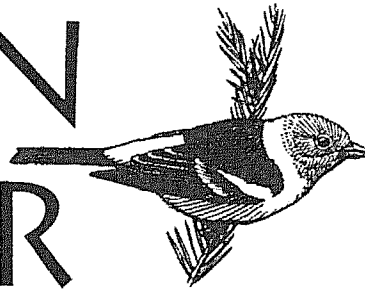


WESTERN TANAGER



Volume 70 Number 1 September/October 2003

Los Angeles Audubon Society

eBirding – A New Way to Look At Birds

by Kimball L. Garrett

Nearly all *Western Tanager* readers are familiar with various continent-wide data gathering schemes relating to North American birds, most notably the annual Christmas Bird Count, but also the "Great Backyard Bird Count", "Project Feeder Watch", and other citizen science projects run by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Such projects rely on massive amounts of data, most easily collected through the Internet, to track trends in our bird populations.

But imagine now that Christmas Bird Count results were available immediately, and that such counts took place every day of the year at every birding spot on the continent? This, in essence is the dream of "eBird", a joint project of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, National Science Foundation, American Birding Association, and Bird Studies Canada. It is a project that soon will completely change the way we track our bird populations and perhaps the way we bird.

Also, many *Western Tanager* readers are avid birders who keep notes about

their time spent in the field. Your notes may be as simple as check marks on a standardized list, or they may be detailed accounts of the numbers of birds seen (often by age and sex class), behaviors, vocalizations, field marks, nesting evidence, and so on. No matter which end of this spectrum you inhabit, eBird offers

Because not only do you submit your observations to the entire database to help generate distribution maps and quantitative information on population sizes and trends, you also have at your disposal a permanent archive of all of your personal birding outings.

Using eBird is as simple as logging on to the web site (directly at <http://www.ebird.org> or through Cornell's "BirdSource" web site), signing in (as a first-time user), and then locating the birding location for which you wish to enter a checklist. Many such localities, including most of our region's "hot spots", have already been entered into the eBird database, and you merely have to click on that location. For new locations there are easy-to-use mapping tools, or you can enter coordinates from your GPS or even use a zip code.

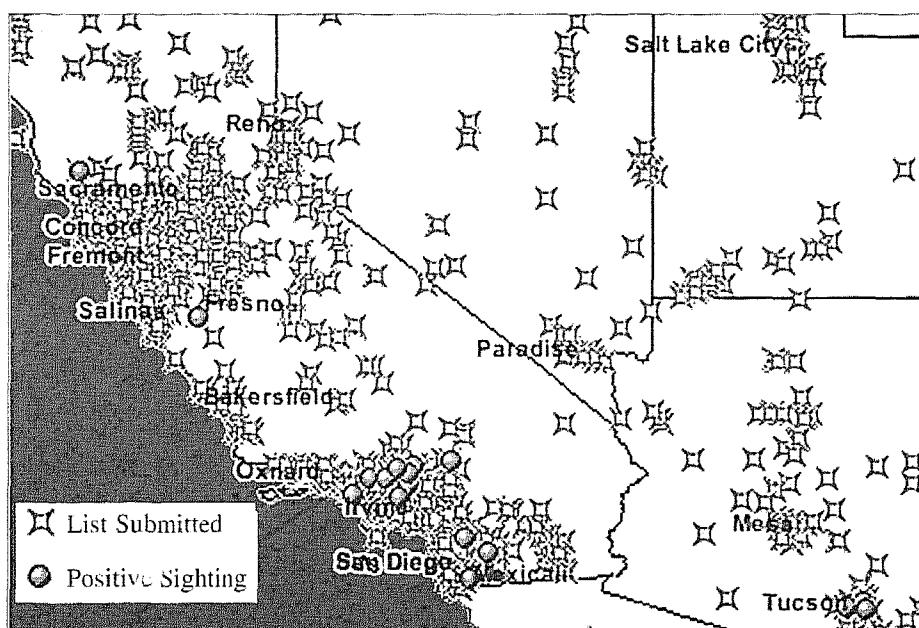
When you enter data, you give basic information about your birding effort, then eBird provides you with a species checklist appropriate to the locality.



Lawrence's Goldfinch

Photo by Brian Small

one major benefit that other citizen science data-gathering schemes do not – it keeps track of your field records for you.



Looking at a distribution map for Lawrence's Goldfinch, based on sightings submitted to eBird to date, one sees eBird's potential – the map certainly makes it clear that southern California is the place to find them! But one also sees that this potential is largely unfilled, with extensive areas lacking any information. It's up to us to help make these maps more complete.

state or regional lists, so most non-natives (such as Eurasian Collared-Doves, Nutmeg Mannikins and Yellow-chevroned Parakeets in the greater Los Angeles region) cannot be put into the database; this is counterproductive since one of eBird's goals is to track changing bird populations. (2) there currently is no way to add notes next to a species, e.g. age or sex information, breeding confirmations, etc. – this is sure to change as more flexibility is incorporated into eBird. And (3) the mapping tools are still largely unavailable for Mexico and much of Canada, which is delaying the much anticipated extension of eBird to the entire continent.

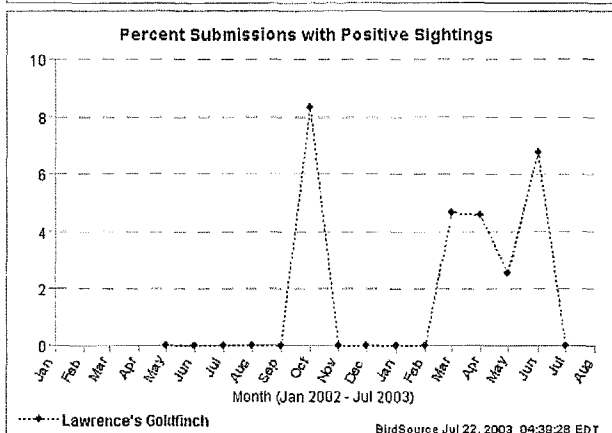
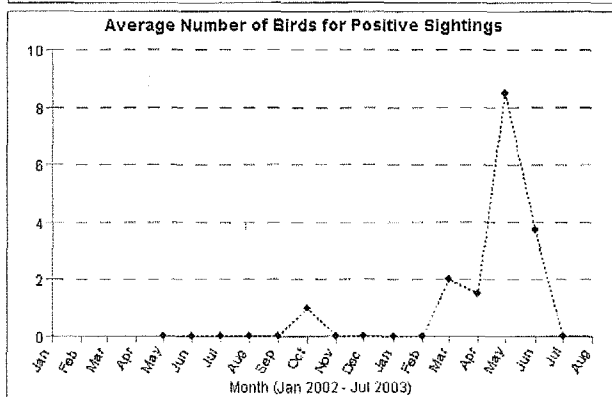
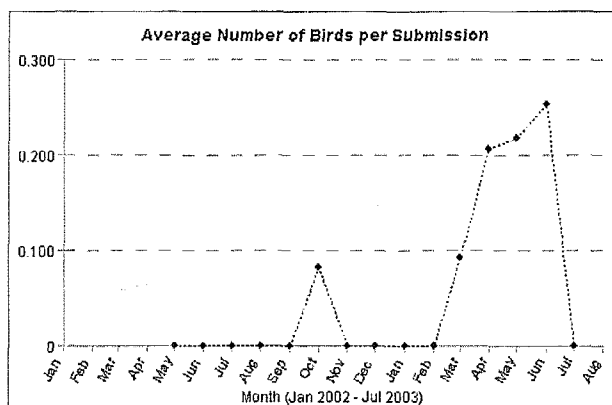
You simply enter the number of individuals of each species encountered (or a simple "X" will suffice if you did not make a count or estimate) and then submit the checklist; there is ample space to include general notes about the birding.

What happens if you enter something unusual, like a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Sepulveda Basin or a hundred American Bitterns at Malibu Lagoon? State and regional experts have constructed "filters" for eBird that flag unusual species (or unusual numbers of a species) for that month. Five Hooded Orioles in southern California in May will be accepted with no trouble, but a claim of five of them in January will raise a flag. When a flag comes up, it asks you to confirm your entry [most times the flag results from a simple error in data entry]. Unusual sightings submitted to eBird will be forwarded to North American Birds Regional Editors, who can then contact the observers for further confirmation and documentation.

When you've completed data entry, you can print out your observations. And, of course, all of your


personal sightings are maintained by eBird and can be queried and edited by you in various ways. Those of you with some time on your hands can also back-enter your field records to provide a more robust historical database for eBird. Even if you don't enter data into eBird, you can search the eBird database in various ways. For example, you can generate lists of birds seen in a given region (or at a given site) over a specified period of time (such as a list of birds reported at Hansen Dam in 2003). You can also call up maps of species distributions for a given time frame, and examine summary statistics and graphs of abundance and population trends.

The eBird database is still in its infancy, and there are a number of inevitable problems. The eBird staff is working hard to smooth out problems as well as to add additional features – suggestions are welcomed by eBird project leader Mike Powers through the web site or at (607) 254-2106. Examples of eBird limitations I find problematic are: (1) one can only enter species on official



Not only are birders urged to participate in the eBird project and use its many features, but local birding groups such as Audubon chapters can make great use of this database. Important local birding areas and areas of conservation concern, such as Malibu Lagoon, the Playa del Rey Freshwater Ponds, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, Harbor Regional Park, Hansen Dam, Sepulveda Wildlife Area, Eaton Canyon, and many others, will greatly benefit from an ongoing compilation of records through eBird.

Chapters can ask field trip leaders to make certain that trip results are entered into eBird, and solicit volunteers to retroactively enter data from decades of past field trips. Chapters can also use the eBird database to inform decisions ranging from establishing conservation priorities to identifying potential field trip destinations.

Give eBird a try. Its potential is enormous, but this will go unrealized if active birders do not participate. eBird will not substitute for more rigorously obtained data from point counts, nest searches, banding studies and other field ornithology techniques, but its ability to paint a detailed, day-by-day picture of the birdlife of our continent is an exciting possibility that is becoming a reality. 

What's a Lek?

Nick Freeman

In response to questions about my article, in the 2003 July-August *Tanager*, "lekking" is a social behavior exhibited by a number of bird species including tropical manakins, cotingas, birds of paradise, and bowerbirds, as well as some Arctic shorebirds such as Ruffs, most species of temperate grouse, and (arguably, very loosely) most ducks. The site at which this social interaction takes place is called a "lek".

Lekking behavior falls somewhere between a dance and a battle between the males, and serves to establish a hierarchy of dominance, and to attract the favor of the on-looking females.

In an "exploded" lek, as exhibited by some hummingbirds and manakins, the males are within earshot of one another, but usually do not see or interact with each other. They are still in an exclusive lekking area, and the females shop around for the "best-looking" male. In a "traditional" lek, as exhibited by

most grouse, prairie-chickens and many others, the males come into physical contact with each other, and skirmishes erupt, resulting in a recognized inner circle of alpha males. The alpha male (top dog) often gets his pick of a central display location in a lek, and the females know it! Alpha males get to mate with most of the females, but a few sub-alpha males sneak the affections of females from time to time.

Some of these details were gleaned from: *Arena Birds: Sexual Selection and Behavior* by Paul Johnsgard. If you would like to see lekking in action, like birds in general, or simply like beautiful scenery, I suggest that you attend L.A. Audubon Society's Owens Valley weekend field trip conducted by the charming and inimitable Mary Freeman (who happens to be my wife). Keep an eye out for it in our calendar – it's usually the last week of March or the first of April. Hope to see you there!

LAAS INTERNATIONAL TOURS

THE BEST OF COSTA RICA – March 2-14, 2004

TORTUGUERO/BRAULIO CARRILLO Extension – March 14-29, 2004

Experience legendary, excellent birding in Central America's richest biodiversity with ease and comfort. Habitats visited range from mangroves in the arid Pacific on the Gulf of Nicoya, to cloud forests of Monteverde, Carara Biological Reserve and the Rio Tarcoles area, Cerro de la Muerte, San Gerardo Valley and the Savegre Private Forest, along with La Paz Waterfall, La Selva Biological Station, and La Virgen del Socorro. Some of the specialties we may see are Black Guan, Great Green Macaw, Snowcap, Resplendent Quetzal, Fiery-billed Aracari, Three-wattled Bellbird, Turquoise Cotinga, and Timberline Wren to name a few.

The Extension provides chances to view a variety of other wildlife such as poison arrow frogs, butterflies, iguanas, crocodiles, monkeys, anteaters, and abundant birdlife. The unique aerial tram at Braulio Carrillo is a fascinating opportunity to observe the rainforest canopy and some of its inhabitants at eye level. This introduction to birding the New World tropics, is an adventure not to be missed.

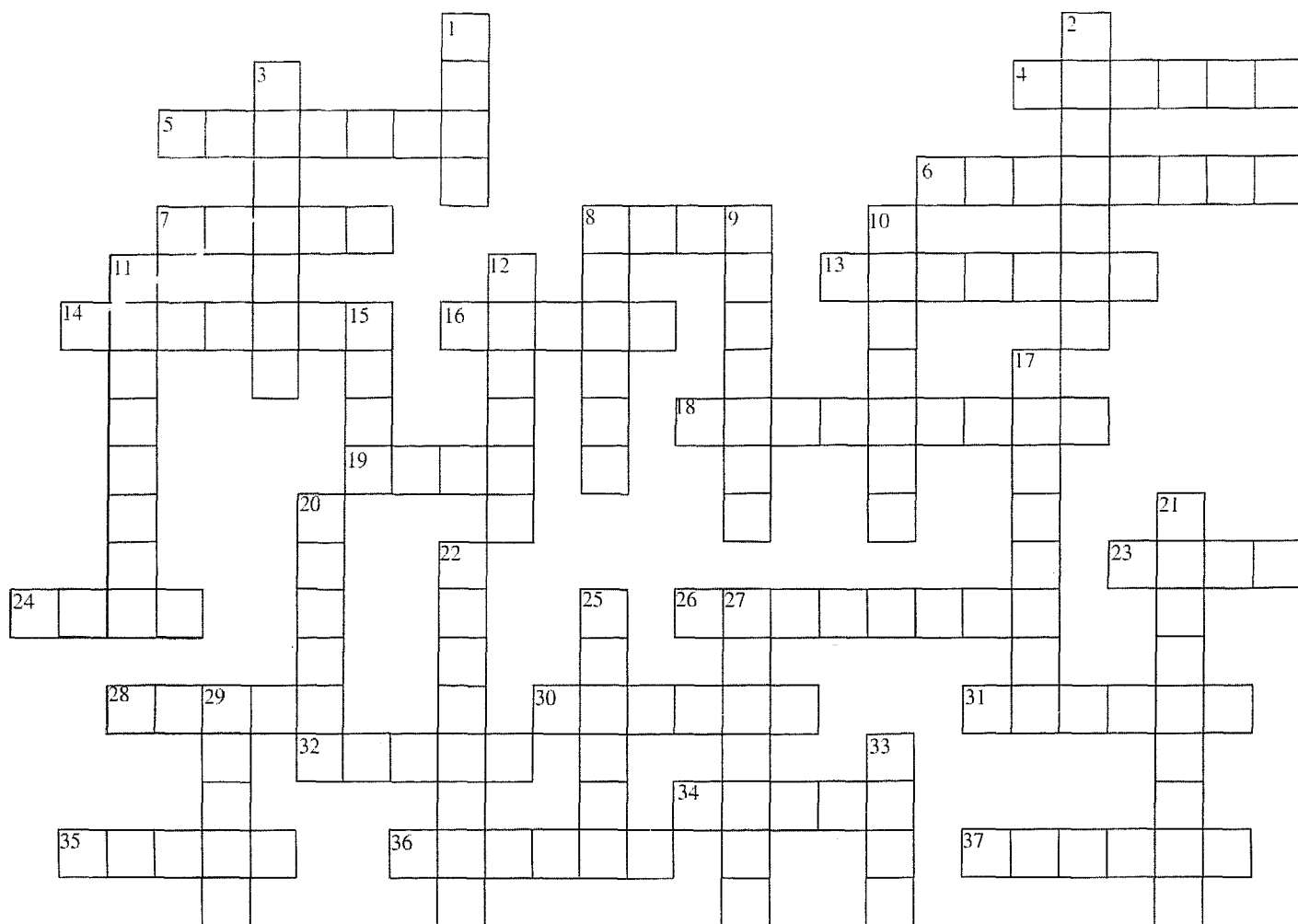
For details, please contact:

Olga Clarke, Travel Director, Los Angeles Audubon Society

Ph/Fax: (818) 249-9511 e-mail: oclarketravel@earthlink.net

How Well Do You Know Your Authors?

A challenge from Hartmut Walter



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WESTERN TANAGER

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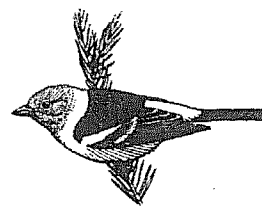
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Dear Los Angeles Audubon Society Member and
TANAGER Subscribers:

As a reader of *WESTERN TANAGER* you are:

- 1) a member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, your local chapter of National Audubon Society, or
- 2) you have chosen L.A. Audubon as your local NAS affiliation, or
- 3) you are a subscriber.

Recent policy changes by National Audubon have severely reduced the share of membership dues returned to local chapters (less than 10% in most cases). This covers only a small portion of services and programs which we provide.

LAAS provides local Chapter services and programs for members such as:

- a subscription to *WESTERN TANAGER*
- interesting and informative monthly meetings with special guest presentations
- wonderful field trips on land and sea local and worldwide
- a fantastic bookstore with publications, optics, sound recordings and birding accessories
- our education program focused on local habitat and species of wildlife directed to teachers
- financial and volunteer conservation support to Los Angeles area habitat and wildlife
- volunteer programs and activities in the Los Angeles area
- communications about important issues and events via mail, e-mail and our website
- www.laaudubon.org
- a birding hot line
- other efforts to make a difference in the natural life of the Los Angeles area.

The L.A. Audubon Board, like many other National Audubon chapters, voted to offer *Chapter Only* memberships. The LAAS Membership Committee created four levels of yearly *Chapter Only* membership: \$20-individual, \$35-family, \$50, \$100, and \$250.

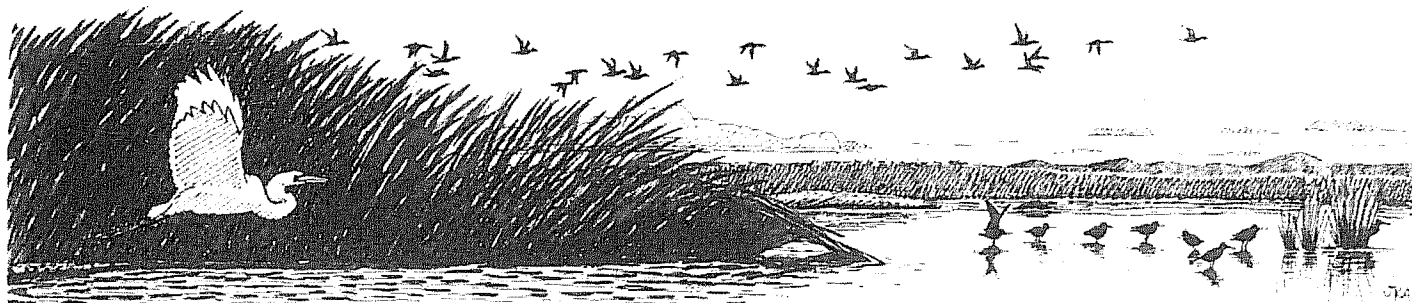
When it's time to renew with National Audubon we encourage you to become a *Chapter Only* Member of LAAS or make a donation. *Chapter Only* members will NOT receive *AUDUBON Magazine*, enjoy privileges/discounts offered by National Audubon, nor be able to vote in National Audubon elections unless you are also a National Audubon Society member, which we encourage, if these are of value to you.

Subscriptions to *WESTERN TANAGER* are available for individuals or organizations who are not members of L.A. Audubon for \$15 per year (1st class) or \$9 per year (3rd class) or for LAAS members who wish to get *WESTERN TANAGER* 1st class for \$5/yr.

To join, subscribe, make a donation, or for further information contact,
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Membership Chair
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CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

The World Heritage Committee of the United Nations rarely makes the headlines. For decades the committee has surveyed hundreds of irreplaceable examples of the planet's natural treasures and declared them World Heritages. The committee maintains an "In Danger" list – nineteen at the present time – that calls for international attention to the possibility of degradation or destruction of a threatened Heritage. Yellowstone, with its spectacular geysers, hot springs, snow-covered mountains, wildlife, and primeval forests was declared a "national park and pleasuring ground" in 1872. It is our first and largest national park. In 1995, the UN committee put Yellowstone on its "In Danger" list, declaring the threat of digging an open-pit gold mine on its border, the overuse of snowmobiles and the poor management of native bison herds as justification.

The Clinton administration withdrew the gold mining from development but the initial agreement permits construction in 16 years. The present administration is not interested in making the withdrawal permanent. The National Park Service proposed a complete ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone citing the effect of 66,000 vehicles churning up the land, spewing pollution and noise affecting wildlife and campers alike. To no one's surprise, the Bush administration deleted the proposal. A coalition of environmental organizations has brought suit. The bison are a special attraction for the park with the last free-roaming herd in North America, the remnant population of the millions that roamed the plains in the 19th century. Brucellosis is a deadly disease of cattle and some bison carry the bacteria. Grazing

cattle on the outskirts of the park may come in contact with bison that are seeking food there. The owners of the domestic animals are convinced that the bison are the source of the disease so the Park Service rounds up as many as 200 bison every winter and has them slaughtered, though there is no documented proof that livestock have ever contracted brucellosis from bison. It would seem reasonable to eliminate the grazing privileges for private cattle in areas so close to the park boundaries rather than continue the wholesale destruction of these harmless attractive natives.

The Administration, continuing its apparent anti-environmental way, is already considering introducing oil and gas exploration, seems ready to move gray wolves and grizzly bears from the endangered species list, and refuses to cancel the gold mine project. Yet, Paul Hoffman, an Interior Department official, wrote to the World Heritage Committee in April, "Yellowstone is no longer in danger." He insists that previous problems that disturbed the Committee had already been corrected or were being studied. However, the professional scientific staff of the park disagrees with the political appointees, telling us that polluted streams still are toxic, that the bison massacre still goes on and that the public users of the park are being short-changed.

The World Heritage Committee is to consider the request of the Interior Department to remove Yellowstone from the "In Danger" list very soon. A strong coalition of environmental groups, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council, will attend the Paris meeting to oppose the Administration and defend our first pleasuring ground.

Update:

On July 17th, the Republican-dominated House of Representatives passed an incredibly devastating environmental program that embodied most of the goals of the Bush Administration.

1. Snowmobiles in both Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, which were to be eliminated next year by the National Park Service, were now guaranteed to continue the noise and air pollution that is their earmark. Commenting on the defeat, a congressman from New Jersey said, "The air is so bad that the Park Service issues respirators to its rangers and they actually use them."

2. Remember the enthusiasm that greeted the Clinton order setting aside over 58 million acres of forest land as roadless to preserve natural habitat from destructive logging? Republicans did their master's bidding by a vote of 268 to 152; when the bill is signed, the timber giants will move in.

3. Rejected by the House was a motion to outlaw bear baiting, a practice that lures bear with food to forest land so they can be easily shot.

4. Refused to allow federal money to capture and kill bison that stray too close to the edges of forest land. Do they expect local ranchers to pay for the slaughter? Did the House consider fencing off areas that would keep cattle and bison apart?

It will be interesting to see what the Senate does to this "environmental program".

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Dexter Kelly, 1st VP and Education Chair, announces that LAAS' new Education Program Director is Robin Gose, currently the manager of School and Outreach programs for the California Science Center. Robin has had extensive experience in working with elementary school children both here and in Texas, where she developed interdisciplinary nature and science programs for the Austin Nature and Science Center. She also coordinated statewide birding competitions in Texas, with separate programs for adults and children. Robin has established good working relationships with Los Angeles Unified School District faculty and staff, and we expect her to develop a program which we hope will become integrated into LAUSD elementary school curricula. The program will be developed during the fall, with trial testing commencing in spring 2004.

New 2nd VP Pat Heirs attended her first Board meeting July 10. Pat's first voluntary assignment was to join the By-Laws Committee in updating the By-Laws for LAAS.

The By-Laws Committee will present updated revisions of the By-Laws to the Board at the September

4 Board meeting. Copies will be available to Members at the September 9 General meeting and on the website. Members will vote on the updated By-Laws at the General meeting on October 14 so please mark your Calendar to attend this important meeting.

LAAS has a new website! The redesign is at the same web address www.laaudubon.org and will be easier to navigate to find news, events, and other information quickly. Please send your comments on the new website to Communications Chair, garrygeorge@pacbell.net.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Earth Share is a nationwide network of America's leading non-profit environmental and conservation organizations that works to promote environmental education and charitable giving through workplace giving campaigns. It's an opportunity for environmentally conscious employees and workplaces to support hundreds of environmental groups at once through a charitable giving drive. Last year, Earth Share contributed over \$1,000 to L.A. Audubon thanks to the efforts of L.A. Audubon volunteers, especially past Treasurer

Cheryl Epps, who worked closely with Earth Share and attended events. We need someone to take over this responsibility for the next year. It's a great opportunity to meet other environmentally friendly groups and bring in a donation for L.A. Audubon.

The office of L.A. Audubon is looking for a Volunteer computer and hardware technical specialist near West Hollywood who can respond to emergencies and help plan upgrades to the software and hardware used by the Society and the Bookstore.

Volunteers please contact LAAS at (323) 876-0202 or by email at laas@laaudubon.org.

Saturday, September 20 from 9 A.M. to 12 noon is California Coastal Cleanup Day sponsored by Heal the Bay. Since the program started in 1985, over 552,000 California have removed almost 8.5 million pounds of debris from state shorelines. To register or Volunteer please contact Meredith McCarthy at Heal the Bay, (310) 453-0395 ext. 103 or email cleanup@healthebay.org or check the website www.healthebay.org for updated information.

NAS Board Meeting in L.A.

The September meeting of the National Audubon Society Board of Directors will be held in Los Angeles on September 5-7, 2003. As always, members are welcome to attend the meeting. For information on the agenda, location, and directions, please contact Lynn Tennefoss at (800) 542-2748, ltennefoss@audubon.org, or Jennifer Armstrong at jarmstrong@audubon.org. Advance notice by potential attendees is very helpful in order to prepare seats and lunch for the appropriate number of attendees."

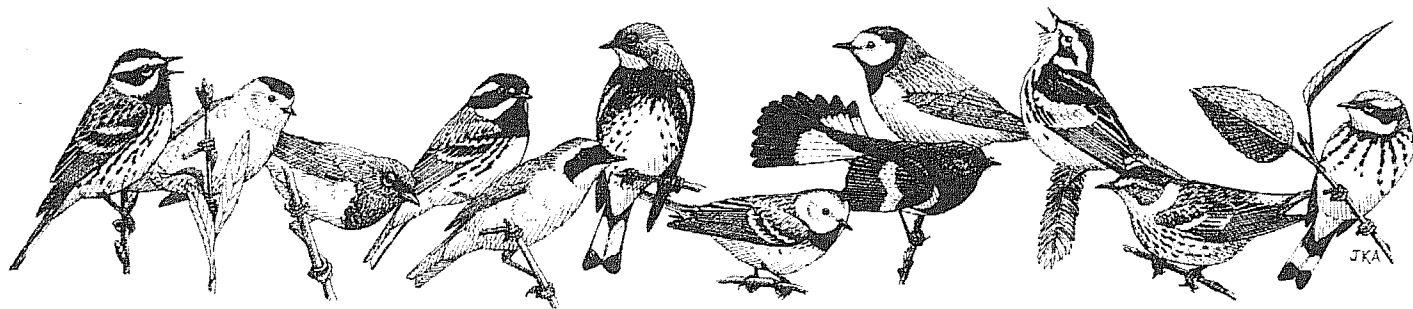
Special Bookstore Hours

On HALLOWEEN,

Friday, October 31, 2003

the bookstore will close at 2 P.M.

Happy Halloween!



BIRDS OF THE SEASON

Once again, this column is a compilation of Los Angeles County bird reports taken from the LAAS Rare Bird Alert that is recorded weekly by Jon Fisher. The birds mentioned were seen during the week indicated

May 29

A **Brant** continued at Malibu Lagoon through Monday, May 26.

Several **Black Swifts** were seen at Red Box junction in the San Gabriel Mountains. The birds were present near dusk on May 15. Red Box is on Highway 2 at the turnoff to Mt. Wilson.

On May 27, a **Cassin's Sparrow** was reported in Los Angeles County where Largo Vista and Panorama Roads meet in the northeast part of the county.

June 5

An **Ovenbird** was found at the L.A. International Airport. The bird was under a hedge near the entrance to the Northwest Cargo Terminal. The terminal is north of Imperial Highway on Aviation. No subsequent sightings have been reported.

A **Summer Tanager** was on the north side of the San Gabriel Mountains on June 1. The bird was at the intersection of Valyermo Road and Pallett Creek Road just northwest of the Valyermo Ranger Station.

Several dozen **Sooty** and **Pink-footed** shearwaters, a **Pigeon Guillemot** and a **Pomerine Jaeger** were seen off Point Vincente on June 1.

June 12

Two **Eastern Kingbirds** turned up this past week. One was at Harbor Regional Park in Wilmington on June 7. The other was at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester.

A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at Alondra Park in Torrance on June 6.

A **Red-faced Warbler** was found at El Dorado Park in Long Beach on June 10. The bird was singing in eucalyptus trees in the extreme northwest part of the Nature Center area, near the wheelchair path. Later in the day it had moved to the pond near the Nature Center. This bird could not be refound the next day.

A **Hooded Warbler** was also at El Dorado Park and was seen through June 11. This bird was also along the concrete wheelchair path.

June 19

Following a spring with few reports of vagrants, June has been a very productive month. A **Franklin's Gull** was at Malibu Lagoon on June 12, but has not been reported since.

At Banning Park in Wilmington, a **Red-eyed Vireo** was seen on Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15. The bird was singing and in the elms on the east side of the park.

A **Northern Parula** was reported from Malibu Creek State Park on June 15. The bird was about 1/4 mile west of the parking area at the stream crossing on the left side of the trail.

Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel Mountains produced a **Grace's Warbler** on June 14. The bird was seen near the Burkhardt Trailhead parking area.

A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported from El Dorado Park in Long Beach on June 15. The bird was seen along the nature trail that leads to the south lake.

July 3

Five **Cassin's Auklets** were observed flying past Pt. Vicente on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on the morning of June 27. Pt. Vicente is an excellent location for spotting seabirds. At DeForest Park in North Long Beach, a **Northern Parula** was found on June 27. The bird was singing just inside the entrance to the Nature Trail.

At the Playa Vista wetlands, a **Bobolink** was seen on June 29. The wetlands are just southwest of the intersection of Jefferson and Lincoln. Parking is on the south side of Jefferson in Playa del Rey.

July 10

Least Bitterns were seen at Legg Lake in South El Monte on July 6. Look for them on the center lake. The birds were seen on the south side of the easternmost island.

On July 3rd, a **Red-eyed Vireo** was found at the edge of Debs Regional Park in Montecito Heights. This part of the park is closed, but the bird could be seen from the intersection of Montecito Drive and Montecito Circle.

July 17

The **Least Bittern** was again seen at Legg Lake in South El Monte on July 13.

A **Lucy's Warbler** was found along Malaga Creek in Rancho Palos Verdes on July 13. The bird was seen near the end of Via Tejon, but could not be relocated despite a prolonged search.

An immature **Magnificent Frigatebird** flew south past Point Vicente on July 13.

Bird Tape (323) 874-1318

Jon Fisher records the Bird Tape. Please report interesting bird sightings to him at:

Jon Fisher
(818) 544-5009 (work)
JonF60@hotmail.com

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, September 6 –

A deep water trip toward



Cherry, Tanner, and Cortez banks.

This twelve hour trip departs from Santa Barbara Harbor at 7:00 A.M. on the fast catamaran the Condor Express.

This is our **Red-billed Tropicbird** trip.

We go far offshore in three counties, Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara.

Birds to be expected: Black, Least, Ashy, and Leach's storm-petrels; Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers; South Polar Skua; Sabine's Gull. Rarities: Black-footed Albatross; Buller's Shearwater; Arctic Tern; Craveri's Murrelet. Blue, Fin, and Minke whales as well as several species of dolphins have been seen on this trip.

Leaders: **Mitch Heindel, Kimball Garrett, David Pereksta, Todd McGrath.**

\$150 – There is a full galley on board which seats 60 people in comfort. There are large windows that allow you to observe the ocean while seated.

Sunday, September 7 –

Topanga State Park. Ken Wheeland

and **Chris Tosdevin** 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 Trippet Ranch parking lot. From PCH, take Topanga Cyn. Blvd. 5 miles to Entrada Rd. Parking \$2. Meet at 8:00 A.M.

Saturday, September 13 –

Galileo Hills. Leader: Nick Freeman.

This location is a migrant magnet and vagrant vortex. Songbirds, flycatchers, etc. Take Hwy 14 about 4 miles past Mojave, then turn right on California City Blvd. Drive through town about a mile past the shops, turn left on Randsburg-Mojave Rd. just past the Golf Course, and veer right on 20 Mule Team Rd. Turn left at the Galileo Hills sign before the hill, take your first paved right, your first right

again, into the Silver Saddle Country Club, followed by two paved lefts into the lot. Park by the pond. About 2 hours driving time from L.A. LAAS phone sign-up mandatory. 12 max. Bring lunch, sun block. Meet at 7:30 A.M., finish up 4ish.

Sunday, September 14 –

Piute Ponds and beyond. Local leader

Alan Brown. A good mix of shorebirds, waterfowl and songbirds will be migrating through at this time. Official access pending to inner base ponds. Bring lunch. Meet at 7:30 A.M., finish 3:00 P.M. or so. To reserve with LAAS and learn Rosamond meeting place, mail a SASE for required, limited sign-up of 12 by September 2, including citizenship status, phone number, e-mail, and social security number. No drop-ins.

Sunday, September 14 –

Whittier Narrows. Leader: Ray Jillson.

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 W (right) and turn left into the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave. \$2 donation. Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Saturday, September 20 –

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

Leaders: **Eric and Anne Brooks.** This trip covers landscaped parkland and natural coastal scrub habitats, and is paced for beginning birders and members of the Baldwin Hills community. The park entrance is off of La Cienega Blvd. Between Rodeo Rd. and Stocker St. After passing the entrance kiosk (\$3 parking fee), turn left (leading to the "Olympic Forest") and park in the first available spaces. Meet at 8:00 A.M.

Saturday, September 20 –

Hansen Dam. Leader Dustin Alcalá.

We'll search for migrant songbirds, early waterbirds, and lingering residents in the willow forest and other habitats that make the dam one of the best birding locales in L.A. County. Take the 210 E from Sylmar, exit Osborne Street going S, then turn left to stay on Osborne St.

Turn left at Dronfield St. into parking lot with Hansen Dam Recreation Center sign. Long walk, bring water! Bird 7:00 A.M. until noon.

Sunday, September 21 –

Ballona Wetlands. Bob Shanman will be leading this trip to our nearest wetland.

Adult shorebirds will be numerous. Meet at the Del Rey Lagoon parking lot. Take the Marina Fwy (90 W) to Culver Blvd. and turn left for a mile, turn right on Pacific Ave. The lot is on the right. Lot or street parking is usually not a problem. Three-hour walk. 'scopes helpful. Meet at 8:00 A.M.

Saturday, September 27 –

San Diego Area. Leader Nick Freeman.

A good portion of the morning will certainly be spent at Pt. Loma. Some odd birds have been known to pop up here during late migration. Other possible areas include the Tijuana Marsh and nearby farm fields. Take the 5 Fwy S about three miles past Route 52 to the Clairemont Drive offramp and head W into the small lot adjacent to the Mission Bay Information Center. Meet E of the kiosk at 7:30 A.M. Bring a lunch. Call Audubon House to sign up!

Saturday, October 4 –

Malibu to McGrath. Dick Barth will lead. Passerines should be moving fast and furious through coastal migration spots. Late shorebirds as well – probably over 100 species. Take PCH N over the bridge in Malibu, and turn right on Cross Creek Road. Meet at the Starbucks coffee house on the right; depart to the lagoon at 7:30 A.M. Full day of birding, if you wish. There may be access fees at Mugu and elsewhere.

Saturday, October 4 –

A deep water trip south of San Miguel Island to Richardson's Rock and cruise out to 1000 fathoms. This eight hour trip departs from Santa Barbara Harbor at 8:00 A.M. on the fast catamaran, Condor Express. Birds to be expected: Black-vented, Pink-footed, Buller's, and Sooty shearwaters; Black, Ashy, Leach's, and Least storm-petrels;



Pomarine Jaeger; South Polar Skua; Long-tailed Jaeger; Sabine's Gull; Xantus's Murrelet; Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets; perhaps Common Murre and Pigeon Guillemot. Rare: Flesh-footed Shearwater. Leaders: **Mitch Heindel, David Pereksta, Barney Schlinger, Peter Cattle, Bernardo Alps.**

\$110 – There is a full galley on board which seats 60 people in comfort, with large windows which allow you to observe the ocean while seated.

Sunday, October 5 – Topanga State Park. Leaders: **Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin.** See September 7 listing for details.

Saturday, October 11 – Santa Barbara Area. Local talent **Wes Fritz** leads. Coastal riparian migrant traps will be scoured for possible eastern vagrants among the western passerines. Possible stops include: Refugio and El Capitan state beaches, Carpinteria Beach. Take the 101 Hwy N through Santa Barbara to the Los Carneros offramp, turn right (N), then right again just before the fire station into the free parking lot. Meet here at 8:00 A.M. Possible \$2 state park fee elsewhere. 1.5 hour drive from L.A. Bring a lunch, and bird 'till you drop!

Sunday, October 12 – Whittier Narrows. Leader: **Ray Jillson.** See September 14 listing for details.

Saturday, October 18 – Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Leaders: **Ann and Eric Brooks.** Meet at 8:00 A.M. \$3 entry fee. See September 20 listing for details.

Saturday and Sunday, October 18-19 – Salton Sea. Leader **Howard King** will be concentrating on the north end of the sea Saturday, work the west side to the south, and cover the south end and east side on Sunday. Early gulls, late shorebirds, and passerines should be center stage. Take the 10 Fwy E past Palm Springs to 86S to 66th Ave. (Hwy 195) in Mecca. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at the new Arco gas station to the left of the Fwy. We do not recommend Motel 6 in Indio, the Motel 6 on Washington St. in Palm Desert is safer, but about 20 miles away. Reserve a room near Brawley for Saturday night.

Send SASE to Audubon House to sign up, and for lodging. 12 max. No fee.

Sunday, October 19 – Ballona Wetlands. Leader **Bob Shanman.** See September 21 listing for details.

Saturday, October 25 – Oxnard Plains. Leaders **Nick and Mary Freeman.** Meet at the Hueneme sod fields at 8:00 A.M. to look over the American Pipits for a possible Red-throated, as well as longspurs. There may be vagrants to chase. Mugu estuary, Sycamore Canyon, and Saticoy settling ponds are also possibilities. Meet on the S side of Hueneme Rd. just before Casper Rd. and about 1.5 miles W of PCH. From the 101 W, take Las Posas Rd. S to Hueneme Rd. W. Bird 'til we see all the birds. *Scopes helpful.

Saturday, October 25 – Northern Channel Islands Monument. Anacapa, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz islands toward San Miguel Island. Eleven or twelve hour trip departs from the Oxnard Marina at 7:30 A.M. on the M/V Vanguard. Birds seen on prior trips: Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed, Sooty, and Black-vented shearwaters; Leach's, Least, and Ashy storm-petrels; cormorants (three); Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; rocky shorebirds (up to five); Common Murre; Craveri's and Xantus's murrelets; Cassin's Auklet. Rareties: Flesh-footed and Buller's shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Long-tailed Jaeger. Blue, Finback, and Humpback whales have been seen on this trip. In 2002, a Streaked Shearwater was seen. Leaders: **David Pereksta, Michael J. San Miguel, Jonathan Feenstra, Bernardo Alps.** \$90 – Limited galley on board. Box lunches can be ordered from a nearby deli.

Sunday, November 2 – Topanga State Park. Leaders: **Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin.** See September 7 listing for details.

Saturday, November 8 – Ventura Marina toward and past **San Miguel Island** on the fast catamaran M/V Islander. Nine hour trip departs from Ventura at 8:00 A.M. and returns by 5:00 P.M. After dropping off

campers on Santa Cruz Island, we have the boat to ourselves, and head toward the 1000 fathom water about 10 miles from San Miguel Island. Birds seen this time of year: Northern Fulmar; Black-vented, Sooty, and Pink-footed shearwaters; Leach's Storm-Petrel; South Polar Skua; Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers; rocky shorebirds (up to five); Common Murre; Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets. Occasionally: Craveri's Murrelet. Rarities: Flesh-footed and Buller's shearwaters; Black-footed Albatross. Leaders: **Kimball Garrett, David Pereksta, Michael J. San Miguel, Bernardo Alps.** \$95 – Limited snack type galley on board.

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 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.

REFUND POLICY FOR PELAGIC TRIPS

If a participant cancels 31 days or more prior to departure, a \$4 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 reserve early.*

EVENING MEETINGS

Meet at 7:30 P.M. in Plummer Park
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90046-6694

Tuesday, September 9

Herb Clarke and Fred Heath
Butterflies through the Seasons in Southern California



Southern California has butterflies throughout the year. Using the Herb Clarke photos from their new book *An Introduction to Southern California Butterflies*, Fred will take you through the seasons in southern California from the lower desert (Colorado Desert) in late winter, to the higher desert (Mojave Desert) in the early spring, through the coastal plain in mid-spring, then up into the mountains as summer unfolds, and finally back to the desert after late summer/early fall rains. In going through the seasons, the talk will touch on and illustrate butterfly life cycles, behavior, predation and how to watch butterflies.

Tuesday, October 14

Nancy Conney
Sky Hunters Raptor Rehabilitation



Nancy Conney is the director of Sky Hunters – a raptor rehabilitation facility and educational service, that also focuses on informing the public about raptor ecology, preservation and rehabilitation issues. The Sky Hunters Lakeside, California facility is geared towards rehabilitation of injured birds of prey such as hawks, owls, falcons, and eagles. Nancy will address what to do if you find a sick, injured or orphaned raptor, and the laws we have to protect birds of prey. She will have on hand some of her resident rehab birds that she uses in educational programs.

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

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**Audubon House
and the
Bookstore**
will close at 2:00 P.M.
on Friday, October 31

Happy Halloween!