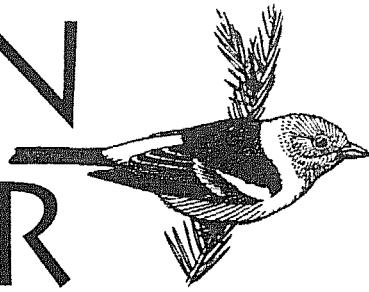


WESTERN TANAGER



Volume 70 Number 4 March/April 2004

Los Angeles Audubon Society

Saving Scarlet and Great Green Macaws

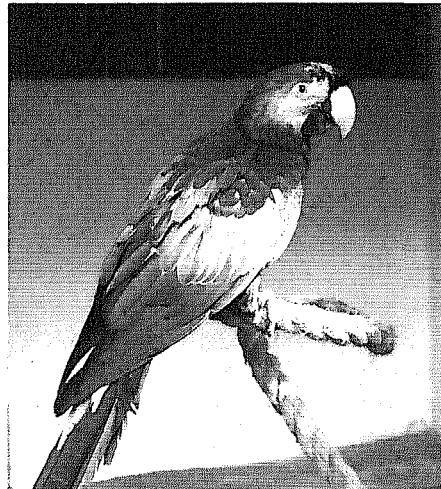
by Joann Leonard

One of the anticipated delights of visiting Costa Rica, a country with one of most complex and varied avian communities on earth packed into a land area about the size of New Hampshire, is the pleasure and excitement of viewing its wildlife in general and particularly some the 850 plus species of birds. Unfortunately, for at least two of the landmark birds of the neotropics, the pleasure of anticipation may have to take the place of an actual sighting. Outside of a very few widely scattered protected areas, your chances of observing a Scarlet or a Great Green macaw, in the wild, range from not good to poor.

Using the regional sighting lists contained in *A Travel and Site Guide of Birds of Costa Rica* by Aaron D. Sekerak, one finds that out of 45 regional lists, the Scarlet Macaw appears on six of those lists and is only listed as common on the four lists that cover the combined Tárcoles, Carara, Villa Lapas region. There is also a flock in the area of Corcovado National Park. The Great Green Macaw appears only on one list, for the isolated area of the upper Rio Sarapiqui, near the Nicaraguan border, and there only under the classification "sighted".

There is one organization in Costa Rica taking a pro-active stand against the decline of both the Scarlet and Great Green macaws by pursuing a successful captive breeding program to provide a breeding stock of genetically diverse birds for reintroduction into protected areas that were part of their former range.

On our recent one month trip to Costa Rica, I paid several visits to the breeding facility of Amigos de las Aves near Alajuela, and was impressed by what the dedication of the principals, Richard and Margot Frisius, has been able to accomplish since founding the non-profit organization in 1992. What started out as Richard Frisius' dream to protect some



Scarlet Macaw in flight cage

of the birds he loves has developed into a full scale, clearly successful, breeding and release program. Manager Marti Everett took me on an afternoon exploration of the breeding facilities, located on eight acres of what was once the summer home of botanist Sir Charles Lankaster. Many of his plantings still remain, but today, Marti explains as we tour the grounds, the macaws come first. Much of the food for the birds is grown on there.

Diet

Amigos de las Aves tries to be as self-supporting as possible by growing a major portion of the macaw's food on site. Presently they grow bananas, beans, yucca, sunflower, corn, watermelon, guavas, water apples, rose apples, figs, sugar cane, oranges, lemons, mangos, peppers, and other fruits. Knowing of my interest in botanical illustration, Marti asked if I knew what a small tree, probably an original planting from the Lankaster estate garden, was. I identified the tree as a *Eugenia* species, and learned that the macaws were especially fond of the magenta fruits.

Maize flour, yeast, garlic, oyster shell, some birdseed, and vitamins supplement this organic homegrown diet. Additional high protein supplements are provided during breeding season.

Breeding, Nesting, and Brooding

In September and October of each year, breeding age macaws are placed in a flight cage with the hopes that they will pick their own mates; failing that, attempts are made, sometimes successfully sometimes not, to pair them. Usually there are about 30 birds in a flight cage. The cages are large enough and high enough so the birds can move about freely. The Great Green Macaws require larger cages than the Scarlet Macaws.

One of the greatest concerns is the maintenance of a diverse gene pool, so care is taken to encourage macaws from different areas to pair. Most of the birds

involved in the breeding program are macaws that for one reason or another could never be released and survive in the wild. Marti called my attention to one mated pair who have proved to be successful breeders. The female has one wing.

Ideally the breeding macaws will be paired at the end of December. At the time of my first visit in late November, there was a total of 19 paired Scarlet Macaws. One reason for letting the birds self select mates is the fact that it is a more natural and successful process. There are several methods of sexing the birds, but Amigos de las Aves uses DNA testing. This has proved vital to selection of pairs. Marti related the story of two birds that formed a pair bond, nested and laid a two egg clutch. The eggs proved to be sterile. When this happened again with the same pair, the birds were sexed and found to be females!

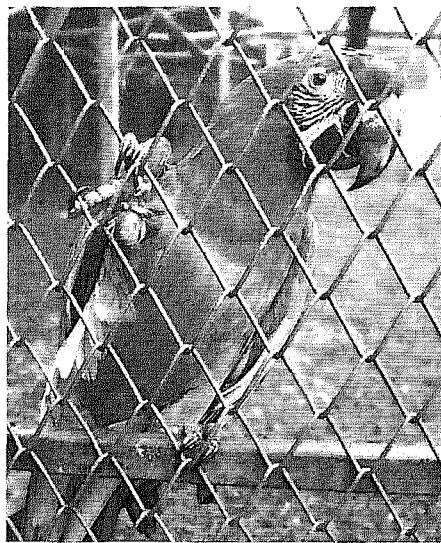
Long-lived birds, macaws commonly live for 50 or 60 years or even longer in captivity. Scarlet Macaws usually reach breeding age at about six years. Great Greens are slower to develop and mature at about seven years.

Nesting boxes or actual nesting trees are provided. Strangely, Marti observed, the Great Green Macaws often select the horizontal boxes over the natural hollow tree, while the Scarlet Macaws choose upright boxes. Cages are arranged so nesting and brooding birds have privacy. It's common for two clutches of two eggs each to be laid. To maximize breeding success the first clutch is usually removed and placed in an incubator. This encourages the birds to lay another clutch and raise those chicks themselves. The thinking is that it is easier on the breeding pair to concentrate on successfully feeding and fledging just one clutch. The young birds wean at about four months.

This past year's breeding resulted in 20 new Scarlet and six new Great Green macaws. Of the five pairs of Great Greens that produced chicks, three were new pairs. All these chicks were from the first clutch, as the Great Greens decided to breed late. All chicks were parent raised and fledged from 84 to 91 days. Of the seven pairs of Scarlet Macaws, three were old pairings and four were new pairs, with nine of the chicks being parent reared and fledging in 81-88 days.

This represents a 100% success rate of all the fertile eggs in the second clutch.

This year the outlook is promising. There are 14 pairs of Great Greens with only three being new pairs. There are also 14 pairs of Scarlets with eight being new pairs.



Great Green Macaw

Release Program and Release Sites

Although the breeding program at Alajuela is the first key component in the success of the Amigos de las Aves operation, the final test is the release program. At present there are three Scarlet Macaw release sites. One is the Curú Wildlife Refuge on the south Nicoya Peninsula where biologist Greg Matuzak is conducting a study of the released birds. The 3500-acre refuge is privately owned. While just 207 acres are officially a nationally recognized wildlife refuge, the majority of the land is protected forest, with 20 percent devoted to agriculture and cattle production, where efforts are made to plant trees and shrubs that provide food and shelter for wildlife. At the time of my visit, there were 12 Scarlet Macaws in the release program at Curú. The other successful release site is in Tiskita near the Panamanian border. Biologist Dale Forbes from South Africa oversees the release program there.

The steps leading up to the release and the subsequent monitoring of the birds after release, is a step-by-step process. First, the birds are selected for genetic suitability for mating. The Chicago Lincoln Park Zoo is doing a genetic study to assure that future relationships are optimal for release.

The birds destined for release, usually two to three years of age, are placed in a pre-release cage at the breeding facility where they have only necessary contact with humans, and hopefully learn that all people are not friendly. Even though breeding in the wild usually does not occur until the birds are about eight years old, pair bonds can form earlier, so, after being shipped to the release site, the alpha pair is the first to be released. This usually causes great excitement among the other macaws in the pre-release cage.

Adapting to life in the wild is gradual. It usually takes two months or so before the macaws begin eating local food from trees in any quantity. It's a learning process for them – what's good to eat, what isn't – what do I like best, etc. Very gradually they are weaned away from human provided food. The exception is sunflower seeds, which they relish. At 3:30 each afternoon, a small quantity of sunflower seeds are placed in a feeder. Many of the birds return for this treat. The concern is that this may encourage contact with humans, but actually it helps keep the birds within a protected area. Of the 12 Scarlet Macaws released at Curú, all were accounted for except one missing female. Nine more birds are to go to Curú soon. The other Scarlet Macaw release location is at a site near Palo Verde National Park in Guanacaste Province.

The Plight of the Great Green Macaw

Aside from the obvious one of color, there are significant differences between Scarlet and Great Green macaws that impact the breeding program and its potential for successful release into the wild. The Scarlet and Green macaws for the most part tend to occupy separate ecological niches, with the Scarlet Macaw being somewhat more flexible in acceptance of suitable habitat.

Scarlet Macaws are quicker to mature and tend to breed each year. Great Green Macaws are more robust but take longer to develop. They require larger cages and often do not breed every year. The chicks are slower to fledge and wean. Given this, the success rate of the breeding program for the Great Green Macaw at Amigos de las Aves is good.

However, in stark contrast to the active release program for the Scarlet Macaw, is the lack of any such program

for the Great Green. Efforts are being made to locate a suitable release site. The problems are manifold. The macaws cannot be released into an existing flock and government regulations prevent them from being released into a National Park. The search is on for a private reserve or similar in the appropriate area. This is a long and difficult process, and so far no suitable site has been found. Once an acceptable location is found, a study to determine if the area is viable for the flock as regards to nesting sites, food supply, safety, and other factors must be carried out. But as time passes, suitable lowland forest, the traditional habitat of the Great Green Macaw, is disappearing with alarming speed.

While exact population figures are not available, the numbers of both Scarlet and Great Green macaws have declined drastically over the last 25 years. It is estimated that there are only 30 pairs of Great Green Macaws remaining within their breeding range in Costa Rica. During our recent travels in Costa Rica, the chief reason for this decline became obvious. No doubt there is poaching, but it is habitat destruction which, despite Costa Rica's admirable National Park and reserve system, is a continuing and increasing problem and threatens the Great Green Macaws survival. If I had to sum up the reason for the loss of habitat in one word it would not be too difficult: that word would be bananas. Driving the 100 kilometers of route 32 from Santa Clara to Limon, one finds endless vistas of bananas and only bananas stretching out to the horizon.

Such overwhelming monoculture requires continual applications of pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides. This is done by aerial spraying and dusting as well as localized application to the fruit stalk that is isolated by a bright blue plastic bag. During harvest, in spite of

de las Aves is receiving financial, product, or service support from some organizations, including in no particular order: Reno Bird Club, Cadbury Chocolate, Virginia Bird Club, Katee Products, Lincoln Park Zoo, Bird Club of Indianapolis, and Loro Parque in Tenerife.

Funds are always needed and a current list of supplies and services for which tax deductible donations can be earmarked is available on the website. Currently at the top of the list is funding for chain link fencing to extend the Scarlet Macaw flight cage.

Amigos de las Aves excellent web site www.amigosdelasaves.org provides a great deal of information beyond the scope of this article, and offers a quarterly email newsletter to keep you up-to-date.

We urge you to check it out. Tax-deductible donations can be made via the web site with an immediate acknowledgement, or directly to:

Amigos de las Aves
SJO 465
P.O. Box 02516
Miami, FL 33102



Photos by Joann Leonard

Scarlet Macaw flight cage

some efforts finally being made to recycle the bags, many get loose and foul rivers and canals. Not only does this banana monoculture extract a mighty environmental price, but there are social costs as well. Field workers are lured into dreary and monotonous company housing that seems to set the stage for instant slum creation. This cookie cutter style of row housing is at variance with traditional Tico rural homes that, albeit modest, are mostly well kept and surrounded by gardens.

Volunteers and Financial Support

The success of Amigos de las Aves is dependent on volunteers and donations. Where do the volunteers come from? Everywhere, but most recently, those at the Alajuela headquarters hail from New Zealand, Japan, U.S., England, France, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa, Denmark, and Holland. Presently, Amigos

Joann Leonard is a graphic designer, freelance writer and long time Audubon member. A botanical artist, she oversees an unstructured four hour botanical art workshop each Tuesday at the Sooky Goldman Nature Center in Franklin Canyon Park where she is a docent. She also leads a monthly nature journaling walk. Joann and her husband Joe recently returned from their first trip to Costa Rica. They no longer eat bananas. E-mail Joann at pegasus77@earthlink.net.

LAAS INTERNATIONAL TOURS

AMAZON VOYAGE / PERU – July 3-11, 2004

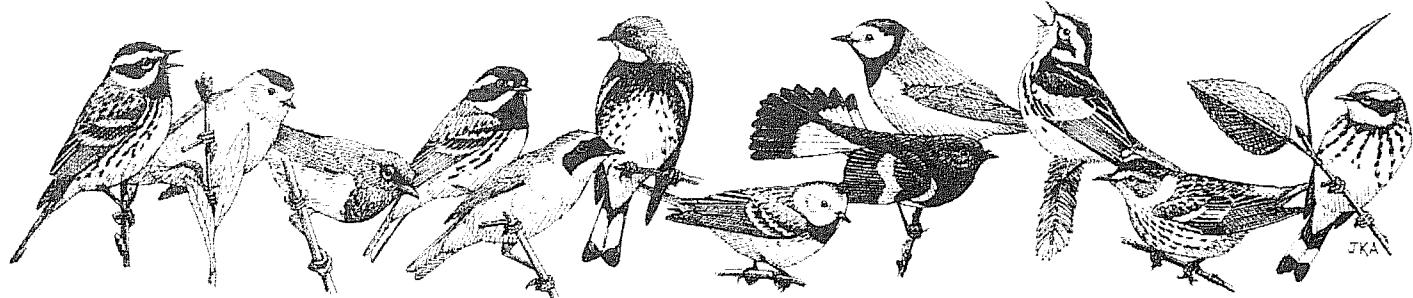
MACHU PICCHU / ABRA MALAGA – Pre-trip June 27-July 4

Explore and observe exotic wildlife and abundant birdlife on the upper Amazon River in comfort on board La Turquesa, a small vessel, and from motor launches.

For information and itinerary, contact:

Olga Clarke, Travel Director, Los Angeles Audubon Society
Ph/Fax: (818) 249-9511 e-mail: oclarke@earthlink.net





CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Lancaster – December 13, 2003 Compiled by Nick Freeman

The Lancaster CBC had a total of 108 species. This barely tops our average and the highest ever was 118 species. We had a total of 31 participants – tying the 24 year record of participation for the count! Our average is 20 people so this was a very good turnout on a beautiful, sunny, and windless day. I hope I can get that many participants next year when the Lancaster and Malibu counts are back-to-back, and the Pasadena CBC is on the same day!

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|----------------------------|-------|
| Pied-billed Grebe | 21 | California Gull | 499 | White-throated Sparrow | 1 |
| Eared Grebe | 41 | Herring Gull | 2 | Dark-eyed Junco | |
| Western Grebe | 2 | Gull sp. | 2 | Oregon | 146 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 14 | Rock Pigeon (Rock Dove) | 494 | Slate-colored | 1 |
| Great Blue Heron | 11 | Mourning Dove | 917 | Gray-headed | 4 |
| Great Egret | 3 | Barn Owl | 2 | Lapland Longspur | 4 |
| Blk-crowned Night Heron | 48 | Great Horned Owl | 13 | Chestnut-collared Longspur | 3 |
| Canada Goose (wild) | 12 | Burrowing Owl | 4 | McCown's Longspur | 3 |
| Canada Goose (feral) | 32 | Long-eared Owl | 3 | Red-winged Blackbird | 2119 |
| Green-winged Teal | 502 | Anna's Hummingbird | 22 | Tricolored Blackbird | 64 |
| Cinnamon Teal | 4 | Red-breasted Sapsucker | 1 | Western Meadowlark | 458 |
| Mallard | 717 | Ladder-backed W/P | 12 | Great-tailed Grackle | 24 |
| Northern Pintail | 10 | Northern Flicker (red-shafted) | 72 | Brewer's Blackbird | 3738 |
| Northern Shoveler | 1522 | Vermilion Flycatcher | 1 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 41 |
| Gadwall | 291 | Black Phoebe | 30 | House Finch | 1073 |
| American Wigeon | 280 | Say's Phoebe | 50 | Lesser Goldfinch | 2 |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 1 | Horned Lark | 2522 | American Goldfinch | 6 |
| Redhead | 53 | Tree Swallow | 3 | House Sparrow | 1520 |
| Lesser Scaup | 2 | Barn Swallow | 2 | Total Species # | 108 |
| Common Merganser | 1 | Scrub Jay | 3 | Avg. Species | 107.8 |
| Hooded Merganser | 2 | Common Raven | 1142 | Max | 118 |
| Ruddy Duck | 555 | American Crow | 12 | Total Count Participants | 30 |
| Turkey Vulture | 1 | Verdin | 7 | Avg. Participants | 20 |
| White-tailed Kite | 2 | Cactus Wren | 33 | Max | 31 |
| Northern Harrier | 30 | Rock Wren | 4 | | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 5 | Bewick's Wren | 4 | | |
| Cooper's Hawk | 6 | Marsh Wren | 69 | | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 1 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 26 | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 62 | Mountain Bluebird | 99 | | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 7 | Northern Mockingbird | 105 | | |
| Golden Eagle | 3 | LeConte's Thrasher | 4 | | |
| American Kestrel | 29 | American Pipit | 175 | | |
| Merlin | 7 | Loggerhead Shrike | 63 | | |
| Prairie Falcon | 7 | European Starling | 4511 | | |
| California Quail | 300 | Yellow-rumped Warbler | | | |
| Virginia Rail | 8 | Audubon's | 229 | | |
| Sora | 3 | Myrtle | 1 | | |
| Common Moorhen | 3 | Common Yellowthroat | 9 | | |
| American Coot | 76 | Spotted Towhee | 52 | | |
| Killdeer | 44 | Chipping Sparrow | 7 | | |
| Mountain Plover | 33 | Brewer's Sparrow | 58 | | |
| American Avocet | 5 | Vesper Sparrow | 5 | | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 4 | Lark Sparrow | 31 | | |
| Least Sandpiper | 240 | Sage Sparrow | 121 | | |
| Dunlin | 29 | Savannah Sparrow | 524 | | |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | 50 | Song Sparrow | 126 | | |
| Wilson's Snipe | 2 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 12 | | |
| Ring-billed Gull | 12 | White-cr. Sparrow | 2456 | | |

Los Angeles – January 4, 2004

Compiled by Raymond Schep

There were 143 total species. Rarities were Tree Swallow, Black-and-white Warbler, Nashville Warbler (CW), Summer Tanager, Greater Scaup, and Common Goldeneye. Exotics were Nutmeg Mannikin, Mandarin Duck, and the usual Yellow-chevroned

Parakeets. The weather cooperated and it was a lovely day.

After organizing the last several L.A. Christmas Bird Counts, LAAS President Ray Schep has announced that he will not be available for the 2004 count.

Now, we need a volunteer (or two) to organize and compile the 2004 L.A.-CBC! And, please join us in the field, or bird your gardens and neighborhoods for the 2004 count. We need all the participants we can get to cover this remarkable and diverse count circle.

Species list was not available at press time.

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

Malibu – December 14, 2003

Compiled by Larry Allen

The Malibu count this year was the worst in over 30 years, with the lowest species total (145), the lowest number of parties (25) and participants (47), and near the low in total number of birds (18,617). Some of the blame may be placed on the weather; cold and rain were the highlights. Rain had been predicted for count day; some people stayed home.

With National Audubon's new algorithm for computing the count window, the first available date was a Sunday. That caused Pasadena to move their count from their traditional first Saturday to Sunday. So, we lost some really good birders, and some of our best areas had only about one hour of coverage.

I fear it will be worse next year. The "new" count window allows only four weekend days (excluding Christmas and New Year's) for all counts. Help!

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|------|----------------------------|--------|
| Red-throated Loon | 2 | Least Sandpiper | 20 | Varied Thrush | 1 |
| Pacific Loon | 9 | Wilson's Snipe | 10 | Wrentit | 341 |
| Common Loon | 2 | Heermann's Gull | 82 | Northern Mockingbird | 83 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 18 | Ring-billed Gull | 22 | California Thrasher | 108 |
| Horned Grebe | 2 | California Gull | 183 | European Starling | 688 |
| Eared Grebe | 10 | Herring Gull | 5 | American Pipit | 15 |
| Western Grebe | 213 | Western Gull | 264 | Cedar Waxwing | 393 |
| Clark's Grebe | 3 | Glaucous-winged Gull | 9 | Phainopepla | 30 |
| Clark's/Western? Grebe | 330 | sp.? gull | 50 | Orange-crowned Warbler | 12 |
| Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater | 1 | Royal Tern | 1 | Yellow-rumped Warbler | 2142 |
| Black-vented Shearwater | 4 | Forster's Tern | 5 | Townsend's Warbler | 13 |
| Brown Pelican | 83 | Rock Pigeon | 343 | Common Yellowthroat | 40 |
| Brandt's Cormorant | 2 | Band-tailed Pigeon | 157 | Wilson's Warbler | 1 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 80 | Mourning Dove | 1102 | Spotted Towhee | 231 |
| Pelagic Cormorant | 2 | Rose-ringed Parakeet | 2 | California Towhee | 394 |
| Great Blue Heron | 17 | Mitred Parakeet | 15 | Rufous-crowned Sparrow | 4 |
| Great Egret | 7 | Red-masked Parakeet | 3 | Chipping Sparrow | 5 |
| Snowy Egret | 21 | Black-hooded Parakeet | 78 | Lark Sparrow | 39 |
| Green Heron | 5 | sp? Parakeet | 7 | Savannah Sparrow | 18 |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | 3 | Red-crowned Parrot | 33 | Fox Sparrow | 29 |
| Canada Goose | 20 | Lilac-crowned Parrot | 2 | Brown forms | 13 |
| Wood Duck | 8 | Amazona sp? | 13 | Gray forms | 23 |
| Gadwall | 49 | Barn Owl | 3 | Song Sparrow | 81 |
| American Wigeon | 57 | Western Screech-Owl | 23 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 23 |
| Mallard | 294 | Great Horned Owl | 68 | White-crowned Sparrow | 839 |
| Northern Shoveler | 25 | Common Poorwill | 1 | Golden-crowned Sparrow | 185 |
| Green-winged Teal | 31 | White-throated Swift | 100 | Dark-eyed Junco | |
| Canvasback | 2 | Anna's Hummingbird | 261 | Oregon | 429 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 59 | Allen's Hummingbird | 31 | Slate-colored | 1 |
| Lesser Scaup | 7 | Selasphorus sp.? | 3 | Red-winged Blackbird | 135 |
| Surf Scoter | 30 | sp? hummingbird | 2 | Western Meadowlark | 117 |
| Bufflehead | 69 | Belted Kingfisher | 19 | Brewer's Blackbird | 196 |
| Hooded Merganser | 9 | Lewis' Woodpecker | 10 | Great-tailed Grackle | 1 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 7 | Acorn Woodpecker | 593 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 20 |
| Ruddy Duck | 129 | Red-breasted Sapsucker | 4 | Purple Finch | 42 |
| Osprey | 1 | sp? Sapsucker | 2 | House Finch | 928 |
| White-tailed Kite | 6 | Nuttall's Woodpecker | 65 | Lesser Goldfinch | 314 |
| Northern Harrier | 3 | Downy Woodpecker | 14 | American Goldfinch | 35 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 7 | Northern Flicker | 113 | House Sparrow | 107 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 12 | Black Phoebe | 181 | Total numbers sighted: | 18617 |
| sp? Accipiter | 1 | Say's Phoebe | 25 | | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 43 | Cassin's Kingbird | 17 | Mammals | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 71 | Loggerhead Shrike | 3 | Raccoon | 4 |
| Golden Eagle | 1 | Hutton's Vireo | 3 | Coyote | 11 |
| American Kestrel | 25 | Western Scrub-Jay | 653 | California Sealion | 1 |
| Merlin | 2 | American Crow | 1146 | Harbor Seal | 1 |
| California Quail | 215 | Common Raven | 116 | California Ground Squirrel | 1 |
| Virginia Rail | 1 | Oak Titmouse | 231 | Western Gray Squirrel | 8 |
| Sora | 2 | Bushtit | 645 | Brush Rabbit | 13 |
| American Coot | 393 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 39 | Mule Deer | 27 |
| Black-bellied Plover | 95 | Rock Wren | 2 | | |
| Snowy Plover | 15 | Canyon Wren | 3 | | |
| Killdeer | 47 | Bewick's Wren | 77 | Parties | 25 |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 2 | House Wren | 43 | Participants | 47 |
| Willet | 68 | Winter Wren | 1 | Hours: Car | 22.4 |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 2 | Marsh Wren | 1 | Hours: Foot | 126.95 |
| Whimbrel | 12 | sp? Wren | 1 | Miles: Car | 191.8 |
| Marbled Godwit | 61 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 230 | Miles: Foot | 102.6 |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 12 | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 7 | Owling Hours | 13 |
| Black Turnstone | 2 | Western Bluebird | 15 | Owling Miles | 38.5 |
| Sanderling | 212 | Hermit Thrush | 88 | Feeder Hours | 28.5 |
| Western Sandpiper | 1 | American Robin | 374 | Total Species | 145 |

Western Field Ornithologists

WFO announces its
29th Annual Meeting,
in conjunction with annual meetings
of the Western Bird Banding Association (WBBA) and
Oregon Field Ornithologists (OFO),
Hosted by the Klamath Basin Bird
Observatory

September 9 – 12, 2004
The Windmill Inn & Windsor Inn,
Ashland, Oregon



Conference information, conference schedule, complete hotel reservation information, meeting registration forms, and WFO membership information will be posted on www.wfo-cbrc.org after March 1, 2004.

Records of rare and unusual birds reported for *Birds of the Season* should be considered tentative pending review by the regional editors of *North American Birds* or, if appropriate, by the California Birds Records Committee.

Send observations with details to:

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

California Bird Records Committee

Guy McCaskie
P.O. Box 275
Imperial Beach, CA 91933-0275
e-mail: guymcc@pacbell.net

To report birds for the tape, call:

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

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

BY-LAWS: Members at the January 13, 2004 meeting unanimously passed the By-laws updates submitted last Fall! The By-laws are published on the website www.laaudubon.org under "MAIN MENU, About Us, Our By-laws", or can be obtained by calling the Chapter Headquarters at (323) 876-0202. The By-laws updates are a product of months of hard work by the By-laws Committee chaired by Executive Secretary Garry George and committee members 1st Vice President Dexter Kelly, 2nd Vice President Dexter Pat Heirs, and *Western Tanager* Editor Jean Brandt. Many thanks are due to this committee for updating LAAS policy for the first time since 1986.

AUDIT: President Raymond Schep, Dexter Kelly and Garry George have engaged CPA Mark Maruyama of Torrance to prepare an official audit of Los Angeles Audubon's finances over the last few years. Maruyama was recommended by Sea & Sage Audubon and specializes in non-profits. Once the audit is completed, Annual Reports will be prepared and available to members.

EDUCATION: LAAS' new Education Program has completed Phase One under Director Robin Gose. Robin submitted her first draft to the Board in the December 4, 2003 meeting. The Program is targeted for approval by statewide science teachers as curriculum for grades 3-6 and is also aimed at school camps run by Los Angeles County Office of Education and others. Dexter Kelly, Chair of the Education Committee, visited Wildlife Care of Ventura County www.wildlifecareofventura.org with Gose to evaluate that rehab facility's education program and possibilities of working together on LAAS' Education Program. They were so impressed that Dexter asked the Board to contribute \$2,500 to the education program of the facility. The motion passed.

BALDWIN HILLS PARK: Dexter Kelly manned a booth for Los Angeles Audubon Society at the Walk for Health Trail Opening and Fair at Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area in Baldwin Hills Park on November 15, 2003 sponsored by Community Conservancy International www.ccint.org. The event was part of Parks for Health, a project funded by The California Endowment. Parks for Health explores ways in which the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area in the Baldwin Hills can address serious health issues of the surrounding African American and Latino communities and focuses on diseases plaguing these communities in alarming numbers, such as asthma, obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

And more on Baldwin Hills Park: Garry George wrote a grant proposal and will serve as Project Manager on behalf of Friends of Baldwin Hills Park for a three year program to create a Native Plant Garden Walk in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and create an educational and volunteer program on the value of native plants to birds and other wildlife. The \$70,000 grant proposal includes plants donated at a discount from Theodore Payne Institute www.theodorepayne.org. Grant recipients were announced in January, and the grant proposal was one of the winning applications. Los Angeles Audubon Society Board voted in November to provide a matching grant to Friends of Baldwin Hills Park of \$5,000 if the proposal won. LAAS volunteers are welcome to join this project which will begin in spring 2004 by signing up as a volunteer on the LAAS website.

HEADQUARTERS: A new headquarters task force consisting of Garry George, Dexter Kelly, bookstore Manager Martha Balkan, and member and commercial real estate expert Irwin Woldman, met with officers of the Los Angeles office of

the national non-profit Trust for Public Land (www.tpl.org) to discuss LAAS' possible needs for a new headquarters in the future if the development of Plummer Park can't provide enough space. Trust for Public Land has been instrumental throughout the U.S. for finding lands for non-profits as well as providing grant application opportunities, and the Los Angeles office is involved in several recent projects including Los Angeles River Greenway Program among others.

CONSERVATION: Conservation Chair Sandy Wolgemuth asked for an increase in donations to Natural Resource Defense Council (www.nrdc.org) to help fight environmental battles in the courts. The Board unanimously approved the request.

NOMINATIONS: President Ray Schep appointed Garry George to again Chair the Nominations Committee. Margot deGrosse and Program Chair Mary Freeman, who served on the Committee last year, were elected from the membership to join the traditionally three person committee. In an unexpected embarrassment of riches, member Becky Schwiebert also volunteered and joined the Committee causing past President and Advisory Board luminary Herb Clarke to comment "It's been a long time since I've seen more volunteers than were asked for in a LAAS meeting!" The Committee will present a slate of officers at the March meeting and the vote will be at the May meeting. Election regulations are spelled out in the by-laws. New Board members with experience fresh ideas are the life's blood of non-profits, and any members who would like to serve on the Board for a year in the position of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Executive Secretary, Recording Secretary, or Treasurer are encouraged to contact the Nominations Committee before March. All Board positions are volunteer.

NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE

Reptiles and Amphibians of the Amazon

Covers over 250 species common to the Amazonian region of Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, and Colombia.

Bartlett & Bartlett, 2003 \$29.95

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CD-ROM presented by Thayer Birding Software and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

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Illustrated tour of the region's natural history and ecology.

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BIRDING 102

- This spring, sharpen your birding skills by going "farther afield" to study resident and migrating birds in a variety of prime habitats.
- Small class size for individual attention; suited for beginning to intermediate skill levels. "Hands-on" field work plus discussion at each meeting of an appropriate topic. Birding 101 not a pre-requisite. Expert instruction by Karen Johnson. Binoculars and field guide required.

Four Saturday mornings: April 24, May 1, 8, and 15

Cost, including materials:

Members: \$60.00

Non-members: \$75.00

To enroll or for further information please call Audubon House,

(323) 876-0202 or use printable form at www.LAAudubon.org.

Sign up soon, class size limited.

WESTERN TANAGER

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class delivery or \$15 per year for first
class delivery. LAAS members may
receive first class delivery by paying an
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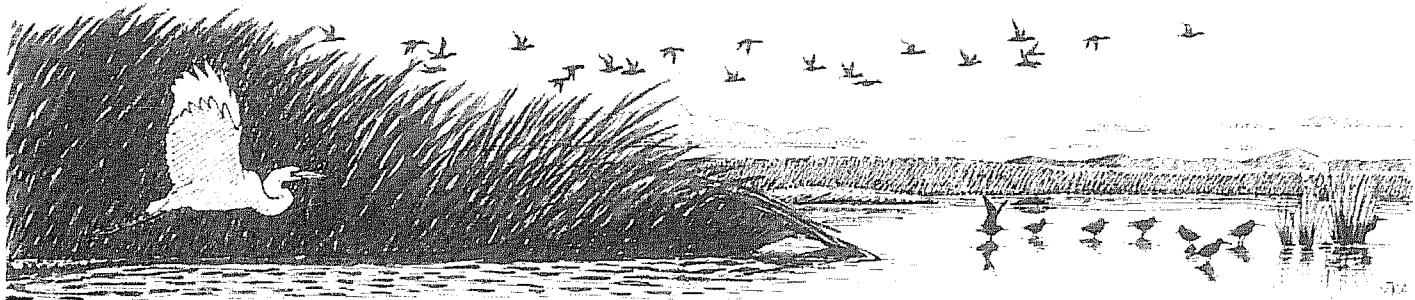
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CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

NOTES:

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ATTACKS CALIFORNIA'S ANTI-TOXICS LAWS:

California has adopted the precautionary principle (PP), a policy that says that new chemicals should not be allowed on the market unless they are proven safe. It has been applied vigorously in Europe and in recent years California has enacted measures applying the principle to severe pollutants, including most chemical flame retardants. Despite the fact that two-thirds of the public believes that such protections are in place already, the Bush Administration has opposed federal laws that apply to the whole country. The American Chemical Council (ACC), the lobbying voice of the industry, is alarmed by the state's aggressive concern for public health and seems determined to eliminate sensible laws that threaten their profit appetite. An ACC memo says that "California's political climate makes the state more susceptible to policy and thinking inspired by the precautionary principle than other geographic regions. California is a bellwether state, and any success enjoyed here could readily spill over to other parts of the country." The memo suggests that ACC members pay \$120,000 a year to Nichols-Dezenhall, a Washington-based firm that hires former FBI and CIA agents to "conduct selective intelligence gathering about the plans, motivations and allies of opposition activists." This delightful firm would also "create an independent PP watchdog group to act as an information clearinghouse and criticize the PP in public and media forums. The group could be restructured as a tax-exempt organization." Among Nichols-Dezenhall's reported tactics are digging through the trash of its clients' opponents.

HAWAIIAN CROW EXTINCT IN WILD:

The last hope for the Hawaiian Crow (*Corvus tropicus*) now lies with a US Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plan and captive breeding after scientists conceded that the bird, once widespread on the island of Hawaii, is believed to be extinct in the wild. All of the 40 remaining birds are in captivity and the service's draft revised recovery plan calls for the breeding program to eventually restore a wild population. The wild population dwindled from 11 birds in 1992 to three birds in 2000. Biologists say the last known sighting was in June of 2002 and that even if one or two remain, there is not a breeding pair. It may seem odd to southern Californians who watch the steadily increasing population of American Crows near our homes to learn that a similar bird is dying out. The answer lies with clearing land in Hawaii for agriculture followed by the persecution of their crows by Hawaiian farmers. We wonder how those farmers will react when captive *C. tropicus* arrive in their fields.

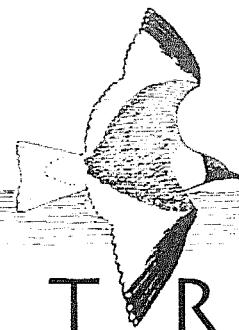
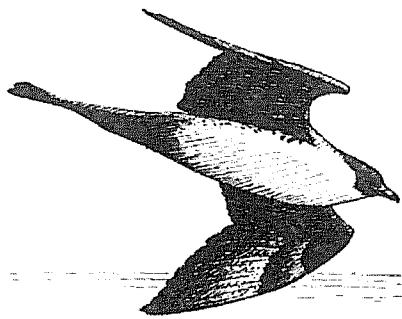
POACHING RING BUSTED: Virginia and federal law enforcement officials have broken a seven-state, poaching and smuggling ring that has been "slaughtering black bears and illegally harvesting ginseng root to sell to Asian markets, for aphrodisiacs and medicine" says the Chicago Tribune. The sting operation netted 104 suspects and has resulted in 292 felony and 399 misdemeanor charges. An estimated 40,000 bears are killed each year by poachers and World Wildlife Fund reports that the illegal trade in wild animals, wildlife parts, and plants, including endangered ginseng exceeds \$20 billion per year.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SUCCESS STORIES PROFILED:

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act a coalition of groups working to defend imperiled species have released fact sheets profiling 30 species that would most likely be extinct but for the protections afforded by the law. Because of continued loss and degradation of habitat, invasive species and other escalating threats, many of the profiled plants and animals continue to require ESA protection and the fact sheets demonstrate that numerous species are making steady progress toward recovery that would otherwise be impossible without the ESA.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SUED OVER INDUSTRY INFLUENCE:

Conservation and watchdog groups have sued the Environmental Protection Agency charging the agency with "giving legal special access" to chemical industry groups according to Earthjustice. The groups maintain that "a corporate insider group has met regularly with EPA officials in secret and has urged the EPA to weaken endangered species protection from pesticides." The groups, including Earthjustice, Defenders of Wildlife, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Northwest Coalition Against Pesticides, and the National Resources Defense Council say the chemical industry has urged EPA to cut expert biologists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service out of consultations on the effects of pesticides on wildlife.



PELAGIC TRIPS

Saturday, May 8 –

To **Anacapa Island**, out past **Santa Cruz Island**, and around **San Miguel Island**. Nine-hour trip departs from Island Packers dock in Ventura at 8:00 AM on the fast catamaran the Islander. After dropping off campers on Santa Cruz Island we will have the boat to ourselves, and we will head for deep water off San Miguel Island. Birds seen on prior trips: Northern Fulmar; Black-vented, Sooty, and Pink-footed shearwaters; Pomarine Jaeger; Sabine's Gull; rocky shorebirds (up to 5); Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Xantus's Murrelet; Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets. Rarities: puffins (twice in 25 years).

Leaders: **Todd McGrath, Jonathan Feenstra, David Pereksta, and Mike San Miguel.**

\$95 – Snack type galley with sandwiches, hot dogs, pizza, and drinks.

Sunday, June 6 –

Landing at Prisoner's Cove on **Santa Cruz Island** for the **Island Scrub-Jay**, then out to sea for pelagic birding; return by Anacapa Island. This nine-hour trip departs from Island Packers dock in Oxnard at 8:00 AM on the M/V Vanguard. We will land on Santa Cruz Island where the endemic **Island Scrub-Jay** is easily seen. We will then go out to sea for pelagic birding, returning by Anacapa Island. Birds seen on prior trips: Northern Fulmar; Sooty and Pink-footed shearwaters; Pomarine Jaeger; Sabine's Gull, rocky shorebirds (up to 5); Pigeon Guillemot; Xantus's Murrelet. Rarities: Flesh-footed Shearwater; South Polar Skua. Tufted Puffin seen in 2002.

Leaders: **Todd McGrath, Jonathan Feenstra, and Mike San Miguel, Jr.**

\$85 – Limited Galley – box lunches may be ordered from a nearby delicatessen.

Saturday, September 11 –

A deep water trip toward **Cherry, Tanner, and Cortez Banks**. This 13-14 hour trip departs from Sea Landing in Santa Barbara Harbor at 7:00 AM on the fast catamaran Condor Express. It returns between 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM. This is the **Red-billed Tropicbird** trip. We will be far offshore in three counties, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles. Birds to be expected: Black, Least, Ashy, and Leach's storm-petrels; Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers; South Polar Skua; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern. Rarities: Black-footed Albatross; Buller's Shearwater; Craveri's Murrelet. Blue, Fin, and Minke whales as well as several species of dolphins are usually seen on this trip.

Leaders: **Kimball Garrett, Todd McGrath, Mike San Miguel, and David Pereksta.**

\$165 – The full galley serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. A full bar is available.

SAVE \$5
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EARLY SIGN-UP
60 DAYS PRIOR
TO ANY TRIP

Sunday, October 17 –

Northern Channel Islands Monument, Anacapa, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz islands toward San Miguel Island. This 10-hour trip departs from the Oxnard Harbor at 7:30 AM 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 (3); Sabine's Gull; rocky shorebirds (up to 5); Common Murre; Craveri's and Xantus's murrelets; Cassin's Auklet. Rarities: Buller's and Flesh-footed shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Long-tailed Jaeger. In 2002, a Streaked Shearwater and in 2003, a Brown Booby and two Manx Shearwaters were seen.

Leaders: **Todd McGrath, Jonathan Feenstra, David Pereksta, and Michael San Miguel, Jr.**

\$95 – Limited galley. Box lunches may be ordered from a nearby delicatessen.

Saturday, November 20 –

Ventura Harbor toward and past **San Miguel Island** on the fast catamaran M/V Islander. Nine-hour trip departs from the Island Packers dock in the Ventura Harbor at 8:00 AM and returns around 5:00 PM. After dropping off campers on Santa Cruz Island we will have the boat to ourselves and head toward 1000 fathom water about 10 miles from San Miguel Island. Birds seen this time of year: Northern Fulmar; Black-vented, Pink-footed, and Sooty shearwaters; Leach's Storm-Petrel; South Polar Skua; Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers; rocky shorebirds (up to 5); Common Murre; Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets. Occasionally: Craveri's Murrelet. Rarities: Flesh-footed and Buller's shearwaters; Black-footed Albatross. Leaders: **Michael San Miguel, Jr., Todd McGrath, David Pereksta, and Jonathan Feenstra.**

\$95 – Snack type galley with hot dogs, sandwiches, pizza and drinks available.

Note: Destinations may be changed in order to maximize bird sightings, or to minimize very rough seas.

FIELD TRIPS

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.

Sunday, February 29 (corrected date) – **Lakeview / Lake Perris**. Leader: **Howard King**. We will visit San Jacinto State Wildlife Refuge, unless there are reports of bad mud here or great birds elsewhere. Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Bell's Sage Sparrow, and Prairie Falcon all strong possibilities. Last year's Least Flycatcher and Ruddy Ground-Dove were exceptional. Take the 10 or 60 Fwy E to the 215 Fwy S, exit E onto Ramona Expressway. Continue to the Lakeview Market at the corner of Davis Road. Meet here at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch, warm clothing and footwear for possible mud. No fee for the trip, but possible entrance fee.

Sunday, March 7 –

Topanga State Park. Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin will lead participants through this beautiful and 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 AM.

Sunday, March 7 –

Private Duck Club. Leader: **Raymond Schep**. This duck club is an excellent spot to observe wintering birds, and migrating shorebirds. We have seen Sora and Virginia Rail, as well as American Bittern, Eurasian Wigeon, dark Red-tails, Golden Eagles, and Snow Geese – all due to the sheer numbers of birds on the property. Get to the preserve by taking the 101 W to Las Posas Rd. S, then take Hueneme Rd. W to Casper Rd. Take Casper Rd. past the turn, and park and meet at 7:30 AM. by the barn. Free. No sign-up required.

Saturday, March 13 –

Bonelli Regional Park. Leader **Rod Higbie**. Bonelli Regional Park has lake, coastal sage, mixed woodland, and riparian habitats. California Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Golden Eagle are likely. From L.A., take the 10 or 210 Fwy east towards San Dimas to the 57 Fwy. Proceed N from the 10, or S from the 210, on the 57 Fwy to the Via Verde exit just N of the 10/57 interchange (at the bottom of Kellogg Hill). If coming from the N, turn left onto Via Verde, and left (N) into the "Park and

Ride" lot. If coming from the S, be alert that the offramp comes up fast. Turn right from the off ramp onto Via Verde to the "Park and Ride" lot. We will meet here at 7:30 AM to carpool; there is a \$6.00/car park entrance fee. There are picnic tables and facilities for those who wish to bring a lunch and continue birding with Rod into the afternoon.

Sunday, March 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 suggested donation. Meet at 8:15 AM.

Saturday-Sunday, March 20-21 –

Anza Borrego with **Fred Heath**. The spring explosion of desert flora and fauna (including butterflies) should be well under way in the Colorado Desert, Desert Bighorn, herps, and early birds in the throes of breeding activity are all possible. Suggested accommodations: Tamarisk Grove Campground [reserve through Destinet (800) 444-7275 or www.reserveamerica.com], or Stanlund Motel in Borrego Springs (619) 767-5501. Anticipate a busy weekend, and reserve camping and motels very early (now!). Limit 20 people. Send SASE with \$5 fee to LAAS to learn 7:00 AM. meeting place and more details. Pleasant days, cool to cold nights.

Saturday, March 20 –

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Leader: **Eleanor Osgood**. 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 (\$4 parking fee), turn left (leading to the "Olympic Forest") and park in the first available spaces.

Meet at 8:00 AM.

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 PM. 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.*

Sunday, March 21 –

Ballona Wetlands. Bob Shanman will be leading this trip to our nearest wetland and adjacent rocky jetty. Good spot for Surfbird, Black Oystercatcher, gulls, and early migrating shorebirds. 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 AM.

Saturday-Sunday, April 3-4 –

Owens Valley Grouse Trip. Leader: **Mary Freeman.** Sage Grouse on the lek, Blue Grouse in the trees, breathtaking scenery, and raptor-rich valleys. Meet early in Big Pine Saturday. Limited to 20. To sign up, send \$15 and a SASE to LAAS. Can be very cold on the lek! More details in mailer. Reserve rooms early.

Sunday, April 4 –

Topanga State Park. Leaders: **Ken Wheeland** and **Chris Tosdevin.** Meet at 8:00 AM. See March 7 listing for details.

Sunday, April 11 –

Whittier Narrows. Leader: **Ray Jillson.** Meet at 8:15 AM. See March 14 listing for details.

Saturday, April 17 –

Owens Lake. Botanist and birder **Mike Prather** will be showcasing the shorebird migration, habitat restoration, breeding Snowy Plover, and natural springs and marshes of this recognized "Important Birding Area" located just north of Olancha. If staying in Lone Pine, Olancha should be about 30 miles. If staying in Mojave, the drive will be about 90 miles. Meet at the Ranch House Café in Olancha, and be ready to depart at 8:30 AM. Can be hot or cold. Bring sunscreen, a large hat, a full tank of gas, and lunch. Reserve by phone with LAAS. Maximum 20. No fee.

Donations to the Owens Valley Committee Foundation welcome.

Saturday, April 17 –

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Leaders: **Ann** and **Eric Brooks.** Meet at 8:00 AM. \$3 entry fee. See March 20 listing for details.

Sunday, April 18 –

California Condor Sanctuary.

A representative of the California Condor Recovery Program run by San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, **Denise Stockton** will take us around the sanctuary, which was severely burned last fall. We should get good looks at free-flying condors and Golden Eagles and the wildflowers may be profuse (with a little luck). Biologists will demonstrate telemetry tracking and give us an overview of managing condors in the wild. It is anticipated that there will be 3-5 active nests in the area with eggs incubating. Take the 5 Fwy past Magic Mountain to Hwy 126, and proceed west to A Street in Fillmore. Meet at the back-side of the Super A Market parking lot (across from Vons) at 8:30 AM. Five car limit. High clearance vehicles suggested. We will carpool from the meeting spot. Reserve with LAAS by phone, stating phone number, whether you have a high-clearance vehicle that can accommodate at least four people total (priority), or you plan to hitch a ride. No fee, but a donation is suggested.

Sunday, April 18 –

Ballona Wetlands.

Leader: **Bob Shanman.** Meet at 8:00 AM. See March 21 listing for details.

Saturday, April 24 –

Rancho Sierra Vista. Biologist, birder and, ex-docent **Scott Harris** will be traipsing through the tussocks in search of the elusive Grasshopper Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting as well as other foothill and grassland species. This is one of the few spots in the southland that reports Grasshopper Sparrow on an annual basis. A visit to the Satwiwa Indian Cultural Center will follow, if it is open. Exit Lynn Road off the 101 Fwy, head south on Lynn Road for 5.2 miles, turn left on Via Goleta, and proceed to the last parking lot where the group will be meeting. Meet at 7:30 AM, and bird until noon. Have sunscreen and water on your person.

Sunday, May 2 –

Lompoc Vicinity. Eleanor Osgood leads. Oak woodland, riparian, estuarine, and shoreline habitats. Target birds include Purple Martin and Yellow-billed Magpie. Meet at 8:00 AM at Nojoqui

Falls Park. Take Hwy 101 N past Santa Barbara, past Hwy 1, and turn right (E) at the Alisal Rd. offramp signed for the park. Meet in the first parking area on the right. Two hour drive from L.A. We will also bird Santa Inez River mouth, River Park, and elsewhere. Bring lunch and bird until about 3:00 PM. Carpooling is encouraged.

Sunday, May 9 –

Butterbredt Springs and Galileo Hills. Leader: **Nick Freeman.** These are some of the best migrant traps in California. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline. Take Hwy 14 past Mojave, continue N on Hwy 14 about 15 miles, then turn left on Jawbone Canyon Road. Meet at the ranger station by the highway. Allow over two hours driving time from L.A. Phone sign-up mandatory at LAAS. 12 max. Bring lunch, sun block. Meet at 7:30 AM.

Saturday-Sunday, May 15-16 –

Kelso Dunes Herp Hunt with Harvey Fischer. We will be searching for reptiles typical of Mojave Desert and desert dune habitats, including Zebra-tailed Lizard, Desert Iguana, and Sidewinder. Bring all meals, lots of water, camping stuff, sun-screen, fang-proof footwear, and a full tank of gas from Baker. Possible camping fees Saturday night. Meet at noon, Saturday, at Kelso Train Depot 35 miles into the Mojave National Preserve from Baker. Sign up by mail with SASE for flyer, giving your phone number, members in party, and e-mail for developing details. Optional night driving for snakes, finish about 3:00 PM Sunday. No fee, maximum 16. Leaders will dry camp in the desert. Join, or stay in Baker. If planning to catch and release herps, fishing license required. Photography encouraged.

Friday through Monday, July 9-12 –

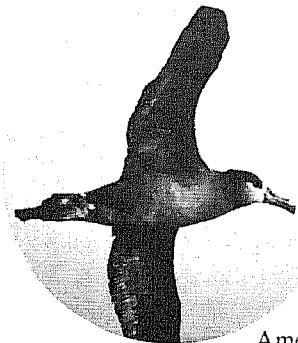
Southern Sierras. Leader: **Bob Barnes.** High deserts to High Sierra. Reserve with SASE for flyer with hotels and itinerary. Fee: \$15 for each day attended. Reserve rooms in Kernville early. More information in May/June *Tanager*.

EVENING MEETINGS

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

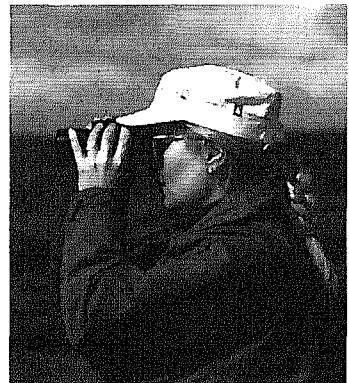
Tuesday, March 9

Debi Shearwater Seabirds and Marine Mammals of Monterey Bay



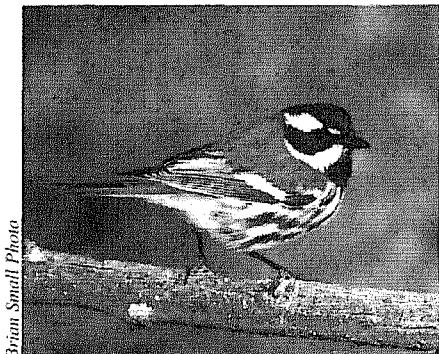
Monterey Bay is well known to birders throughout the world as a premier place to observe seabirds and marine mammals. Close to shore, Monterey Canyon, provides an upwelling of nutrients creating a rich marine biodiversity with 94 species of seabirds and 26 species of marine mammals recorded. One of the five richest marine areas in the world, Monterey Bay has been designated a National Marine Sanctuary and an Important Bird Area.

Debi Shearwater, a full-time naturalist-birder, a Director of the American Birding Association, and founder/director of Shearwater Journeys, has conducted pelagic trips off the California coast since 1976. Shearwater Journeys' trips have produced many important North American and California seabird records, most recently a Little Shearwater on Monterey Bay!



Tuesday, April 13

Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett Spring Western Warblers



Wood-warblers may be less of an identification challenge in spring than in fall, but there are still many fascinating aspects of spring warbler migration. Jon and Kimball will discuss migration timing and routes in the West, the distinctions between immature birds and older individuals, distinguishing subspecies of Yellow and Wilson's warblers and Common Yellowthroats, the status of breeding warblers in southern California, and other topics relevant to the spring season.

Jon Dunn is a bird tour leader for WINGS and Kimball Garrett is Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. They are authors of numerous birding articles and books – one being the Peterson Field Guides: *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America*.

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