

# WESTERN TANAGER



Volume 65 Number 6 July/August 1999

Los Angeles Audubon Society

**A**s you may recall from the May/June 1998 issue of *The Los Angeles Audubon Society's Western Tanager*, the City of Los Angeles and community members from the area are working closely with Audubon-California to develop the urban Audubon Nature Center in Debs Park. What you may not know is that the Audubon movement in California was born in these communities along the Arroyo Seco, specifically the historic community of Garvanza.

The Garvanza community history is intertwined with the history of Audubon but how quickly memory fades. History and heritage—it is simply about the *people* and what they contributed and about the *place* and why it inspired them.

Today, Audubon and The Garvanza Community are just beginning a journey of re-discovery. First, let's go back to the Los Angeles of yesterday, the Arroyo Seco as it used to be, to provide a context of the place and the area where the Audubon Nature Center will soon reside.

The same tenants that you might use to describe Audubon—nature, art and connection to experience—also describe the area known as The Highlands, the Five Friendly Valleys or the Arroyo Seco. The “developed” communities (which today are incorporated into the City of Los Angeles) that settled in this natural landscape at the turn of the last century were: Garvanza, Highland Park, Hermon, York Valley, and Mt. Washington. In our segment of the Arroyo, Garvanza was the first town and developed quickly because of the access to transportation—Garvanza was the first stop from Los Angeles on the train and had stops along the Pacific Electric Railway

line. Garvanza also had a post office.

But it was the natural beauty of the Arroyo Seco that was the real draw. Tourists were attracted at once by the gentle, rolling valleys north of the Los Angeles River. There were massive liveoaks, sycamores and the babbling streams of the arroyo that threaded their course through the valley. It became the mecca for the new settlers, a place that

captured their dreams of the West. Many historical accounts are of people who were naturalists, artists and craftsmen.

The area was shaped by these creative people. Harriet Williams Myers and husband Will migrated West in the 1890s due to Will's health and settled in Garvanza. Harriet's brother, Henry, lived in the east but retired and settled in Garvanza in 1936. He was described from a

## Audubon and Garvanza – Together Again!

By Nicole Possert



very early age as a naturalist, with published books, etchings and painted studies of birds. Primarily a physician, he had more energy than that and was also a noted ornithologist. While in Connecticut, he published a book "Nest Building-New Style" with paintings and etchings which were exhibited at the Museum of Natural History in New York and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Harriet affectionately called him her "walking Encyclopedia".

Harriet seems the more interesting of local characters in regards to the heritage of Garvanza and Audubon. From

ing from the city and wanted something nearer home). So I organized the Los Angeles Audubon Society with Mrs. Willis Dixon as President.

"On May 31, 1906, the California Audubon Society was formed. Mr. W. Scott Way asked me to be his Assistant Secretary. I later became Secretary in 1910 for 11 years, Vice President for four years and President for eighteen years. I gave up active work in 1942, after thirty-eight years. I cannot take time to tell of all this splendid Audubon work, but the annual reports are published and telling of our accomplishments."

realize that today's efforts are just a continuum of Audubon's early presence in the Arroyo Seco. The Highland Park Heritage Trust has embraced Audubon's renewed presence with enthusiasm and is participating in this new journey to reconnect our community with nature, art and the common heritage that we all share living in the Arroyo Seco.

These pristine lands originally lured everyone, native Indians, Spanish settlers and American immigrants at the turn of the century to create today's blend of everyone. At the dawn of the twenty-first century we have a vibrant mix of residents, life-longers to recent immigrants, who all speak the same language of community heritage and conservation through the Audubon Nature Center project. It is the right time and certainly the right place!

As we uncover more information to help us understand this area's overall contribution to Los Angeles and California, we've just begun to discover Audubon's role. I invite any of you interested in helping piece together our common history to call me—we need Audubon "historians" to provide information that will enhance these links and bring Audubon and Garvanza together again! 🐦



From an old postcard – The sign at the far right proclaims that this park is an LAAS bird sanctuary.

her published autobiographical book, *We Three*, the following excerpt best describes what blossomed from Garvanza:

"One day in spring 1904, we saw in the paper that an Audubon Society was to be formed in Pasadena. I took our Pacific Electric and went over. They were all strangers to me, but we soon felt that we knew each other. I joined that Society, was put on a committee, came home and in one month had organized the Garvanza Audubon Society, of which I became President.

"For several years we held most meetings on Saturdays, so teachers could attend and we had many people who came from Los Angeles, because we were the only Audubon Society in the State, save for the Pasadena one. It was the first permanent one. We had our Garvanza Society for two years, when I thought we should have Los Angeles Society and give up the one held in Garvanza (for many were com-

Our wonderful Harriet lived on Avenue 66 in Garvanza. Her brother, when he retired, lived across the street. They were a prominent family in the local community. In her book, she recounts many stories of birding around her home, describing the hills of the Arroyo and the richness of bird life in this area.

The communities of the Arroyo hold other Audubon history. Through additional research, we discovered that Los Angeles Audubon had named a Sanctuary at Sycamore Grove Park in Highland Park. Coincidentally (or as fate would have it), Sycamore Grove Park is located directly across the freeway from today's Debs Park where the Nature Center will be located. In addition, the Southwest Birders also started out from the Southwest Museum at the base of Mt. Washington. So it comes full circle; we now

*This article is based on a presentation made by Nicole Possert on May 1, 1999. She is President of the Highland Park Heritage Trust, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to preservation of Los Angeles' Arroyo Seco communities. She can be reached at (323) 255-5792. We Three and historical documentation provided from the collection of Virginia Neely.*

*We Three* is available at the Los Angeles Public Library, Arroyo Seco Branch.

# NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE

**COLLINS POCKET GUIDE –  
ALPINE PLANTS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE**  
(2nd Edition) 1995, Grey/Wilson

**24.95**

**BIRDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS**

Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Rodrigues,  
Seychelles and the Comoros.  
All 338 species on 65 color plates, 340 range maps.  
1999, Sinclair

**29.95**

**GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF INDIA, PAKISTAN,  
NEPAL, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, SRI LANKA  
and THE MALDIVES**

153 color plates, 1,300 species, range maps,  
extensive text.  
1999, Grimmit/Inskipp

**85.00**

**NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS, THE ICTERIDS**

Plates, range maps, extensive text.  
1999, Jaramillo

**49.50**

**CHECKLIST BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA.**

1998, Hicks

**6.95**

**CD ROM: BIRD SOUNDS OF BOLIVIA**

1067 recordings of 538 species, bilingual.  
1996, Bird Songs International

**109.00**

**STARLINGS AND MYNAS**

32 color plates, 114 species, range maps, extensive text.  
1999, Feare

**39.50**

**ECOTRAVELLERS' WILDLIFE GUIDE  
TROPICAL MEXICO**

103 species on 39 color plates of flora and  
fauna, habitat and conservation information.  
1999, Beletsky

**27.95**

**HANDBOOK BIRDS OF THE WORLD, Volume 5**

Due out Fall, 1999. Cover price 185.00.

Taking back orders **until July 1st** for

PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE

**145.00**

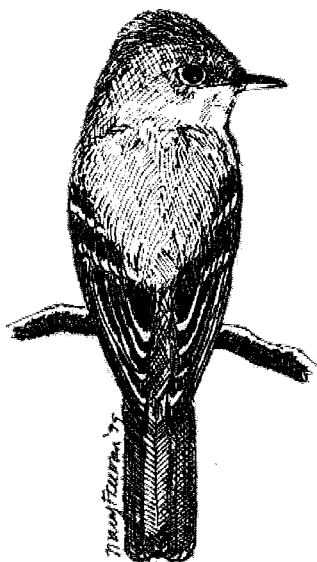
**SINGING BIRD WATCH**

A different song at the press of a button. Cornell sounds,  
informative color gift box, unisex, brown or black band.  
Feldstein & Associates

**19.95**

## JON AND KIMBALL SET TO DO BATTLE . . .

### . . . WITH THE FLYCATCHERS



As tough as gulls, hawks, sparrows,  
and shorebirds can be, the group that pre-  
sents arguably the toughest ID quandaries is  
the flycatchers. Some are renowned for

humbling well-seasoned and jaded birders  
who are not used to having to consider mul-  
tiple characteristics on even the most coop-  
erative bird.

With an increasing understanding of  
how to identify (and not identify) some of  
our common California breeding and  
migrating flycatchers, and new information  
on where neotropical and east-coast odd  
balls can show up, maybe it's time to con-  
sider arming yourself with the knowledge  
to find a second Couch's Kingbird for the  
state. Maybe it's time for someone to scare  
up a first California record for Nutting's  
Flycatcher, which may prove to be rare but  
regular in southeast Arizona—just painfully  
tough to identify. Maybe you'd like to know  
what the latest dirt is on that problematic  
Pacific-slope / Cordilleran flycatcher split.

If the challenge and thrill of grasping  
the slippery, salient features of the flycatch-  
ers appeals to you, then the upcoming Fly-  
catcher Workshop is for you.

Jon Dunn is a very active international  
fieldtrip leader possessing extensive field  
experience with flycatchers and other flitty  
things. He has recently finished editing the  
3rd edition of the *National Geographic  
Society Field Guide to the Birds of North*

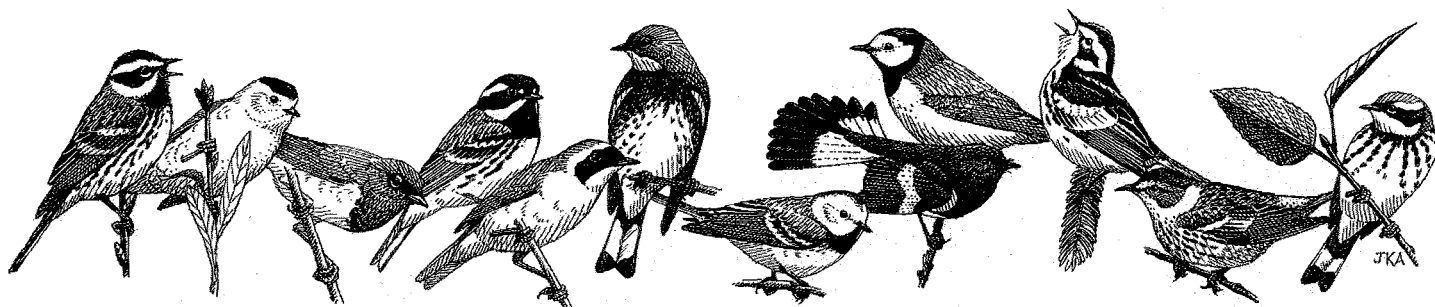
*America*. He is an American Birding Asso-  
ciation board member, an editorial consul-  
tant for *Birding* and A.B.A. checklist com-  
mittee chair.

Kimball Garrett is an expert regarding  
the status, distribution and identification of  
local species. He is Ornithology Collections  
Manager of the L.A. County Museum of  
Natural History, and is very active in the  
L.A. County Breeding Bird Atlas. Kimball  
is a long-standing supporter and advisor to  
LAAS, is currently president of Western  
Field Ornithologists, (which publishes *West-  
ern Birds*), and has been a long-time mem-  
ber of the California Bird Records Commit-  
tee.

Jon and Kimball have co-authored two  
books: *Status and Distribution of the Birds  
of Southern California* is a classic (now out  
of print), and *Warblers of North America*  
which is available at the LAAS Bookstore.

Jon and Kimball possess an easy-  
going delivery that makes the toughest  
material easy to assimilate.

If you are an intermediate birder ready  
to tackle the Tyrannidae, or a well-worn  
chaser in need of a refresher course, see the  
calendar section of this *Western Tanager*.



# BIRDS OF THE SEASON

Kimball L. Garrett

Spring of 1999 really seemed to be two springs. Through most of April, observers were lamenting the poor (and late) showing of migrants, and wondering if the weather—a series of late storms which seemed to be nature’s feeble attempt to make up for an extremely dry winter—might not have played a role in the “non-migration”. Even late April “Big Day” time seemed wanting in species totals and individual numbers of migrants. Then, around the first of May, the floodgates seemed to open. Jaded observers, convinced we had been seeing the realization of “The Silent Spring”, suddenly switched to superlatives to describe the incredible collection of warblers, tanagers, and other migrants that poured through the region in the first three weeks of May. From the desert to the coast songbird migrants occurred in wave after wave, and flocks containing tens of Hermit and Nashville warblers (for example) and hundreds of Wilson’s Warblers and Western Tanagers were not uncommon. Although migrants seemed to be everywhere, geographical equivalents of the harmonic convergence, such as Butterbredt Spring in Kern County, produced huge numbers of birds. Even in mid-May—usually past the peak movements of our most common “mid-spring” species, Matt Heindel estimated 6,000 birds moving through Butterbredt in one morning! And as of this writing, on 25 May, good numbers of our late spring migrants, such as Swainson’s Thrush, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, and Yellow Warbler, were continuing to move through. The extended spring movement of Warbling Vireos and Wilson’s Warblers certainly points to their

broad geographic breeding range—each of these species can be encountered during the first week of March (exceptionally even in the end of February in the case of the vireo) but both are still moving through in numbers in late May.

I pity the “birders” who don’t mobilize their spring migration efforts until late May, when “vagrant season” is traditionally thought to begin (continuing into early June). Wandering around a hot, dreary desert “oasis” when all but a few western migrants have passed through in hopes of chalking up yet another Red-

eyed Vireo or Northern Parula or even Golden-winged Warbler is not, in itself, a bad thing. But to do this to the exclusion of experiencing the phenomenal movement of Lincoln’s Sparrows in the deserts and foothills in early to mid-April, or witnessing dozens of Black-chinned Hummingbirds streaming north/west over the desert creosote in late April, or watching the shift from abundant *lutescens* Orange-crowned Warblers to a greater percentage of dull, grayish *orestera* birds as April moves into mid-May, seems to me an odd set of priorities. I never fail to be captivated by periodic reports from those who chart the migration in our deserts through the course of spring migration (which is really January through mid-June). Matt Heindel’s Kern County coverage is exemplary, and his data on the phenology and magnitude of bird migration over the Kern desert is, thankfully, working its way toward book form.

Swallows and swifts are among our more conspicuous migrants because of their diurnal movements through open airspace. Like clockwork, late April and early May saw a series of “invasions” by **Vaux’s Swifts** into chimneys—a modern-day substitute for a hollow tree trunk in which to roost for the night. Such “episodes” occurred in San Pedro, San Diego, and Lake Elsinore. Homeowners with chimneys would do well to screen off the fireplaces between 20 April and 5 May to prevent chimney-roosting Vaux’s Swifts from entering the house itself! **Black Swifts** are always a treat in migration—most seem to sneak through unnoticed. The first local report this year was of a single bird over Santa Clarita on 1 May (Kimball Garrett), and a few

**R**ecords of rare and unusual bird sightings reported in this column should be considered tentative pending review by the regional editors of *American Birding Association FIELD NOTES* or, if appropriate, by the **California Birds Records Committee**.

Send your bird observations with as many details as possible to:

Kimball L. Garrett  
Ornithology Collections Manager  
Natural History Museum of  
Los Angeles County  
900 Exposition Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007 USA  
e-mail: kgarrett@nhm.org

or call:  
Raymond Schep (323) 874-1318  
e-mail: drschep@colonial-dames.com

The address for submissions to the California Bird Records Committee is:  
Michael M. Rogers, Secretary  
California Bird Records Committee  
P.O. Box 340  
Moffett Field, CA 94035-0340  
e-mail: mrogers@nas.nasa.gov

were noted along the foothills and over the Los Angeles River in the following two weeks. On 22 May, Mitch Heindel and others noted up to 200 birds over the Palos Verdes Peninsula area, one of the largest concentrations ever noted in the region; thick clouds and thunderstorms farther inland might have played a role in displacing so many birds to the coastal areas. A couple of **Chimney Swifts** were in the Palos Verdes area the same day (MiH); the coastal slope of Los Angeles County is one of the prime places in North America to see four species of swifts together!

April and May saw a great deal of effort devoted to completing the last year of field work for the Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas. **Brewer's Sparrows** are one of the more enigmatic breeding species in the county—their numbers and breeding localities seem to shift annually. This year Mike San Miguel confirmed nesting in lower Bouquet Canyon in Santa Clarita for one of the few documented nestings on the coastal slope since early this century. Since sagebrush and other low scrub habitats are diminishing in the region, we can only assume that Brewer's have been nesting in places like Santa Clarita at least intermittently over the past few decades, but it took Atlas field work to "rediscover" them. Anyone driving out I-5 or Hwy 14 through the Santa Clara River Valley this spring must have been struck by the gigantic scars from accelerated grading activity as we continue to destroy our county in order to accommodate a few million more people. Economic "good times" certainly do translate to accelerated habitat destruction in this neck of the woods.

In other Atlas news **Great-tailed Grackles** continue to add new nesting localities; for example, females were nest-building in palm trees in Echo Park near downtown Los Angeles. **Gray Flycatchers** may be more widespread as breeders in Los Angeles County than we thought; two pairs in dry juniper/joshua tree woodland in Brainard Canyon southeast of Little Rock (KG) added another locality for this species. The lower limit of the breeding range of **Red-breasted Sapsucker** is not well understood; a drumming male at the entrance to St. Andrews Abbey near Valyermo in late

April and May (KG) suggested nesting in foothill riparian habitat, and the species' presence in mid-May in the oak woodlands southeast of Quail Lake (Jean Brandt) was unexpected.

The tern colony in Los Angeles Harbor was slow in developing this year, and the same could be said for the traditional site at Bolsa Chica. At least **Caspian Terns**, however, were busy nesting in the harbor by May (Kathy Keane), and the **Black Skimmer** flock there consisted of some 150 birds (not yet breeding). Future plans for this new fill area in L.A. Harbor will eliminate the tern nesting habitat except for an area set aside for Least Terns.

Non-native species continue to be discovered breeding in the region. Larry Allen and Richard Barth independently found an active nest of **European Goldfinches** in Hahn Regional Park in the Baldwin Hills 6-19 May. **Egyptian Geese** are being seen regularly at Lake Balboa in the Sepulveda Basin and may well be breeding there (Jean Brandt). One wonders if the flock of **Helmeted Guinea fowl** frequenting the Los Angeles River bed below Los Feliz Avenue in Atwater Village will also breed! **Red-whiskered Bulbuls** continue to thrive at both the Los Angeles County Arboretum (15 birds on 14 March; Chris Floyd) and Huntington Gardens (15 on 21 May; KG), but have spread little from these areas since the "control" programs by the California Department of Agriculture some 20 years ago. Hot on the heels of the escaped **Black-billed Magpie** at Tujunga Wash in March came a record of a **Yellow-billed Magpie** at Pt. Vicente on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, also a likely an escapee. Who knows what to make of the singing male **Northern Cardinal** at Chiriaco Summit (near Joshua Tree National Park) on 21 May (Michael Patten); even at this remote desert outpost it seems possible that the bird was an escapee.

The LAAS pelagic trip to Santa Barbara Island on 8 May was highlighted by an adult **Black-footed Albatross** north of the west end of Santa Catalina Island and an **Ancient Murrelet** five miles off Pt. Fermin. Only a few **Xantus' Murrelets** were seen, unlike the 17 April trip when some 30 pairs were seen (Mitch Heindel). Once again **Laysan Albatrosses** were found ashore in the Los Angeles

Harbor area—one recovered in early April was released on the 17 April LAAS pelagic trip, and another found on 16 April with a broken leg died in rehabilitation. With a couple of reports of immature **Short-tailed Albatrosses** in Monterey Bay this spring, one wonders when this critically rare but increasing species will once again reclaim its former place as the "expected" albatross of our inshore waters (don't hold your breath!). There were few reports on shorebird migration through the region; Mike San Miguel's coverage of Piute Ponds and adjacent Rosamond Lake north of Lancaster yielded **Red Knots** on 25 April and in mid-May. A high count of 40 **Short-billed Dowitchers** was carefully obtained on 25 April (MSM, KLG).

Lingering wintering birds included a female **Evening Grosbeak** at Gayle Hightower's La Canada feeder 27 April to 1 May and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** on 24 May in La Crescenta (KG). As expected, flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** remained in the Los Angeles Basin through at least the fourth week of May.

Out of range birds included a **White-winged Dove** in the western Antelope Valley on 2 May (Larry Allen), a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at the Whittier Narrows Dam on 25-27 April (Ray Jillson), a **Palm Warbler** in Elysian Park, Los Angeles, on 2 May (RB), a **Summer Tanager** on 13 April in Will Rogers State Park (RB), and a **Baltimore Oriole** in Debs Park on 9 April (RB). A **Northern Waterthrush** banded at the mouth of Zuma Creek on 21 May (Walt Sakai) was a different individual from the one which spent the winter (and was also banded).

July and early August represent your last chance to contribute to the Breeding Bird Atlas—high altitude birds are especially easily confirmed during this period. If your plans include a trip to the mountains of Los Angeles County, check in with Mark Wimer at Atlas Central and see where the most help is needed. After your last heroic atlas efforts (AND the submission of your data!) you'll be free once again to look at migrants—shorebirds as they stream through in July and August, and landbirds which pick up speed in July and peak in August and September. Enjoy! 🐦



# CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

**V**entura County is the little David standing bravely against the Los Angeles County Goliath in its challenge to the monster Newhall Ranch project. Most of us know about this 22,000-home development planned for 70,000 people near Magic Mountain off Interstate 5. Much of it would be built in the floodplain of the Santa Clara River, the last wild river in southern California. Environmental problems are guaranteed: traffic and air pollution will inevitably increase; endangered species will be threatened; a flooding river will have to be contained like the Los Angeles River. Above all, another huge chunk of open space will disappear.

Newhall Ranch would become the ultimate national example of urban sprawl. Enter Ventura County. Ventura is deeply concerned about a bulging new city next door. This small county is anx-

ious to maintain its reputation as a place that balances agricultural strength with small-town livability. The Santa Clara River runs through the county to the ocean so the integrity of the river's water might be compromised by drainage and runoff from homes and businesses that could seriously affect Ventura's crops. Newhall Ranch has no assured source of water and there is a possibility that wells might be considered for the project that would tap underground water essential to the county. Last November, county voters approved a measure that prevents office-holders from re-zoning farmland and open space outside cities and towns for development without approval of the voters. This takes the power over growth decisions out of the hands of city and county supervisors who formerly could change city plans at will to accommodate developers. Such a law in Los Angeles

County might have made a difference in the fate of Newhall Ranch where five supervisors unanimously approved it.

In April, Ventura's supervisors unanimously approved a lawsuit against the Newhall Land and Farming Co. to halt its project. Joining the suit were the cities of Ventura, Oxnard and Santa Paula, the county Flood Control District, and the county Air Pollution Control District. According to the suit, Newhall Ranch subdivided three parcels that cross the county line which violates federal law requiring approval of both counties. The Ventura office of the Environmental Defense Center is filing a separate suit on behalf of the Friends of the Santa Clara River, the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment (SCOPE) and two Sierra Club chapters. Other environmental groups are expected to join that suit. 🐾

## MAKE PLANS NOW . . .

for either of the Los Angeles Audubon Society's outstanding birding and natural history trips to Africa, conducted by Olga Clarke and local leaders.

**SOUTH AFRICA** — (pre-extension) October 19–28, 1999 visiting Kwazulu Natal's Dolphin Coast, Hluhluwe and Ndumo Game Reserves.

**KENYA** — (main tour) October 27–November 10, 1999 savoring incredible Samburu, Lakes Bogoria and Barinjo, Kakamega Forest, and the Masai Mara.

**BOTSWANA** — (post extension) November 9–21, 1999 highlighting the natural wonders of this little known country.

**BOTSWANA** — (main tour) November 9–21, 1999 including the Okavanga Delta, Moremi Game Reserve, Kasane, and Victoria Falls, one of the worlds greatest natural wonders.

**ZIMBABWE** — (post-extension) November 21–27, 1999 with game viewing right at your doorstep, exploring Hwange National Park Makalolo Plains, Lake Kariba, and Matusadona National Park.

For more information, contact Olga Clarke, Travel Director, 2027 El Arbolita Drive, Glendale, CA 91208.

ph/fax: (818) 249-9511

e-mail: laas@ix.netcom.com <http://www.netcom/~laas>



# LAAS BIRDATHON '99

Congratulations to Gretchen Keeler and Dave Richardson. Their Birdathon team won the Grand Prize of two passes on a Los Angeles Audubon Society Pelagic Trip. The specific trip is yet to be determined. Gretchen's trip report follows:

Dave Richardson's and my 8th Annual Birdathon tied our previous records of 165 species recorded in one day. Somehow we don't seem to surpass that number! We did however see three species we had never had on previous birdathons.

Karin Delaney joined us this year and was a great sport as well as relief driver, and didn't even complain about the 3 A.M. wakeup!

Our first bird was a Great Horned Owl hooting in the distance. And our last at 9 P.M. was a Barn Owl screeching nearby. The stars at Bob's Gap were brilliant. Sunrise in the mountains above Wrightwood brought a glorious sound with it—birds twittering everywhere. In the morning we stopped at St. Andrews Priory in order that Karin could count the day as a religious retreat. Noon in the desert at Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base was a pleasant, 75 degrees with a slight breeze. The sunset at Malibu Lagoon had the ocean reflecting the pink colored clouds.


Dave's best bird was the Clark's Nutcracker spotted off in the distance. Mine was the Western Kingbird which appeared in my lenses as I was spotting some swifts. We had great views of a LeConte's Thrasher and a Baird's Sandpiper, the second time I have ever seen them. As for Karin, she loved the baby geese—little balls of fluff.

We thank you for supporting us. Your donation will enable Los Angeles Audubon Society to educate elementary school children about the world around us.

Sincerely,  
Signed  
Gretchen Keeler

Although specifically excluded from winning any prizes, the official Los Angeles Audubon team turned in a very good days work. Kimball Garrett and Mike San Miguel who were the "official team of experts" started their birding day in La Canada Flintridge at 4 A.M. After running the Angeles Forest Highway, working the Antelope Valley (Lancaster/Palmdale/Edwards Air Force Base, etc.) they made their way back over the mountains and out to Malibu and Zuma via the Sepulveda Basin.

History does not record if they found time for lunch, but by 7:50 P.M. they had a list of 180 species! Check out the workshop (see below) to learn some of the experts' tricks; maybe next year you will beat them.

Our thanks go out to all of you who participated; especially Dr. Raymond Schep for organizing Birdathon '99, Kimball and Mike for setting the standard, and all you for supporting LAAS with your checkbooks! 

## Sunday, September 26, 1999 – Flycatcher Workshop.

Yes, Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett are at it again. This year, they will be tackling kingbirds, pewees, Myiarchus, other assorted groups and of course the infamous Empidonax flycatchers. Some are colorful, most are not. Flycatchers present some of the toughest ID problems in North America, and a host of neotropical species are actual or potential vagrants to the A.B.A. area. Field marks, status and distribution, behavior, vocalizations, habitat preference, molt and variability will all be addressed in the more difficult ID's requiring a "holistic" approach. The workshop will begin at 3:00 P.M. and wrap up at 8:30 P.M., with a cookie break and a long dinner break. Venue is at Glendale Community College again (minus the wet spot). Send a check for \$22 and a SASE to LAAS to reserve and receive more information. Don't end up on the waiting list like '97 and '98. Jon will be available to sign the new *National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, 3rd edition; copies for sale.

# WESTERN Tanager

Published by  
Los Angeles Audubon Society,  
a chapter of  
National Audubon Society.

EDITOR: Richard Epps  
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Tom Frillman  
CONSERVATION: Sandy Wohlgemuth  
ORNITHOLOGY CONSULTANT:  
Kimball Garrett  
FIELD TRIPS: Mari Johnson  
PELAGIC TRIPS: Phil Sayre  
PRINTING: CP Graphics

Opinions expressed in articles or letters herein do not necessarily express the position of this publication or of LAAS.

PRESIDENT: Richard Epps  
1st VICE PRESIDENT: Ken Kendig  
2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Mary Ferguson  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:  
Mildred Newton  
RECORDING SECRETARY:  
Phyllis Barry  
TREASURER: Cheryl Ashe

Annual membership in both societies is \$35 per year and \$20 for new members for their first year. Members receive the *Western Tanager* newsletter and *Audubon* magazine, a national publication. Renewals of membership are computerized by National Audubon and should not be sent to LAAS; however, new memberships may be sent directly to LAAS. Make check payable to the National Audubon Society.

*Western Tanager* subscription rates for non-members are \$9 per year for third class delivery or \$15 per year for first class delivery. LAAS members may receive first class delivery by paying an additional \$5. Make check payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Headquarters, Library  
and Bookstore are open to the public  
Tuesday – Saturday  
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
(323) 876-0202 – office  
(323) 876-7609 – fax  
laas@ix.netcom.com  
<http://www.netcom.com/~laas>

Los Angeles County  
Breeding Bird Atlas  
(213) 745-BIRD (2473)  
<http://www.lam.mus.ca.us/~lacbba>  
wimer@bcf.usc.edu

Printed on Recycled Paper



# EVENING MEETINGS

No meetings in July and August – See you in September

## F I E L D T R I P S

*Before setting out on any field trip, please call the LAAS bird tape at (323) 874-1318 for special instructions or possible cancellations that may have occurred by the Thursday before the trip.*

### 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), 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.

### Sunday, July 4 – 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. From Ventura Blvd., take Topanga Canyon Blvd. 7 miles S, turn E uphill on Entrada Rd. Follow the signs and turn left into the parking lot of Trippet Ranch. \$6 parking fee or park on the road outside the park. Meet at 8:00 A.M.

### Saturday thru Monday, July 10-12 – Yosemite and Mono Lake. Leader:

**David Yee.** There will be two days to explore Yosemite Valley and mountains, looking for Pine Grosbeak, Winter Wren, Great Grey Owl, and Black-backed and Pileated Woodpeckers. The third day will explore Mono Lake and Owens Valley. \$15 per day. Send SSAE to LAAS for letter and directions.

### Sunday, July 11 – Whittier Narrows.

Leader: **Ray Jillson.** Meet at 8:00 A.M. Take Peck Dr. off the 60 Fwy in South El Monte (just west of the 605 Fwy). Take the off ramp onto Durfee Ave. heading W (right) and turn left into the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave. \$2 donation.

### Saturday, July 17 – Mt. Pinos.

Leader: **Raymond Schep.** Anticipate the elements and bring a lunch. Take Hwy 5 N past Tejon Pass to the Frazier Park, turn left, and follow Frazier Mountain Park Rd. bearing right onto Cuddy Valley Rd. Meet at the “Y” formed by the junction of Cuddy Valley Rd. and Mil Potrero Hwy, promptly at 8:00 A.M., and park in the obvious dirt clearing.

### Saturday, July 31 – Little Jimmy Campground and Trail.

**Mike San Miguel** will lead us on a moderately strenuous hike through the San Gabriel Mountains. The group will look for mountain breeders such as Cassin’s Finch, Townsend’s Solitaire, Dusky Flycatcher, Williamson’s Sapsucker and White-headed Woodpecker. Bring a light jacket, insect repellent, lunch, sun block, hat and fluids. Drive an hour or so up Angeles Crest Highway out of La Cañada to the Islip Saddle parking area on the left side of the road. This is about a mile past Kratka Ridge Ski area (Thomas Guide 4649 F3). Meet at 7:30 A.M. *National Forest Adventure Pass required.*

### Sunday August 1 – Topanga State Park.

Leader **Gerry Haigh.** Meet at 8:00 A.M. See July 4 for write-up.

### Sunday August 8 – Whittier Narrows.

Leader **Ray Jillson.** Meet at 8:00 A.M. See July 11 for write-up.

### PELAGICS – call LAAS for details:

**Saturday, August 21 – Albatross Knoll via San Nicolas Island.**

20-hour trip departs San Pedro. \$130

### Sunday, September 19 –

**Anacapa Island, Santa Rosa Island, and Santa Cruz Island.**

12-hour trip departs Ventura. \$70

Los Angeles Audubon Society  
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90046-6694

DATED MATERIAL  
Please Expedite

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Glendale, CA  
PERMIT NO. 276