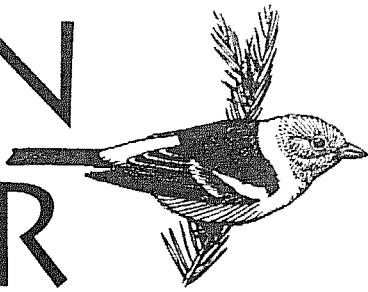


WESTERN TANAGER



Volume 70 Number 5 May/June 2004

Los Angeles Audubon Society

Hansen Dam and Big Tujunga Wash: An Important Bird and Birding Area

by Kimball L. Garrett

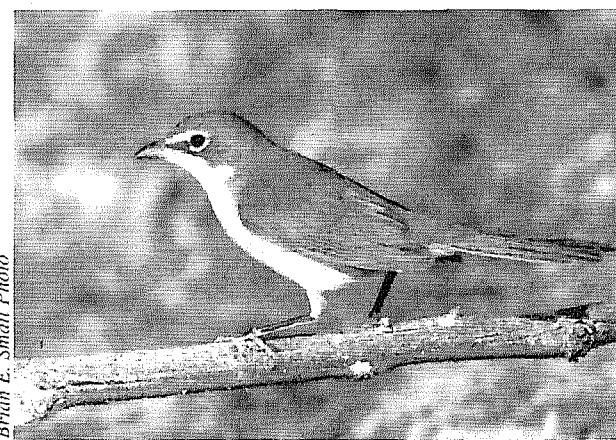
Hansen Dam, a two mile long earthfill structure, was constructed in 1939-1940 as a flood control measure for the San Fernando Valley. The dam sits at an elevation of 1000 feet on Tujunga Wash below the confluence of Big Tujunga and Little Tujunga Creeks which drain the southwestern San Gabriel Mountains. As a birding destination, the Hansen Dam basin and adjacent Big Tujunga Wash offer some of the best wetland, riparian, open scrub, and even "desert" birding in the Los Angeles region. The Hansen Dam area bird list (see pp. 6-7) stands at 275 species (plus a handful of exotics), and single-observer morning counts of 80-90 species are the norm for much of the year. The Hansen Dam basin forms a major component of the "Los Angeles Flood Control Basins" Important Bird Area (see Daniel S. Cooper's 2004 Audubon California book entitled *Important Bird Areas of California*). It constitutes, in a sense, "de facto" replacement habitat for vast areas of lowland ciénega (riparian/wetland) habitat in the Los Angeles River system that were lost with the channelization efforts of the first half of the twentieth century.

After the completion of the dam in 1940, the basin was best known for the recreational lure of "Holiday Lake" which

occupied the vast dam construction borrow pit. Over the years, however, this lake silted up, and any maintenance of the lake was finally abandoned in 1982. Years of gravel extraction in the basin followed, with wildlife habitat present more through neglect than by design. The remnants of the old Holiday Lake bed began to grow into a forest of willows, and extensive natural alluvial scrub existed upstream of the dam basin, but much of the basin was reduced to gravel pits and bare open areas compacted by heavy machinery. As gravel extraction operations ceased in the early

Two gravel borrow pits ultimately became flooded with creek waters and now form the existing lakes (a large one to the west and a small one at the mouth of Little Tujunga Creek to the east). Regular scraping of the basin near the spillway and adjacent to Orcas Park in the 1990s created low marshy and grassy areas that attracted shorebirds, Bobolinks, and once even a Red-throated Pipit, but these areas have now grown up to willows and mulefat and shorebirds and grassland birds are now generally scarce in the basin.

Most of the Hansen Dam basin is now devoted to recreational uses compatible with occasional flooding (athletic fields, equestrian trails, picnicking). Higher elevation areas of the basin are more intensively developed into equestrian centers, a concrete-lined fishing lake, a large outdoor swimming pool, a library, and a proposed children's museum. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has ultimate jurisdiction over the basin, but the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks manages the recreational facilities and infrastructure. These and other entities have contributed to a master planning effort that has, unfortunately, largely ignored the special importance of the basin for wildlife.



Yellow-breasted Chat

1990s, the "accidental" riparian woodland expanded, along with adjacent upland areas of mulefat, elderberry, golden currant, exotic tree tobacco, and other shrubs.

Brian E. Small Photo

Big Tujunga Wash upstream of the dam contains a year-round stream; in the Orcas Park area a series of low impoundments once attractive to shorebirds has now grown up to extensive marsh and willow growth. Upstream from Orcas Park, a tall woodland of alders, cottonwoods, and willows lines the creek for three-quarters of a mile, and above this is an open, braided wash with gravel, rock, and alluvial scrub. A set of small "mitigation lakes" just below the 210 Freeway have marsh and willow woodland, but public access is restricted. Above the 210 Freeway there is extensive alluvial scrub with a unique xeric cactus and yucca component; tragically, well over half of this habitat has been removed for the "Angeles National Golf Course".

Birding the Hansen Dam Area

The Hansen Dam area is in Lake View Terrace in the northeastern San Fernando Valley, just south of the Foothill (210) Freeway. The main basin is best birded by starting either at Hansen Dam Park or the Hansen Dam Sports Center. To reach **Hansen Dam Park** exit I-5 (Golden State Freeway) at Osborne St. and go north (crossing Glenoaks Ave.) to Dronfield Ave. Turn right on Dronfield into the park. Alternatively, exit the 210 (Foothill Freeway) at Osborne St./"Lake View Terrace"; from the exit go west on Foothill Blvd. to Osborne St., turn left (south) on Osborne to Dronfield Ave. and turn left into the park. Shortly after you enter the park, Dronfield will end at a T-intersection; turn right, then immediately left down the hill to the parking lot in the lower park (if the lower lot is closed, park anywhere in the upper park area). The upper park has lawns, tall exotic trees, and often noisy crowds of people, but migrants often abound in the eucalyptus, sycamore, silk-oak, and silver maple trees. The lower park has more extensive lawns and more productive trees for birding. The lower park is also the starting point for a walk around the edge of the willow forest. Work either direction around the perimeter of the willow forest following well-used equestrian paths. Coverage deep within the willow forest is possible through various ill-defined

trails, but trash, human waste, mud, and small homeless encampments often make for unpleasant traveling and birding is generally better near the edge anyway.

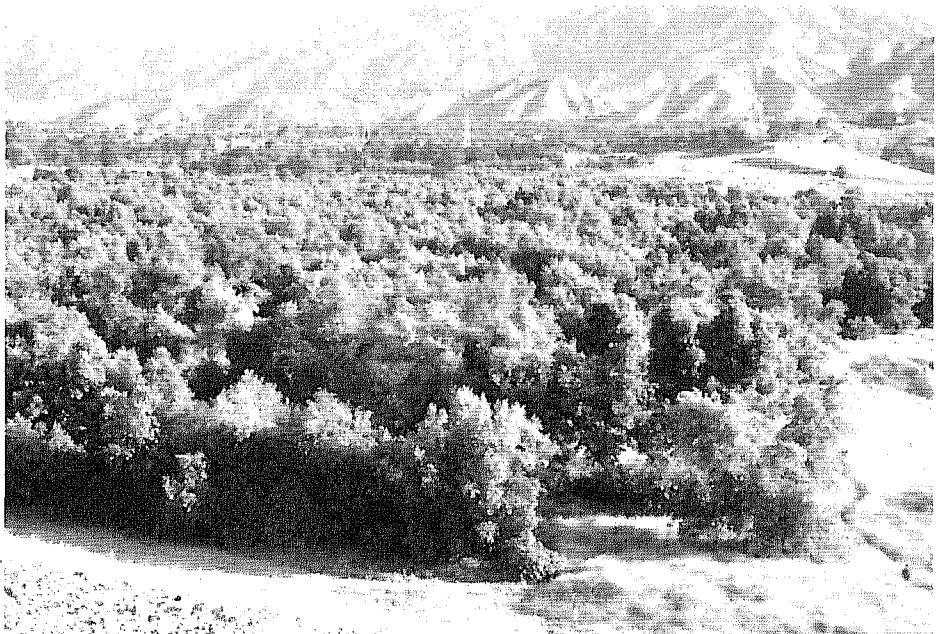
The **Hansen Dam Sports Center** is located along Foothill Blvd. about 0.5 miles east of Osborne St. and just a couple of hundred yards west of the Foothill Freeway. From Foothill Blvd. turn south into the paved lot and park. Walk south downhill through the landscaped park to the large lake. There is a dirt road along the north edge of the main lake leading to the smaller gravel pit lake to the east and (with some hiking on poorly defined foot trails or equestrian trails) up Big Tujunga Creek to the Orcas Park area (see below). The main birding route takes you west along the north shore of the main lake, then around the west end, working southward to the spillway at the dam (checking the drainage between the lake and the spillway); you may also continue clockwise around the willow forest, checking lower Hansen Dam Park, then continuing around the willow forest (crossing the concrete Lopez Channel just below the fenced swimming pool and fishing lake) and returning to the Hansen Dam Sports Center.

Orcas Park is at the southern end of Orcas Ave., off Foothill Blvd. halfway between the Osborne St. and Wheatland Ave. exits on the Foothill Freeway. Park near the south end and walk on the wide

equestrian path upstream along the north edge of the riparian to (and through) the remaining alluvial scrub and cactus habitat; also walk downstream from the park through an area of marsh and riparian scrub.

Big Tujunga Wash can be accessed from Orcas Park or from the southern ends of Christy Ave. or Wheatland Ave. just south of Foothill Blvd. (though there is no legal parking at the ends of these streets). The upper part of the wash is accessible from the western ends of Wentworth, Le Berthon, Tujunga Valley, or Grove Streets; to reach this upper area go east on Sunland Ave./Foothill Blvd. from the Foothill (210) Freeway for 0.8 mile, turn north on Oro Vista Ave. in Sunland, then left (west) on any of the above streets. Follow the various trails through the alluvial scrub, yucca and cactus areas, working north toward Big Tujunga Creek and west toward the golf course. Currently access is not expressly permitted on the Angeles National Golf Course, but a condition of the golf course construction (i.e., habitat destruction) was that the public use of the area would be allowed.

Hansen Dam Golf Course is immediately south of the dam, and should be checked in winter and migration; shorebirds sometimes congregate along the concrete Tujunga Wash channel below the dam; the extensive complex of the



Photos by Kimball L. Garrett

Willow forest looking NW from Hansen Dam spillway. June 2001

Hansen Dam and Tujunga spreading grounds south of Glenoaks Blvd. may host shorebirds, waterfowl, and gulls, but there is little access.

The Birds

Decades of birding by San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles Audubon chapter members and others has resulted in an impressive list of birds in the Hansen Dam basin and Big Tujunga Wash. In particular, the almost daily coverage of the area by Dustin Alcala in the early 1990s added greatly to our understanding and appreciation of the area. Below I give some hints for finding various groups of birds in the area.

Waterbirds are found most readily on the main lake south of the Sports Center; be sure to check the small gravel pit lake just east of here, as well as the lake within the willow forest (best viewed from the southwest corner of the willow forest). Breeding species include Mallard, Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, Western and Pied-billed grebes (a Clark's Grebe raised young with a Western Grebe in 2003), Green Heron, Virginia Rail (in the marsh below Orcas Park), and Spotted Sandpiper (along Big Tujunga Creek). Winter flocks of *Aythya* ducks are dominated by Ring-neckeds; Hooded Mergansers are regular. Least Bitterns are sometimes heard in the cattails around the lakes. Rare waterbirds have included

Tufted Duck (and Tufted x Greater Scaup hybrid), Little Blue Heron, Brown Pelican, and Blue-footed Booby (during the "invasion" of summer 1971).

Shorebirds are not plentiful, but under the right conditions migrants may be found from March to May and August to October. The most regularly observed species (in season) are Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, and Wilson's Snipe.

Gulls often gather on the main lake in the late morning and afternoon; California Gulls predominate but Western Gulls are regular. Among the *terns*, Caspian and Forster's are regular, and Common Tern has been recorded once.

Riparian woodland/scrub species are best found by walking the perimeter of the willow forest as well as the drainage channel from the main lake down to the spillway. Numbers of Bell's Vireos (mainly April through August) have been increasing for several years, with 17 territories in 2003. There are also a dozen or so Yellow-breasted Chat territories, and 2-3 pairs of Swainson's Thrushes nest deep within the willow forest. Yellow Warblers are refreshingly abundant breeders in the willows and alders, and Blue Grosbeaks are conspicuous in the scrubby areas adjacent to the willow riparian. Willow Flycatchers can be numerous in migration from mid-May to mid-June, but are not known to nest.

Great-tailed Grackles now breed commonly in the willows and marsh bordering the main lake.

Alluvial scrub birds. Among the most interesting birds of the area is the suite of species adapted to the dry, alluvial scrub along Big Tujunga Wash (above and below the 210 Freeway); these are also the most threatened populations. The resident Cactus Wren population is perhaps down to two pairs since the construction of the Angeles National Golf Course, and the small population of Lesser Nighthawks (April to September) is also tenuous. Rock Wrens are found along the rocky portions of the wash (along with a substantial population resident on the face of Hansen Dam itself). Check the desert-like scrub for Costa's Hummingbird (males like to perch atop yucca stalks) and Rufous-crowned Sparrows (especially on hillsides). California Gnatcatchers were formerly resident here.

Swifts and swallows can be abundant over the bodies of water. Barn Swallows nest near the spillway, and Cliff and Rough-winged Swallows also nest in the area. Tree Swallows would surely be induced to nest if nest boxes were provided at the main lake and willow forest lake. Check migrant swallow flocks for Bank Swallows (mainly in April and September) and Purple Martins (a few spring records). Black Swifts are probably regular over the main lake in mid to late May.

Winter passerines are abundant in weedy and brushy areas, in landscaped park areas, and in the willow forest. By pishing in the Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers one can often find Townsend's, Black-throated Gray and Wilson's warblers, an occasional wintering Plumbeous Vireo, and a host of other species. Check the Chipping and Lark sparrow flocks on the lawns of lower Hansen Dam Park for Clay-colored Sparrow (several fall and winter records). Gray Flycatchers are regular in winter, and Dusky Flycatcher has wintered once. Cassin's Kingbirds are present year-round.

Goldfinches can be very numerous in the dam basin. Americans and Lessers are abundant throughout the year; Lawrence's, though recorded year-round,



Main lake south of Hansen Dam Sports Center, June 2001

is most readily found from March to May around weedy areas dominated by fiddleneck (try the flat area between the willow forest lake and the dam). An escaped European Goldfinch is occasionally seen, and Pine Siskins are common in some winters.

Hummingbirds are abundant in the stands of tree tobacco in the basin south of the main lake from July to September, affording an excellent chance to compare Black-chinned, Costa's, Anna's, Rufous and Allen's; check the flowering golden currants from late March to early May for migrant Rufous (and occasionally Calliope) hummers.

Vagrant warblers, etc.

An impressive 26 warbler species have been recorded at Hansen Dam; migrants might be anywhere, but check the willow forest perimeter, the line of tamarisks south of the Lower Hansen Dam Park lot, and the exotic trees within the parks; Virginia's Warblers are regular in September in the scrub south of the main lake. Other noteworthy landbird vagrants have included Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Hooded and Canada warblers, and Baltimore Oriole.

Raptors include breeding Red-shouldered and Cooper's hawks and occasionally White-tailed Kites, Osprey (mainly September to April), Merlin (daily in winter), and even the occasional migrant Broad-winged Hawk.

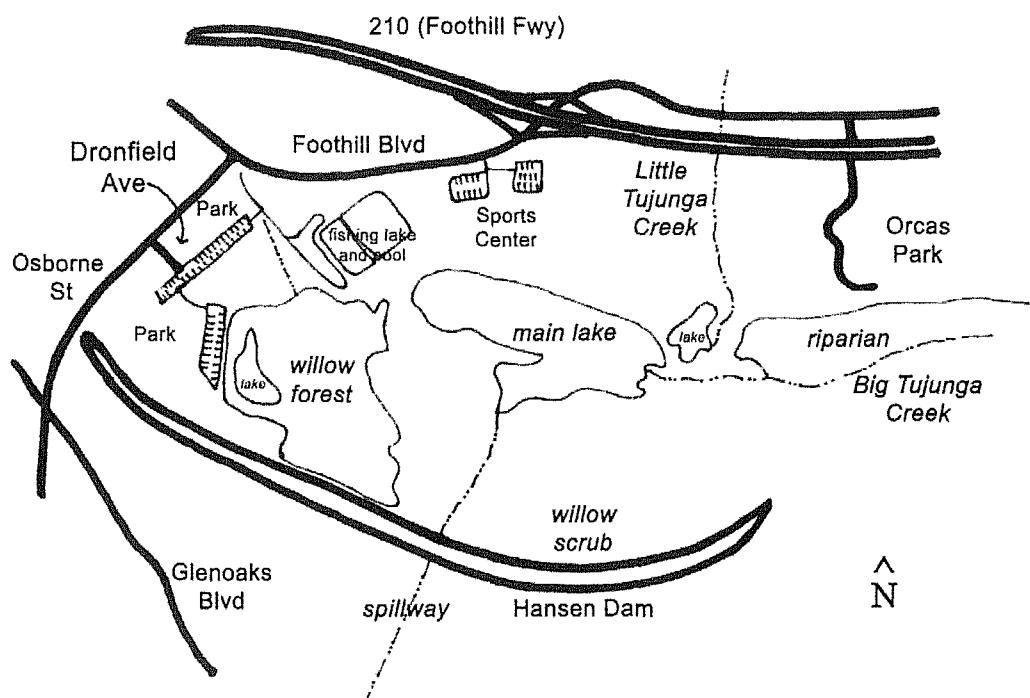
Dragonflies (yes, I realize they're not birds) abound around the lakes and adjoining habitats. Armed with Tim Manolis' indispensable *Dragonflies and Damselflies of California* I identified (perhaps even correctly) some 17 species in 2003, including American Rubyspot, Desert Firetail, Black-fronted and Pacific fork-tails, Mexican Amberwing, Pale-faced Clubskimmer, Red Rock Skimmer, both Red and Black saddlebags, Giant Darner, and several other common species.

Conservation Issues

As might be expected of a large open space nearly surrounded by urbanization, Hansen Dam is replete with conservation

issues, from major threats to cumulative minor annoyances. Among the key threats is the ongoing and proposed loss of riparian and upland habitats for recreational facilities (part of the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks' emphasis on active rather than passive, nature-oriented recreation). A proposal by the U.S. Army Corps to increase water storage through the creation of a "water conservation pool" would flood most of the basin and eliminate most riparian habitat; this proposal has been at least temporarily rejected.

mittee has been formed to deal with environmental and community concerns in this area. In addition, the Tujunga Watershed Stakeholders group <www.tujungawatershed.org> is an excellent source of information and a forum for active participation in the issues confronting Hansen Dam and the surrounding communities. The Hansen Dam and Big Tujunga Wash area holds tremendous potential for education, nature study, and passive recreation; active birders need to utilize this resource and teach local residents, politi-

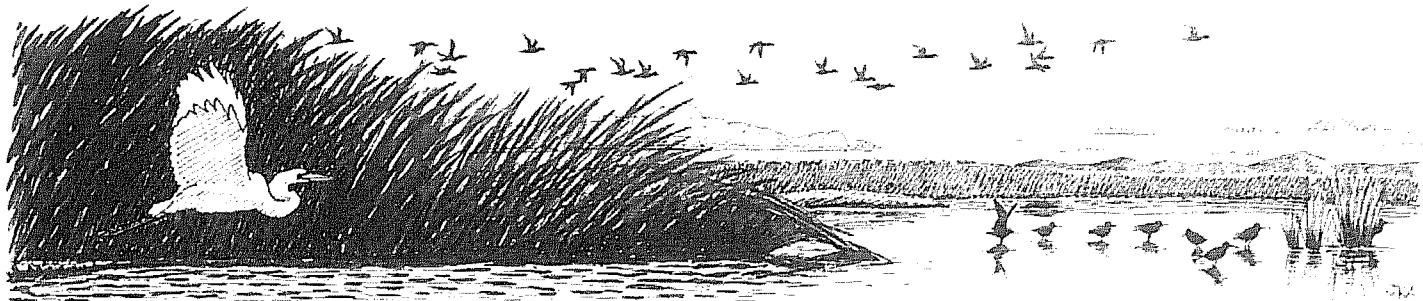


Exotic or superabundant native predators such as cats, dogs, crows, and ravens are a threat to the reproductive success of many birds in the area; several years of cowbird trapping has reduced the impact of these brood parasites but it is critical that such trapping (and its funding) continues. Debris and urban runoff coming into the basin ranges from the unsightly to the downright toxic, and control measures are urgently needed. Disturbance from recreation includes the illegal use of motorized vehicles (with little or no enforcement). Homeless encampments, apparently tolerated by local authorities, abound in the willow forest of the basin, with their associated disturbance, trash, and occasional fires.

As Steve Sosensky notes in this issue, the Hansen Dam Advisory Com-

cians, and agency managers about these assets. An alliance with neighborhood recreation and equestrian interests will be critical, and bird conservationists can be assured that the local community is fiercely protective of "wild" open space. Together we can work to provide formal protection for the varied habitats of Hansen Dam while still accommodating an array of recreation interests. ■

Kimball Garrett is the Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and long-time local birder and LAAS member.



CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Steve Sosensky

Park Advisory Board Makes Progress at Hansen Dam

Hansen Dam, situated in Lake View Terrace at the north end of the San Fernando Valley, is one of the most valuable areas of biodiversity in the city of Los Angeles. Christmas Bird Counts here regularly exceed 100 species in decent weather, and last summer, there were 17 breeding pairs of endangered Least Bell's Vireos.

I first became involved at Hansen Dam in 1998. Muriel Kotin and Kris Ohlenkamp had been talking with Congressman Howard Berman, who asked them why there was not a nature preserve at Hansen Dam. Muriel knew that I birded there and asked if I would be interested in representing San Fernando Valley Audubon on an unofficial advisory board. I attended several monthly meetings, but the committee's unofficial status made real progress difficult. Each month different neighborhood residents would come and mostly ask the same question – "where is our 80 acre lake?" Hansen Dam already had a lake that was created when floodwaters poured into a deep hole left by a company that mined gravel and left without fulfilling its obligation to fill in the hole. The company also left a smaller hole just east of the large one that receives water from Little Tujunga Creek. The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and the Army Corps of Engineers not only didn't want a lake, they wanted to remove this "hole in the ground with water in it but is not a lake" because they were afraid of the liability. After nearly a year of attending, the meetings seemed to become a waste of time.

Then, in 2002, things started heating up. The city had built two "artificial

lakes", one for swimming and one for fishing, on an upper level of the basin. The construction was faulty and a leak developed under the swimming pool that would have completely undermined its supporting earth. The pool was drained and repaired, but the debris from the original pool, consisting of concrete and rebar, was dumped in the west end of the large lake. *Arundo* and other non-native plants removed from Whittier Narrows were dumped into the small lake. Needless to say, both these actions outraged many people, and the meetings became frequent and boisterous.

In the middle of all this, a local equestrian named Deb Baumann, encountered a scout from a movie company seeking a set location that turned out to be adjacent to Bell's Vireo habitat. She asked if they had the necessary environmental permits and approvals. They didn't even have a clue about what was involved, but were eager to do whatever was necessary to get the location. I must say it was a pleasure working with these people. They waited until the vireos had left before building their set, put down sterile earth so the plants they brought in would not leave seeds that could germinate, and replanted more mulch than they had to remove to build the set.

The convergence of all these events led to the official formation of the Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board in April 2003. The Board is composed of people from neighborhood organizations and users groups including San Fernando Valley Audubon, equestrians, joggers, soccer leagues, and hikers. There are also ex-officio members from Recreation and Parks, Army Corps of Engineers,

aides from the offices of city council and congressional representatives, and neighborhood councils. As the name says, the Board acts only in an advisory capacity, but our suggestions have been well received as the voice of the community.

Since then, the HDPAB has written and approved bylaws, elected officers, and formed subcommittees. Our recent accomplishments include getting the Water Quality Control Board and Senator Feinstein's office involved in having the Corps clean up the debris dumped in the lakes, approving a landscaping addition to the knoll along Foothill Blvd., and helping facilitate an experiment to see if polo and soccer could both use the soccer fields without detriment to each other (they can).

The Environmental and Land Use Committee has been very active in the few months since its establishment. We have selected both long and short-term goals; we are completing prioritization of the goals and polishing up a mission statement. Input from birders and conservationists is welcomed and encouraged.

If you are interested in participating, the HDPAB meets at:

Lake View Terrace Recreation Center
11075 Foothill Blvd.

Lake View Terrace

at 6:30 PM, the first Tuesday of each month. The Environmental and Land Use Committee meets on the third Friday of the month, 8:00 AM at Big Jim's Restaurant on the corner of Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Sheldon St. Since Big Jim's lets us use the room for free, most attendees purchase something from the menu. All meetings are open to the public in accordance with the Brown Act. 

BIRDS of HANSEN DAM and BIG TUJUNGA WASH

By Kimball L. Garrett, based on checklist developed by Dustin Alcala
Current as of April 2004

C = common (seen nearly all or all trips in season, often in large numbers)

U = uncommon (seen many to most trips in season, usually in low numbers)

R = rare (one or a few records per season)

Cas. = casual (1-3 records total)

Greater White-fronted Goose	R, Sep-Apr
Snow Goose	R, Oct-Apr
Canada Goose	U, year-round
Tundra Swan	Cas., Nov-Mar
Wood Duck	R, Oct-Apr, Jun
Gadwall	C, breeding resident
Eurasian Wigeon	Cas., Nov-Feb
American Wigeon	C, Sep-Apr, R May-Jun
Mallard	C, breeding resident
Blue-winged Teal	R, Oct-Apr
Cinnamon Teal	C, Jan-Nov
Northern Shoveler	C, Aug-May
Northern Pintail	U, Aug-Mar
Green-winged Teal	C, Aug-May
Canvasback	U, Oct-Apr
Redhead	U, Aug-Apr
Ring-necked Duck	C, Aug-May
Tufted Duck	Cas., Oct
Tufted Duck x Greater Scaup	Cas., Mar
Greater Scaup	Cas., Feb&Nov
Lesser Scaup	C., Oct-Mar, R Jun
Bufflehead	C, Oct-May
Hooded Merganser	U, Oct-Apr
Common Merganser	R, Nov-Mar
Red-breasted Merganser	Cas., Nov-Mar
Ruddy Duck	C, breeding resident
California Quail	C, breeding resident
Common Loon	R, Oct-Mar
Pied-billed Grebe	C, breeding resident
Horned Grebe	R, Oct-Apr
Eared Grebe	U, Sep-Jun
Western Grebe	U, breeding resident
Clark's Grebe	R, breeding resident
Blue-footed Booby	Cas., Aug
American White Pelican	R, Sep-May
Brown Pelican	Cas., Apr&Aug
Double-crested Cormorant	C, year-round visitor
American Bittern	R, Nov-Apr
Least Bittern	R, Jul-Feb
Great Blue Heron	C, year-round visitor
Great Egret	C, year-round visitor
Snowy Egret	C, year-round visitor
Little Blue Heron	Cas., Aug
Cattle Egret	U, Aug-Jun
Green Heron	C, breeding resident
Black-crowned Night-Heron	C, resident (breeds?)
White-faced Ibis	R, Feb-May, Sep-Nov
Turkey Vulture	C, year-round visitor
Osprey	U, Sep-May
White-tailed Kite	U, breeding resident
Northern Harrier	U, Sep-Apr
Sharp-shinned Hawk	C, Oct-May
Cooper's Hawk	C, breeding resident
Broad-winged Hawk	Cas., Sep-Nov
Red-shouldered Hawk	C, breeding resident
Swainson's Hawk	U, Feb-Apr, Sep-Nov
Red-tailed Hawk	C, breeding resident
Ferruginous Hawk	Cas., Mar-Apr, Sep-Oct
Rough-legged Hawk	Cas., Mar
Golden Eagle	Cas., Aug-Oct
American Kestrel	U, breeding resident
Merlin	U, Sep-Mar

Prairie Falcon	R, Oct-Apr
Peregrine Falcon	R, Aug-May
Virginia Rail	U, breeding resident
Sora	U, Aug-May
Common Moorhen	R, Sep-May
American Coot	C, breeding resident
Black-bellied Plover	R, Aug-Apr
Snowy Plover	Cas., Aug
Semipalmated Plover	Cas., Mar-May, Jul-Oct
Killdeer	C, breeding resident
Black-necked Stilt	U, Sep-Jul
American Avocet	R, Oct-May
Greater Yellowlegs	U, Jul-May
Lesser Yellowlegs	R, Apr-May, Sep-Dec
Solitary Sandpiper	R, Apr-May, Aug-Nov
Willet	Cas., Apr&Aug
Spotted Sandpiper	C, breeding resident
Whimbrel	R, Apr-May, Aug-Oct
Long-billed Curlew	R, Apr-May, Aug-Oct
Marbled Godwit	R, Apr-May, Aug-Oct
Red Knot	Cas., Sep
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Cas., Aug-Sep
Western Sandpiper	U, Jul-May
Least Sandpiper	U, Jul-May
Baird's Sandpiper	R, Aug-Sep
Pectoral Sandpiper	R, Aug-Oct
Dunlin	R, Oct-Apr
Stilt Sandpiper	Cas., Sep
Long-billed Dowitcher	U, Jul-May
Wilson's Snipe	U, Aug-Apr
Wilson's Phalarope	Cas., Apr-May, Aug
Red-necked Phalarope	Cas., Aug
Bonaparte's Gull	R, Oct-Mar
Mew Gull	Cas., Oct-Mar
Ring-billed Gull	U, Oct-May
California Gull	C, Aug-Jun
Herring Gull	Cas., Oct-Mar
Thayer's Gull	Cas., Nov-Mar
Western Gull	U, Jul-Mar
Glaucous-winged Gull	Cas., Oct-Mar
Caspian Tern	U, year-round
Forster's Tern	U, Oct-Aug
Common Tern	Cas., Aug
Black Tern	Cas., Aug
Rock Pigeon	C, breeding resident
Band-tailed Pigeon	U, year-round
Spotted Dove	U, (former?) resident
Mourning Dove	C, breeding resident
Greater Roadrunner	R, (former?) resident
Barn Owl	U, year-round
Great Horned Owl	U, breeding resident
Burrowing Owl	Cas., Sep-Nov
Long-eared Owl	Cas., Aug-Sep
Lesser Nighthawk	U, breeder, Apr-Oct
Common Poorwill	U, breeder, Feb-Sep
Black Swift	R, May&Sep
Chimney Swift	Cas., May-Jun
Vaux's Swift	C, Apr-May, Sep-Oct, U Jan-Feb
White-throated Swift	C, breeding resident
Black-chinned Hummingbird	C, Apr-Sep
Anna's Hummingbird	C, breeding resident
Costa's Hummingbird	U, Feb-Sep
Calliope Hummingbird	R, Mar-May
Rufous Hummingbird	U, Feb-Mar, Jul-Sep
Allen's Hummingbird	C, breeding resident
Belted Kingfisher	U, year-round
Lewis's Woodpecker	Cas., Oct
Acorn Woodpecker	R, year-round visitor
Red-naped Sapsucker	R, Oct-Apr
Red-breasted Sapsucker	U, Sep-Apr
Nuttall's Woodpecker	C, breeding resident
Downy Woodpecker	C, breeding resident

Hairy Woodpecker	Cas., May&Sep-Oct	Virginia's Warbler	R, Sep-Oct
Northern Flicker	C, breeding resident	Lucy's Warbler	Cas., Aug
Olive-sided Flycatcher	R, Apr-May	Yellow Warbler	C, Apr-Oct, R Dec-Jan
Western Wood-Pewee	U, Apr-Jun, Aug-Oct	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Cas., Sep
Willow Flycatcher	C, May-Jun, Aug-Oct	Magnolia Warbler	Cas., Oct
Hammond's Flycatcher	U, Apr-May, Oct	Yell.-rump. (Myrtle) Warbler	U, Oct-May
Dusky Flycatcher	R, Mar-May	Yell.-rump. (Audubon's) Warbler	C, Sep-May
Gray Flycatcher	R, Oct-May	Black-throated Gray Warbler	C, Mar-May, Aug-Dec
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	U, Mar-May, Jul-Nov	Black-throated Green Warbler	Cas., Sep
Black Phoebe	C, breeding resident	Townsend's Warbler	C, Aug-May
Eastern Phoebe	Cas., Nov-Mar	Hermit Warbler	U, Aug-May
Say's Phoebe	C, Sep-Apr, R May	Prairie Warbler	Cas., Nov-Mar
Vermilion Flycatcher	Cas., Jan&Sep	Palm Warbler	Cas., Oct-Mar
Ash-throated Flycatcher	C, Apr-Oct, R Nov-Feb	Blackpoll Warbler	Cas., Sep-Oct
Tropical Kingbird	Cas., Oct	Black-and-white Warbler	R, Apr-May, Sep-Feb
Cassin's Kingbird	C, breeding resident	American Redstart	Cas., Sep-May
Western Kingbird	C, Mar-Oct, R Nov	Ovenbird	Cas., Feb
Eastern Kingbird	Cas., Sep	Northern Waterthrush	Cas., Sep
Loggerhead Shrike	R, breeding resident	MacGillivray's Warbler	U, Apr-May, Aug-Oct
Bell's Vireo	U, Apr-Sep	Common Yellowthroat	C, breeding resident
Plumbeous Vireo	R, Apr-May, Sep-Jan	Hooded Warbler	Cas., Jul-Apr
Cassin's Vireo	U, Apr-May, R Sep-Feb	Wilson's Warbler	C, Mar-Jun, Aug-Oct, R Nov-Feb
Hutton's Vireo	U, breeding resident	Canada Warbler	Cas., Oct
Warbling Vireo	C, Mar-May, Aug-Oct	Yellow-breasted Chat	C, Apr-Sep
Red-eyed Vireo	Cas., Jul&Oct	Summer Tanager	R., May, Jul-Jan
Steller's Jay	Cas., Sep-Apr	Western Tanager	C, Apr-Jun, Aug-Oct, R Nov-Mar
Western Scrub-Jay	C, breeding resident	Green-tailed Towhee	Cas., Mar-Apr
American Crow	C, breeding resident	Spotted Towhee	C, breeding resident
Common Raven	C, breeding resident	California Towhee	C, breeding resident
Horned Lark	R, Aug-Mar, Jun	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	U, breeding resident
Purple Martin	Cas., Apr-May	Chipping Sparrow	C, Aug-May, U Jun-Jul
Tree Swallow	C, year-round visitor	Clay-colored Sparrow	R, Sep-Mar
Violet-green Swallow	C, Jan-Oct, R Nov-Dec	Brewer's Sparrow	R, May, Sep-Nov
N. Rough-winged Swallow	C, Feb-Oct, U Nov-Jan	Black-chinned Sparrow	Cas., May, Jul-Aug, Nov-Jan
Bank Swallow	R, Mar-Apr, Sep-Oct	Vesper Sparrow	R, Oct-Mar
Cliff Swallow	C, Feb-Oct	Lark Sparrow	C, breeding resident
Barn Swallow	C, Feb-Nov, U Dec-Jan	Black-throated Sparrow	Cas., May, Aug-Oct
Mountain Chickadee	R, Aug-Mar	Sage Sparrow	Cas., May, Aug-Oct
Oak Titmouse	R, year-round visitor	Savannah Sparrow	C, Aug-Apr
Bushtit	C, breeding resident	Fox Sparrow	U, Sep-Apr
White-breasted Nuthatch	R, Jul-Mar	Song Sparrow	C, breeding resident
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R, Oct-Mar	Lincoln's Sparrow	C, Sep-May
Brown Creeper	Cas., Nov-Jan	Swamp Sparrow	Cas., Oct-Feb
Cactus Wren	R, breeding resident	White-throated Sparrow	Cas., Sep-Oct
Rock Wren	C, breeding resident	Golden-crowned Sparrow	U, Oct-Apr
Canyon Wren	R, year-round visitor	White-crowned Sparrow	C, Sep-May
Bewick's Wren	C, breeding resident	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	C, Sep-Apr
House Wren	U, Jul-May	Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	R, Oct-Apr
Winter Wren	Cas., Sep-Mar	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Cas., Mar
Marsh Wren	U, Sep-May, R Jul	Black-headed Grosbeak	C, Mar-Sep
Golden-crowned Kinglet	R, Nov-Mar	Blue Grosbeak	C, Apr-Sep
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C, Sep-Apr	Indigo Bunting	Cas., Jul-Aug
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C, Aug-Apr	Lazuli Bunting	U, Apr-Oct
California Gnatcatcher	R, former visitor Mar-Apr	Bobolink	R, Sep-Oct
Western Bluebird	C, breeding resident	Red-winged Blackbird	C, breeding resident
Mountain Bluebird	Cas., Feb&Oct	Tricolored Blackbird	U, Oct-Jun
Swainson's Thrush	U, Apr-Aug	Western Meadowlark	U, Aug-May
Hermit Thrush	C, Oct-Apr, R May	Yellow-headed Blackbird	R, Mar-May, Oct
American Robin	U, Oct-Jun	Brewer's Blackbird	C, breeding resident
Varied Thrush	Cas., Nov-Feb	Great-tailed Grackle	C, breeding resident
Wrentit	C, breeding resident	Brown-headed Cowbird	C, breeding resident
Northern Mockingbird	C, breeding resident	Hooded Oriole	U, Mar-Sep
Sage Thrasher	Cas., Jan-Apr	Baltimore Oriole	Cas., Aug
California Thrasher	C, breeding resident	Bullock's Oriole	C, Mar-Sep
European Starling	C, breeding resident	Purple Finch	U, Oct-Apr
American Pipit	C, Oct-Apr	House Finch	C, breeding resident
Red-throated Pipit	Cas., Sep	Red Crossbill	Cas., Nov
Cedar Waxwing	C, Sep-May	Pine Siskin	U, Sep-Mar
Phainopepla	U, breeding resident	Lesser Goldfinch	C, breeding resident
Tennessee Warbler	Cas., Sep	Lawrence's Goldfinch	C, Mar-May, U Jun-Feb
Orange-crowned Warbler	C, year-round visitor	American Goldfinch	C, breeding resident
Nashville Warbler	U, Apr-May, Aug-Oct, Jan	House Sparrow	C, breeding resident

We Have to Move!

The Los Angeles Audubon Society is looking for a new home. And we need you, our members and friends, to help us find one.

For a long time our situation in Plummer Park has been uncomfortable. Our bookstore, office, and library are squeezed into a tiny space, and we have to rent a storage locker to store our records. We never know from month to month what room the Plummer Park staff will give us for our general meetings.

And now our very presence in the park may become untenable. The West Hollywood City Master Plan for Plummer Park calls for the Great Hall, which houses Audubon House, to be demolished. No new buildings will be built in the park to replace it, and the City of West Hollywood has not committed to finding comparable replacement space for us. So we have to find a new place within the next two years, if not sooner.

Our new headquarters should be located within the Society's service area, which can roughly be defined as the L.A. Basin south of the Santa Monica mountains. It should be accessible to most members, potential members, and volunteers. The site should be on or near a street with enough traffic to attract passersby to the bookstore, in a "nice" enough neighborhood to enable overflow parking on the street. A purely residential street would not be desirable, mainly because of the lack of parking. A bleak industrial area would probably be too forbidding to members and visitors. The best location may be in a mainly commercial area, to give maximum space for the cost, and to allow for alterations and transformation of habitat around the building, not to mention parking. The use of public space, such as a park, is also an option, provided that the Society's use of the site may be guaranteed as secure and permanent, and that we may be at liberty to build or alter a structure to meet the Society's needs.

For our Society to properly serve its members, friends and community, the new Audubon House should include the following facilities:

Bookstore

The Bookstore currently provides both an income for the society and a place where members and others can obtain valuable resources (books, recordings, optical equipment). It is also a venue where members can meet with each other on an informal basis; this is particularly true before and after general meetings, when refreshments are served in the Bookstore. In a new facility, if space permits, the Bookstore may offer drinks and snacks, and a place to sit down, read and talk. In this respect, it would resemble a regular bookstore, such as Barnes and Noble, Borders, or Vroman's. It would serve as the social center of the Society, and an attractive place for non-members to come and visit. To serve all these functions, and to accommodate its large inventory, this space would have to be large, at least 800 sq.ft.

Meeting Room

The space for General Meetings should be large enough to accommodate 100 people, like a very large classroom. It should have a screen and a place for projection equipment including slide and film projectors, and a digital video projector for CDs and Power-Point presentations. A sound system should be installed for both speakers and projected presentations. There should be ventilation and possible air-conditioning, and adequate controllable lighting. In all, it should provide an attractive and comfortable venue for society meetings and workshops, one which members and non-members would look forward to visiting.

Exhibition Hall/Teaching Room

The new headquarters should have a facility the Society currently lacks: a space for educational exhibits that would also serve as a site for workshops in which teachers may be instructed in how to use our education programs, and in environmental education in general. Schoolchildren may also be brought here, for environmental components of their science courses. And it would be an

attractive and interesting place for casual visitors to inspect. It should have tables and chairs, as well as exhibit cases and other devices for showing off our collection. It might also serve as the site for Board meetings.

Library

The Society has an extensive collection of books and periodicals, many of which are rare and valuable. There should be a room big enough to house and grow it, along with tables and chairs for reading and computer access to the catalog.

Offices

Office space should be sufficient for both Bookstore and chapter administration. There must be space for at least four computers, and for filing cabinets, shelves, and other office-based storage.

Storage Closet

A large separate storage unit should be available for back-number Tanners and Bookstore Catalogs, books, tapes, CDs, educational materials, and other bulky items not currently in use in any of the other facilities. A smaller closet would be desirable for housekeeping materials, overcoats, umbrellas, etc.

Restrooms

One pair may be sufficient, but they must be large enough for multiple use.

Parking

There should be on-site parking for at least 30 cars. Nearby parking should be available.

Outside Habitat

If there is any outside space left on the site after parking is accommodated, it should be landscaped and planted with native plants to attract birds. In this way a natural habitat can be created even in a developed urban area.

These facilities would be ideal, and we may not be able to accommodate all of them if we have to move on short notice. It is possible that we may have to rent or

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

lease in the short run. But ultimately, an Audubon House as described above should be our goal, if we are to fully accomplish our mission. We should aim high to achieve our goals for our next hundred years!

Our Headquarters Committee is putting together a grant proposal and there are already some prospects for a proper Audubon House. We need the help of all our members and friends to keep their eyes open for opportunities and to think creatively about what the new Audubon House should be. We need you to tell us what you think should be included in the new headquarters, where it should be located, how we could obtain the funding to achieve it, and so forth.

Please feel free to contact us at:

Audubon House
7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood CA 90048
(323) 876-0202
books@laaudubon.org

Our hundredth anniversary will come around in 2010. Let's work together to build a new home by then!

Thanks for your loyalty and support.

Dexter Kelly

LAAS website:

www.laadubon.org

Look us up!

Nominations: The Nominating Committee has announced the slate of candidates for LAAS Board for the 2004-2005 term. President Ray Schep appointed Executive Secretary Garry George in January to Chair the Committee again this year, and members Mary Freeman, Margo de Grosse, and Becky Schweibert were elected by the members in the January meeting. After months of meetings and a search for a new Treasurer, the Committee announced the slate at the March meeting. Candidates are Dexter Kelly, President; Garry George, 1st VP, Becky Schweibert, 2nd VP, Pat Heirs, Executive Secretary, Johanna Dawes, Recording Secretary, and Richard Wegman, Treasurer. If elected, the candidates will take office on July 1, 2004 along with Executive Past President Raymond Schep. Both Becky Schweibert and Richard Wegman would be new to the Board. Becky is a veterinarian and an active member of LAAS. Richard Wegman is new to LAAS and was Chief Operating Officer of TreePeople and a partner in <www.activemusic.org> whose mission is to raise sustainable funding, awareness, and community support for critical issues and nonprofit organizations through the power of music. Members will vote on the slate of candidates in the Annual Meeting, May 13, 2004. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Treasurer: Treasurer Elizabeth Prigge has resigned from the Board of LAAS. Elizabeth sent a letter of resignation from South Africa via President Ray Schep. The Board elected 2nd VP Pat Heirs as Interim Treasurer until new officers are elected. Pat deserves a big vote of thanks for volunteering to take on this task in addition to her 2nd VP and Library Committee duties. Thanks, Pat.

Chapter Retreat: 1st VP Dexter Kelly, Recording Secretary Johanna Dawes, Executive Secretary Garry George, and Executive Past President Richard Epps

attended an Audubon Chapters retreat at Sea & Sage Audubon in Irvine, January 30 through February 1. Chapters from southern California discussed important topics such as Chapter communications, fund raising, conservation projects, and education programs. Julia Levin of Audubon California led a panel on current legislative activities in Sacramento that affect the environment, especially Senate Bill 1477 – the Water Quality Protection Act of 2005. The bill will require the State Water Resources Control Board to regulate fill and discharges into non-navigable, intrastate waters that are no longer federally protected since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency removed protections following a Supreme Court ruling in 2001. More on this important piece of legislation and organizations endorsing it is on <ca.audubon.org>.

Education: 1st VP Dexter Kelly and Education Director Robin Gose attended a Los Angeles science teachers meeting at the Science Center to talk about LAAS' new Education Program.

Baldwin Hills: Executive Secretary Garry George announced the beginning of the three year LAAS co-sponsored project to create a California Native Plant and Wildlife Garden in Kenneth Hahn Recreational Area at Baldwin Hills Park. LAAS monthly field trips to the area will document the increase in wildlife after restoring a section of the park to native plants. A volunteer weed-pull to kick off the project will take place on Earth Day, April 17.

Library: Library Committee Chair Pat Heirs and member Joseph Brooks are sorting out LAAS Library by binding the last 10 years of *Western Tanager*; and selling off unneeded books (call the Bookstore for special sales). The Library is a great underused resource of LAAS.

BOOK REVIEW

An Introduction to Southern California Butterflies

Written by Fred Heath with photographs by Herb Clarke
Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, MT, 2004
279pp, Color Photographs, 9 1/2 by 6 1/2, Paper - \$22.00

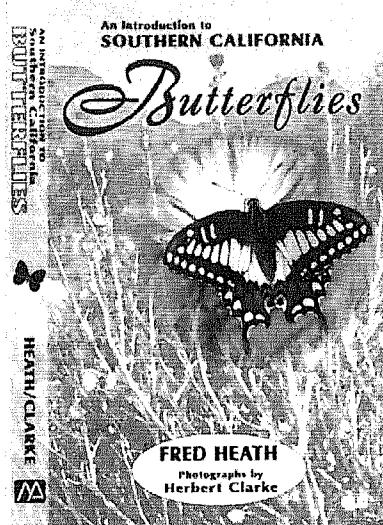
Los Angeles Audubon Society members are well acquainted with both Fred Heath and Herb Clarke who have been contributing members of this organization for many years. Both of them have written books on natural history and have lectured widely.

Fred's knowledge of things natural has been willingly shared with all who would listen and though he is an executive in a computer hardware company, he would have made a great science teacher. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the North American Butterfly Association. Herb's photographs are a labor of love and they show it. It seems Herb was born with a Nikon in his hand.

It has been my privilege to spend many hours in the field with both of these gentlemen (Fred first infected my wife and me with this particular obsession), and they remain forever young and enthusiastic. And let us not forget Olga Clarke whose photos of the food plants also grace this book.

The book is divided into several parts. The introduction contains a well written synopsis of butterfly biology and ecology, taxonomy, and hints on how to enjoy and identify these beautiful yet ephemeral creatures. Also discussed with photographs are predation and the general biomes of southern California.

The meat of the book is the identification section for a goodly percentage of the butterflies one is most likely to come across in the southern California area. Species discussion include icons depicting the biomes in which the species can be found, and most interesting to me,



icons depicting in what stage: egg, larva, pupa, or adult, the insect spends the winter (diapause).

The specific habitat within those biomes are then described, along with adult flight time, the number of broods,

food and nectar plants, and a short general paragraph about that species. Many species have photographs of the food plants, some larvae are depicted, and in a few cases a photograph of another species that might be mistaken for the species currently under discussion.

The only thing that bothered me was the treatment of nectar plants which, by its

very nature, would have to be incomplete and perhaps misleading to the neophyte attempting to use this section as a guide to identifying a particular butterfly.

The appendices include a complete checklist of southern California butterflies with bold type indicating a species treated in the book and an asterisk for a photograph only. There is a short list of additional sources, associations, museums, and some of the parks, National Forests, etc. where butterflies might be searched for. There are also butterfly and food plant indices.

This is a great book for those of you, especially birders, who want to supplement your natural history experiences in the field. Beware from one who knows - it is very easy to get addicted!

Reviewed by Hank Brodkin, co-author of *Butterflies of Arizona - A Photographic Guide*.

We get letters:

Dear Editor:

While on patrol for the Arcadia Police Department, February 14, 2004 at approximately 3:00 PM, my partner, George Colman, and I found Golden West Street, south of Kingsley, completely blocked by 30 to 40 peacocks and hens, coming from all directions. They were encircling a hen that had been struck and killed by a motorist, and was lying in the middle of the street. One by one they would approach the dead one and nudge it with their beak - very much like we would nudge a downed person to determine any sign of life.

They would not clear the street for vehicles. They were not frightened by blasts from our patrol cars' air horn, much less the sound of other cars' standard horns. They would respond with shrill screeches of their own-but would not clear the street until my partner moved the dead hen out of the street onto a lawn. The mass of birds then moved to the lawn and continued the ritual with new birds arriving continuously. Some of the larger male peacocks would display their tail fans, but were ignored by the hens.

We notified Animal Control, who removed the body, and order was restored.

Mel Hindin

Dear Readers:

If any of you have ever witnessed this behavior in any species of bird (or have heard of it), please let us know. This is very unusual and we thank Mel for his report.

Your Editor

LAAS INTERNATIONAL TOURS

AMAZON RIVER CRUISE – July 3, 2004

MACHU PICCHU/ABRA MALAGA – 6-day Pretour

This is a unique opportunity to see exotic birdlife and wildlife with a small group from a small vessel and from motor launches. Horned Screamers, Jabirus, Amazonian Umbrellabirds, Pink River-Dolphins. Stunning views of fabled Inca Ruins and birds such as Cock-of-the Rock.

BRAZIL'S PANTANAL and IGUAÇU FALLS – October 23-31, 2004

Plus a 3-day Post-tour Extension to Rio de Janeiro and the Atlantic Rainforest.

Wildlife viewing likened to the plains of Africa. See Hyacinth Macaws, Jabirus, Plumbeous Ibis, Toucans, Rheas, among extraordinary concentrations of birds and other wildlife, climaxed by visiting incomparable Iguacu Falls, the largest waterfalls on earth, and surrounding vicinity.

Special introductory price includes International Airfare from Miami and all flights within Brazil.

For information and itinerary, contact:

Olga Clarke, Travel Director, Los Angeles Audubon Society

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

NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE

Introduction to California Spring Wildflowers of the Foothills, Valleys, and Coast

Revised Edition. This popular guidebook, first published more than 40 years ago, has been thoroughly revised. Easy to use and scientifically up-to-date. Describes more than 400 wildflowers, 244 new color photographs, 77 detailed drawings, information on where flowers are to be seen.

Flex cover, Philip A. Munz, 2004 \$16.95

A Birder's Guide to Whitefish Point

This phenomenal concentration point for raptors and other migrating birds with 318 species recorded is located at the northeastern tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The 24-page booklet includes birding locations of the area, month-by-month birding guide, count averages, and detailed information on the 25 most wanted birds.

Derek Lovitch, 2003 \$5.00

Stokes Field Guide to Warblers

Complete, all full color, photographic field guide to warblers of North America. 170 full color photographs, 100 detailed color range maps, migration maps, hot spots, voice clues. Multiple images show gender and seasonal plumage differences. Color coded.

Soft cover, Donald & Lillian Stokes, 2004 \$14.95

The Big Year, A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession

Three men set out across North America on a 365-day marathon of birdwatching, ultimately leading one man to a new record of 745 species. Their exploits across desert, oceans, swamps, and mountains show with humor and charm the length to which people will go to pursue their dreams of avian conquest.

Hard cover, Mark Obmascik \$25.00

SPECIAL NOTE: Now that the season is upon us, don't forget to check out the many wildflower and plant identification guides available at the Bookstore.

WESTERN TANAGER

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

EDITOR: Jean Brandt

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Tom Frillman

CONSERVATION: Sandy Wohlgemuth

FIELD TRIPS: Nick Freeman

ORNITHOLOGY CONSULTANT:

Kimball Garrett

PELAGIC TRIPS: Phil Sayre

PRINTING: Holden Color Inc.

PROGRAMS: Mary Freeman

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

PRESIDENT:

Raymond Schep

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Dexter Kelly

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:

vacant

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Garry George

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Johanna Dawes

TREASURER:

Pat Heirs

Annual membership in National Audubon, which includes membership in LAAS, is \$35 per year. Members receive the *Western Tanager* newsletter and *Audubon* magazine, a national publication. Annual LAAS Chapter Only membership is \$20, \$35, \$50, \$100, or \$250. LAAS Chapter Only memberships do not include *Audubon* magazine.

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

Los Angeles Audubon Society
Headquarters, Library
and Bookstore are open to the public
Tuesday – Saturday
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Plummer Park
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90046-6694

(323) 876-0202 – office
(323) 876-7609 – fax
(323) 874-1318 – bird tape

WesternTanager@LAAudubon.org – e-mail
LAAS@LAAudubon.org – e-mail
www.LAAudubon.org – website
Printed on Recycled Paper



LAAS ANNUAL PICNIC

Charlton Flats Picnic Ground

Saturday, July 24, 8:00 AM – whenever???

Since last year's LAAS picnic was such a success, we have decided to do it again. We will escape July's heat to frolic in the cool groves of the lowest area of Charlton Flats Picnic Area, off the Angeles Crest Highway (Route 2) in the Angeles National Forest. We'll start off with a bird walk at 8 AM. Birds to be seen should include White-headed Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire, Dark-eyed Junco, Thick-billed Fox Sparrow, and other mountain specialties. After the walk we will return to the picnic tables for a leisurely lunch, chat, whatever. Bring your own picnic lunch, a hat, sunscreen, your binoculars, some OK walking shoes, a comfortable chair or chairs to sit on, and your attentive eyes and ears. We'll supply a cooler of non-alcoholic drinks. After lunch, there will be a butterfly walk.

To get to Charlton Flats, take the Angeles Crest Highway north from La Cañada (off the 210 Freeway and/or Foothill Blvd.) and proceed about 24 miles, past Mt. Wilson, to where the Charlton Flats sign appears on the left. Follow the driveway downward to the lowest part of the picnic area.

We'll try to stake out the shadiest table, but it's first come first served, so get there early. Drive carefully and give yourself plenty of time; the highway is very twisty and turny.

And oh yes: *you'll need an Angeles National Forest Adventure Pass to hang on your car's rear view mirror.* If a ranger comes by and you don't

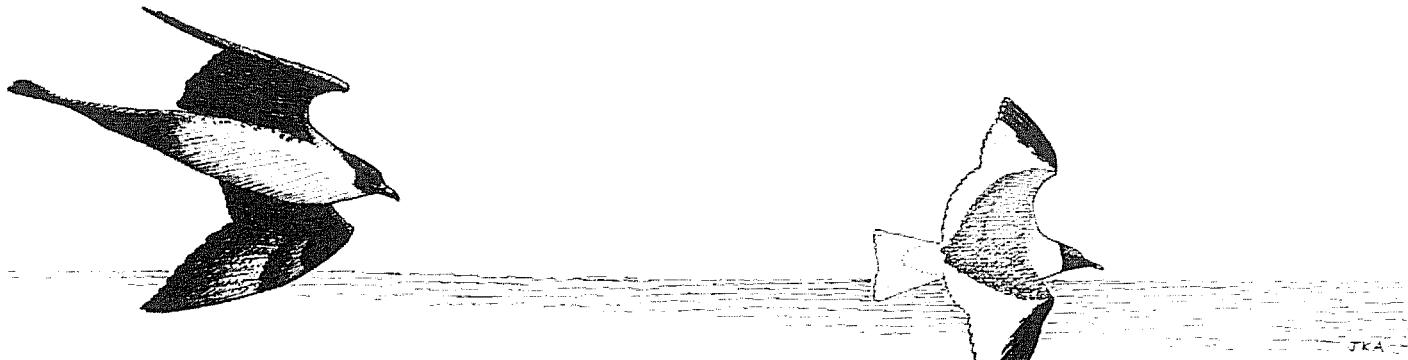
have one, he'll write you a pricey ticket. The passes can be obtained from some stores near the forest (including Sports Chalet on Foothill Blvd. just down the road from the Route 2 intersection.) Or just try a major sporting goods store in your neighborhood.

Adventure Passes cost \$5.00 for one day, or \$30.00 for a year from date of purchase. If you have a second vehicle you want covered, an extra annual pass can be bought for \$5.00, after presenting the vehicle license and registration to the vendor.

If you're over 62, for \$10 you can get a Golden Age Pass, which gives you both lifetime access to national parks and a 50% discount on the Adventure Pass. If you have a Golden Access National Park Pass (for disabled persons), you get the same deal. If you buy a Golden Eagle Passport for \$65, you get a free Adventure Pass. But you have to buy the pass at a ranger station or other Forest Service Office in order to get the Golden Pass discount or freebie. You can get the Golden passes at the Forest Service Offices.

For further information, call the Angeles National Forest information desk at (626) 574-5200, or look on their website at: [<www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/passes/pass-adventure.shtml>](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/passes/pass-adventure.shtml).

Don't let these complications keep you from coming to the picnic and having a wonderful summer day in the mountains with your L.A. Audubon friends!



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 Islander. After dropping off campers on Santa Cruz Island we will have the boat to ourselves, and 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 – There is a full galley which serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. A full bar is available.

SAVE \$5
WITH AN
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: Todd McGrath, David Pereksta, Michael San Miguel, Jr., 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, May 2 –

Lompoc Vicinity. Leader: Eleanor Osgood. 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 off at the Alisal Rd. offramp signed for the park. Drive to the first parking area on the right, and meet here. Two hour drive from LA. We will also bird Santa Inez River mouth, River Park, and elsewhere. Bring lunch and bird until three-ish. Carpooling encouraged.

Sunday, May 2 –

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. five miles to Entrada Rd. Parking \$2. Meet at 8:00 AM.

Sunday, May 9 –

Butterbreyt Springs and Galileo Hills. Leader: Nick Freeman. These are some of the best migrant traps in the state. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline, with reptiles in the limelight. 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 more than two hours driving time from LA, or stay at the Mojave Motel 6 or elsewhere. LAAS phone sign-up mandatory. 12 max. Bring lunch, sun block. Meet at 7:30 AM.

Sunday, May 9 –

Whittier Narrows. Leader: Ray Jillson. View colorful resident and migrating birds, including the introduced Northern Cardinal. Take Peck Drive 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, May 15 –

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Leader: Richard Barth. 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 Road 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.

Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 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 three-ish 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.

Sunday, May 16 –

Ballona Wetlands. Bob Shanman will be leading this trip to our nearest wetland and adjacent rocky jetty. Good spot for late migrating seabirds and 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, May 22 –

Hansen Dam. Leader: Kimball Garrett. Come frolic with the guy who wrote the book on bird status and distribution in SoCal. Bell's Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chats and other riparian and marsh species at one of the premier (though threatened) lowland riparian areas in Los Angeles County. Exit 210 (Foothill) Fwy at Osborne Street in Lake View Terrace. At the end of the offramp (from either direction) turn west on Foothill Blvd. Go about 100 yards and turn left into the Hansen Dam Sports Center parking lot. Meet at 7:00 AM. in this parking lot. Long, easy walk; bring water!

Sunday, May 23 –

Big Morongo Wildlife Preserve. Leader Dexter Kelly will be searching for desert and oasis breeding birds such as Brown-crested and Vermilion flycatchers, Summer Tanager, Scott's and Hooded orioles, Yellow-breasted Chat and probable migrating *empidonax* flycatchers. Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot, or scout earlier with Dexter next door in Covington Park, or catch up a little later. To get there, take the 10 Fwy E about 17 miles past Banning to Hwy 62 N. Pass through the town of Morongo Valley, take a right on East Dr., then a left into the preserve. Bring lunch, water, and sun block. Desert Hot Springs offers the nearest accommodations, or camp at Joshua Tree NP. Possible extension to nearby areas, depending on interest.

Sunday, June 6 –

Topanga State Park. Leaders: Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin. Meet at 8:00 AM. See May 2 listing for details.

Sunday, June 13 –

San Gabriel Mountains Day Trip and Night Owling Trip. Leader: Raymond Schep. Targeted day birds will be Green-tailed Towhee, White-headed Woodpecker,

Brown Creeper, Purple Finch, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Band-tailed Pigeon, Williamson's Sapsucker, Western Tanager, etc. Bring a picnic lunch, a warm jacket, and a Forest Service Adventure Pass.

Meet at 8:00 AM where the 210 Fwy and Angeles Crest Highway intersect in La Canada. Exit the 210 N on Angeles Crest Highway. About one block north is a frontage road on the right, where we will park and carpool. We will have dinner about 6:00 PM at Mile High Pizza located at 5996 Cedar Street, Wrightwood. Owl-ing after dinner. Those interested only in owl-ing can meet the group at the dinner spot. Target night birds include, Northern Pygmy, Western Screech, and Northern Saw-whet owls and Common Poorwill. Finish around midnight. They're all up there, but no promises! Send \$5 and a SASE to Audubon House to sign up. Limit 16.

Sunday, June 13 –

Whittier Narrows. Leader: **Ray Jillson.** Meet at 8:15 AM. See May 9 listing for details.

Saturday, June 19 –

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Leader: **Richard Barth.** Meet at 8:00 AM. \$3 entry fee. See May 15 listing for details.

Saturday, June 26 –

Mt. Pinos Vicinity. Leader: **Jean Brandt.** Leader may opt to visit Mt. Abel instead. Calliope Hummingbird, mountain wood-peckers, Hermit Warbler, etc. Anticipate the elements, and bring a lunch and a Forest Service Adventure Pass. Take Hwy 5 N past Tejon Pass to the Frazier Park offramp, turn left, and follow Frazier Mountain Park Rd. bearing right onto Cuddy Valley Rd. Meet at the obvious Y-shaped dirt clearing formed by the junction of Cuddy Valley Rd. and Mil Potrero Hwy, and depart from here at 8:00 AM. Rain cancels.

Friday through Monday, July 2-5 –

Camp Nelson, Southwest Sierras Relaxed Weekend. Leaders: **Irwin Woldman, Margo De Grosse, and Nick Freeman.** An hour east of Porterville, Camp Nelson boasts some of the best Giant Sequoias anywhere! Summer home

rentals, fishing, berry picking, book reading, and one or two optional bird walks in beautiful country each day. Hopefully: Pileated Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Spotted and Saw-whet owls, many more. Well-behaved teenagers and spouses very welcome. Limit 15 with leaders; last two on sofas. We will eat in, dine out, pot luck / fish fry per itinerary. Bring large sheet sets and towels. \$52 each with SASE to LAAS covers three night accommodations and paper goods. Meet there at noon Friday; details in flexible itinerary. Designate arrival time, phone number, and e-mail when signing up. Contact info will be shared for car-pooling, unless requested otherwise.

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 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, July 4 –

Topanga State Park. Leaders: **Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin.** Meet at 8:00 AM. See May 2 listing for details.

Friday through Monday, July 9-12 –

Southern Sierras. Leader: **Bob Barnes.** High deserts to High Sierra. The most diverse, species-rich region in the state, and Bob knows it like few do. Likely: Goshawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Pileated Woodpecker, and owls. 150 species likely in four days. Participation limited. For information flyer, reserve with SASE. Fee: \$15 for each day attended (\$60 for four days). Dawn to dusk (and more) birding ideal for enthusiastic beginning to advanced birders. Reserve rooms in Kernville early.

Sunday, July 18 –

Big Bear Lake Vicinity. Leaders: **Nick and Mary Freeman.** No, Big Bear didn't burn down! Meet in the Aspen Glen Picnic Area parking lot in Big Bear at 7:30 AM. Take Hwy 18 or 38 to Big Bear Lake, then proceed about half way along the south side of the lake on Hwy 18 and turn south on Tulip Lane. The lot will be on the SW side of this short street. Target birds include Williamson's Sapsucker, Calliope and Rufus hummingbirds, mountain finches, and White-headed Woodpecker. It should be warm and there may be bugs, so come prepared. Bring lunch for a full day, and a Forest Service Adventure Pass.

**LAAS
PICNIC
JULY 24**

**see page 12
for details**

EVENING MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, May 11

Alvaro Jaramillo

Birds of Chile



Alvaro Jaramillo

Alvaro Jaramillo will explore Chile from the northern desert, to the temperate forests, south to Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. The birding in Chile is superb, and includes some of the most incredible pelagic birding (five species of albatross) anywhere in the world.

Born in Santiago, Chile, and currently living in Montara, California, Alvaro will explain how geography has shaped the unique avifauna of Chile and compare it to that of California, which shares a similar ecology. His research on the birds of Chile has culminated in the recently released *Princeton Field Guides: Birds of Chile*. As he talks about Chile's birds, Alvaro will also give you a bit of a background look at how this book came together.

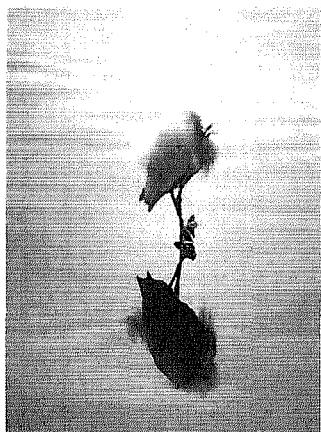
Tuesday, June 8

Members' Slide Contest!

A perennial favorite, this event brings out the art critic and art lover in all of us.

Bring your friends! – Boo the judges! – Cheer your favorites!

Photos must be of wild, unrestrained birds, taken by amateur L.A. Audubon member photographers only. Submit up to five 35mm slides per photographer, with your name on each slide. Place a dot in the upper right corner of each slide as it would be oriented for insertion into the carousel from behind the projector. All participants must be present at the show to accept their honors and divulge their winning techniques. Bookstore gift certificates to all winners. The program will begin at 8:00 PM sharp! Slides must be in the judges' hands by 7:45 PM. at the latest. There will be a winner in each of the following categories: North America, international, and humor. No digital photo entries will be accepted – at least for this year!



1st Prize Winner
1983

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

DATED MATERIAL
Please Expedite

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

Register
to vote!