

# WESTERN TANAGER



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Los Angeles Audubon Society

**O**n the 8th of July last year, I added a new bird to my list. I was hiking in mixed forest on the Burkhardt Saddle Trail in the San Gabriel Mountains, which heads north from Buckhorn Campground. After six miles, my feet were throbbing, and it was still over a mile uphill to my car. I stopped for water and heard an unfamiliar call emitting from a small bird that flew over and landed 20 feet above me. "That was one pudgy Purple Finch," I remember thinking. Purple Finch popped to mind because my brain could not come up with anything better. For the next few milliseconds I thought "nuthatch" because of the short tail, but I had seen many Pygmy and White-breasted nuthatches that day, and this bird did not fit. The bird's round wings and short tail in silhouette struck me as totally unfamiliar. I looked up with my binoculars and saw the bird, backlit, its fat little head looking down at me with both eyes. This should have given me a hint, but still I drew a total blank. Seeing such an unfamiliar bird, I became excited and missed obvious identification clues like "bird uses binocular vision" or "head nearly as wide as body."

I finally maneuvered to get a better angle and lighting for my first Northern Pygmy-Owl! I looked at the bird for over a minute—listening while it called—and made brief descriptive notes on its plumage. The round, compact appearance of the owl amazed me. After studying the bird and putting the

## The OTHER LIST

by Mark Wimer

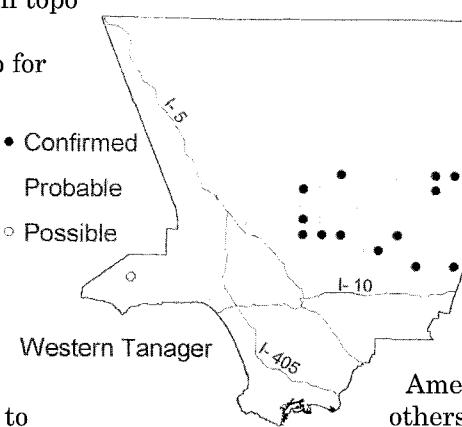
pieces together, I realized that the owl was recently fledged, which is why its tail was so short.

Next, I did what any birder would do: I added the Northern Pygmy-Owl to my list. Not my life list, although it was a new bird for me. I do not keep a life list. I could have added it to my list of birds I have seen that Janet, my wife, has not. But I have been "discouraged" from keeping such a list. So I added the bird to the list I had in my pocket: my Breeding Bird Atlas field card for the Atlas block in which I was hiking. That block was WAT2, the upper right corner of the Mount Waterman topo sheet.

If you sign up for an Atlas block in one of the 12 Atlas regions in Los Angeles County, you do not necessarily have to hike for miles in the mountains, nor do you have to

spend every free birding moment on the Atlas. Covering a block for the Atlas *does* take a commitment of five or six mornings during the spring, when you survey your block for breeding evidence such as birds singing, building nests, or carrying food. This small commitment of time, believe me, is very rewarding when you see your efforts on a species map. The maps accompanying this article show the efforts of over 200 volunteers who are either covering blocks or sending in casual observations. If you sent in a sighting of a Western Tanager, for example, the sighting is on the species map for that bird.

The data you help gather, and the resulting maps, will be well used. I have already received a dozen requests for data from biologists. Several requests involved research for Birds of North America species accounts; others were from graduate



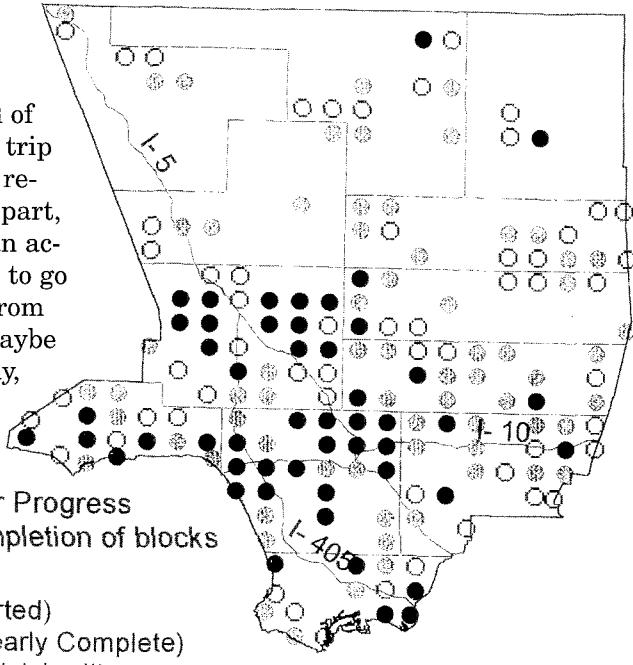
students looking for information on their study species; yet another request may have helped Audubon members save open space from development in Long Beach.

Published state and county atlases across the United States have provided mountains of useful information, giving wildlife agencies, citizen activists, land planners and landowners key information on status and distribution of birds in their areas. You can help gather this important information, even if you are not covering a block, just by reporting any breeding behavior that you encounter while birding!

The thought of covering a block may seem a little overwhelming at first: finding nests, recognizing songs, finding all the birds on your target list. It may help you to know that atlasing is virtually the same as birding; all you need are binoculars and patience. There are other important Atlas tools, which we will provide. You will get a handbook that contains details on every breeding species you will find. Thanks to the atlasers who have already completed blocks, we have a good idea of what to expect in the remaining blocks. This means you will also get a target list of "expected" species.

Once you have these, it is time to head out to your block and see where the birds and habitats are. The arrival date of this newsletter is a good time to start atlasing in all blocks except those at high elevations. Now is a good time to look

for hawks, hummingbirds and any resident birds that are starting nesting before the arrival of most migrants. Your first trip to your block should be a reconnaissance mission, in part, to see which areas you can access easily. You only need to go out about once a month from March to June or July, maybe with two mornings in May, to put in your 20 hours



or so. If you persuade a friend to come along each time, you will have an extra pair of eyes and more fun!

Atlas volunteers covering blocks in our first two of five years have birded over 2,800 hours and have started over a third of the blocks (see the coverage map above showing our progress). This huge effort has produced about 8,500 breeding bird sightings so far and, except a duplicate starling sighting here and there, most of these sightings will be points on species maps in the published Atlas!

Birding, seeing nests and contributing to bird conservation are all part of atlasing. I have found, and many others have told me, that you get better at atlasing and see

more with practice. Doesn't this sound too exciting to pass up? I think so! Some folks do not realize that anyone who can identify local birds and is patient can be an atlaser. Call me at Atlas Central and I will answer any questions, sign you up to get our newsletter, *nest notes*, and send you more information on how to help. The Atlas is off to a successful start, but we need your continuing efforts to make the Atlas as valuable a conservation tool as we can.



#### Atlas Central

213/745-BIRD (2473) or  
wimer@bcf.usc.edu or

<http://www.lam.mus.ca.us/~lacobba>

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Budgetary considerations have led the LAAS Executive Board to decide that the *Western Tanager* will be published only twice more this fiscal year (ending June 30, 1997). This March/April issue will be followed by a May/June issue.

If this bimonthly publishing schedule is continued, subscription rates will be adjusted accordingly.

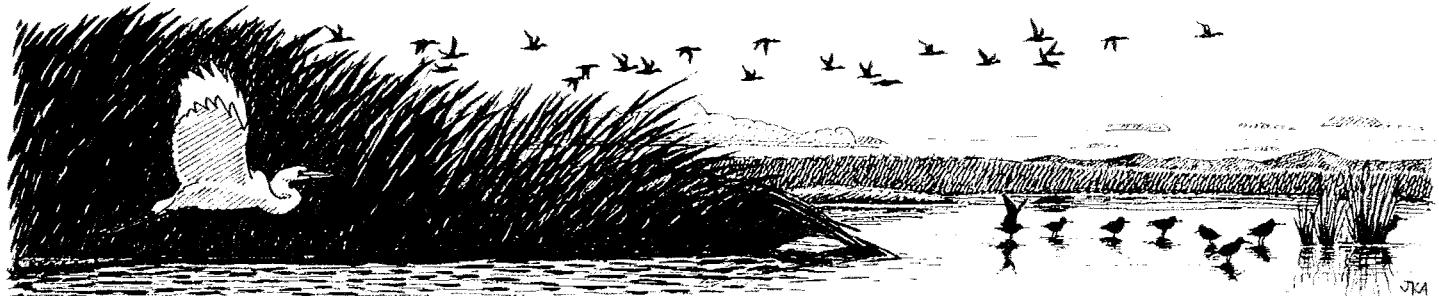
— Travis Longcore, Acting Editor

## Project FeederWatch

**T**his exciting project, established by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, invites backyard birders to become "citizen scientists" by counting the birds that come to their yards.

Call 1-888-AUDUBON for a complimentary kit explaining Project FeederWatch. You will be asked to count birds once every two weeks from November to March and make a report.

Remember... if you have any backyard breeding birds, call Atlas Central for a Casual Observation Form.



# CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

## NEWHALL RANCH

**T**he Newhall Ranch project moves along inexorably. This 12,000-acre, 70,000-person development along the wild Santa Clara River near Magic Mountain would be the largest housing community in the history of Los Angeles County. Homes and commercial structures are planned for the flood plain where winter floods are not uncommon. Rich riparian habitat would be sacrificed and the wildlife put at risk. Scarce farmland will be eliminated. Traffic and air pollution in an area already compromised would suffer from the addition of cars from the 25,000 housing units.

Environmental groups have joined hundreds of neighbors of the Ranch to oppose it. At a recent hearing where only opponents were heard, there was standing room only in the large auditorium and many people were unable to testify. An encouraging event this January was the official opposition of the City of Santa Clarita to the enormous size of the Newhall Ranch. The City Council is asking the L.A. County Planning Commission to halt the plans for the Ranch, and spokesmen cite environmental effects on the river and the Santa Susana Mountains. They are concerned about the "unbridled urban sprawl" that will appear just across their border. As one person said, "Open space is the reason people have come to Santa Clarita. What [Newhall Land Co.] wants to do is pave over paradise and put in a parking lot." (*L.A. Times*, Jan. 10)

Ideally, the Newhall Ranch should just go away, but radical surgery on the plan might be the

best that can be expected.

For updates on the Newhall Ranch Project or to learn how to get involved, call the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment at 805/295-WHOA (9462).

## BIG TUJUNGA WASH

Developers recently won a round in their efforts to build a golf course in the rare alluvial sage scrub of the Big Tujunga Wash. Construction of several holes of the golf course, a parking lot and clubhouse in the flood plain of the Big Tujunga River would jeopardize 1,500 acres of open space, home to cholla-nesting Cactus Wrens, Roadrunners, Coyotes and the state and federally endangered Slender-horned Spineflower. At a hearing in October 1996, both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state Department of Fish and Game testified against it. The two agencies warned of catastrophe in a future flood situation that in the past has destroyed bridges and paved streets in the same area. The Regional Water Quality Control Board warned of fertilizer and pesticide contamination of the Wash.

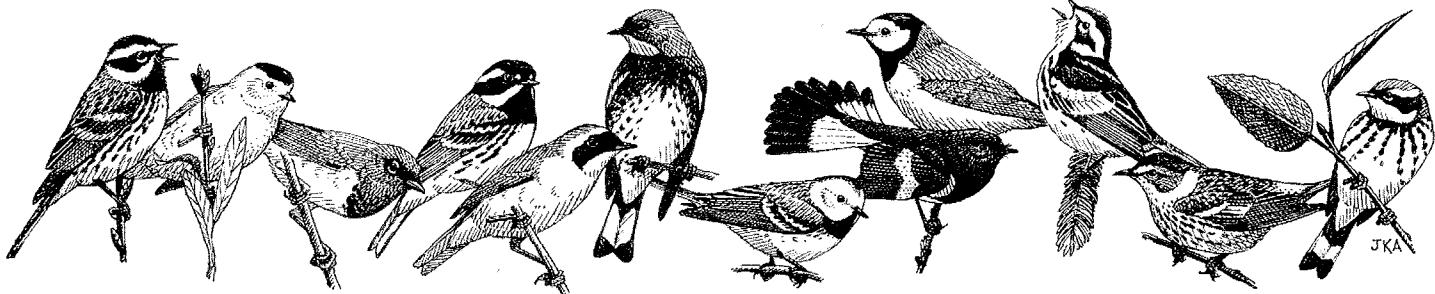
In November, the L.A. City Planning Commission approved the project unanimously. (Hardly a surprise: the commission is appointed by our mayor, a multimillionaire businessman whose concern for the environment is not his strong suit.) LAAS joined with San Fernando Valley Audubon in filing an appeal to the City Council which can approve or deny the permit for the golf course. Please call your council-member and urge him or her to deny the permit for this deplorable

project. (The front section of your phone book lists numbers for City Council offices.)

## SWAINSON'S HAWKS

Birders have been aware for some time that Swainson's Hawks have become a dwindling species in North America. Their migratory paths have been poorly understood; it wasn't until 1994 that American biologists found that large flocks of the hawks occurred 300 miles west of Buenos Aires in alfalfa fields, feeding mainly on grasshoppers. In 1995, 4,000 dead birds were counted in Argentina, and an estimated 20,000 Swainson's Hawks, 5% of the world population, died from poisoning that year. Forensic evidence confirmed that mono-crotophos, a powerful pesticide, was killing the hawks by direct contact or by the birds eating contaminated grasshoppers.

The American Bird Conservancy called for a global withdrawal of the pesticide from Argentina and sponsored a meeting of U.S. and Canadian toxicologists, environmental groups and Ciba-Geigy, an international chemical giant that supplied one-third of the monocrotophos used in the country. Ciba agreed to take the pesticide off the market in Argentina and buy back remaining stocks. Three other suppliers of monocrotophos have since followed Ciba's lead, and the Argentinian government has banned the use of the poison on alfalfa and grasshoppers. Alternative chemicals have been suggested, including one that is a distant relative of monocrotophos. It seems that wildlife is exposed to a perpetual game of Russian roulette. Let us pray.



# BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Hank Brodkin

**A**ll things have a season, even Birds of the Season, and it is with mixed emotions that we are saying good-bye to the *Western Tanager* and to Los Angeles. The column will continue under the more than capable authorship of Kimball Garrett and will certainly speak with more authority as Kimball is, as most of you know, a professional ornithologist. So many thanks to all of you who have worked so hard to make the *Tanager* the success that it is and to all of the southern California birding community who have shared the excitement of their discoveries, thus enabling this column to thrive month after month. And, of course, I must mention the unflagging support and patience of my wife, Priscilla, who has the amazing ability to decode my handwritten notes when even I cannot understand them!



March is upon us and spring migration will begin in earnest. Please send along any reports that you consider early to Kimball (address at end) for inclusion both here and possibly in the *Audubon Field Notes*, of which Kimball is the Los Angeles County Editor.

The past couple of months have produced some very good birds. Besides the continuing presence of winter invaders mentioned in previous columns, the last couple of years have shown that winter is an exciting time for vagrants in southern California.

A **Masked Booby**, very rare on our coast, was found at Pt. Mugu on

an LAAS field trip on 18 January and was still visible from Mugu Rock as of 20 January. Two **Eurasian Wigeon** reports came from the San Fernando Valley, one from Hansen Dam on 1 December (Gerard Phillips) and the other from Reseda Park on 5 January (Steve Sosensky). A female **Harlequin Duck** was seen in southern Ventura County on 7 January (Tim Kastelle), and an **Oldsquaw** was at Doheny State Beach on 19 December (Joel Weintraub). A male and female **Black Scoter** pair was spotted off Dockweiler Beach on 9 January (Dick Barth), and a **Common Goldeneye** was in the Zuma Creek mouth on 1 December (Kimball Garrett).

A **Zone-tailed Hawk** was found in Tustin, Orange County, on 22 December (Larry Schmahl), and an oystercatcher that appeared to be an **American** was reported from Royal Palms Beach, on Palos Verdes Peninsula, on 18 January (Bob Beckler). Some black mottling on the flanks and undertail coverts suggests that this bird might be an intergrade with the Black Oystercatcher.

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull**—probably the same one as last year—showed up at Doheny Beach State Park on 8 December (JW), and a **Yellow-footed Gull** (just as rare along our immediate coast as the previous species) also turned up at Doheny on 11 January (Matt Heindel, Mike Patten). Even rarer was a probable **Slaty-backed Gull** (MH, MP & Scott Terrill) found at Doheny on 19 January; there is still no accepted California record for this little-known species.

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was in Quartz Hill in the Antelope Valley on 23 November (KG), and a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was discovered in El Dorado Park, Long Beach, on 17 January (Karen Johnson).

A very rare **Wood Thrush**—especially rare in winter—was found on a Christmas Count in Mountain Home in the San Bernardino Mountains on 21 December (Gene Cardiff). An impressive 57 **Varied Thrushes** were counted in Bear Valley Springs, Kern County, on 17 December (Gayle Hightower).

A **Northern Parula** was found along the Rio Hondo on 21 December (Peter Sharpe). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was in Peck Park from 23 November at least through December (MH), and another showed up on 6 January in Camino Real Park, Ventura (Don DesJardin). A **Wilson's Warbler** was seen in an apartment complex in Marina del Rey on 15 January (Hank & Priscilla Brodkin).

A **Hepatic Tanager**, probably the same one that has turned up on three previous years, was seen in Veteran's Park in Sylmar on 8 December (Mike San Miguel), and a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was in a Rancho Palos Verdes backyard on 13 December (Ann Garrison). A **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was along Upper Newport Bay on 24 November (Jim Abernathy & SS), and a **Swamp Sparrow** was in Canyon Park, Orange County, on 1 November (JA & Dick Norton). A **Harris' Sparrow** was at Furnace Creek on 1 December (Joe Morlan).

A **Baltimore Oriole** was found in Zuma Canyon on 1 December

(KG), and what was probably the same bird was seen with two

**♂'s Orioles** on the Malibu Beach Count on 22 December. Last—but one of the best **♂ Streak-backed Oriole** seen in Bartlett's Park, Huntington Beach, Orange County, on 29 December (Jim Pike); it was seen by dozens of observers through January.

Good birding, so long for now! ☺

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

**Kimball Garrett**  
L.A. County Museum of Natural History  
900 Exposition Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
Phone 213/744-3368  
E-mail: garrett@bcf.usc.edu

Or call **Jon Fisher** at 818/544-5009.

**T**he Board and members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Hank and Priscilla for their many years of outstanding service to LAAS and the *Western Tanager*. Our loss is Arizona's gain.

## PELAGIC TRIPS

**P**elagic species often seen are Northern Fulmar, Pink-footed, Sooty, Short-tailed and Black-vented shearwaters, Red Phalarope, Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, Pomarine Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Xantus' Murrelet, Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets. Rarities include: Black legged Kittiwake, South Polar Skua, Tufted or Horned puffins. Mammals include: Gray Whale, Dall's Porpoise, Pacific Bottle-nosed, Common and Risso's dolphins. Marine mammal expert Linda Lewis will be one of our leaders when her schedule permits.

**Sunday, March 9 — Palos Verdes Escarpment to Redondo Canyon** 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.;

8-hour trip departs from San Pedro; \$28 (no galley on board).

**Sunday, April 20 — Santa Barbara Island and the Osborne Bank.** 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.; 12-hour trip departs from San Pedro; \$44 (no galley on board).

**Friday, May 2 — Continental Shelf.** 24-hour trip to the outer continental shelf in the vicinity of Arguello Canyon and the Rodriguez Seamount departs 11:00 P.M. on Friday and returns 11:00 P.M. Saturday. Birds found this far out are usually some fairly rare species. Possible Laysan Albatross and many sea mammals such as: Blue, Northern Right and Finback whales; Pacific Bottle-nosed, Common and Risso's dolphins. Rarities

include: Sperm, Baird's Beaked and Killer whales.

Approx. \$150 (check with LAAS) includes a bunk and three meals.

The *Condor*, a 90-foot Coast Guard-inspected passenger vessel with berths for 49, is very comfortable and stable.

**Saturday, May 17 — Albatross Knoll via San Nicolas Island.** 20-hour trip departs from San Pedro. Many of the same birds and mammals as local trips, with a greater chance for rarities. Possible Red-billed Tropicbirds, Long-tailed Jaegers and South Polar Skuas. \$123 includes 3 meals. ☺

*See Page 7 for Reservation Policy*

### REFUND POLICY FOR 24-HOUR CONDOR TRIPS

**I**f a participant cancels 31 days or more prior to departure, there will be a \$5 service charge for their refund. There is no participant refund if requested less than 30 days before departure, unless there is a paid replacement available. Call LAAS for a possible replacement. *Please do not offer the trip to a friend as it would be unfair to those on the waiting list.*

### LAAS 1997 PELAGIC TRIPS

PORT	HOURS	DATE	DESTINATION	COST
Ventura	10	June 14	Santa Cruz Island with landing	\$59 (no galley)
Ventura	17	Sept. 13	San Miguel Island with wet landing	\$95 (dinner)
San Pedro	8	Sept. 27	Redondo Canyon	\$28 (no galley)
Ventura	12	Oct. 19	Channel Islands	\$65 (galley)
Santa Barbara	24	Oct. 24	Continental Shelf	TBA
San Pedro	12	Nov. 16	Santa Barbara Island	\$44 (no galley)

# New at the Bookstore

<i>Wild Ireland Sierra Club Natural Traveler</i> ; Lehane, 1996 .....	16.00	<i>Travel and Site Guide to Birds of Costa Rica with Side Trips to Panama and Nicaragua</i> ; Sekerak, 1996 .....	16.95
Audubon Gift Labels — eight attractive Audubon birds have never looked better, from Atlantic Puffin to Lark Sparrow .....	1.00	<i>Guide to the Birds of the Galapagos Islands</i> ; comprehensive text with 28 color plates illustrating the species and four-color plates showing key habitats; Castro, 1996 .....	28.95
Audubon Bookmarks — 12 of John James Audubon's best-known illustrations printed in full color on one side of each sturdy bookmark .....	1.00	<i>Birder's Dictionary</i> ; pocket reference to all key terms of avian anatomy, behavior and taxonomy; Cox, 1996 .....	8.95
Butterflies Notecards — 20-3x5 Notecards 20 Envelopes (5 each of 4 subjects); illustrations by Georges-Louis Buffon .....	12.95	<i>Natural History of the Waterfowl</i> ; a beautifully illustrated reference to 163 species of ducks, geese, screamers and swans; detailed accounts and over 750 illustrations; Todd, 1996 .....	80.00
<i>Birds of Orange County, Status and Distribution</i> ; Hamilton, 1996 .....	16.00	<i>Where To Watch Birds in Asia</i> ; 250 sites in detail, more than 100 maps from the Middle East and Turkey to Thailand and India to Indonesia; Wheatley, 1996 ....	37.00
<i>Seabirds of the World: A Photographic Guide</i> ; back in print; Harrison, 1996 .....	28.95	<i>National Audubon Society's Butterfly Gardening</i> ; attract butterflies to your garden; Mastervision, 1996 (video) ....	24.95
<i>Songs of Western Birds</i> ; 60 common species; Borror (cassette) .....	8.95	<i>Africa on a Shoestring</i> ; 7th ed., Lonely Planet; Crowther, 1995 .....	27.95
<i>Songs of Eastern Birds</i> ; 60 common species; Borror (cassette) .....	8.95	<i>Indonesia Travel Survival Kit</i> ; 4th ed., Lonely Planet; Turner, 1996 .....	23.95
<i>America's 100 Most Wanted Birds</i> ; find the rarest regularly occurring birds in the lower 48 states; Mlodinow, 1996 .....	24.95		

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## WESTERN TANAGER

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## FIELD TRIPS

Continued from page 8

species. Wintering Lewis' Wood-pecker and Merlin possible. Take 10 Fwy or 60 Fwy E to 15 Fwy S past Lake Elsinore. Exit on Clinton Keith Rd. and head W four miles. Look for sign on right directing to gate on left for Santa Rosa Plateau. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the gate. Boots suggested. \$3 fee includes checklist.

**Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6 — Owens Valley Grouse Trip.** **Mary Freeman** leads. Blue Grouse, Sage Grouse, Rosy Finch, Pinyon Jay, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon likely. Limited to 20 participants. Meet in Big Pine early Saturday. Send \$10 and SASE to LAAS.

**Sunday, April 6 — Topanga State Park.** See March 2.

**Saturday, April 12 — Breeding Bird Atlas Field Techniques.** Half-day review conducted by

**I**nsufficient response to reservations cancels trips two Wednesdays prior to the scheduled date (four weeks for pelagics); you will be 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 provide information about field trips. Office staff is also available Tuesday through Saturday for most reservation services.

### Reservation and Fee Events (Limited Participation) Policies and Procedures

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.

**Larry Allen**, author of the L.A. atlasing handbook. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the mouth of Zuma Creek to gain or improve atlasing skills. From PCH, take Westward Beach Rd. toward the ocean (1/4 mile) and meet by the restrooms.

**Sunday, April 13 — Whittier Narrows.** See March 9.

**Saturday, April 19 — Morongo and Apple Valley Birds and Herps.** L.A. Zoo herpetologist and LAAS member **Harvey Fischer** leads, birding the renowned desert oasis in Morongo. Later, we will proceed to Apple Valley and look for lizards. Meet at 8:00 A.M. in the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve parking lot. Take the 10 Fwy past Beaumont, turn N on State Rt 62 to Morongo Valley, and right on East Dr. across from Rocky's Pizza. Turn left into first driveway. Anticipate heat, hunger, thirst and rock-hopping. Sign-up by phone with LAAS.

**Friday through Sunday, April 25 to 27 — Kern River Bioregions Festival.** See Audubon California's newest preserve. Over 25 small field trips in this uniquely diverse region to study birds, mammals, salamanders, butterflies, bats, wildflowers and others. Last year, 185 bird species were seen on field trips. No fees for registration, demonstrations or walks. \$10 fee for most reservation field trips goes toward expenses, residual to Kern River Reserve Center. Write:

Bioregions Festival  
P.O. Box 854  
Weldon, CA 93283  
or e-mail [krrc@kernvalley.com](mailto:krrc@kernvalley.com)

**Saturday, April 26 — Santa Anita Canyon.** Leader **Mary Freeman**. Take the 210 Fwy toward Arcadia and exit at Santa Anita Ave. N to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at 7:30 A.M. at the trailhead at the bottom of the lot. Four-mile, moderately strenuous walk in oak and chaparral canyons. Good selection of breeding and migrating birds including warblers, Olive-sided

Flycatcher, Band-tailed Pigeon, hummers and dipper possible. Pack a lunch.

**Saturday, May 3 — Santa Clara River Estuary.** **Steven Tucker** will lead us to one of our best mudflat sites in search of breeding-plumage phalaropes, peeps and other shorebirds. Bring snack and mud-proof footwear for a half-day of birding. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the N end of the bridge. Take the 101 Fwy N to Victoria Ave., right on Olivas Park Dr., left on Harbor Blvd. Park on the shoulder before the bridge.

**Sunday, May 4 — Topanga State Park.** See March 2.

**Saturday, May 17 — Galileo Hills.** Leader **Nick Freeman**. We will focus on tyrant flycatchers. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the back of the main parking lot. See May/June *Tanager* for directions. Limited to 15. Call LAAS. Bring lunch, sun block.

**Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15 — Yosemite (tentative).**

Leader **Louis Tucker**. Meet at the south entrance. Trip ends Sunday in Owens Valley. Limited to 14 participants. Reserve with SASE and \$20 to LAAS to receive info/motel flyer. Plan to room in Oakhurst on Friday night. This is the optimal date to see certain target species, but the date and camping arrangements WILL NOT BE DEFINITE UNTIL JUNE 1, as news of winter storm damage and spring storm status becomes known. Camping may be first-come, first-served at this early date. Your name and phone number will be available to carpoolers, unless you request otherwise. See May/June *Tanager* for details.

**Friday through Monday, June 27 to 30 — Southern Sierra Nevada Weekend with Bob Barnes.** Likely: Goshawk, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Pileated Woodpecker and owls. Last year, 148 species were seen. Participation limited. For info flyer, reserve with SASE. Fee: \$11 for each day attended (\$44 for 4 days). Reserve rooms early.

# EVENING

NEW TIME!

Meet at 7:30 P.M.  
in Plummer Park.

# MEETINGS

## TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Mark Wimer, Project Coordinator, will present ***The Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas***, which has begun its third year of field work. Mark will present preliminary results and share some of the exciting discoveries that Atlas volunteers are making.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Kimball Garrett, Ornithology Collections Manager, Museum of Natural History, will present **The Exotic Side of Southern California Birding**. A number of nonnative bird species have established populations in our area. Kimball, who has tracked populations of parrots, bishops, doves and other exotics in southern California, will discuss the species, their status, field identification and distribution. Results of the "Parrot Project," a data-gathering effort to which many LAAS members contributed, will be presented.

# F I E L D T R I P S

**B**efore 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.

**Sunday, March 2 — Topanga State Park.** Leader **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 Ventura Blvd., 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 Trippet Ranch parking lot. \$5 parking fee.

**Saturday, March 8 — Lakeview Area.** Leader **Howard King** will show us around this excellent winter birding area in search of buteos, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, early migrants and waterfowl. Itinerary depends on recent rains and reports. Take the 10 Fwy or 60 Fwy to the 215 Fwy S, exit E onto Ramona Expressway. Continue to the Lakeview Market at the corner of Davis Rd. Meet at 8:00 A.M. Bring lunch, warm clothing and footwear for possible mud. Possible entrance fee of \$2.

**Sunday, March 9 — Whittier Narrows Regional Park.** Join ranger **Ray Jillson** to view colorful resident and wintering birds including Northern Cardinal. 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.

**Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16 — Anza Borrego with Fred Heath.** A productive time to view desert flowers, butterflies and birds. See January listing for lodging info (anticipate a busy weekend and reserve early). Limited to 20 participants. Send SASE with \$5 fee to LAAS for 8:00 A.M. meeting place.

**Sunday, March 16 — Ballona Wetlands.** Bob Shanman will be leading this trip to our nearest wetlands. Wintering shorebirds, sea ducks and gulls. Take the Marina Fwy (90 W) to Culver Blvd. and turn left to Pacific Ave. Turn right to the Del Rey Lagoon parking lot. Meet at 8:00 A.M. Lot or street parking is usually available. Three-hour walk. Scopes helpful.

**Saturday, March 29 — Santa Rosa Plateau.** Bill Moramarco is our bird-savvy docent. Known for Grasshopper Sparrow and other grassland and oak woodland

Los Angeles Audubon Society  
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