

WESTERN TANAGER



Volume 66 Number 5 May/June 2000

Los Angeles Audubon Society

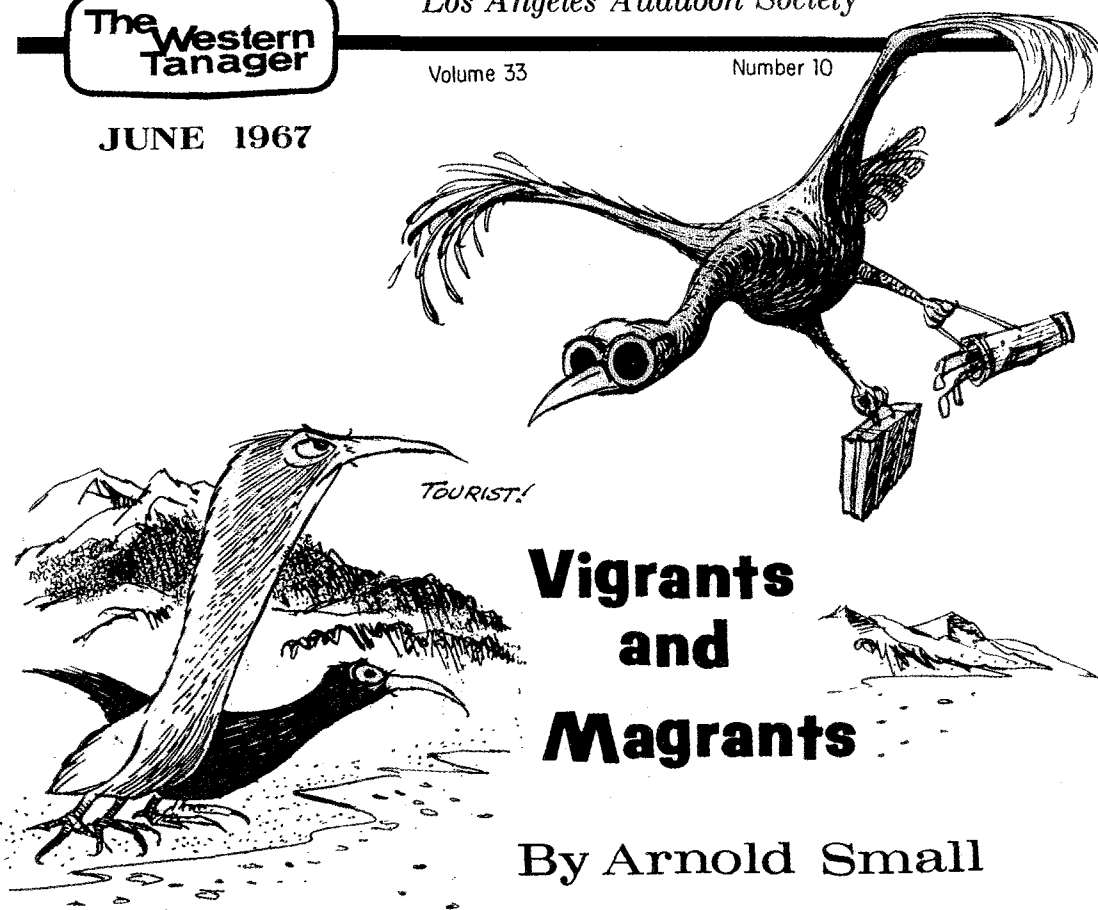
The Western
Tanager

Los Angeles Audubon Society

Volume 33

Number 10

JUNE 1967

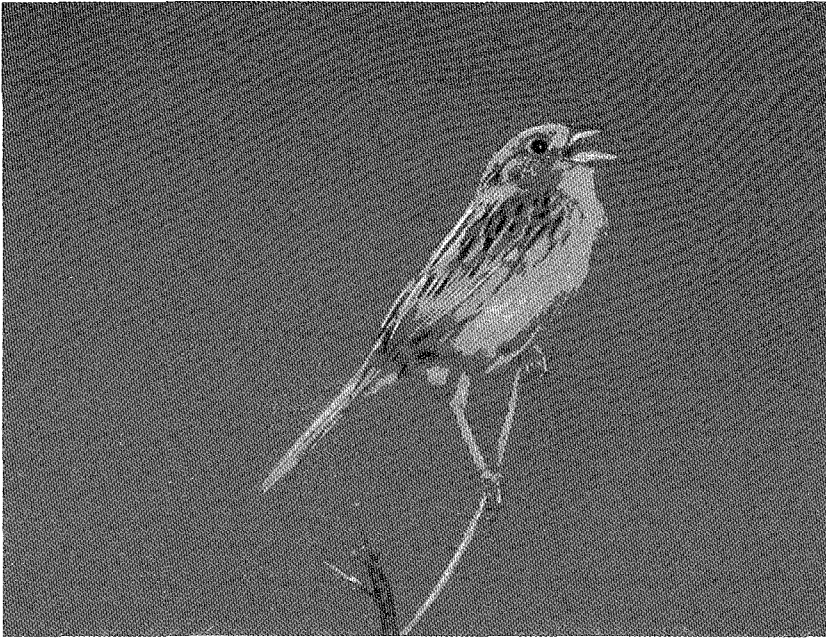


Our interest in birds is often ascribed to their pleasing habits, bright colors, and cheerful songs. But, down deep, most of us, I feel, are attracted to birds because they exemplify the truly free spirit. They come and go as they please, following the attractive seasons and knowing no geographic or political borders. When the shorebirds depart for their Arctic homes in the spring, we'd like to follow their wings to the tundra and watch them as none of us can ever see them on our shore where

they are but passage migrants. We can never really know them "at home" until we visit their nesting grounds. When the tanagers, swallows, swifts, and orioles depart for the balmy tropics in the fall, we know that for us, the vacation season is completed, and we dream of the far-away tropical places to the south, teeming with rare and exotic birds which only recently departed from here.

Migration is not restricted to birds alone, although our interest draws our attention to them. Among the mammals,

the great whales annually make long journeys from the Arctic to the Antarctic waters and back while the California Gray Whale, whose migration along the California coast is well known, reaches only to Baja California. In the Arctic, migrations of Alaskan Fur Seals, caribou, reindeer, and lemmings, are also well known. The plains game of central east Africa (especially the White-bearded Gnu and the zebras) make long overland treks in search of fresh grass, while the North American Bison performed the



LeConte's Sparrow, June 1994

same feat on our prairie. The annual migration of certain species of bats and butterflies, and the movements of salmon, eels, and ants in many ways correspond to the migratory movement of birds.

The familiar migrational movements are in the north-south direction and the range extends from north of the Arctic Circle to southern South America. Indeed, the bird with the longest migrational route of all may be the Baird's Sandpiper which, as a high Arctic breeder, winters in extreme southern South America. Some birds which breed to the north of us make their winter homes in southern California, while some species which breed in southern California, spend the winter in Central and South America. Some groups which follow this well-known north-south migratory pattern are the waterfowl, shorebirds, Turkey Vultures and Swainson's Hawks, swallows, orioles, tanagers, warblers, grosbeaks, buntings, hummingbirds, and so forth.

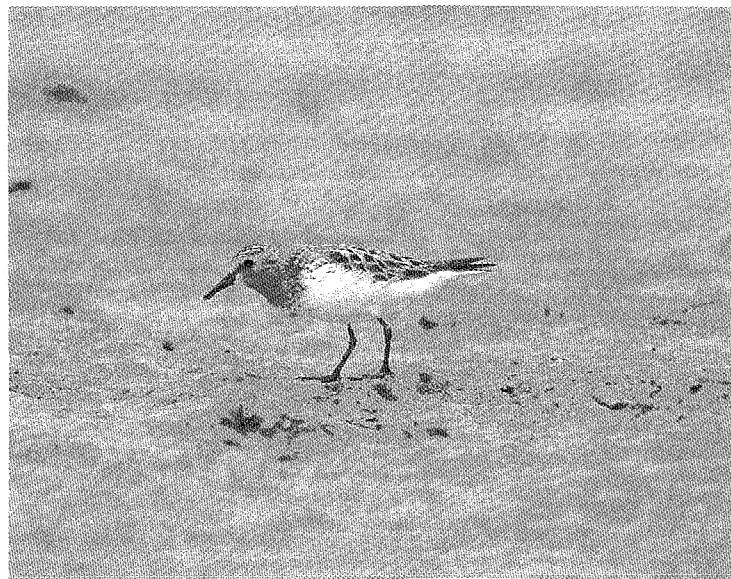
A migrational pattern (often combined with the north-south pattern) restricted to mountainous areas, is sometimes called "vertical migration." Here, birds which breed in the mountains, spend the winter in the lowlands adjacent to the mountains. Some may migrate vertically, and once having reached the lowlands, proceed to the south for some distance.

Familiar species which follow this pattern in California are Mountain Chickadees, Mountain Quail, Townsend's Solitaires, White-crowned Sparrows, Steller's Jays, Robins, and Oregon Juncos. Of the above species, those which probably do not move very far to the south are the quail, chickadee, and jay. Green-tailed Towhees leave the mountains in the fall, and migrate far south into Central America. This "vertical" pattern is often influenced by local weather conditions, and "upward-bound" spring migrants are

often delayed in reaching their mountain homes by unseasonal weather at higher elevations. Although I can recall one visit to Big Bear about May 1, while in the midst of a blizzard, the warblers were literally swarming everywhere – many even in full song!

Even the occasional bird-watcher soon realizes that not all birds migrate, while others are highly migratory. We can organize the migratory habits of most species into several categories. Those birds whose habits induce them to remain in an area more or less permanently, and showing only restricted movements, may be called PERMANENT RESIDENTS. Such species as Wren-tits, Scrub Jays, Nuttall's and Acorn woodpeckers, Bush-tits, Plain Titmice, and the like would be placed in this group. The WINTER VISITORS are those birds which breed to the north of us or in the local mountains and whose migration brings them to us in the fall, to depart again for their breeding grounds the following spring. Among such species would be the White-crowned and Golden-crowned sparrows, Cedar Waxwings, most of the Robins, most of the waterfowl, some of the shorebirds, some of the gulls, Audubon's Warblers, and Sandhill Cranes.

SUMMER VISITORS are the birds which breed here after spending the winter somewhere to the south. Of course, White-crowned Sparrows are summer visitors to the mountains while they are winter visitors in the lowlands, so our



Red-necked Stint, July 1994, Santa Clara River Estuary, Ventura County

Arnold Small wrote the accompanying article, "Vagrants and Magrants" for the June 1967 *Western Tanager*. At that time, there was no comprehensive book detailing migration and vagrancy in California. Grinnell and Miller's 1944 classic "Distribution of the Birds of California" provided a wealth of detail on breeding ranges and wintering localities down to the subspecies level, but only sketchy details of migration and only a hint of the state's vagrants (a handful of specimen records).

It was in the 1960's that a few active California birders (among them Guy McCaskie, David Gaines, Rich Stallcup and Arnold Small) began to realize the region's potential for noteworthy migration passages and unexpected "out-of-range" species. Arnold's article reflects the genuine passion he held for California's birds at that time of exploding knowledge.

In the ensuing 33 years we've learned a great deal more about the status and distribution of our birds, and the distributions of many species have changed dramatically (note the comments on Elegant Terns and Allen's Hummingbirds, for example). Some of the statements in this article certainly require revision in light of our present knowledge, but Arnold has captured the essential points of bird movements in the state for which he held so much fondness in this article and many others, in numerous evening programs and in his books (most recently 1994's *CALIFORNIA BIRDS: THEIR STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION*). He shared this fondness with the Los Angeles Audubon Society and the birders of California.

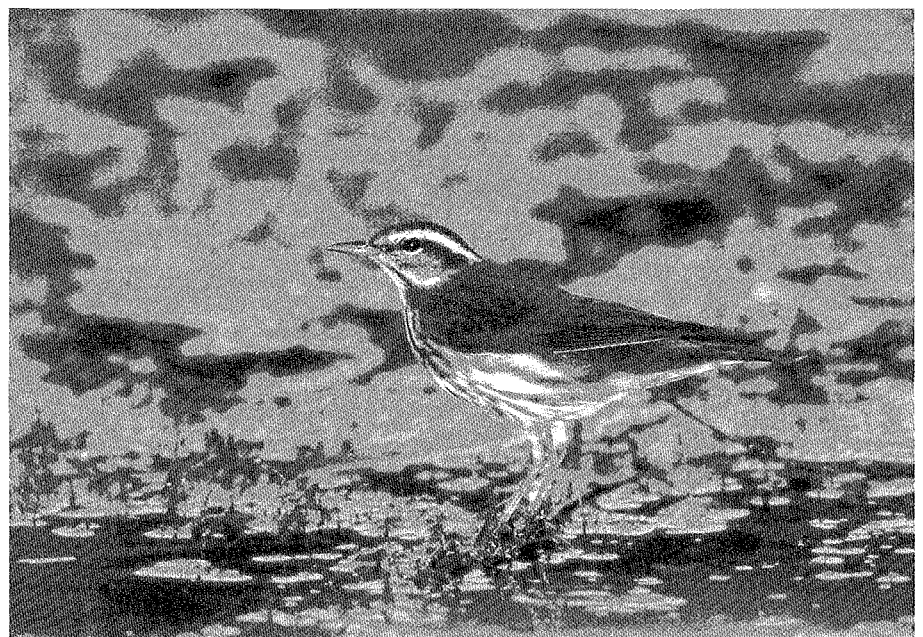
Long recognized as one of the finest bird photographers in North America, Arnold enthusiastically chased and photographed "vagrants" and "magrants". These photographs are a sample of his work.

— Kimball L. Garrett

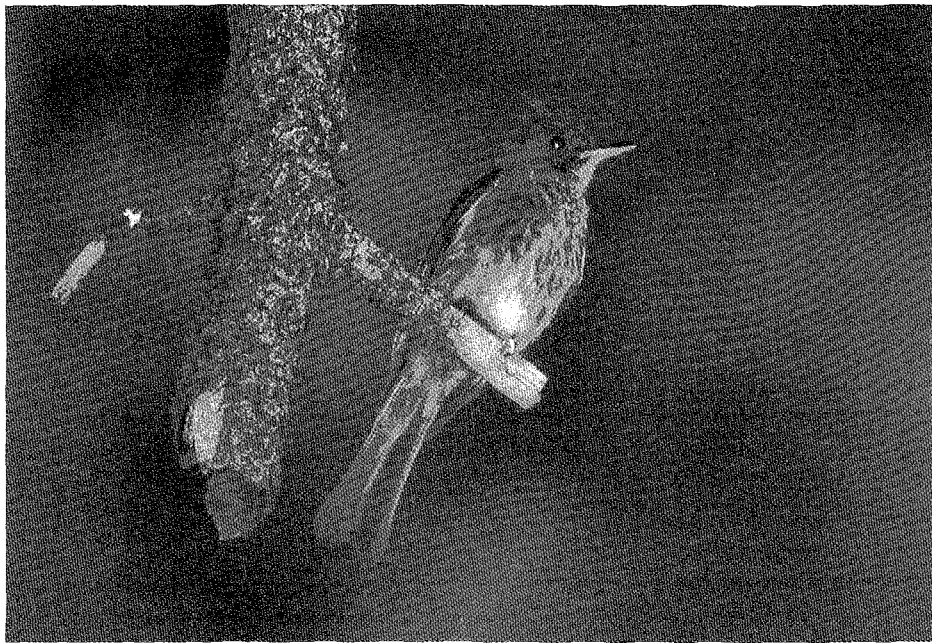
categories must be adjusted to our own localities. But, typical summer visitors in southern California would be Warbling Vireos, Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Cliff Swallows, Barn Swallows, Rough-winged Swallows, the three orioles (Hooded, Scott's and Bullock's), and some of the flycatchers. The TRANSIENTS are the real passage migrants through our region in spring and fall. They breed to the north of us (or even in the local mountains – such as the Green-tailed Towhees and Western Tanagers) after having come from somewhere to the south of us. They are in evidence primarily during spring and fall. In this group would be such birds as Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds (although the latter species has recently been found nesting at Palos Verdes), Swainson's Hawks, Black and Vaux's swifts, Nashville, Hermit, Black-throated Gray, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's warblers, Hammond's, Olive-sided, and Dusky flycatchers, and Swainson's Thrushes, for example. These four categories will account for the vast majority of birds we are likely to encounter.

Most birders, however, are extremely interested in finding representatives of the following categories, because they often represent new, rare, and unusual birds. Here we find a group which we might call POST-BREEDING WANDERERS – birds

whose appearance is unpredictable from year to year, but some of whom have become quite expected. These are birds whose breeding grounds are essentially to the south and east and are often represented by young birds of the year. Most of the Elegant Terns which appear along our shore in late summer are both adults and young of the year, and their appearances here in the past fifteen years have become quite regular. There is little doubt that this species is spreading slowly north as a breeding species which now has a firm little colony at San Diego. Wood Ibis and Royal Terns put in a regular summer appearance in southern California, while the status of the Manx Shearwaters, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Red-billed Tropicbirds, Louisiana Herons, and Reddish Egrets is more or less predictable. The Tropical Kingbird would also be included, although its appearance is most regular in California now. CASUALS are those birds whose appearance is relatively unpredictable, and yet they may arrive in rather good numbers when they do appear. Lewis' Woodpeckers, Varied Thrushes, Clarke's Nutcracker (in the lowlands), Harlequin Ducks, Rough-legged Hawks, Barrow's Goldeneyes, and Red Crossbills could be included here, for example. VAGRANTS are those species which occur with some regularity, but would be




Louisiana Waterthrush, September 1994, Galileo, Kern County



Van Remsen's photo of Arnold was taken on a Monterey Bay boat trip in September 1976.

appeared with such regularity in the past few years that we can no longer consider them to be such. True, they are rare, and their appearance is of short duration here, but they are regularly found. And the list grows each year. Undoubtedly, many are regular fall migrants in very small numbers, and generally restricted to coastal area. Perhaps we should call them VIGRANTS (vagrant migrants?) or worse yet, MAGRANTS.

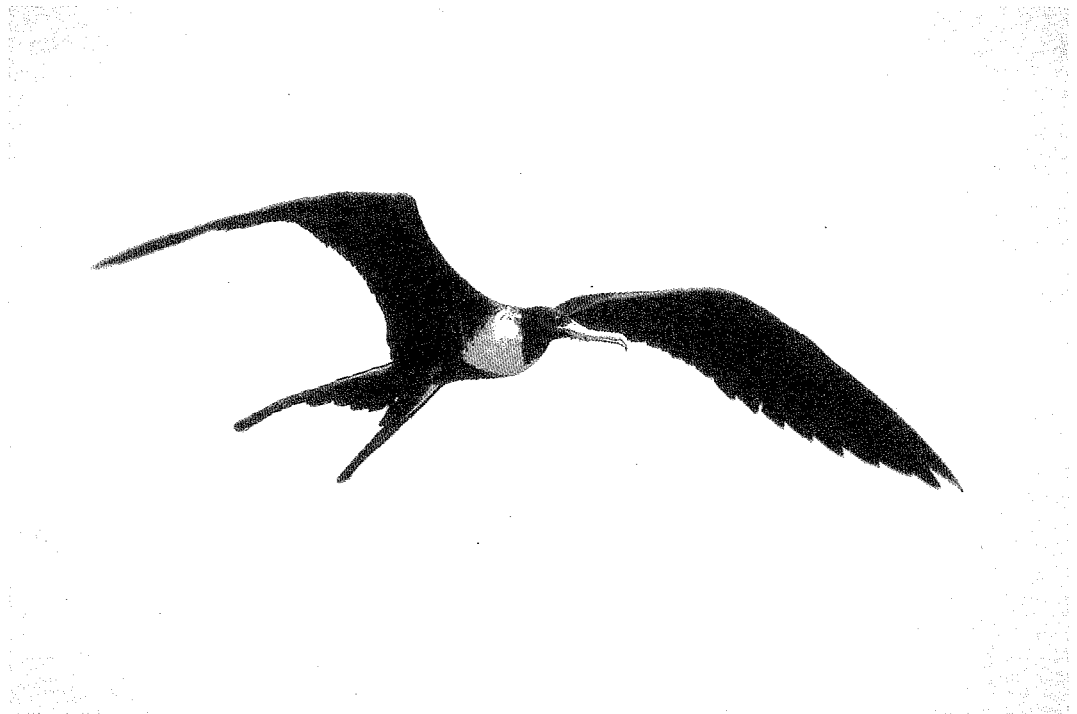
The Spring Migration for 1967 is largely completed. The birds, wherever they may be – here or there – are building nests, raising families, and fattening-up for the return journey to their wintering grounds. Some, like the male Calliope Hummingbirds, depart their nesting areas very early and will be found in south-bound migration through the lowlands as early as July. The Fall Migration of 1967 lies ahead, and for many birders, the fall is the best season for it offers the hope of some really fancy birds among the post-breeding wanderers, casuals, vagrants, accidentals, and that other group. 

Greater Pewee, July 1989, Garden Canyon, Arizona

considered quite rare none-the-less. In this group would be found such birds as New Zealand Shearwaters, Northern Shrikes (in northern California), Bohemian Waxwings, Emperor Geese, White-throated Sparrows, Gray-headed Junco, and White-winged Doves and Vermilion Flycatchers (along the coast). Birds which are completely out of range, season, or habitat would be categorized as ACCIDENTALS whose appearance virtually brings out flocks of birders to greet them. Such choice birds as Buff-breasted, Sharp-tailed, and Rock sandpipers, Brown and Blue-footed boobies, Orchard, Baltimore, and Scarlet-headed orioles, Kiskadee and Scissor-tailed flycatchers, White-tailed Tropicbirds, and the like are the prime rewards for today's hard-driving birders.

We must, however, create a new category solely for the regular eastern species which have been appearing (or found only of late) along the coast of California during the fall. Here, we must consider the status of such

birds as Dickcissels, Bobolinks, Eastern Kingbirds, Veeries, Indigo Buntings, Clay-colored Sparrows, and such warblers as Virginia's, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, Prairie, Chestnut-sided, Worm-eating, Blue-winged, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and so forth. Formerly considered accidental at best, many of these species have



Magnificent Frigatebird, November 1985



ARNOLD SMALL

1926 — 2000

President

Los Angeles Audubon Society 1962 - 1965

Thank you for being our leader, our teacher and our friend.



CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Paula Schiffman

Carrizo Plain for National Monument!

The Carrizo Plain is a complicated and dynamic living museum.

Located in the arid inland corner of southeastern San Luis Obispo County, its rolling grasslands, vast wildflower prairies, spiny saltbush scrub and unusual Ephedra ("desert tea") savannas constitute the largest and best remaining examples of habitats that historically dominated much of California's San Joaquin Valley. This subtle and nuanced landscape also resembles the wildlands once common in the southern Coast Ranges, San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles Plain. It is critical habitat for hundreds of plant and animal species, including migratory birds as well as ecosystem specialists that occur nowhere else in the world. Fifteen threatened or endangered species call Carrizo "home". The Carrizo Plain's exceptional biodiversity and stark wide-open country are well known among birders, wildflower enthusiasts and photography buffs. In addition, geologists recognize it as one of the premier places to view the San Andreas earthquake fault and other geological curiosities. And the Carrizo Plain environment is of great cultural and historical importance to Native People.

For more than a decade the 250,000 acre Carrizo Plain Natural Area has been "cooperatively managed" as a preserve by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Fish and Game and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). In reality, however, the BLM is by far the largest landowner and has vastly greater financial and staff resources than do Fish and Game or TNC. Therefore, the BLM has the great-

est management impact. Cattle and sheep grazing interests have long been key BLM constituencies in the western U.S. and at the Carrizo Plain; management is done in very close collaboration with the livestock industry. In addition, the hunt of pronghorns, tule elk, rabbits, coyotes, doves, quail (etc!) is encouraged at Carrizo by the Department of Fish and Game. Sadly, TNC's conservation voice has been virtually absent from the management equation for several years. Although the managers give attention to Carrizo's threatened and endangered species, the ecologies of hundreds of other native species that lack explicit federal protection are largely ignored. Ironically, it is this suite of "other" native species that provide the habitat that sustains the federally listed species that the managers are mandated to protect. If the Carrizo Plain's rare and special ecosystem is to persist into the future, it must be understood and managed as an ecologically complex whole rather than as a giant cattle feedlot and hunters' playground that happens to contain some threatened and endangered species.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt recently visited the Carrizo Plain and was impressed by its immense beauty and great ecological significance. Stating that Carrizo is "one of the best-kept secrets in California", Babbitt has recommended to President Bill Clinton that it be considered for designation as a national monument by executive order under the Antiquities Act. Simultaneous to Babbitt's suggestion, Congressional Representative Lois Capps (D-San Luis

Obispo/Santa Barbara) and pro-grazing/hunting forces are attempting to prevent the creation of Carrizo Plain National Monument by advocating alternative legislation that would designate the Carrizo Plain as a "national conservation area." Unfortunately, Capps' proposed House Bill (H.R. 1751) is a very feeble alternative to national monument status. The bill is essentially contentless because it lacks explicit language enhancing conservation and protection. It would simply change the name of the preserve to "Carrizo Plain National Conservation Area" and keep the status quo. There has been some suggestion that as a "national conservation area" the Carrizo might receive a bigger budget allocation. However, funding increases are not guaranteed in the bill's language. Proponents of Capps' legislation say that it will allow for greater local control of Carrizo's resources than would national monument designation. However, in this case "local control" translates to livestock grazing and hunting special interests. The federal government owns most of the Carrizo Plain, and its relict ecosystems belong to all of us, not just a small group of locals.

It is clear that the only hope for genuine protection for all of the Carrizo Plain's diverse species is as a national monument. National monuments are overseen by the National Park Service (NPS), a government agency with a clear and relatively undiluted conservation mandate and a proven track record. In addition, the NPS is not beholden to the livestock industry or the hunters lobby. Representative Capps and the rest of

Congress should be urged to abandon the wrong-headed national conservation area concept and instead give strong support to a presidential designation of Carrizo Plain National Monument!

YOU can make a difference!

Contact your government representatives and tell them you support national monument status:

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1414
president@whitehouse.gov

Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-3100
bruce_babbitt@ios.doi.gov

Rep. Lois Capps D-22nd Dist
1118 Longworth HOB
Washington D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3601 (805) 730-1710
Fax: (202) 225-5632

Rep. Henry A. Waxman D-29th Dist
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3976 (323) 651-1040

Contact your Representative:

www.house.gov/writerep/

or: c/o
Rep.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



This article was reprinted with permission from the Phainopepla, newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society.

Update: It CAN be done!

WHALES: PUBLIC'S MOBILIZATION AGAINST SALTWORKS HELPS KILL PROJECT

(Headline: *L.A. Times*, March 5, 2000)

For years, Mitsubishi, one of the most powerful corporations in the world, in a joint venture with the Mexican government, has promoted the construction of a vast saltworks in one of Baja California's beautiful lagoons. Laguna San Ignacio is one of the last unspoiled lagoons in Baja where the Gray Whales swim 5000 miles from Alaskan waters to mate and give birth to their calves. San Ignacio is so rare a sanctuary that in 1988 it was included in the Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve as an irreplaceable habitat. In 1993, UNESCO designated it a World Heritage Site.

Undaunted by this international sentiment for the preservation of San Ignacio, Mitsubishi plowed ahead with its plans to tear up 116 square miles of tidal flats with enormous evaporation ponds, huge pumps and a pier over a mile long for sea-going ships.

When the enormity of this project became known, over a million people around the world responded with letters and postcards to Mitsubishi and the Mexican government. Mitsubishi was threatened with a boycott of its cars, consumer electronic products and cameras. And then, suddenly, Mexico's president, Ernesto Zedillo, announced that the deal was off, saying, "This is a place that had minimum interference by humans – one of the few places like that left on the planet."

A notable victory for wildlife and for humanity. Perhaps the pen is more powerful than the bulldozer. It would be gratifying if, whenever we're asked to write about the next environmental disaster-in-the-making, we fired off a letter. Remember San Ignacio! It CAN be done!

Thanks – Sandy Wohlgemuth

Volunteers Needed in LAAS Bookstore

With the retirement of some of our long-time volunteers, the Los Angeles Audubon bookstore finds itself short of help once again and looking for new volunteers. Volunteers are especially needed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but any help is appreciated. Volunteers will be trained: local birding knowledge is helpful but not a necessity. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Martha Balkan, Bookstore Manager at (323) 876-0202.

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

by Michael J. San Miguel, Jr.

Spring Birding At Big Dalton Canyon

As late spring approaches, birders “flock” to the many desert oases, coastal localities and other known “migrant traps” in hopes of finding something out of the ordinary. I, for one, spend a considerable amount of time at such spots, particularly in the desert, but often I find the most rewarding spring birding spots much closer to home. One such spot is Big Dalton Canyon in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains just north of Glendora in eastern Los Angeles County. Though it is not a “vagrant trap” or “migrant trap” in the classic sense, it is definitely a fine area to bird during spring migration. In late April, if conditions are just right, the canyon can have very high numbers of migrants as well as the many resident birds. The birding is surprisingly easy and can be done from the numerous well-marked trails, or by birding from the road, which is not heavily traveled. Birding in the canyon is exciting at any time of year, but spring seems to produce the highest numbers of species. As with most places to bird, early morning hours are the most productive, but often the late afternoon can be quite productive too.

Essentially, the habitat of the canyon and surrounding areas is typical of the native vegetation found in the foothills of southern California. The canyon itself is somewhat narrow, with steep, brushy, chaparral covered slopes, while the streambed is covered with an extensive growth of both willow and alder. At the mouth of the creek there is a debris basin, usually with a small amount of water year round, that is lined with willows, cattails and mulefat. Currently, Los Ange-

les Flood Control is doing extensive improvements to the dam at Big Dalton Reservoir. At the time of this writing, the road is closed during the week. However, the road is open on the weekends from dawn to dusk. Birds that may be of interest to out-of-town birders include: Red-shouldered Hawk, California and Mountain quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Western Screech Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl (rare), Common Poorwill, Vaux’s (migrant) and White-throated swifts, Black-chinned, Anna’s and Costa’s hummingbirds, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Dusky (migrant), Hammond’s (migrant), Pacific-slope and Ash-throated flycatchers, Violet-green Swallow, Steller’s Jay, Oak Titmouse, Canyon Wren, Wrentit, California Thrasher, Cassin’s (migrant) and Hutton’s vireos, Black-throated Gray, Townsend’s, Hermit and MacGillivray’s warblers (migrants), California Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Hooded and Bullock’s orioles and all three species of goldfinches.

The following itinerary for birding the canyon starts near the debris basin overlook and ends at the second Forest Service gate approximately two miles toward the northeast.

Freeway directions to the canyon can be a bit tricky but functional. From the 210 Freeway eastbound, get on the 30 Freeway toward La Verne and exit immediately at Lone Hill. If you are headed westbound on the 210 freeway, exit at Auto Center Drive, turn left on Auto Center to Lone Hill (0.3 mi). Take Lone Hill north to Foothill Blvd. (1 mi) and turn left (west) to Valley Center Drive (0.5 mi); Glendora High School will be on your left. Turn right (north) on Valley


Center Drive toward the mountains until you reach a 90-degree turn to the left (west, 0.8 mi) – this is Sierra Madre Drive. Turn left (west – you have no other choice!) to the first street immediately on your right, which is Glendora Mountain Road. Turn right on Glendora Mountain Road and drive to Big Dalton Canyon Drive on your right (0.6 mi).

This is the beginning of the road through the canyon and the beginning of the birding route. Set your odometer here. The overlook for the debris basin will be just past the large yellow Forest Service gate on your right (0.2 mi). Park here and scan the pond for Cinnamon Teal, Spotted Sandpiper, Black Phoebe, swallows (five species) and Red-winged Blackbird. Occasionally, Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead and Ring-necked Duck are present in the late spring. The slope just to the north has Rufous-crowned Sparrow and California Towhee. Drive a few hundred yards to a pull-out just before the stream crossing and across from the Mystic Canyon/Big Dalton Canyon trailhead and park your car (0.5 mi). This is a good place for California Quail, Costa’s, Black-chinned and Anna’s hummingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Oak Titmouse, Wrentit and California Thrasher. There is also a trailhead that heads up the canyon. Be sure to look up and scan for swallows and both Vaux’s and White-throated swifts. Often, Red-tailed, Cooper’s, Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered hawks can be seen by scanning toward the west over the debris basin.

Drive into the canyon, which will be shaded for the most part from here on

out. There are several options at this point. You can leave your car at the first pullout in the canyon past the stream crossing on your left (0.7 mi) at Big Dalton Campground and walk across the bridge and bird the trail toward the northeast. This can be productive, yet tricky, because the trail is often overgrown at spots, and the birds seen at the bottom of the canyon can usually be seen further up where access is much easier. The easiest route is to drive to the first locked Experimental Forest gate (1.2 mi), park your car (cars are not permitted beyond this point) and bird the area from this gate to the second locked Forest Service gate which is (0.75 mi) further up the canyon.

This area is by far the most productive area in the canyon. If one birds the area near the first locked gate, the bridge and the road toward the northernmost locked forest gate, one should expect to see the following birds in the area during spring: Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks, Mountain Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Western Screech Owl (breed), Northern Pygmy-Owl (rare), Nuttall's Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee (breed), Hammond's and Pacific-slope flycatchers (breed), Cassin's, Hutton's (breed) and Warbling vireos (breed), Oak Titmouse, House Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Phainopepla (breed), Orange-crowned (breed), Nashville, Yellow (breed), Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, MacGillivray's and Wilson's warblers, Western Tanager (breed), Spotted Towhee (breed), Black-headed Grosbeak (breed), Bullock's Oriole (breed), Purple Finch (breed) and Lesser Goldfinch (breed). Most or all of these birds can be seen by walking the road or the well marked trails on both sides of the stream.

I have always preferred to park at the first locked gate and walk the road up to the closed Forest Service gate. Big Dalton Canyon is yet another example of southern California's rich avifauna, and it helps point out the magnitude of migration in our region as a whole. Birding from late April through early June can be a rewarding experience. If you hit the right day, with the right conditions, it can be quite a thrill! 

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON BIRDATHON

SATURDAY, 27 MAY 0000 – 2400 HOURS

Form a team with your favorite birding companions – get sponsors – family members, workmates, your company, etc. Request a certain amount to be donated for each species seen in this 24-hour period. Choose a name for your team. Everyone gets a prize!

Attend the kickoff Friday night, 26 May at 9:00 P.M. at El Coyote Café, 7312 Beverly Blvd., West Hollywood (3 blocks west of La Brea). Participants will be served a free Mexican pizza for one and Mexican coffee. At 11:00 P.M., you will be sent off to start at midnight (or to prepare to start early the next day).

THE BIG PRIZE – a free LA Audubon Pelagic trip (a \$45 value) for up to three members of the team with the highest species-count plus dollar total.

The Official Team does not qualify for the prize.

A \$25 bookstore gift certificate will be awarded at the June monthly meeting to the team with the most original name.

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I pledge to support the Official Team – *THE GROSSFREAKS* – whose goal is 150 – 200 species. This will be a team of **CELEBRITY BIRDERS!**
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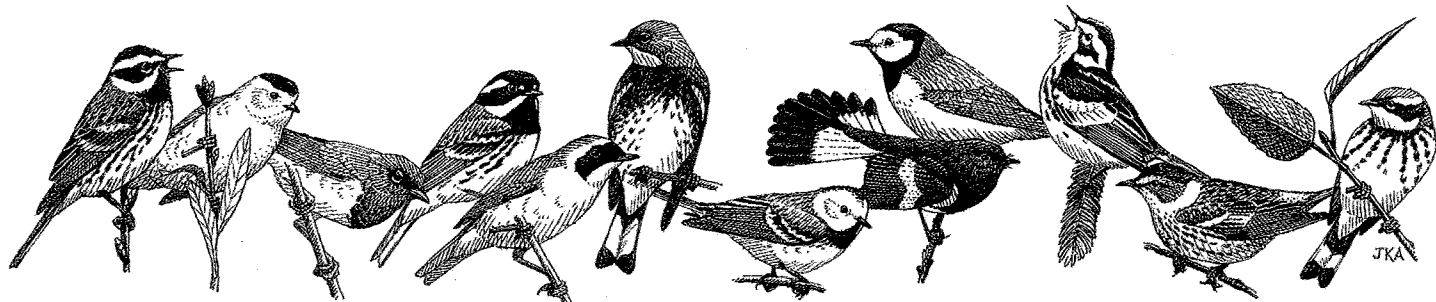
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Proceeds from Birdathon go to Los Angeles Audubon education programs.



BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Kimball L. Garrett

A brief rainy season in February and early March ended a prolonged drought in the region and the open fields and burned hillsides finally began to turn green. **Vaux's Swifts** were very much in evidence after these late winter rains, with a flock of up to 150 noted around Echo Lake and Silver Lake and smaller numbers in Exposition Park and Malibu; these are almost certainly birds wintering in the region, as spring migrants are not noted until the second week of April. Wintering rarities remained, with El Dorado Nature Center's **Blue Mockingbird**, Bonelli Park's **Hepatic Tanager** and Cal Poly Pomona's perennial **Thick-billed Kingbird** still present as of mid-March. El Dorado Park's reputation as a magnet for rarities was enhanced with the discovery by a participant on John Fitch's rain-cancelled field trip on 13 February of a female or second-calendar-year male **Painted Bunting** near the southeast corner of the Nature Center. A cynic, of course, would say that this merely enhances the park's reputation as a magnet for escaped cage birds; the jury is still out on this issue. There is currently no accepted record of a Painted Bunting in Los Angeles County – a few previous sightings have been considered escapees or were insufficiently documented.

A diverse set of odds and ends was encountered through the late winter period. An adult **Brown Booby** flew up the Balona Creek Channel, made a U-turn and headed out to sea on 25 January (Chet Ogan, John Ivanov). Extremely rare was a **Tufted Puffin** inside Los Angeles Harbor on 15 March (Kathy Keane and Jeff Johnson). A probable female **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was in a Northridge yard in early February (Nancy Allen). A **Lark Bunting** was west of Lancaster on 12 February (Mary and Nick Freeman). The flock of **McCown's Longspurs** west of Lancaster


noted in the last *Tanager* had grown to at least 12 birds by late January and early February (Tom Wurster); this is a high count for the county. **Baltimore Orioles** included a wintering male in El Dorado Park (Karen Gilbert) still present in mid-March and a female on 15 March in Debs Park (Dan Cooper).

White-throated Sparrows are regular in very small numbers in our area in winter, but one record deserves mention. A singing bird at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades on 19-20 February was reported independently by Bill Grenfell of the Sacramento area and by two different Floridians, Noel Wamer and Murray Gardler. What were these birders all doing at the Riviera Country Club? Nothing! They were all at their respective homes watching the Nissan Open golf tournament on television when the sparrow came through loud and clear over the telecast! A legitimate record, but

beware those mis-cast bird calls on the soundtracks of movies! (See *WT*, Vol. 59, No. 7). Five **Varied Thrushes** were in Wilson Canyon, Sylmar, on 24 February (David Richardson). A **Gray Flycatcher** in DeForest Park, Long Beach, on 4 March (Richard Barth) was likely a wintering bird. Quite a surprise was a **Burrowing Owl** in urban Pasadena on 14 January (Ron Cyger). Perhaps even more surprising was a **Ring-necked Pheasant** in Culver City on 13 March (Don Sterba); this was almost certainly a released bird, as no viable populations survive in the region.

A simultaneous count of **Black Skimmers** on the coast of southern California on 10 March yielded 744 birds, and this did not include any birds that might have been lurking in Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties. Some fascinating data on movements of skimmers along the coast is emerging from regular monitoring of flocks for birds bearing alphanumeric bands. For example, 'J13 black', hatched in 1999 at the Salton Sea, was in the Long Beach/Seal Beach area from at least 27 December to 8 January, in Santa Barbara on 5 February, and back south at Cabrillo Beach on 15 March (Kathy Molina).

Early spring arrivals included a **Warbling Vireo** at El Dorado Nature Center on 26 February (KLG, Jon Dunn, KM) and a **Swainson's Hawk** over Castaic Lake on 5 March (KLG). Amazing was an evening roost of over 100 Swainson's Hawks in Santa Clarita on 9 March (Evelyn Vandersande, *fide* Mickey Long).

May and June should yield an interesting array of out-of-range migrants to those who spend enough time in the field, but as always our knowledge of the passage of more common migrants and of breeding status lags behind our understanding of patterns of vagrancy. Eschew vagrant chasing and work your very own "patch" as thoroughly as you can! 

Records of rare and unusual birds reported in this column should be considered tentative pending review by the regional editors of *NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS* or, if appropriate, by the **California Birds Records Committee**.

For *Birds of the Season*, send 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

To report birds for the tape, call:

Raymond Schep (323) 874-1318
e-mail: yoohooray@cs.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

Birding on the Internet

by Steve Sosensky

Two or three years ago, this was an easy article to write. I did it for the San Fernando Valley Audubon's *Phainopepla*. Now, there are so many birding resources on the internet, that I'd be hard pressed to include one percent of them. So instead, I'm going to talk in generalities about the types of resources available, how to find them and how they can help you.

If you've used the internet at all, you know that it consists of several types of functions including e-mail, web sites, newsgroups and chat rooms. Each of these functions is performed by a different program (or portion of one).

E-mail resources are mainly mailing lists, which are programs that take e-mail messages and redistribute them to a group of subscribers; mailing lists have expanded greatly in numbers of both lists and subscribers. The scope of birding list topics has moved from broad area lists like BirdChat (worldwide, though mostly North American), regional (BirdWest, BirdCntr and BirdEast RBA lists), and statewide (Calbird, Texbirds), to local lists (SDBirds, SBCobirding, SLOBirds, VenturaCoBirding, InlandCoBirds, and several northern CA lists). Descriptions of these lists and instructions for joining them are at: www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/socal/e-lists.htm. Most of these lists are also archived on their web sites and may be searched and read when you have specific questions within their scope.

There are so many birding web sites, that I barely know where to begin. I'll assume that you know about the LAAS web site: www.LAAudubon.org. If you're going to be traveling, you should know that many other Audubon chapters have web sites, and you can start your search at: www.audubon.org/chapter/ for outside California and: www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/ for in-state. Another great resource (if I

can avoid breaking my arm while patting myself on the back) is the Audubon in southern California site:

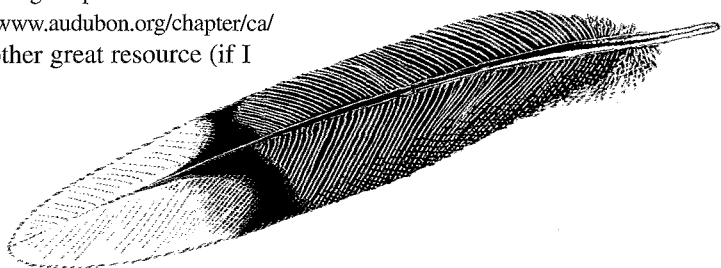
www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/SoCal/. If you want to go on a field trip on a day when LAAS doesn't have one, check out the field trip pages where you can click on a calendar and see a list of trips for that day. A bit broader in scope is Joe Morlan's California Birding web site:

<http://fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/~jmorlan/>. Joe has a page for every CA county with great links to other web sites. For example, checking out Monterey Co. will get you to Debi Shearwater's web site for pelagic trips on Monterey Bay and Bodega Bay to the Cordell Banks.

Joe is also webmaster for California Bird Records Committee:

<http://www.wfo-cbrc.org/cbrc/>. This is where you can find the official California checklist and results of decisions to accept or reject important sightings. Both Audubon in southern California and the WFO-CBRC sites have forms you can fill out online to submit sightings to the CBRC. Please use the Audubon in southern California form for SoCal sightings, as that form also sends a copy to the county editor for American Birds as well as the CBRC secretary.

Other web sites for birding include topics such as identification of various families / genera / species, location guides, recordings of calls and songs, ornithology classes, and much more. As these would take a very large book to cover, and the book would be obsolete before the galley proofs were available, the best way to proceed is to visit your favorite search engine and start surfing. Enjoy!



WESTERN TANAGER

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

EDITOR: Jean Brandt
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Tom Frillman
CONSERVATION: Sandy Wohlgenuth
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
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www.nhm.org/~lacbba

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The winning photos
were all taken by
Clair de Beauvoir.

1st Place:

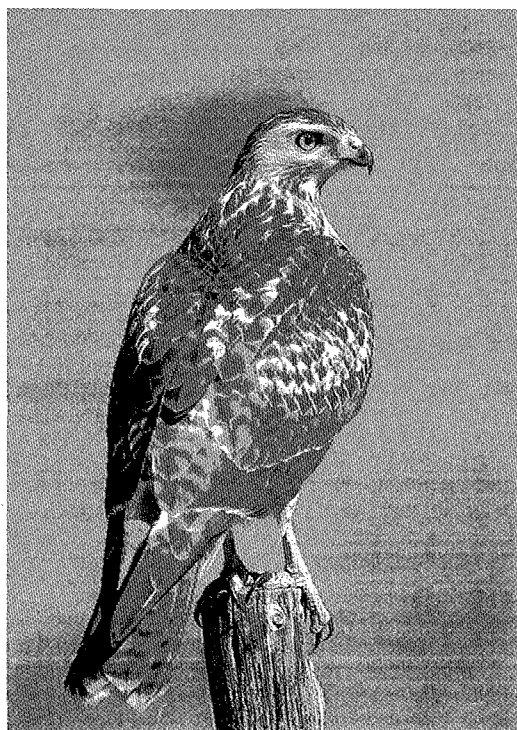
Peregrine Falcon.
December 1999, Salton Sea, CA.

Fuji 100 Sensia II, Nikon F5,
500mm AFS with 2X teleconverter,
Kirk window mount.



ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS



3rd Place:

Juvenile light-morph Red-tailed Hawk.
October 1999, Bridgeport, CA.
Fuji 100 Sensia II, Nikon F5, 500mm AFS
with 2X teleconverter, Kirk window mount.



2nd Place:

Purple Gallinule.
April 1999, Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, TX.
Kodak 100 VS, Nikon F5, 500mm AFS with 1.4X teleconverter,
Kirk window mount



Western Field Ornithologists' 25th Annual Meeting and 30th Anniversary Celebration

Kern River Valley, California
Wednesday through Sunday, July 5-9, 2000.

Western Field Ornithologists invites you to come to the bird-rich Kern River Valley, this coming July to attend and celebrate the 25th Annual Meeting and 30th anniversary of its founding. To honor WFO's milestone meeting and founding anniversaries, Saturday evening's social hour, dinner and program will be devoted to celebrating the past thirty years of Western Field Ornithologists and a look into WFO's future.

Not to tamper with the successful format of past meetings, WFO 25/30/2000 will also offer the traditional mix of full day and morning field trips, afternoon meetings with presentations of scientific papers, social hours, and evening programs. The July 5-9 period is a prime time to experience many of the nearly two hundred nesting species of birds found in the Kern River Valley and its surrounding watershed. This region is the early July home of Northern Goshawks, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Black

Swifts, Pileated Woodpeckers, Willow Flycatchers, Pinyon Jays, Summer Tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks, Tricolored Blackbirds, Scott's Orioles, Lawrence's Goldfinches, and 150-180 other nesting species and south-bound migrants.

This stunning setting includes the South Fork Kern River riparian forest, a Globally Important Bird Area set in a picturesque valley at 2600 feet elevation, and the encircling mountains of the Sequoia National Forest reaching to nearly 10,000 feet. The WFO 25/30/2000 Anniversary Meeting will be locally hosted by staff and volunteers with Audubon-California's Kern River Preserve. It is open to anyone interested in the interface of western birding and western field ornithology.

More information?

Check the WFO web site: www.wfo-cbrc.org OR contact:

Bob Barnes

PO Box 953, Weldon, CA 93283

e-mail: bbarnes@lightspeed.net

Phone: (760) 378-3044, FAX: (760) 378-4013

Kern River Activities

California Partners In Flight Conference and Riparian Habitat Field Workshop

Wednesday-Sunday, June 21-25, 2000

Open to anyone interested in riparian habitat restoration and the effort to "keep common birds common." Field trips all five days, conference (Wed-Fri P.M.), PRBO-conducted Integrated Avian Monitoring Workshop (Fri A.M.) and bird banding (Sat and Sun mornings). Featuring Audubon-California's Kern River Preserve, California Fish and Game's Cane Brake Ecological Reserve and Sequoia National Forest's South Fork Wildlife Area; all part of the South Fork Kern River Globally Important Bird Area.

2nd Annual Hummingbird Celebration

Late July through early Sept, 2000

Hummingbird banding, observation and identification, status and distribution, biology, migration, gardens and feeders, guest lectures by hummingbird authorities and field trips.

7th Kern Valley Turkey Vulture Count

September 1-October 20, 2000

Site of the largest documented passage of Turkey Vultures over a single site in the U.S. and Canada; averaging 29,000

individuals per annual Sept-Oct count. Volunteer counters desired and welcome.

More info on the previous trips?

Bob Barnes, Audubon-California

PO Box 953

Weldon, CA 93283

e-mail: bbarnes@lightspeed.net

Phone: (760) 378-3044,

Fax: (760) 378-4013

Web site:

http://frontpage.lightspeed.net/KRP/pif_meeting.htm

6th Annual Kern Valley Vulture Festival

Friday-Monday, Sept 29-Oct 2, 2000

Witness a spectacle of nature -- Turkey Vulture migration through the Kern River Valley. Turkey Vulture and California Condor viewing, programs, displays and workshops. Field trips include astronomy, moths, owling, raptors, trees and Turkey Vultures. Evening lectures. More info?

Audubon-California's Friends of the Kern River Preserve

PO Box 833, Weldon, CA 93283,

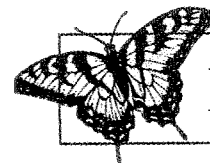
e-mail: krpfriends@lightspeed.net

Phone: (760) 378-3044

Fax: (760) 378-4013

Web site:

http://frontpage.lightspeed.net/KRP/TVfield_trips.htm



NABA

4th of July Butterfly Counts

The 26th annual North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Butterfly Counts will be held this summer the few weeks before or after the 4th of July. These fun-filled counts track the butterfly populations of North America. Volunteers select a count area with a 15-mile diameter and conduct a one-day census of all butterflies sighted within that circle.

No matter how much or how little butterfly watching you've done, the results of butterfly counting can be surprising and interesting. Please join us for a day of fascinating butterfly counting.

For more information on the count program or counts in your area, please consult NABA's web site at www.naba.org, or send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to:

NABA - Butterfly Count
4 Delaware Road
Morristown, NJ 07960



PELAGIC TRIPS

Saturday, May 20 –

San Pedro Channel and out to sea.

12-hour trip departs from Marina del Rey at 6:00 A.M. on the R/V UCLA Sea World. Birds seen in prior years: Northern Fulmar; Black-vented, Sooty and Pink-footed shearwaters; Sabine's Gull; terns (up to six); Pomarine Jaeger; rocky shorebirds (4-5); Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Xantus's Murrelet; Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets. Rarities: puffins have been seen twice in 14 years.

Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Barney Schlinger. \$45 – bring food and drink.

Saturday, June 10 –

Island Scrub-Jay Trip! Santa Cruz Island, landing at Prisoners' Cove.

10-hour trip departs from the Ventura Marina at 8:00 A.M. on the M/V Jeffrey Arvid. This beautiful island is the largest and most varied of the Channel Islands. We will take a short walk with a naturalist from the Nature Conservancy to see the flora and fauna as we search for the endemic Island Scrub-Jay. We will then cruise off the island for pelagic species. Birds seen in prior years: Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed, Sooty and Flesh-footed (rare)

REFUND POLICY FOR PELAGIC TRIPS

If a participant cancels 31 days or more prior to departure, a \$5 service charge will be deducted from the refund. There is no participant refund if requested fewer 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.

All pelagic trips must be filled 35 days prior to sailing. Please make your reservations early.

shearwaters; Black Storm-Petrel; Sabine's Gull; Pigeon Guillemot; Xantus's Murrelet; Island Scrub-Jay; island races of the Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow and House Finch. Rarities: Buller's Shearwater and Saw-whet Owl.

Leaders: Mike San Miguel and Mitch Heindel. \$60 – bring food and drink.

Saturday, August 26 –

Red-billed Tropicbird Trip!

18-hour trip departs from San Pedro at 5:00 A.M. on the R/V Yellowfin. Early morning departure past Santa Catalina Island to the deeper waters south of San Nicholas Island.

Birds seen in prior years: Red-billed Tropicbird (seen on every trip); Leach's Storm-Petrel; Long-tailed Jaeger; South Polar Skua. (Blue Whales have been seen on this trip). Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Mitch Heindel. \$130 – 3 meals included in the price.

Sunday, September 10 –

Anacapa Island to Santa Rosa Island through the Santa Rosa Passage to Santa Cruz Island. 12-hour trip departs from the Ventura Marina at 7:00 A.M. on the M/V Vanguard.

Birds seen on prior trips: Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed, Sooty and Black-vented shearwaters; Black, Least and Ashy storm-petrels; cormorants (3); Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; rocky shorebirds (up to five); Common Murre; Craveri's and Xantus's murrelets; Cassin's Auklet. Rarities: Buller's shearwater; South Polar Skua; Long-tailed Jaeger. Leaders: David Koeppel and Michael J. San Miguel. \$70 – galley on board.

Saturday, September 23 –

East end of Santa Catalina Island and out to sea toward San Clemente Island.

12-hour trip departs from San Pedro at 6:00 A.M. on the R/V Vantuna.

This is a new trip, past Santa Catalina Island toward San Clemente Island, which is in the new alignment of the Los Angeles County pelagic boundaries. (See WT, Vol. 58 No. 10).

Birds seen this time of year: Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed, Sooty and Buller's (rare) shearwaters; Black, Ashy and Least storm-petrels; Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers; Sabine's Gull; rocky shorebirds (up to five); Common Murre; Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets. Rarities: South Polar Skua; Long-tailed Jaeger; boobies (three in the past). Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Mitch Heindel. \$45 – tea and coffee, no galley.

Saturday, October 14 –

San Pedro Channel and out to sea toward Santa Barbara Island.

(final destination to be determined by the leaders). 12-hour trip departs from San Pedro at 6:00 A.M. on the R/V Vantuna. Birds seen on prior trips: Northern Fulmar; Buller's and Pink-footed shearwaters; Black and Ashy storm-petrels; Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers; Sabine's Gull; rocky shorebirds; Common Murre; Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets; Xantus's Murrelet. Rarities: Long-tailed Jaeger. Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Mitch Heindel. \$45 – tea and coffee, no galley.

Sunday, November 12 –

San Pedro Channel along the coastal escarpment.

8-hour trip departs from San Pedro at 7:30 A.M. on the R/V Vantuna. Birds seen on prior trips: Northern Fulmar; Black-vented, Sooty and Pink-footed shearwaters; Black Storm-Petrel; cormorant (3); Pomarine Jaeger; rocky shorebirds (5); Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets. Occasionally: Common Murre; Xantus's Murrelet; Flesh-footed and Buller's shearwaters. Leaders: David Koeppel and Michael J. San Miguel. \$30 – tea and coffee, no galley.

LAAS Tours 2000

Conducted by Olga Clarke

SOUTH AFRICA – (main tour) September 4-18, 2000

Including Cape Town and environs, Durban, KwaZulu Natal's Dolphin Coast, Hluhluwe Game Reserve, Ndumo Game Reserve in Maputaland and Mala Mala. Although the main emphasis will be on the fabulous birdlife of these areas, including such endemics as Cape Sugarbird and African Jackass Penguin, found nowhere else in the world, we also will have ample opportunities to see numerous large and small animals along with other wildlife, and observe the colorful local people and their customs.

NAMIBIA – (post extension) September 17-25, 2000

Visit Windhoek, Ongava Game Reserve, Etosha National Park and Namib-Naukluft Park. Here you will find endless vistas across stark plains, ancient valleys, soaring peaks and the spectacular dunes of the Namib Desert, a photographer's dream. Some of the specialties we'll look for are Gray's Lark, Carp's Black Tit, Ludwig's Bustard, Ruppell's Parrot, Monteiro's Hornbill and Bare-cheeked Babbler.

EGYPT/KENYA – (main tour) November 18-December 5, 2000

This unique trip combines birding with seeing the amazing antiquities. We will cruise down the Nile on a deluxe cruise-ship, stopping to visit the various temples and ancient cities, and conclude with a safari to Kenya, exploring the heart of East Africa, its birds, big game and culture.

THE RED SEA and THE SINAI – (post extension) December 4-9, 2000

From Nairobi, return to Egypt to bird Sharm El Sheikh, visit the famous Ras Mohammed National Park where the Gulfs of Suez and Aqaba meet, and drive up into the mountains to St. Catherine's Monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai, where towering granite walls provide cover for Tristram's Grackles, Sinai Rosefinches and Hume's Tawny Owl.

For more information, contact:
Olga Clarke, Travel Director
2027 El Arbolita Drive
Glendale, CA 91208
Ph/fax: (818) 249-9511
e-mail: oclarketravel@earthlink.net
Web site: www.LAAudubon.org

FIELD TRIPS

continued from page 16

Sunday May 21 – Ballona Wetlands.

Bob Shanman will be leading this trip to our nearest wetland. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the Del Rey Lagoon parking lot. Take the Marina Fwy (90W) to Culver Blvd. and turn left for about a mile, then right on Pacific Ave. The lot is on the right. Lot or street parking is usually not a problem. Three hour walk. 'Scopes helpful.

Saturday, May 27 – LA Birdathon.

See page 9 if you wish to participate in this yearly educational fund-raiser.

Saturday, June 3 –

O'Melveny Park and Bee Canyon.

Raymond Schep will lead us through the chaparral of O'Melveny Park into Bee Canyon. We will see many breeding birds, including Western Bluebird and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Take the 405 Fwy north to the 118 Fwy west, take the Balboa Blvd. offramp north, turn left on Jolette Ave. and right onto Meadowlark Ave. Park at the side of the street where Meadowlark dead-ends into VanGogh St. Meet 8:00 A.M.

Sunday June 4 – Topanga State Park.

Leader **Gerry Haigh**. Meet at 8:00 A.M. See May 7 for write-up.

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 June 11 – Whittier Narrows.

Leader **Ray Jillson**. Meet at 8:00 A.M. See May 14 for write-up.

Saturday, June 17 – Mt. Pinos.

Raymond Schep will lead us in the search for Calliope Hummingbird, mountain woodpeckers, Hermit Warbler, etc. Bring a lunch. Take 5 Fwy north past Tejon Pass to the Frazier Park offramp, turn left and follow Frazier Mountain Park Rd. bearing right onto Cuddy Valley Rd. Meet at the "Y" formed by the junction of Cuddy Valley Rd. and Mil Potrero Hwy at 8:00 A.M. and park in the obvious dirt clearing. Adventure Pass required.

Friday through Monday, June 30 to July 3 – Southern Sierras Weekend

with **Bob Barnes**. Likely: Northern Goshawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Pileated Woodpecker and owls. 140-150 species seen each year. Participation limited. For information flyer, reserve with SASE. Fee: \$15 for each day attended (\$60 for 4 days). Reserve rooms early. Your name and phone number will be available to car-poolers, unless you request otherwise.

Sunday, July 9 – Big Bear Lake Vicinity.

Leaders **Nick and Mary Freeman**. Meet in the Aspen Glen Picnic Area parking lot in Big Bear at 8:00 A.M. Take Hwy 18 or Hwy 38 to Big Bear Lake, then proceed about half way along the south side of the lake on Hwy 18 and turn south on Tulip Lane. The lot will be on the southwest side of this short street. Target birds include Williamson's Sapsucker, Calliope and Rufous hummingbirds and mountain finches. It should be warm and there may be bugs, so come prepared. Bring lunch. Barbeque at Nick's condo 5 P.M. for those interested.

Saturday – Monday, July 15-17 –

Yosemite. Leader **David Yee**. Saturday and Sunday in Yosemite and Monday in Owens Valley. Limited to 14 participants. Reserve with SASE and \$15 for each day to LAAS to receive info/motel flyer. Plan to room in Oakhurst Friday night. Your name and phone number will be available to car-poolers, unless you request otherwise.

EVENING MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 9, 2000 Bill Beebe
"Birds of the Ballona Wetlands."

Join us as Bill shares his award-winning slides and speaks of his work on birdlife at Ballona Wetlands and his 50 years as a newsman and outdoor photographer.

Tuesday, June 13, 2000 Clark and Jean Moore
"California Condors – Flying Free Again"

Join us for this Condor update as U.S. Fish and Wildlife volunteers Clark and Jean Moore cover both the California and Arizona recovery programs.

MEET AT:

West Hollywood Presbyterian Church
 7350 Sunset Blvd.
 (southwest corner of Sunset and Martel.)
 Limited parking is available south of the church; enter from Martel.

The LAAS Bookstore will remain open until 7:30 P.M. on meeting night.

7:30 P.M. - Refreshments in the courtyard
 8:00 P.M. - Program

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.

Saturday, May 6 – Morongo Valley.
Raymond Schep will lead in this renowned desert oasis in the search for desert, riparian and migrant species. Take the 10 Fwy past Beaumont, turn north on State 62 to Morongo Valley. Turn right on East Drive across from Rocky's Pizza. Take the first driveway left into the lot. About a 2 hr. drive from L.A. Anticipate heat and bring lunch and plenty of water.

Sunday, May 7 – 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 biologist is often present.

From Ventura Blvd., take Topanga Canyon Blvd. 7 miles south, turn east 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, May 13 – Walker Ranch.
Irwin Woldman will lead us on a morning of birding through the oak woodland and chaparral in search of migrants and singing residents that abound here in the spring. Take Hwy 14 north from the 5 Fwy to Placerita Canyon Road, drive east about 4 miles to Placerita State Park, and continue another 2 miles to the pull-out with the locked gate on the right. Meet here at 7:30 A.M. Adventure Pass required to park on the road.

Sunday, May 14 – Whittier Narrows.
 Leader: **Ray Jillson**. Meet at 8:00 A.M. to view colorful resident and migrating birds,

including the introduced Northern Cardinal. 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 west (right) and turn left into the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave. \$2 donation to Whittier Narrows.

Saturday, May 20 – Santa Anita Canyon.
 Leader: **Mary Freeman**. Take the 210 Fwy east toward Arcadia, and take Santa Anita Ave. north to the parking lot at the very end of the road. Meet at the trailhead at the bottom of the lot. Moderately strenuous 4 mile round trip walk through oak and chaparral canyons. A good selection of breeding and migrating birds, including warblers, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Band-tailed Pigeon, three hummingbirds and American Dipper are possible. Pack in a lunch. Meet at 7:30 A.M.

Sunday, May 21 – Galileo Hills.
 Leader: **Nick Freeman**. We will look for warblers and Chukar, but give particular scrutiny to tyrant flycatchers. Take Hwy 14 past Mojave, continue north on Hwy 14 about 10 miles, then turn right on California City Blvd. Drive through town about a mile past the shops and turn left on 20 Mule Team Rd., just past the Central Park Golf Course. Follow the signs to Silver Saddle Lodge resort and Galileo Park. After entering the resort, park by the pond. This is private property, please respect parking restrictions. About 2 hr. driving time from L.A. Meet 8:00 A.M. Bring lunch and water.

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

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