oak View, Ventura County, on 26 November (Stephen Barrack) and one at Bolsa Chica on 14 January (Roy Poucher). A "**Harlan's**" **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen near Lancaster on 28 December (Larry Schmahl, *et al.*).

A flock of 42 **Mountain Plover** was found near Seal Beach on 1 January (John Fitch). A **Franklin's Gull** was at Santa Fe Dam on

24 November (Bill Principe), and a **Little Gull** was seen from Pt. Fermin on 23 December, (Barney Schlinger). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, undoubtedly the same individual as last year, showed up at Doheny State Beach on 18 December (Jim Pike), and L.A. County's first **Yellow-footed Gull** was photographed at Cabrillo Beach on 7 January (Kevin Larson & MH). Several **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were reported this year, with the most interesting coming from Baldwin Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains on 4 December (Richard Webster). Two **Marbled Murrelets** were seen on the pelagic trip out of Ventura on 25 November (MH).

One hundred **Band-tailed Pigeons** were at the Huntington Gardens on 3 December, a **White-winged Dove** was seen in Ventura on 27 December (RB & Steve Tucker) and a **Common-Ground**

Lesser Black-backed Gull



Dove was reported from Beverly Glen on 29 December (Phyllis Barry).

L.A. County's second **Groove-billed Ani** was found in the Wilmington Drain north of Harbor Regional Park on 2 December (Nancy Pachana, Tim Kastle and Phil Swan). **Vaux's Swifts** were reported from Devil's Gate Dam Basin on 16 December (Tracey Alsobrook) and from Whittier Narrows on 17 December (Jon Fisher). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, probably the same bird as last year, was seen at La Mirada Regional Park on 1 January (LS).

An **Eastern Phoebe** was found on the UC Riverside campus on 23 December (Cindy Lee), a **Vermilion Flycatcher** was at Pt. Mugu on 17 December (RWeissler) and an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was wintering at Veteran's Park, Sylmar (Cosmo Bloom and Gerard Philips). The **Least Flycatcher**, present since September in San Dune Park, Manhattan Beach, remained through January.

About 150 **Pinyon Jays** were seen in Qatal Canyon, Ventura County, where they show up about only once every decade. A **Winter Wren** was at Sand Dune Park on 13 December (RB). A **Sage Thrasher** was near Pyramid Lake on 1 January (KG). A **Hutton's Vireo** was slightly out of place at Whittier Narrows on 13 January (Don Kouns).

Some of the out-of-season warblers reported this period include: a **Chestnut-sided** at Wilmington throughout the winter (MH), single **Blackburnians** at Pt. Dume on 17 December and in Crescenta Valley Park, La Crescenta, 21 January (both KG), a nominate ("yellow-lored") **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Finney Lake, Imperial County, from 16 December through January (*fide* Michael Patten) and a **Hooded Warbler** on the Orange County Christmas Count on 31 December (JP).

A late **Lazuli Bunting** was at Devil's Gate Dam on 26 November (JF), a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found in El Cariso Park on 21 January (Curtis Marantz) and two

Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported from Upper Newport Bay on 22 December (Art & Jean Pickett). A **Swamp Sparrow** and a **White-throated Sparrow** were at Devil's Gate Dam on 3 December (JF). Single **Harris' Sparrows** were at Hansen Dam on 15 December and at El Cariso Park on 16 January (both Doug Martin).

To top off this remarkable season, a **Scott's Oriole** was found near Marina del Rey on 30 December (Mike Tiffany). Good Birding! 🐦

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

Hank Brodtkin

27½ Mast Street, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292.
310/827-0407 E-Mail: hankb@kaiwan.com

Or call **Jon Fisher** — 818/544-5009

INSERT:

Guidelines for Reporting Birds in Southern California

It has been said that the next best thing to finding and enjoying a rare or unusual bird sighting is to be able to share it with other birders. The insert in this issue has all the information one needs to alert others of your sightings. Keep this page in your field guide as a reference, and don't forget to take good field notes.

Always call Jon Fisher so your sighting will be reported on the LAAS Bird Tape, and send the information to Hank Brodtkin for inclusion in his Birds of the Season column. See above for address and phone numbers. 🐦

WESTERN TANAGER

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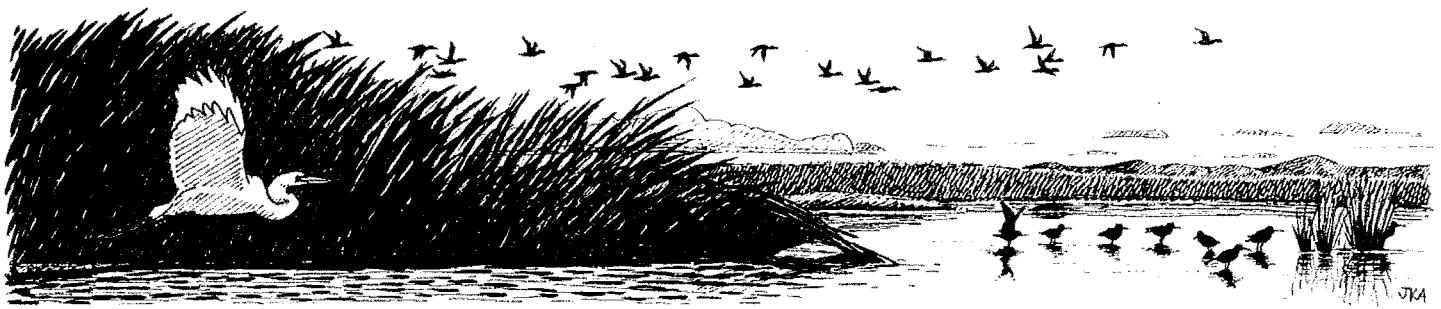
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CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

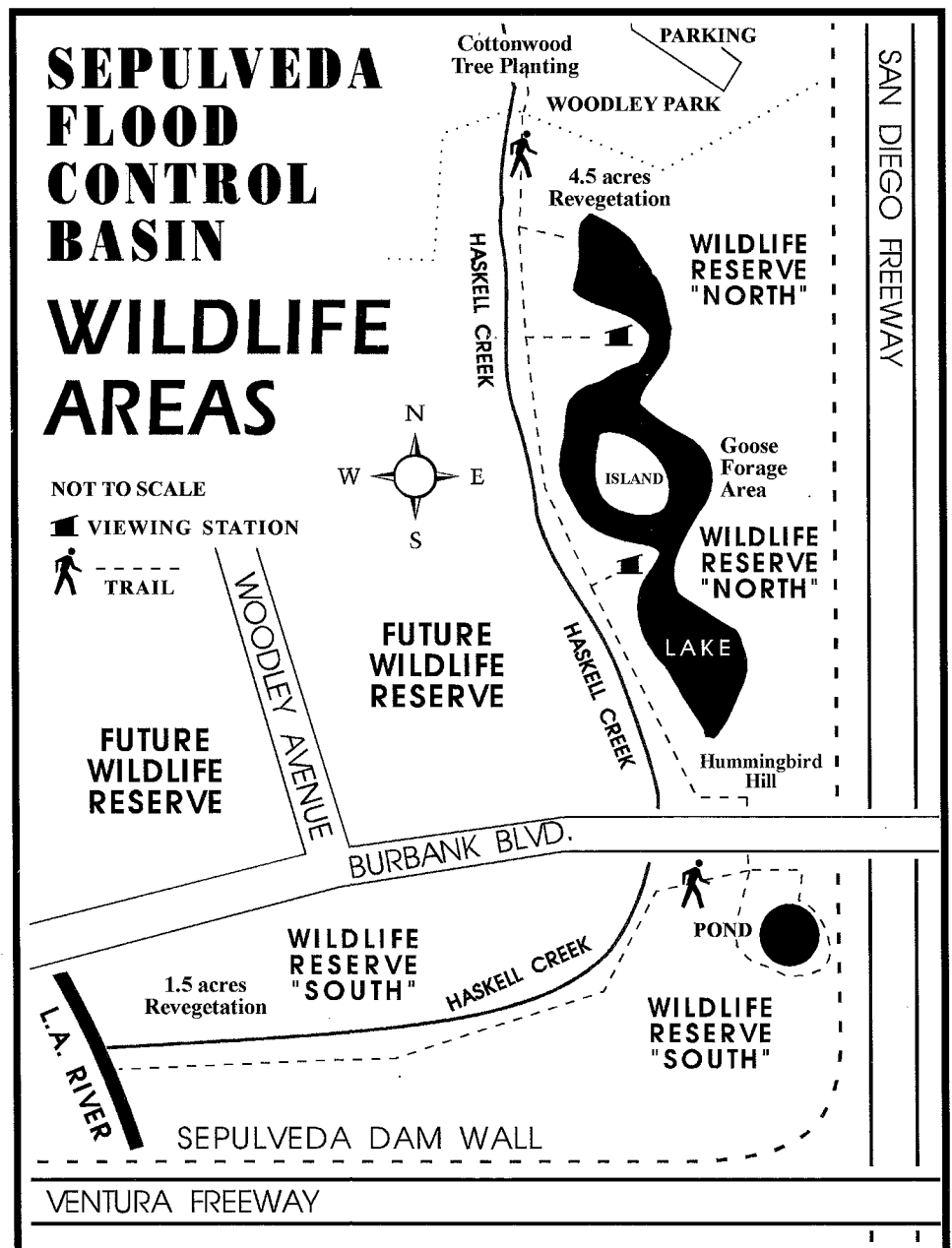
In 1938, rains of historic proportions poured down from the Santa Susana, Santa Monica and San Gabriel mountains, destroying homes and farms in the San Fernando Valley and across the city as the Los Angeles River leaped its banks. Over a hundred lives were lost. In 1990 dollars, property losses were a staggering \$745 million. A year later, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began to build a dam in the Sepulveda Basin in Van Nuys and finished the job in 1941. The river was lined with concrete for the 43 miles of its winding course to Long Beach and the Pacific Ocean. The dam was a smashing success; there has never been a serious flood in Los Angeles since 1938.

In response to the federal Flood Control Act of 1994 and subsequent laws, flood control projects nationwide were opened to outdoor recreation. In Sepulveda, golf courses, tennis courts, bicycle paths, cricket fields, soccer fields and baseball diamonds were created. The Corps leases the sites to the City Recreation and Parks Department which maintains and administers them. A 48-acre area in the southeast corner of the basin was designated "Wildlife Reserve" in the '60s but remained a label on the map for years. In 1979, the Corps began an ambitious program to develop the reserve, planting many trees and shrubs and experimenting with native grasses. Plans for two lakes and a marsh were made but were never realized. After seven years of work, the Corps abandoned the project when federal funds ran out.

Long before the introduction of

recreation into the basin, the Corps leased much of its land for agriculture, and a great deal of corn was raised. The Cicero family had a popular stand where fresh corn was

sold to an appreciative clientele. However, Corps policy has always been that agriculture is not appropriate for flood control areas. The farmers' contracts were short and



could be cancelled at any time. The corn fields attracted birds, particularly Canada Geese, large handsome birds that flew into the basin in great numbers, impressing even nonbirders. Rodents of all kinds exploited the corn fields which became a favorite hunting ground for Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks, Northern Harriers, White-shouldered Kites and Short-eared Owls.

The bulk of the Sepulveda Basin was unstructured open space that was highly treasured by many of the people who walked or jogged or rode bicycles as they watched the geese fly over, enjoying the sweep of the mountains and the rush of the river. The crackbrained efforts to import a racetrack or Olympic facilities with their inappropriate crowds and parking were militantly beaten back by citizens through the Coalition To Save the Sepulveda Basin.

The Corps' Master Plan, updated in 1983, brought significant changes to the basin. Lake Balboa Park, including a 26-acre recreation lake, was to be built along Balboa Blvd. on 120 acres, the City Recreation and Parks Department sharing the cost with the Corps. Also, 60 acres in the same vicinity were set aside for the Arts Park, a privately financed project that would bring music, painting, dance and other creative activities to the basin. More than 13 years have gone by, but the Arts Park people can't raise the \$70 million for their park structures, and the land lies vacant as it acquires a lush growth of unwanted weeds. So, 180 acres that were predominately planted in corn have been taken from the birds and the rodents. Many observers have remarked that the number and variety of raptors that controlled the rodent population in the basin have markedly decreased in recent years.

In an effort to compensate for this loss of food and habitat, the Master Plan added 60 acres to the wildlife reserve north of busy Burbank Blvd., which now divides the reserve into two separate parcels for a total area of 108 acres. Subsequently, the City of Los Ange-

Volunteers Needed for ARMCHAIR ACTIVIST

The ARMCHAIR ACTIVIST is looking for one or two people who would be willing to help out with photocopying and mailing our monthly newsletter. Total time involved is less than two hours per month. This is a great way to help out with important environmental issues and get more involved with Audubon. Please send a note in care of ARMCHAIR ACTIVIST to LAAS headquarters with your name and phone number. 🐾

les received a grant of \$479,000 from the California Fish and Game's Water Conservation Board to build an 11-acre lake in the northern portion of the reserve. After a couple of years of bureaucratic huffing and puffing and some correction of planning defects, the lake was completed. Reclaimed water from the basin's Tillman Reclamation plant filled the lake and it was officially dedicated. Ten White Pelicans — uncommon birds — were in the lake at the ceremony, a sign that the gods were with us.

The northern Wildlife Reserve has prospered. Trees are growing vigorously, many new shrubs and flowering plants are doing well. Warblers in season, shrikes, kingbirds, orioles and the astonishing Blue Grosbeak flash through the air. The lake harbors many birds — ducks, grebes, cormorants, herons, egrets and many Canada Geese. City Rec and Parks people have been very cooperative, planting annual grasses on the east shore of the lake to keep the geese happy. Part of their daily chores is monitoring the water. This was done so well that the Water Quality Control Board abandoned the original plan to drain the lake in the hot months, so we now have a year-round living ecosystem. The water monitors, by the way, have become pretty good birders.

The most exciting prospect for the basin is a plan to more than double the size of the reserve by adding two large defunct sod farms west of Haskell Creek. After a very long delay, the unknown difficulties in the inner sanctum of the Corps

seem to have been resolved. With oak savannah, new grassland and interesting trails, there is great hope for the future.

Another addition to the wildlife values of the basin is developing as we write. Steve Hartman of the California Native Plant Society suggested the creation of "Hummingbird Hill," a revegetation project on the north slope of Burbank Blvd. within the Wildlife Reserve. Exotic trees, shrubs and weeds have been eliminated, and native plants by the hundreds are being introduced. Chaparral species will be in abundance with showy scarlet bugler, heart-leaved penstemon and fuchsia-flowered gooseberry to attract hummingbirds. The money for this project comes from Anheuser-Busch brewery spills into Haskell Creek, the present western border of the reserve. The \$98,000 was awarded to the Sepulveda Wildlife Areas Consortium by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The consortium is made up of all the interested environmental organizations that have been meeting with the Corps and the City for over three years. Half of this money has funded a successful nature education program for elementary schoolchildren in the basin for the past two years.

Those of us who are concerned about the fate of wild creatures as their habitat diminishes might cautiously take heart. In a small place such as Sepulveda, we think we see a change from 48 acres on a map to over 200 acres of real land. Multiply that a thousandfold and... who knows? 🐾

Volunteers Wanted

Volunteers are needed in the LAAS Bookstore to help maintain the well-known super service to our membership and customers worldwide. No experience is necessary. Wanted are

people to greet customers and prepare shipments. Interested retirees or anyone looking for an exciting activity, once or twice a week, working with nice people in a pleasant atmosphere, are asked to call the Bookstore at 213/876-0202 and speak with Olga or Carol. Hours are from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., Tuesday through Saturday.

This is a good opportunity to learn about the newest books, binoculars and telescopes and expand your outlook on the fascinating world of nature. 🐦

New Arrivals in the Bookstore

Collins Illustrated Checklist to Birds of Eastern Africa.

1,487 species in color; informative notes, key ID features, maps \$39.95

Buntings and Sparrows, A Guide to Buntings & N.A. Sparrows.

Covers all Palearctic species of Holarctic region. 108 species described and illustrated, 39 color plates, maps \$40.00

Optec E-Z Comfort Binocular-Camera Strap. Strong, durable, lightweight; four colors. Save your neck! \$10.95

NEW CD-ROM (for Windows) —*Peterson's Multimedia Guides:*

North American Birds covers nearly 1,000 species, 700+ photos, songs. Range maps, bird finder ID, skill-builder, lifelist, etc. \$69.95

Bird Calls of Eastern Australia. 152 species ranging from Tasmania to Cape York Peninsula, follows *Pizzey's Field Guide to*

Birds of Australia \$11.95

National Audubon Society Wild Birds Screen Saver. Dozens of full-color images, Q and A, calls, animated habitat scenes, etc.

(for Windows '95 or Windows 3.1) \$29.95

Many other new titles... call or come in soon!

LAAS on the World Wide Web

In December, Los Angeles Audubon premiered its home page on the World Wide Web. Anyone with access to WWW can visit our site by selecting local chapters on the National Audubon page. You can access it directly at <http://www.mbi.ucla.edu/people/lesa/laas.html>. You'll find information about our programs, field trips and meetings as well as the entire Bookstore catalog. Please send your comments and suggestions by e-mail to "lesa@galileo.mbi.ucla.edu" or to LAAS in care of Lesa Beamer. 🐦

National Audubon Society's
1996
Western Regional Conference
Asilomar, California
March 30–April 2

BIRDS, WILDLIFE & HABITAT:
Building a Culture of Conservation

Interactive workshops, inspiring speakers, exhilarating field trips and stimulating discussions will focus on Audubon's commitment to birds, wildlife and habitat.

For information, please contact
the California Field Office at
916/481-5332.

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:

LAAS Reservations
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 Wednesdays from noon to 4:00 P.M. to answer questions about field trips. Our office staff is also available Tuesday through Saturday for most reservation services.

Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17 — Anza Borrego with Fred Heath. Experience the spring explosion of desert flowers along with butterflies and birds in the throes of breeding. Anticipate a busy weekend and reserve motel or campsite early. Suggested accommodations: Tamarisk Grove Campground (reserve through Mistix 800/444-7275) or Stanlund Motel in Borrego Springs 619/767-5501. Limited to 20 participants. Send SASE with \$5 fee to LAAS to learn 8:00 A.M. meeting place. Pleasant days, cool nights.

Wednesday, March 20 — Los Angeles County Arboretum. Barbara Cohen will lead this morning walk through varied habitat in anticipation of what the first day of spring may bring. Take the Baldwin Ave. offramp S from the 210 Fwy in Arcadia. Meet at 8:00 A.M. in front of the gatehouse in the parking lot on the west side of the street. Possible small fee.

Saturday, March 23 — Descanso Gardens. Karen Johnson will share her intimate knowledge of this well-known locale. Apart from the resident chaparral birds and Wood Ducks, warblers and other passerines should be starting to move through. Meet at 8:00 A.M. in the parking lot just outside the gatehouse. Take the 2 Fwy N to the Verdugo Rd. offramp near the 210 Fwy. Turn right onto Verdugo Rd., drive about a mile and turn right onto Descanso Dr. Continue around the curve to the gate for the parking lot on the right.

Sunday, March 24 — Carrizo Plain. Leader Roy van de Hoek, who has spent five years conducting field research on the Plain, is intimately familiar with the natural history, ecology and curious management history of the area. Vernal pools and wildflowers (rain permitting), Chumach pictographs at

Painted Rock, antelope, elk, Gopher Snake, Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard and other reptiles, resident and lingering winter raptors, and Kit Fox all possible. Peel off early or stay until 8:00 P.M. to see San Andreas Fault. Possible Barn, Burrowing and Short-eared owl and Giant Kangaroo Rat. Meet at 7:30 A.M. at the Buttonwillow Denny's at 5 Fwy and Hwy 58. Two Motel 6s nearby usually have rooms. Limited to 20 participants. Reserve by phone with LAAS. No fee.

Saturday and Sunday, March 30 and 31 — Owens Valley Grouse Trip. Leader Mary Carmona. Blue Grouse, Sage Grouse, Rosy Finch, Pinyon Jay, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon all likely. Limited to 20 participants. Meet early in Big Pine Saturday. \$10 fee. For more details, send SASE to LAAS.


Sunday, April 7 — Topanga State Park. Leader Gerry Haigh. Meet at 8:00 A.M. See March 3 write-up for details.


Saturday, April 13 — Antelope Valley. Enjoy our birds while supporting local efforts to understand them better by searching out evidence of breeding birds for the L.A. Breeding Bird Atlas with **Fred Heath** as he stops to watch the migrants and to smell the plentiful wildflowers along the way. Finish up at the limited access Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base. Bring lunch. Meet at 7:30 A.M. at LaMont-Odett Overlook. Take Hwy 14 N past the Pearblossom Hwy turnoff. The overlook is on the right just as Lake Palmdale comes into view.

Sunday, April 14 — Whittier Narrows. Leader Ray Jillson. Meet at 8:00 A.M. See March 10 write-up for details.


Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21 — San Diego Mountains. Leader **Larry Allen** will look for Zone-tailed Hawks by midmorning Saturday at Hot Springs Mountain and for Saw-whet and other owls early Sunday morning (and possibly


Saturday evening) in the Cuyamaca Mountains. With recent nesting records for both, he stands a pretty fair chance of seeing both birds! He will also look for possible Harris' Hawk in Anza Borrego if time permits. For information on Saturday 9:30 A.M. meeting place near Warner Springs, group camp location for Saturday, and the trip in general, send \$9 per person with SASE to LAAS. Anticipate \$5-10 access fee. A few dollars will be collected to cover LAAS-reserved campsite fees. Limited to 18 participants.


 **Saturday, May 4 — Three-island, 12-hour trip on Island Packer's M.V. Vanguard** out of Ventura Harbor to Anacapa Island, Santa Rosa Island and through the Santa Rosa Passage to Santa Cruz Island. \$65.

 **Saturday, May 18 — 12-hour trip on the R.V. Vantuna** out of San Pedro to Santa Barbara Island and the Osborne Bank. \$40.

Friday through Monday, June 28 to July 1 — Southern Sierras Weekend with Bob Barnes. Our most productive and varied trip. More information in April listing. Limited to 20 participants. For information flyer, reserve with SASE to LAAS. \$11 fee for each day attended (\$44 for 4 days). Reserve rooms early.

 **Saturday, September 14 — 12-hour trip on the R.V. Vantuna** out of San Pedro to Santa Barbara Island and the Osborne Bank. \$40.

 **Sunday, October 6 — Three-island, 12-hour trip on Island Packer's M.V. Vanguard** out of Ventura Harbor to Anacapa Island, Santa Rosa Island and through the Santa Rosa Passage to Santa Cruz Island. \$65.

 **Saturday, November 16 — 8-hour trip on the R.V. Vantuna** out of San Pedro to the Palos Verdes Escarpment and Redondo Canyon. \$25. 🐾



EVENING MEETING

Meet at 8:00 P.M. in Plummer Park.
Call the Bird Tape for information on possible ID Workshops.

March 12, 1996

Jack Levy
Southern California Butterflies

Jack Levy will show some of his beautiful butterfly photography which will illustrate the dwindling Southern California butterfly fauna and discuss some of the related conservation issues. Jack is the President and founder of the Southern California Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association and has been studying such diverse butterflies as the Martin's Swallowtail of the East Mojave and the Laguna Skipper of the Laguna Mountains. He is also an inveterate punster, and his puns are as bad as his photos are good. Join us for a fun and informative evening.

April 9, 1996

Arnold Small
California Birds: The Last Fifty Years

F I E L D T R I P S

Before setting out on any field trip, **please 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.

‡ Denotes Pelagic Trips

Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3 — Morro Bay Area. Leader **Daniel Cooper** will assist us in ferreting out birds from Montaña de Oro to Cambria. Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Pigeon Guillemot, Yellow-billed Magpie, Winter Wren

and Wild Turkey (in descending findability). Take Hwy 101 N into town onto Hwy 1 N and continue for one block. Meet at 10:00 A.M. in the small parking lot of Santa Rosa Park in San Luis Obispo with a full tank. Send \$8 and your phone number to LAAS to reserve. Limited to 16 participants. Bring picnic lunch and rain gear. Reserve rooms early.

Sunday, March 3 — Topanga State Park. **Gerry Haigh** will lead participants through this diverse coastal mountain area. An ideal trip for a beginning birder or

someone new in the area. A botanist is usually present. From its intersection with Ventura Blvd. in the Valley, take Topanga Canyon Blvd. 7 miles S then turn E (uphill) on Entrada Rd. (1 mile N of Topanga Village). Follow the signs and turn left into the park. Meet at 8:00 A.M. in the parking lot of Trippet Ranch. \$5 parking fee.

⚓ **Sunday, March 10 — 8-hour** trip on the *R. V. Vantuna* out of San Pedro to the Palos Verdes Escarpment and Redondo Canyon. \$25.

Los Angeles Audubon Society *DATED MATERIAL*
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard *Please Expedite*
West Hollywood, CA 90046-6694

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Sunday, March 10 — Whittier Narrows Regional Park. Join ranger **Ray Jillson** at 8:00 A.M. to view resident raptors, waterbirds and songbirds. Cardinals resident. Take the Peck Dr. exit S off the 60 Fwy in South El Monte (just W of the 605 Fwy). Take the offramp onto Durfee Ave. heading W (right) and turn left into the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave. \$2 voluntary donation suggested by the park.

Continued on page 11

I. WHY

Editors, the California Bird Records Committee, Columnists, Rare Bird Alert and Breeding Bird Atlas personnel greatly need our sightings reported for: (a) a permanent public record, (b) conservation and other scientific purposes, and (c) allowing others to see and/or confirm rare and unusual sightings.

II. WHAT and WHEN (If in doubt, please err on side of sooner/more notification.)

A. Within the Hour: Birdbox AND Personal Contact; Follow up with written reports to County Editor & Calif. Bird Records Committee within days.
 . Rare/Reviewable birds on relevant county and state lists. (Lists available from L. A. Audubon Bookstore 213-876-0202 and elsewhere.)
 . Birds not previously sighted in county/state, excluding escapees.

B. Same Day: Birdbox and possibly Personal Contact

- . Uncommon Birds
- . Large numbers/irregular irruptions
- . Other sightings of special interest

D. Breeding Bird Atlas Regional Editors

- . Breeding bird evidence
- . Contact Editor to obtain Casual Observation Form and/or block assignment

C. Soon: Rare Bird Alert Tape and local newsletter bird sightings column

- . Items under both A & B.

E. Season Reports: Send to County Editors (preferred) or Southern Pacific Coast Regional Editor for permanent files. Please mark due dates on calendar:

Winter (Dec.-Feb.) Due 10 March; Spring (Mar.-May) Due 10 June; Summer (June, July) Due 10 August; Fall (Aug.-Nov.) Due 10 Dec.

- . All of above
- . Significant nesting records
- . Early arrivals and late departures
- . Unseasonal birds
- . Apparent population trends
- . Escapees & their growing populations
- . Unusual numbers or lack of expected birds
- . Unusual plumage, deformities
- . Interesting behavior
- . Other notes, thoughts of interest

III. HOW

A. Birdbox Reports are best written out ahead of time to convey a complete, concise message. Pauses may cause cutoff. Please include:

- . Your name & whoever saw the bird(s)
- . Bird, sex/plumage
- . Location: Town and local directions
- . Specific details to birdspot
- . Vocalization, actions, pattern, alone/with other birds etc.
- . Any other useful info: with sparrows, last seen flying away, etc.
- . Other interesting birds in area
- . Other useful reports: estuary open, facility hours, etc.

County Reporters are responsible for placing rare bird alerts on SCAT (Southern California Automated Tree) and periodically reporting on birdbox. SCAT is an inter-county notification system, for intra-county dissemination, associated with the Birdbox setup. Doug Aguiard initiated this procedure and Bill Principe placed it on computer. Bill also set up and manages Birdbox. These services are sponsored by the San Diego Field Ornithologists and a group of L.A. birders.

B. Personal Contacts. Since tape messages may not be picked up for hours or days, if the first contact person isn't available, do leave a message and that you will try to reach the second designated person, adjacent area and/or oversight person. Decide with the Contact Person who will be responsible for getting the sighting verified, on birdbox, local network and SCAT. IF unable to make any personal contact about possible rarity, suggest placing on Birdbox as soon as possible as probable _____ with full description, your name and phone number. The next listener is responsible for dissemination, noting action on Birdbox.

C. Rare Bird Alerts: Most have space to leave messages; some have a separate number. Direct info appreciated.

D. Newsletter Bird Sighting Columns. Again, these columnists appreciate receiving direct information. It is especially important to report information that may not be reported on Birdbox, i.e. birds on private property.

E. Seasonal Reports to County Editors: Please send this information (refer to II-E) in taxonomic order for the permanent public records to all appropriate County Editors for the previous season by the due dates. They compile the information and forward it to the Southern Pacific Coast Regional Editor. The summary is published quarterly in "Field Notes." The Christmas Bird Count Report is a special annual publication. L.A. County Records are archived at the L.A. County Museum of Natural History in the Ornithology Department, available by appointment, as is reviewing of skins.

F. Rare Bird Reports to County Editors. A Rare Bird Report should be written in explicit detail from your written or taped field notes. Ideally, include them with your report, plus a sketch, ANY photo, video, tape-recorded call and ALL other supporting evidence with as much of the following as possible:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Basic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Common & scientific bird name . Date/time found, other observations, date left . Location including County, State | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Your name, address, phone number . Others identifying the bird . (encourage them to write a report also) |
| Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Habitat . Duration observed . Optics used | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Distance from the bird . Lighting conditions, weather, sky cover, sun orientation . Written from: field notes during, after observation, memory |
| Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Plumage . Age, sex, # of individuals . Behavior . Vocalization, Actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Compare in size/likeness with nearby &/or similar species . Physical characteristics . (ALL details observed, not just field marks) . Experience with species |
| Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Any additional pertinent info or comments . Positive of the I.D. or if not, explain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . References used and when . Date and signature |

G. Rare Bird Reports to the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC)

Please send a copy of your County Rare Bird Report of CBRC List of Reviewable Birds to the CBRC Secretary. The Secretary will send an acknowledgment of receipt and eventually their decision. CBRC Reviewable Birdlists and CBRC forms, also useable for the county, are available from the CBRC Secretary.

The CBRC is composed of ten outstanding birders/ornithologists serving staggered terms. They donate considerable time toward reviewing hundreds of reports each year, researching anomalies and sharing information with other experts, sometimes worldwide. Most work is circulated by mail with annual meetings for discussions and voting. For bird report acceptance, nine votes are required for identification and eight votes for natural occurrence. CBRC Reviewable Birdlists, Cumulative reports of CBRC actions, reasoning and sometimes exceptionally rare birds are published in "Western Birds," the Western Field Ornithologists quarterly. CBRC reports and member comments are archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Ventura County, available by appointment.

IV. WHO and WHERE: CONTACT LISTING

* Please call ONLY for RARE birds: as defined by County and/or CBRC lists using these guidelines		(#)	Desired order of placing calls for personal contacts	
**	Rare Bird Alerts with space at end of bird reports	E:	E-mail address	H: Home phone W: Work phone
(BL)	Official Birdlist for area (at L.A. Audubon Bookstore)	(CR)	County Reporter for SCAT (So. Ca. Automated Tree: intercounty)	
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDBOX 818-952-5502		CkNTD	Checked numerous times daily: o.k. for non-personal contact	
COUNTY COUNTY EDITOR		Manager: Bill Principe (L.A. County CR-a & b)		
RARE BIRD ALERTS and PERSONAL CONTACTS				
Inyo	Jo and Tom Heindel (CR)	P.O. Box 400, Big Pine 93513	619-938-2764*	
Kern	Matt Heindel 3891 Royce Road, Irvine 92715	John Wilson (1, CR) Ans. svc. 805-631-5585 CkNTD H: 805-325-6329* David Blue (2) H: 619-446-2370 * E: dblue@ridgecrest.ca.us (also add info to birdlist at Desert Deli in California City)		
Los Angeles	Kimball Garrett (4) Ornithology Collections Manager L.A. County Natural History Museum 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007 W: 213-744-3368* H: 818-249-1742* (quick report only please) E: garrett@bcf.usc.edu	RBA (Thurs.) Jon Fisher 213-874-1318 E: jon_fisher.cc.wdi.disney.com W: 818-544-5009 * H: 818-821-0263 *		
(BL)		Birds of Season column in "Western Tanager" Hank Brodtkin (after 1 p.m. weekdays) 310-827-0407 * 27 1/2 Mast St., Marina del Rey 90292 E: hankb@kaiwan.com		
	<u>Breeding Bird Atlas Regional Coordinator</u> Mark Wimer Ornithology Department L.A. County Natural History Museum 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007 213-745-BIRD E: wimer@bcf.usc.edu	(1) Area Contacts: (2,3) Neighboring Areas: (4) Kimball Garrett Antelope Valley Charles Hood 805-273-5644* Voice mail CkNTD 805-943-3241 x135 Canyon Country & north Laura Lou Vance 805-296-5261 * Central Kimball Garrett see L.A.Co. Editor Malibu Larry Allen 213-221-2022 * P.V. Peninsula south Kevin Larson 310-542-9529 * S. Fernando Valley, No. Doug Martin pager 818-563-8099 H: 818-367-8967 * So. Sandy Wohlgemuth 818-344-8531 * San Gabriel Valley, East Jon Fisher see RBA listing West Mike San Miguel H: 818-355-5058 * S.G. Mts, Whittier Narrows " E: sanmigbird@aol.com W: 818-302-9519 * West Side Bruce Broadbooks 310-670-8210 * Whittier/Norwalk Larry Schmahl pager 310-762-4511 H: 310-695-0152 * RBA (Thurs.) John Renna (CR-b) 714-563-6516 **		
Orange	Doug Willick (1, CR-a) 2730 E. Whidby Lane, Anaheim 92806 (BL) W: 714-835-4447 *; H: 714-630-5790 *	Richard A. Erickson (2) H: 714-855-1433 * W: 714-553-0666 *		
Riverside	Robert McKernan (R: 3) San Bernardino County Museum (BL) 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands 92373 909-798-8570 *	<u>Riverside and San Bernardino</u> RBA (Fri.) Stacy Peterson 909-793-5599** H: 909-796-6517 * Mike Patten (R/SB, 1, CR-a) E: patten@citrus.ucr.edu 909-682-9889 * Chet McGaugh (R/SB 2, CR-b) W: 909-684-7081 * H: 909-781-3699 *		
San Bernardino	Gene Cardiff San Bernardino County Museum 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands 92373	<u>Breeding Bird Atlas Regional Coordinator: Riverside and San Bernardino</u> Barbara Carlson H: 909-369-3179 before 7:30 p.m. P.O. Box 55419, Riverside 92517 E: bcarlson@citrus.ucr.edu		
San Diego	Elizabeth Copper (BL) 227 "F" Avenue, Coronado 92118	<u>San Diego and Imperial</u> RBA (Daily) Doug Aguillard 619-479-3400** CkNTD (SD: 1, CR; Imp. 3) E: dagi@cts.com		
Imperial	Guy McCaskie (1, CR) 954 Grove Street, Imperial Beach 91932 H: 619-423-7524 * W: 619-279-8108 CkNTD	(Imp 2) Mike Patten E: patten@citrus.ucr.edu 909-682-9889*		
San Luis Obispo	Tom Edell (3) 46 Eighth Street, Cayucos 93430 (BL) 805-995-1691 * E: tedell@aol.com	RBA (as needed) Jim Royer (1, CR-a) 805-528-7182 ** W: 805-541-6850* H: 805-528-8933 * Karen Havlena (2, CR-b) 805-528-7965 * Brad Schram (4) 805-489-1260 *		
Santa Barbara	Joan Lentz (SB: 2, CR-b) 433 Pimiento Lane, Santa Barbara 93108 (BL) 805-969-4397 * E: jelentz@rain.org	<u>Santa Barbara and Ventura</u> RBA (as needed) Karen Bridgers 805-964-8240** (SB: 1, CR-a) (V: 3, CR-b) 805-964-1316 *		
Ventura	Don Desjardin (V: 1; CR-a) (SB: 3) 10001 Halifax Street, Ventura 93004 805-647-5205 * E: di@west.com	Brad Sillasen (V: 2) 805-933-9829 *		

"FIELD NOTES" SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGIONAL EDITOR

Guy McCaskie 954 Grove Street, Imperial Beach 91932

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Michael A. Patten P. O. Box 51959, Riverside 92517-2959
E: patten@citrus.ucr.edu

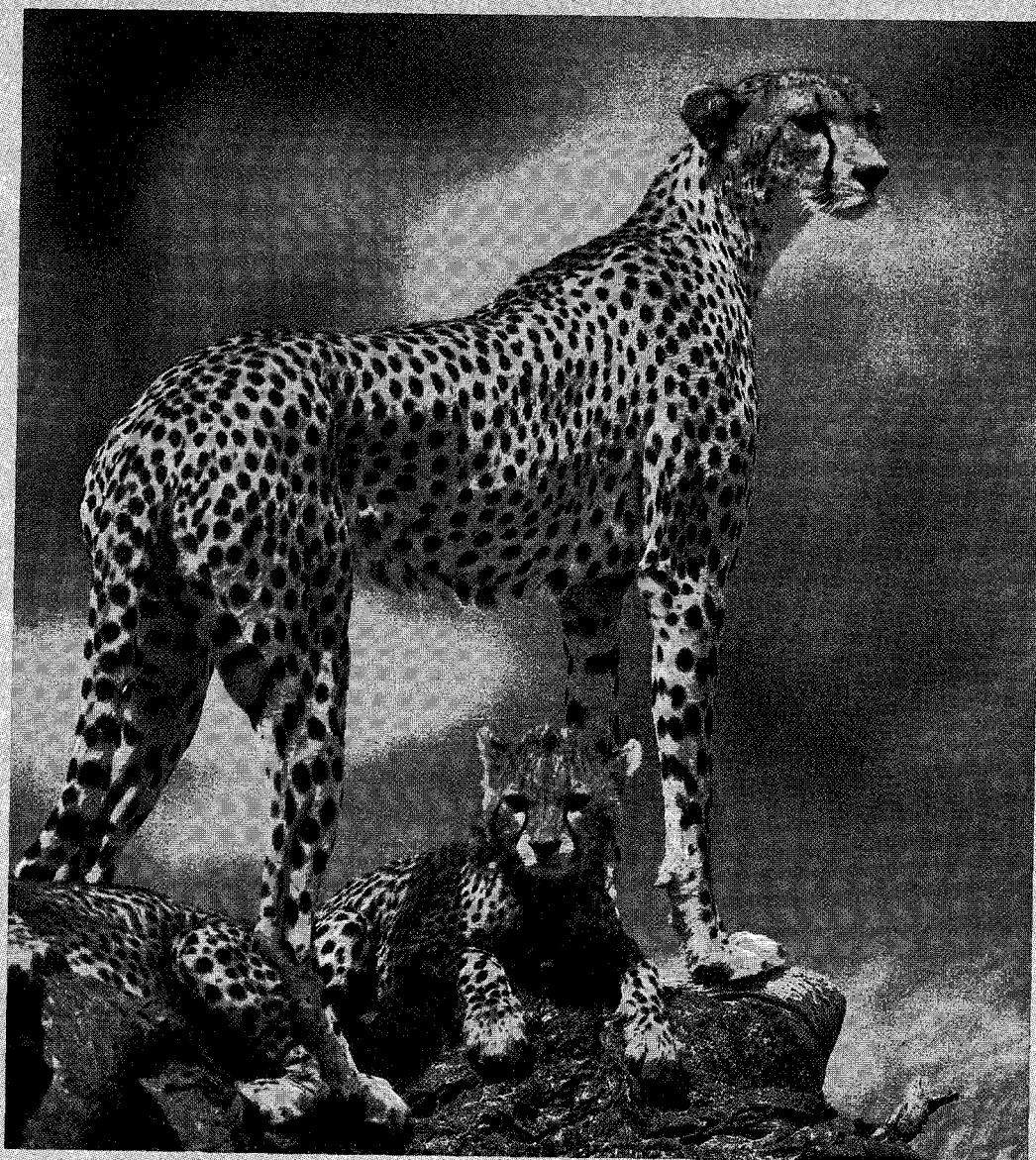
Please send changes to: Wanda Dameron 23424 Jonathan Street, Canoga Park 91304 818-340-0365

DO KEEP AN EXTRA COPY WITH BIRDBOOK and MAKE COPIES FOR FRIENDS and VISITORS.



**The Los Angeles Audubon Society presents its 1996
14-Day Birding, Wildlife, and Photo Safari**

AFRICA



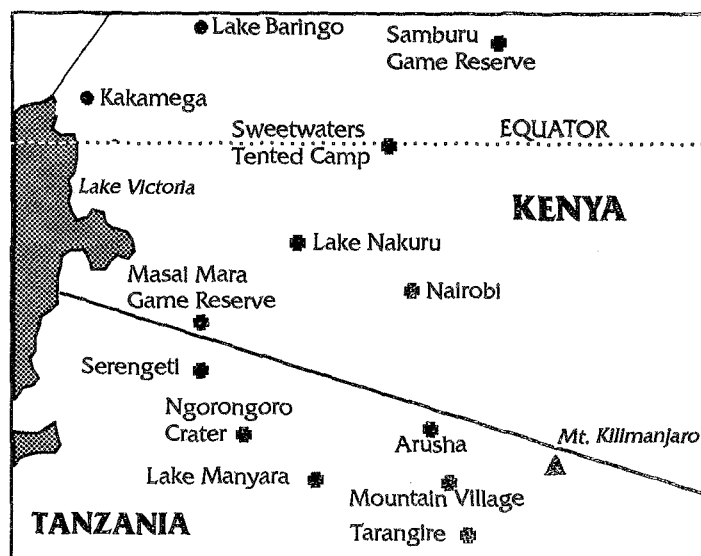
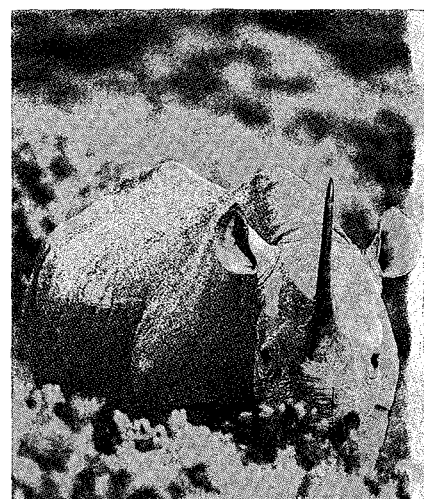
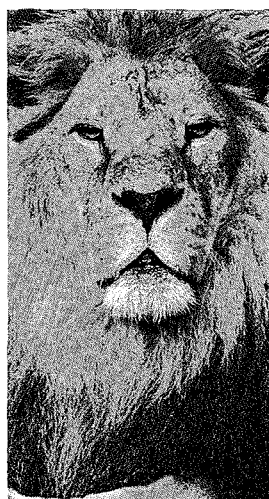
**through the game reserves and national parks of Kenya
with optional extensions to Western Kenya and Tanzania**

November 4-17, 1996

Escorted by Olga Clarke, Los Angeles Audubon Society

YOUR TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- ➔ Roundtrip flights between Los Angeles and Nairobi.
- ➔ Superior accommodations throughout.
- ➔ American breakfast in Nairobi; three meals daily while on safari.
- ➔ Welcome and Farewell Dinners in Nairobi.
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- ➔ Complimentary bottled water and a pair of field glasses in each vehicle.
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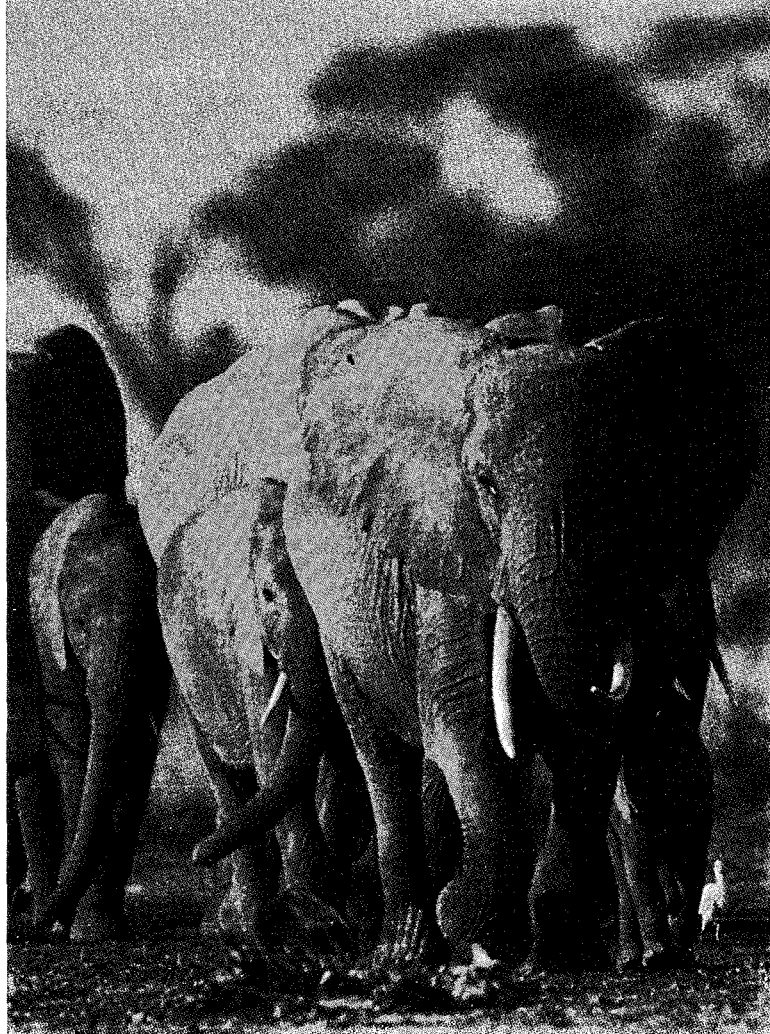
Your Safari Leader

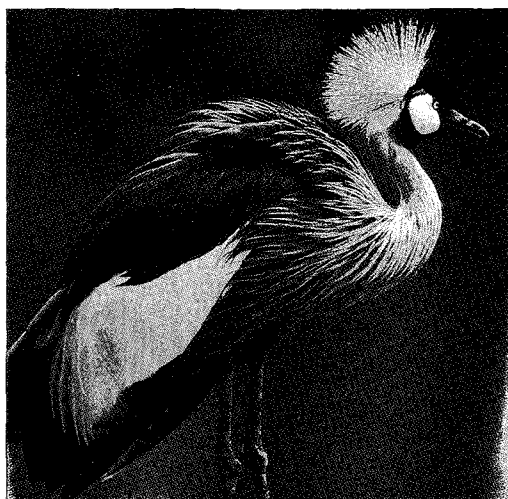


Olga Clarke, Director of the Los Angeles Audubon Society Bookstore, will be your enthusiastic and knowledgeable escort for your safari adventure. Olga is an experienced tour leader, having organized and led birding and natural history tours to a variety of locations around the world. Recently returned from her third East African safari,

Olga has carefully designed this customized birding trip to her exacting specifications.

For more than twenty years Olga has been in charge of the Audubon Society Bookstore, developing that operation into the nation's premier source for natural history books and other nature related merchandise. In addition, she delivers numerous illustrated lectures to a wide spectrum of organizations throughout the year. With Park East Tours' experienced drivers and superb naturalist guides, you will have the adventure of a lifetime! Don't miss this!





NOV 4 • LOS ANGELES/EN ROUTE
Board your Alitalia jumbo jet in Los Angeles, flying to Rome. (Meals Aloft)

NOV 5 • ROME
Your jet lands this afternoon in Rome where you transfer to your hotel in the city. The balance of the day is on your own to relax and prepare for our exciting adventure. Overnight at the BEVERLY HILLS or similar. (Meals Aloft, no meals in Rome)

NOV 6 • ROME/NAIROBI
Evening arrival in Nairobi, the Safari Capital of East Africa. You will be met and escorted to your luxury hotel. Two nights at the NAIROBI SAFARI PARK HOTEL. (Meals Aloft)

NOV 7 • NAIROBI
Meet with your courier this morning to discuss your itinerary and the wonderful events ahead. Afterwards, you may relax by the pool to do some shopping. Birding on the grounds is an excellent introduction to Kenya birds. Enjoy lunch and dinner on your own at one of the Safari Park Hotel's six restaurants (B)

NOV 8 • SWEETWATERS
Drive north to Ol Pejeta Ranch, on the Equator, home for elephant, reticulated giraffe, buffalo, oryx, zebra and leopard. Optional activities include walking safaris and even petting a rhino, the tame Morani. On one of your evenings at Sweetwaters Tented Camp, you can enjoy (optional cost) a unique night game drive – a fantastic opportunity to see the nocturnal animals such as aardvark, aardwolf, genet, caracal, porcupine and spring hare. The sounds of the African night draw you close to nature and hold a mystery all their own. Overnight at SWEETWATERS TENTED CAMP. (B,L,D)

NOV 9/10 • SAMBURU
Continue on to Kenya's northern province and the Samburu Game Reserve. Along the banks of the Uaso Nyiro River you will easily be able to observe well over 100 bird species, including the helmeted and vulturine guinea-fowl, red-billed hornbill, weavers, fish eagle, superb starling, and lilac-breasted roller. Two nights at the SAMBURU SERENA LODGE. (B,L,D Daily)

NOV 11/12 • LAKE NAKURU
Your drive today takes you through the picturesque Rift Valley to Lake Nakuru, world famous haunt of flamingos. Several species of plovers are resident, and birds of prey are always much in evidence. Two nights at SAROVA LION HILL. (B,L,D Daily)

NOV 13/14/15 • MASAI MARA
Depart for the Masai Mara Game Reserve, the northern part of the Serengeti. Here in Kenya's most famous game reserve, you will have three days of sensational bird and mammal viewing. Thrill to a close-up look at herds of wildebeest and zebra, prides of lion, and ivory-tusked elephant. Enjoy an optional hot air balloon flight or an excursion to Lake Victoria. Three nights at the MARA SERENA LODGE. (B,L,D Daily)

NOV 16 • NAIROBI/EN ROUTE
Following a special champagne breakfast at the hippo pools, return to Nairobi, with day rooms at the Safari Park Hotel, and a farewell dinner. Later you'll be escorted to the airport for the flight to Rome. (B,D, Meals Aloft)

NOV 17 • ROME/LOS ANGELES
Connect in Rome with your flight to Los Angeles. (Meals Aloft)

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR TANZANIA EXTENSION

The vast Serengeti, plus Olduvai Gorge, and the incredible Ngorongoro Crater highlight this one-week optional extension (minimum of 4 full paying passengers required).

OCT 28/29/30 • LOS ANGELES/NAIROBI
Fly from Los Angeles to Rome. Leisure time and overnight at BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL. Continue on to Nairobi on Day 3, where you'll be met and transferred to the SAFARI PARK HOTEL. (Meals Aloft)

OCT 31 • LAKE MANYARA
Cross the border into Tanzania and drive to Lake Manyara National Park. Get a close-up look at abundant flocks of water birds, elephant herds and tree-climbing lions. Overnight at LAKE MANYARA HOTEL. (B,L,D)

NOV 1/2 • SERENGETI
Travel to Serengeti National Park, where millions of migrating animals make their home on these vast plains. Two nights at SERONERA WILDLIFE LODGE. (B,L,D)

NOV 3/4 • NGORONGORO CRATER
Drive to Olduvai Gorge, site of the famous Leakey family archaeological digs, then to awesome Ngorongoro Crater—Africa's "Garden of Eden," second largest volcanic crater in the world. Descend 2,000 feet into the 100 square mile crater, where you discover unspoiled plains – swarming with gazelle, rhino, lion, leopard and hippo. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the floor of the crater. Two nights at the deluxe NGORONGORO SOPA LODGE. (B,L,D)

NOV 5 • MOUNTAIN VILLAGE
Drive to Lake Duluti, in sight of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Overnight at MOUNTAIN VILLAGE. (B,L,D)

NOV 6 • NAIROBI
Cross back into Kenya and drive to the NAIROBI SAFARI PARK HOTEL, joining the main Kenya safari group. (B)

TOUR PRICE: \$3,695.00 per person, double occupancy, from Los Angeles.

Tanzania Extension: \$1,895.00 additional per person, dbl. occ. Single supplements: \$595.00 Kenya, \$395.00 Tanzania.

Optional Post-Tour Western Kenya Birding Extension

For the avid birder, we offer a great optional extension to an already superb birding and wildlife safari!

**\$1,195.00 per person, double occupancy.
Single supplement \$195.00.**

(Price based on a minimum of 4 full paying passengers.)

NOV 16/17 • MASAI MARA/KAKAMEGA FOREST

Leave the main group at the Masai Mara and drive west to Kisumu on Lake Victoria and spend the greater part of the day visiting excellent birding areas at Kendu Bay and the Kisumu Heronry and Fisheries. Picnic lunch en route.

Continue north to the Kakamega Forest Reserve, a superb area of virgin tropical rainforest. The Forest is one of the best bird sanctuaries in Africa, with more than 300 species, many found nowhere else in Kenya. Overnights at the GOLF HOTEL. (B,L,D Daily)

NOV 18/19 • LAKE BARINGO

Drive east to Lake Baringo where two major ornithological attractions are found: Gibralter Island, with the largest

nesting colony of Goliath herons in all of East Africa, and the home of Verreaux's eagle, the rare bristle-crowned starling, and Hemprich's hornbill. A highlight will be an early morning bird walk with a resident ornithologist. Then enjoy a boat ride on Lake Baringo to observe hippo, crocodile, and an astonishing variety of birdlife. Overnights at LAKE BARINGO LODGE. (B,L,D Daily)

NOV 20 • LAKE BARINGO/NAIROBI

Return to Nairobi this morning, where day rooms are reserved for you at the NAIROBI SAFARI PARK HOTEL. The remainder of the day is free, before your farewell dinner at the Tamarind Restaurant this evening. Transfer to the airport for your Alitalia flights to the U.S. (B,D)

NOV 21 • ROME/LOS ANGELES

This morning your jet lands in Rome. Connect with your flight to Los Angeles, bringing with you the memories of all the wonderful sights of East Africa. (Meals Aloft)

OPTIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON SAFARI

Your time in the Mara affords a rare opportunity to experience the romance and sheer pleasure of ballooning, while getting a bird's-eye view of the various plains animals and their movements. Afterward, land in the midst of the African bush for a champagne breakfast especially prepared for you. Watch giraffe, zebra, wildebeest and other local wildlife go about their daily routines as you savor your meal. **\$360.00 per person.**

OPTIONAL LAKE VICTORIA EXCURSION

During your visit in the Masai Mara Game Reserve you have the option of visiting Lake Victoria, second largest freshwater lake in the world and source of the Nile River. You'll see picturesque fishing dhows and unspoiled traditional fishing villages, as well as over 100 species of birds and elusive spotted-necked otters playing along the water's edge. Equipment is available for those who wish to try fishing for giant Nile perch. **\$350.00 per person.**

CONDITIONS: All rates quoted are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of December 8, 1995, and are subject to change. Rates are based on a minimum of 15 passengers traveling together on the basic Kenya safari. The right is reserved to levy a surcharge if minimum number of passengers is not met.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS: If it becomes necessary for you to cancel your tour, the following per person cancellation fees apply: up to 60 days prior to departure, \$150 handling fee; 59-45 days prior to departure, \$400, plus \$100 for either extension; 44-25 days prior to departure, \$800, plus \$400 for either extension; and less than 25 days prior to departure, refund is dependent on amount recoverable from overseas suppliers.

**14-Day Birding, Wildlife, and Photo Safari with the Los Angeles Audubon Society
November 4-17, 1996 — \$3,695.00 per person**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **PARK EAST TOURS** and MAIL TO:

**Olga Clarke
2027 El Arbolita Drive
Glendale, CA 91208-1805**

For more information call: Olga Clarke at (818) 249-5537 or Park East Tours at (800) 223-6078, ext. 315.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of U.S. \$_____ (\$400.00 per person for main tour); U.S. \$_____ (\$100.00 per person for Tanzania portion).

Check Applicable Options:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single room, if possible | <input type="checkbox"/> Smoker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Request roommate, if available | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Smoker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Victoria Excursion | <input type="checkbox"/> Balloon Safari |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Kenya Birding Extension | |

☐ I certify that I have not recently been treated for, nor am I aware of, any physical or other condition or liability that would create a hazard to myself or the other members of this tour.

NAME (AS APPEARS ON PASSPORT)

NAME (AS APPEARS ON PASSPORT)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

OFFICE TELEPHONE

HOME TELEPHONE

X

SIGNATURE

DATE

