

WESTERN TANAGER



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Los Angeles Audubon Society

L.A. Audubon and the Baldwin Hills . . . Where We Are Today

by Garry George

The idea of one big park known as Baldwin Hills Park was jump started by the influx of 42 million dollars in money dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and development of the Baldwin Hills Park as part of the California State Parks network, from Proposition 40, the 2.6 billion dollar "California Clean Water, Clean Air,

Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002" and in partnership with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

Los Angeles Audubon has been involved in the park for more than a decade. We have been involved in each step of the development of this park including community meetings, biota survey, comments on the Master Plan,

and monthly bird walks led by volunteers Eric and Ann Brooks or Board member Eleanor Osgood. Most recently our efforts have gone toward an educational Native Plant and Wildlife Garden in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area also funded by a Proposition 40 grant from Baldwin Hills Conservancy to Friends of Baldwin Hills, with additional

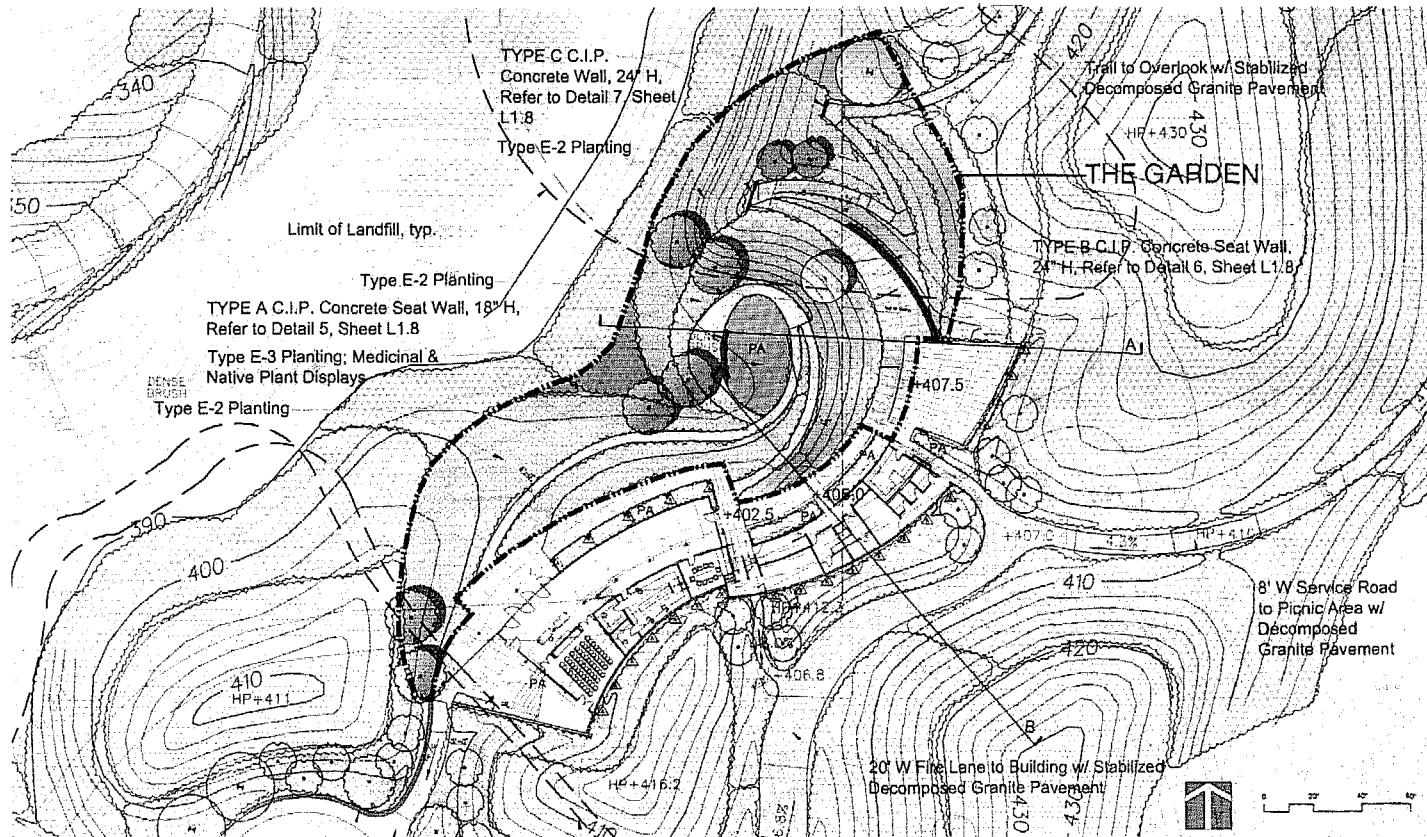




Photo by Garry George

Baldwin Hills Park Native Plant Garden in May.

grants from L.A. Audubon and the Los Angeles and Santa Monica Mountains chapters of California Native Plant Society. A three year project, the Garden will have its grand opening May 6, 2006 at 11 AM, and all LAAS members are invited. The Garden includes three acres of re-vegetation and restoration accomplished by seventy volunteers and two interns from the community, over the last three years, under the direction of Project Director Margot Griswold and Project Manager Garry George. Visitors to this restored habitat will enjoy the increased diversity of wildlife attracted to the park by the variety of native plants in the Garden.

California State Parks plans to break ground later this year on a Visitor Center

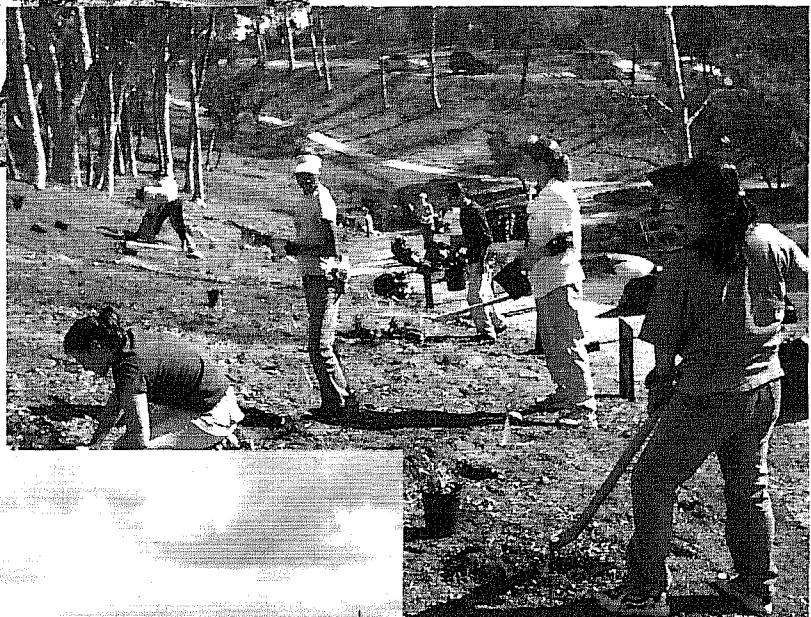
on the Scenic View site off of Jefferson Blvd. above Culver City. The views from this site are breathtaking. Recently, Los Angeles Audubon met with California State Parks to discuss a partnership in the Visitor Center and the development and implementation of an education and interpretive program, on the habitat and wildlife of the Baldwin Hills area, for school children as well as adults, modeled after the successful programs at Ballona Saltwater Marsh and Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve education programs developed by L.A. Audubon in partnership with Santa Monica Bay Audubon and San Fernando Valley Audubon.

It is Los Angeles Audubon's hope that coastal sage scrub and chaparral

habitat that has been lost to the invasion of castor bean, pampas grass, eucalyptus, mustard, and other non-native plant species, can be re-vegetated in the park to the extent that Cactus Wren and other unique southern California species that used to inhabit the park might return, and that the park will become an important stopover for migrating songbirds. Just as importantly citizens of Los Angeles will know of, and appreciate the transformation. The return of biodiversity to the park will not only revitalize the health of the ecosystem of the park but also provide more wildlife for park visitors to enjoy in park-poor urban Los Angeles, and we think that fits perfectly with our mission. 



Hundreds of volunteer hours (below) transformed the hill (left) into a glorious garden (photo pg. 2).



Looking northwest from the Baldwin Hills Park Scenic View Site.



Baldwin Hills and Ballona Creek

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Financial support for your Los Angeles Audubon Society is something that we would like you to think about when you consider making contributions to charitable organizations.

At first glance, you might think, LAAS is taken care of by the National Audubon Society. Not true. They meet less than five percent of our expenses.

At second glance, you might think, well what does LAAS do anyway? The answer is a lot! We have actively put in place many programs. Some are new; some revitalized. I encourage you to read about our many programs in issues of the *Western Tanager*.

For all giving purposes, our official name is: **Los Angeles Audubon Society**

There are many creative ways you can support LAAS:

Appreciated Securities: You may donate stocks or bonds to LAAS for an income tax charitable deduction at market value and avoid capital gains tax.

Bequests or Will: You can name the

LAAS as a beneficiary for a specific cash amount, a percentage of an estate, specific real estate or property, or as the residual beneficiary of your estate.

Cash: You can make a contribution of any amount and take an income tax charitable deduction up to 50% of your adjusted gross income (and use your deduction this year and roll it over for the next five years if you can't use it all in the current year).

Life Insurance: A paid up policy can be transferred to LAAS by designating LAAS as beneficiary. The donor may get a charitable income tax deduction equal to the policy's value. If the policy is not paid up, make LAAS beneficiary and donate the policy to LAAS, then the premiums are tax deductible in the years they are paid.

Personal Property: In most cases, gifts of tangible personal property (such as artworks) to LAAS will give the donor a charitable income tax deduction based upon the donor's cost basis in the property.

Real Estate: The donor receives a deduction up to 30% of adjusted gross income using the property's fair market value. Unless usable for office space, bookstore, or habitat restoration, LAAS sells gifted real estate.

Charitable Gift Annuities: (see article on pg. 5 by Eric S. Grodan)

Of course, the above is for your information and all final decisions a donor might make should be based upon a thorough understanding of their decision. Consulting with the appropriate legal or financial advisor is strongly recommended.

LAAS recently established the Los Angeles Audubon Society Endowment Fund at the California Community Foundation (CCF). CCF, founded in 1915 and administering more than \$750 million in charitable funds, can assist in structuring complex gift transactions and estate gifts. Please contact Garry George at LAAS garrygeorge@laaudubon.org (323) 933-6660 or me, Patricia Heirs, Treasurer (323) 876-0202 for further information.

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE!!

The May meeting will be a combined meeting of Los Angeles and Pasadena Audubon Societies.

NOTE DATE!

Wednesday, May 17, 2006
7:00 PM – Social
7:30 PM – Meeting

NOTE LOCATION!

Audubon Center at Debs Park
4700 North Griffin Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90031
(323) 221-2255

NOTE PRESENTATION!

Jewels of Ecuador

No bigger than the state of Colorado, Ecuador's altitudinal habitats range from the Pacific coast up the western slope to the highest Andes, down the eastern slope to Amazon rainforest, and from northern humid forest to dry scrub in the south. Its position on the equator means there isn't the traditional cool and hot seasons one might expect but wet and dry seasons instead. All this helps to generate an astounding list of 1537 species of birds, with 12 endemics, that have been seen in the country. Ron Cyger, Bill Principe, Herb Clarke, and Garry George share photos and videos of some of the "Jewels of Ecuador" from their recent trips to Ecuador.

Charitable Gift Annuities

By Eric S. Grodan

Given the current economic uncertainty and interest rate environment, Charitable Gift Annuities are an increasingly popular option for donors. Just ask Angel and Elvira Silva. The Silvas, brother and sister, liked their first gift annuities at the California Community Foundation so much that they both decided to do more. As Angel said, "I know I can't take it with me when I go, and instead of sticking it into a CD that today yields a meager three percent, this gift will give me nearly nine percent for life, and my contributions to these fine organizations will outlive me and my heirs. Forever is a long time."

What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A Charitable Gift Annuity is an agreement between a donor and the community foundation whereby the donor irrevocably makes a gift of cash or stock and, in turn, the community foundation agrees to pay a fixed annuity to the donor for life. After the donor's death, the remainder becomes an endowment fund at the community foundation for the perpetual benefit of charitable purposes designated by the donor. What if the donor does not need the current income? A donor can create a Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity by making a gift now, and we'll agree to make payments to the donor beginning at a date in the future (such as when the beneficiary turns 65). This can be a useful supplement to retirement plans for certain donors.

Tax Benefits. The donor receives a charitable income tax deduction based on the age(s) of the annuitants and the corresponding payout rate. If the donor cannot use the deduction in the current year (up to 50 percent of adjusted gross income for cash gifts, 30 percent for stock), then it may be carried forward for up to five additional years. A portion of each annuity payment is typically considered tax-free "return of principal." When appreciated property is contributed, the capital gain is spread out over the donor's life expectancy and reported annually. See the example below for the tax benefits of creating a gift annuity.

Parameters. Charitable Gift Annuities are a great option for older donors and smaller gifts. The smallest annuity that may be established is \$5,000. The youngest annuitant who may establish an annuity is 65. The youngest deferred annuitant who may create a deferred annuity is 45.

The community foundation uses rates established by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA), which are changed from time to time depending on prevalent interest rates, mortality rates and overall economic conditions.

Nonprofit Partnership Program. In addition to working directly with donors, the community foundation facilitates gift annuities on behalf of Los Angeles Audubon Society as it does not have the administrative back office to support such planned giving efforts. Moreover, since Los Angeles Audubon Society does not have a license to offer gift annuities in California – a state Department of Insurance requirement – the community foundation is able to offer this service to Los Angeles Audubon Society supporters.

Example:

Donor Age 80
Gift Amount \$50,000 cash
Annuity Rate 8.0%
Annual Payment \$4,000
Payment Tax-free Portion \$2,880
Charitable Deduction \$22,926

Sample Rates

Age
65 = 6.0%
70 = 6.5%
75 = 7.1%
80 = 8.0%
85 = 9.5%
90 = 11.3%

*For a single life annuity
effective July 1, 2003*

Eric S. Grodan is a Gift Planning Officer at the California Community Foundation. Prior to joining the community foundation, in 2002, Eric, an attorney, was Director of Planned Giving at the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation in Los Angeles.

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NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE

Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas

270 two-page accounts contain color photos and range maps for each species.

Edited by Troy E. Corman and Cathryn Wise-Gervais. 2005

\$45.00

Hawks from Every Angle

New approach to identify hawks in flight, covers 19 species with 339 color photos, compares and contrasts species easily confused.

Jerry Liguoro 2005

\$19.95

National Geographic Complete Birds of North America

Companion to the *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*.

This desk reference covers in great detail plumage, behavior, habitats, and much more.

Editor: Jonathan Alderfer 2006

\$35.00

SPECIAL OFFER FROM THE BOOKSTORE:

The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World

Before his recent death Jim Clements had finished updating his "Birds of the World: A Checklist".

The 2006 Edition will be available by July 30, 2006.

The LAAS Bookstore has arranged a special pre-publication deal

with Cornell University Press

Retail price will be \$59.95

All orders for this title placed before July 13, 2006 will be billed at the special price \$39.00

Please call in your orders ASAP.

Birding 101

Introduction to the Birds of Los Angeles County: How to Find and Identify Them

April 8 and 9 – Urban and Riparian Birds

April 29 and 30 – Chaparral and Mountain Birds

Saturday – Class Sessions at Community Center – Plummer Park

Sunday – Field Trips to Good Birding Sites

Instructor: Larry Allen

Once again **Larry Allen** is offering a course in Birding Basics for beginning and intermediate birders, with an introduction to finding and identifying the birds of our Los Angeles area. Class sessions will be offered at the Community Center – Plummer Park on Saturday afternoons. The next day, all day Sunday, students will be taken out to see and hear the birds discussed in class the previous day. Two whole weekends of instruction and practice will ensure comprehensive coverage of our local birds.

This is a chance to learn birding techniques and skills from one of the top birders in California. A long-time field trip leader and count compiler, Larry Allen is the principal author of the upcoming *Breeding Bird Atlas of Los Angeles County*.

*Tuition: \$45.00 for L.A. Audubon members, and \$55.00 for non-members.
\$65.00 includes membership for non-members who wish to join before or during the course.*

To enroll in *Birding 101*, call Audubon House at (323) 876-0202, or e-mail us at laas@laaudubon.org

HAVE YOU SEEN PARAKEETS?

Thanks to the many of you who sent me sightings of Yellow-chevroned Parakeets throughout the year in 2005. I have some 430 reports from 2005 in my database; the majority of these are from areas of regular occurrence such as Huntington Gardens, Cal Tech, Exposition Park, and Sepulveda Basin, but sightings range west to Northridge, Van Nuys, Westwood, and Inglewood, north to Lake View Terrace, Altadena and Arcadia, east to El Monte and Whittier, and south to Long Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, and Redondo Beach. I also have reports from San Francisco and some possible sightings in Orange County (Garden Grove).



Photo by Larry Soncone

In putting together our data on Yellow-chevroned Parakeets in the Los Angeles region, however, Karen Mabb and I have noticed that we have no reports of this species in the Palos Verdes Peninsula area between the year 2000 and our stepped-up data-collection efforts in 2005 (which continue this year). Surely those of you who live on the Peninsula or bird it regularly have found this species there during the period from 2000 through 2004. If any of you have specific records in your notes (at least a locality, date, and number of birds – even if any of these are a bit uncertain), I'd love to hear from you. And of course, if you have any specific records of White-winged Parakeets during the same period (and to the present), we're very much interested in that species as well.

During our data-collection efforts in 2005 we received only three reports of Yellow-chevroneds from the Palos Verdes Peninsula (a high count of six in March and four in July). Thus it would appear that this species may have declined on the peninsula (though it's just as likely they're just not being reported); there was formerly a reliable population around Lunada Bay. Given the general range expansion of this species in the L.A. region, we're keen to know if they are declining on the peninsula and, if so, what might account for this. We are aware of the birds in Redondo Beach and also have reports from Torrance, but have virtually nothing from "the hill."

All of your reports have been invaluable. I'm especially appreciative of the regular reports from some of the areas above that allow us to look a bit at seasonality of occurrence. In Exposition Park, for example, there is a clear peak in numbers from September to February – this is probably best explained by the availability of *Chorisia* ("silk-floss tree") seed pods during that period, but may also reflect a spring/summer breeding period when flock size decreases and birds scatter.

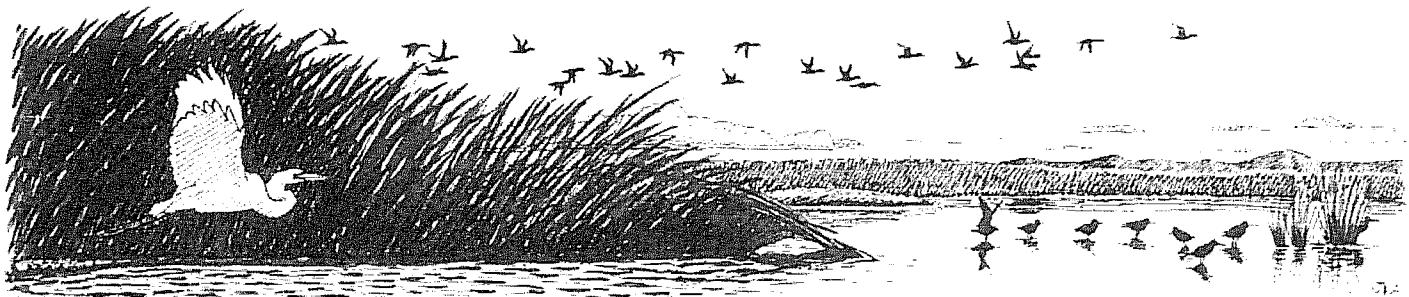
I hope to work with Karen Mabb to get some maps of Yellow-chevroned distribution up on the California Parrot Project web site: www.parrotproject.org. We will let you know when something is available.

Now for the part you're dreading . . . I would be delighted if you could keep sending me YCPA reports this year as well – this will help us continue tracking range expansion and get a better sense of seasonality of occurrence in various areas. Just e-mail me sightings (as they happen, or in occasional batches) as you've been doing. You can also submit sightings to eBird, but the extra detail I get from your direct reports (exact time, behavior, food source, direction of flight, etc.) is very helpful.

And please send me any specific (or even quasi-specific) sightings of Yellow-chevroned and White-winged parakeets from Palos Verdes if you can (especially from 2000 to 2004, plus any sightings you might have forgotten to report in 2005 and 2006).

Thanks,

Kimball L. Garrett
Ornithology Collections Manager
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
(213) 763-3368 Phone
(213) 746-2999 FAX
kgarrett@nhm.org



CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Garry George

Butterbreyt

The L.A. and Kerncrest Audubon lawsuit over Butterbreyt/Pine Tree is heading for resolution on or before April 14, 2006. That's the date that Kern County Superior Court Judge Twisselman set in the December 23 hearing during which he denied every motion by our attorney. Meanwhile, settlement discussions were held in November and December, but as of this writing on January 15 have not yielded a written settlement offer. The decision of the judge on April 14 may not be the final decision on the CEQA case, as either side has the right to appeal the decision to a higher court. Meanwhile, Golden Gate Audubon in San Francisco has filed a CEQA lawsuit against the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County and others for not preparing an EIR before renewing wind farm permits in the Altamont Pass, the biggest disaster to date for raptors and other species of birds.

Audubon California and AWEA (American Wind Energy Association) hosted a conference, January 10-11, 2006 at Debs Park titled "Understanding and Resolving Bird and Bat Impacts" attended by wind companies, US Fish & Wildlife personnel (from D.C. and the West), California Fish & Game personnel, environmental groups, independent biologists and environmental consultants, and the Commissioner of the California Energy Commission and some of his staff. The main purpose was to initiate dialogue to develop guidelines for the siting of wind farms to reduce the impact on birds and bats. Due to space limitations (only 60 attendants) only L.A. and Golden Gate Audubons were invited. L.A. Audubon was asked to speak on the

panel entitled "What We've Learned from Past Studies" which I re-characterized to the subject "What We Hope to Learn from Future Studies." We couldn't learn much about migratory songbirds from past studies in the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area, especially at Pine Tree because:

1. we could find no nocturnal studies which is when most songbirds migrate;
2. the few nocturnal studies on migratory songbirds in other areas of southern California that we heard about were protected by confidentiality agreements and not available to the public; and
3. the migratory movements and behaviors of birds, especially songbirds, in that area are not well known.

The importance and power of wind was made clear early in the conference by the California Energy Commissioner and others. Wind farms will increase at least tenfold in the next ten years with bigger turbines generating bigger wattage. The legislature and the Governor have set very aggressive Renewable Portfolio standards (standards for what percentage of energy comes from "renewable" energy such as wind, solar, and geothermal). California's risky but environmentally sound decision not to renew contracts with coal plants when they expire adds extra pressure on wind development and as a result, birds. These coal plants are one of the primary sources of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions that pollute air and contribute substantially to climate change, both scenarios which alarm environmentalists, legislators, energy policy makers, and the public more than loss of avian wildlife. That's why it's even more important for Audubon to stay in the lead in keeping the issue public,

advocating for reduced or eliminated avian mortality at wind farms through good science and technological advancements, and using litigation as a last resort.

On the panel Los Angeles Audubon advocated that developers emphasize risk assessment and prevention over the current emphasis on post-construction "mortality studies." These post-construction studies are inadequate for migratory songbirds that disintegrate or are eaten before they can be counted, and in the absence of thresholds, standards, and enforcement, the operational changes are voluntary. We advocated for pre-construction studies for migratory songbirds and five years interpretation of radar from Edwards AFB radar to show migratory movements. We advocated following the US Fish & Wildlife recommendations of three years including nocturnal studies such as radar, acoustic monitoring (new technologies and software can identify migrating birds to the species level among the birds that call during migration), and mist netting if migratory songbirds go through the site, and that all data be public to add to the available knowledge on the behaviors of migratory songbirds.

In the spirit of creative solutions, we floated these three ideas:

1. The development of a detailed map of the migratory pathways of birds through the Tehachapi Wind Resource area that could create "no-build" red zones or "three year nocturnal studies required" yellow zones and "limited studies required" green zones. This could possibly be done with data from existing radar from Edwards AFB and from new studies. The developers I spoke to at the conference would welcome this approach as it would take competitive pressures off of

them for sites that might be a problem. Creating such a zone would take time and funding, however, and won't solve today's problems;

2. The development of new technology, such as radar, for early warning of migratory events or wide fronts of avian or bat biomass approaching a wind farm or area. With this technology a large scale mortality event might be avoided by automating an operational change in response. I sat next to a representative who says that new radar techniques developed for Iraq could be adapted to early warning systems that might be installed onsite, and cost as low as \$50,000 per unit in a system with computers. These systems would certainly not eliminate the need for studies completely, nor answer the controversial question "Does turning off turbines really reduce avian mortality or do the birds hit the towers?" but they might protect against large scale unexpected migratory event and certainly gather important data about how the birds avoid the turbines. New technologies in sound emissions are being researched by bat conservation organizations; and,

3. Research partnerships with developers to begin migratory bird studies in year one of evaluation of a site. This is important as most developers have a four year development plan and spend the first year evaluating the wind generation. Developers are reluctant to take on expensive nocturnal studies (approximately \$2,000+ per day for 45-60 days), in year one, they say, but if the data was valuable perhaps a research grant or partnership could be brokered by Audubon in exchange for the data becoming public and being used constructively in the design of the farm.

The conference was buoyed by the announcement that the California Energy Commission has a 50 million dollar fund from taxpayer surcharges, some or all of which could be used to pursue the above ideas and others that were developed in the conference. On the other hand, the conference was somewhat discouraged by wildlife officials who insisted that under

current state and federal administrations, any guidelines developed by the CEC with California Fish & Game as a result of this conference would be "voluntary." This can only be changed in the future at the ballot box and if developers refuse to comply with their own guidelines, which is what some argue they are doing now.

Audubon California should be congratulated for hosting this conference, especially Julia Levin, Policy Director, who had the difficult task of planning the conference and limiting the representatives. A full summary of the conference is expected to be available in writing soon in lieu of the DVD reported in my last column. If you would like a copy, please contact me, garrygeorge@laaudubon.org.

Trap, Neuter, and Release Policy

The City of LA Animal Services Department is considering revising their policy on feral cats to a TNR policy (trap, neuter and release). This policy would be disastrous to parks and other open or wild spaces as neutered cats still kill birds, especially terrestrial birds such as California quail, and birds on migration. Los Angeles Audubon opposes the policy of TNR in parks and open or wild spaces, and will attend the City Council meeting regarding this policy to voice the LAAS opinion.

Griffith Park Bird Sanctuary Goes Native!

Thanks in part to letters and public statements from Los Angeles Audubon at Griffith Park Master Plan and stakeholder meetings, the City of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation has revised their plan to re-vegetate the Bird Sanctuary with introduced non-native species. The Sanctuary stream will be revived by LADWP, and the re-vegetation of the sanctuary will be from a plant palette of native plants. Stakeholder groups now intend to preserve the current wild areas of the park as "wilderness" and off limits to development, and cite the Debs Park lease agreement as a model. 

EDITOR: Jean Brandt
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Tom Frillman
CONSERVATION: Garry George
FIELD TRIPS: Nick Freeman
PELAGIC TRIPS: Phil Sayre
PROGRAMS: Mary Freeman
ORNITHOLOGY CONSULTANT: Kimball Garrett
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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.

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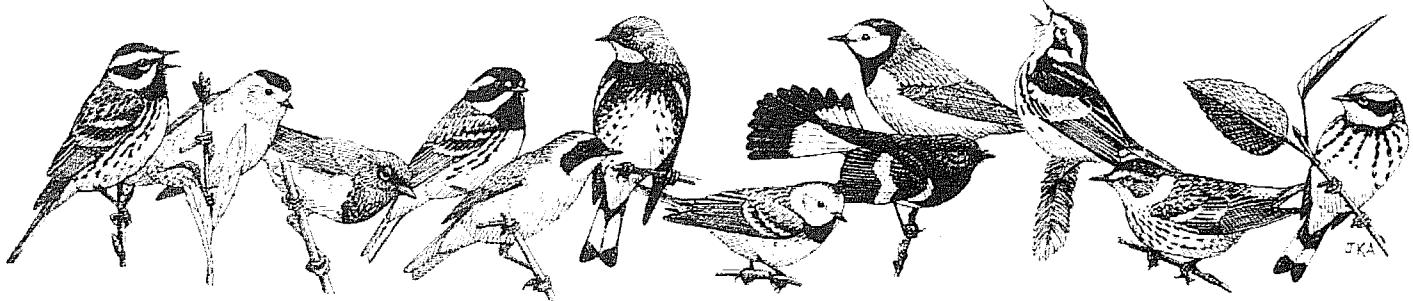
Plummer Park
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90046-6694

(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



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BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Jon Feenstra

The winter season is always an interesting one, that is, if you live in birder civilization, where despite the weather or whatever else, birders descend on their local patches and collect data for Christmas Bird Counts. How else would great birds be found in strange little corners that would normally not even receive a quick scan? And some very significant finds were made. In addition, the invasion of birds from western Mexico (all those Painted Redstarts) was confirmed and reinforced by the discovery of more Painted Redstarts, LA's first Fulvous Whistling-Duck in many years, a Thick-billed Kingbird, and no less than three Dusky-capped Flycatchers. Other nearby counties also received such birds as Broad-billed Hummingbird and Rufous-backed Robin. Maybe those are still waiting to be found here. Furthermore, LA County had large numbers of several low end rarities. For example, eight Gray Flycatchers, a half dozen "Western" Flycatchers, more than ten Plumbeous Vireos, and eight Winter Wrens. And those were just the ones the author heard about.

As for reports, we start with The Duck. The **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** was found on the San Gabriel River near Whittier Narrows during a field trip on December 17 [LS]. This day also happened to be the date of the Pasadena CBC, and it was a first for that long-running count. It was last seen on December 28 and presumably relocated after the heavy New Year's rains destroyed its hiding places. This was not the only noteworthy waterfowl species around, however. Four **Eurasian Wigeons** were found: one in San Dimas near Bonelli Regional Park on November 24 [RH], two in the Sepulveda Basin on December 13 [JH], and one in Ballona Lagoon on January 6. A

Eurasian Green-winged Teal (or a Common Teal to those across the pond) was along the San Gabriel River at the Fulvous Whistling-Duck spot on December 24 [CM]. Moving to the saltwater ducks, a continuing male **White-winged Scoter** was seen last with the scoter flock at Dockweiler State Beach on December 9 [RB]. Typically the more numerous of the rare scoters, **Black Scoters** had ten individual reports for the season from Dockweiler State Beach [RB], Redondo Beach [KL], Will Rogers State Beach [RB], and Point Vicente [MS]. The immature **Long-tailed Duck** found on November 25 near the scoter flock at Dockweiler [RB] was last seen on December 9.

Despite the appearance of many **Northern Fulmars** offshore in November, few were present off the L.A. coast later on. Two were seen from shore, Pt. Vincente on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, on good flight days: one on November 27 [KL], and another on December 27 [MS]. Very rare, although seemingly an annual visitor to our waters, single **Manx Shearwaters** were seen with flocks of Black-vented Shearwaters on December 30 from Pt. Vincente [TMC] and offshore over the

Santa Monica Canyon on January 8 [JFe].

American Bitterns were found at Legg Lake on December 17 [MSc, JSc] and in the Sepulveda Basin on January 5 [JB]. A **Bald Eagle**, reported very irregularly from the L.A. Basin, was seen flying over the Livingston-Graham Reservoir on December 17 [ES]. It was a second-year bird with no word on any bands or tags.

A little shorebirds, maybe? A nice find were eight **Red Knots** found on the L.A. River on November 26. Also red at the right time of year, but also not in January, are **Red Phalaropes** of which there were two in Marina del Rey on January 3 [DB]. Absent from the county for a few years now, a single **Black-legged Kittiwake** was seen winging by Pt. Vincente on December 27 [MS].

And on to more terrestrial birds. Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** have been found in the county this winter. One continued to late December at Banning Park [KL] and another was seen on December 26 at Hansen Dam [JH]. Lewis's Woodpeckers have been reported off and on from Soka University in Malibu. A "yellow-shafted" **Northern Flicker** was found in the Rosedale Cemetery on November 28 [RB]. Four species of empid were seen on the coastal slope, two of which are barely annual: a **Least Flycatcher** was seen on November 29 at El Dorado Park [KG, TW] and a **Dusky Flycatcher** was at the South Coast Botanic Gardens on December 11 [KL]. The 7th, 8th, and 9th Los Angeles County records of **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** were found this winter. All have been seen occasionally until the writing of this article. The first was found December 6 at Heritage Park in La Verne [MSJ], the second at the L.A. Arboretum on December 17 [fide TW], and the third at Rynerson Park in Long Beach on December 17 [SB].

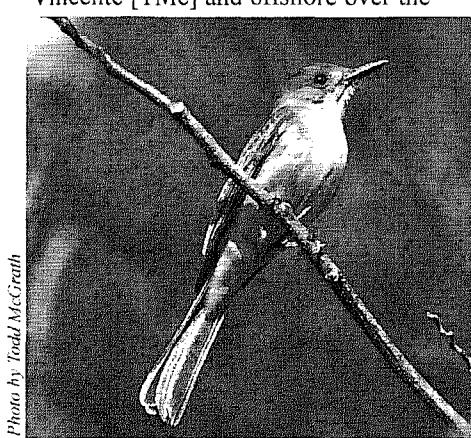


Photo by Todd McGrath

Dusky-capped Flycatcher

Kingbirds put on at least an equally impressive showing. Two **Western Kingbirds** were discovered – at Almansor Park on January 5 [ES] and at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City on January 13 [DS]. Western Kingbirds are rare, at best, in winter and are not reported every year. **Tropical Kingbirds**, however, are. One was presumably a bird returning to the West L.A. College and seen most recently on December 30 [DS]. One was at the Forest Lawn Cemetery on November 22 [RHa]. Another was at El Dorado Park on November 29 [KGi] and a fourth was nearby at the Recreation Park golf course November 28 – January 13 [KGi]. The **Thick-billed Kingbird** at Banning Park continued as of January 1 [KL]. Two **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** graced our presence – the continuing female at Santa Fe Dam [AL] and another at Almansor Park in Alhambra January 3 [TC].

A returning **Bell's Vireo** continued to entertain itself at DeForest Park these past couple of months [KL]. **Plumbeous Vireos**, as mentioned above, were numerous this winter (relatively speaking), with about ten reports from around the L.A. basin. **Cassin's Vireos** were more difficult to come across. One was at Walnut Creek Nature Park on December 17 [JFe]. On the same day another was at Griffith Park [RB] and a third was seen at Hansen Dam on January 1 [KGa]. **Winter Wrens** were much more numerous than usual. Single birds were found at DeForest Park on November 19 [KL], at Sand Dune Park on November 25 [JFe], in Rolling Hills on November 25 [KL], along the San Gabriel River on November 26 [JFi], in Palos Verdes Estates on December 4 [KL], on Pt. Dume on December 18 [KGa], at Harbor Park on December 26 [MB], and in Pico Canyon on December 28 [DG, JS]. **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, wandering occasionally in winter from the mountains in the north to the coast, were found at Elysian Park on November 27 (two birds) [JFe] and in Rolling Hills during the Palos Verdes CBC on December 26 [RBr]. A very late **Swainson's Thrush** was seen on November 23 in Sylmar [RB]. A **Brown Thrasher** has been seen intermittently (thrasher-style) at the El Dorado Nature Center December 18 to January 8 [EZ, VZ, JZ].

Wintering warblers were aplenty this season with 17 species represented and some very noteworthy highlights. Many were either discovered, or at least seen, on their local CBCs. Rare but regular in the winter, **Nashville Warblers** were reported on November 25 at Sand Dune Park and on November 27 at Elysian Park [JFe]. Rare and not regular at all in the winter was a **Virginia's Warbler** along the L.A. River from November 24 to December 2 [KL]. A **Northern Parula**

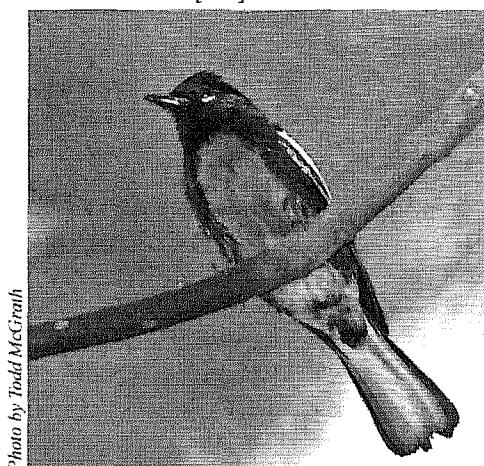


Photo by Todd McGrath

Painted Redstart

was found at the Gardena Willows on December 26 [KL]. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was present at Peck Pit on December 17 [ES]. **Hermit Warblers** were found wintering at Recreation Park in Long Beach [RHa] and at Elysian Park [SH]. A great rarity at any time of year, a **Grace's Warbler** was found at Buckhorn in the San Gabriel Mountains on November 25 [RC]. There is at least one prior record of Grace's Warbler in the San Gabriels in winter. **Palm Warblers** were found at Madrona Marsh (two birds) on November 19 [DM], along the San Gabriel on December 17 [MS], and a continuing bird in El Dorado Park [KGi, RB]. Nine **Black-and-white Warblers** were seen around the L.A. Basin this winter in a stronger showing than usual. A male **Hooded Warbler** was frequenting a residence in Santa Monica beginning in late November [LP]. Three **American Redstarts** were found late last year – in El Dorado Park on November 29 [MS, KGi], in Big Tujunga Wash on December 4 [KGa], and near the L.A. River on December 18 [KL]. But, that's fairly typical and only of middling importance

since **SIX Painted Redstarts** have been around. That's a total of **SEVEN** for the year. Two were continuing birds mentioned in last issue at Elysian Park [RB] and Bonelli Park [AL]. Another was found at Elysian Park on November 27 [JFe] but not seen again. The others were more reliable in Big Dalton Canyon beginning November 30 [BMc], Monrovia Canyon December 13 [ML], and at Newhall Memorial Park on December 28 [BA]. A truly remarkable warbler winter.

A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at Santa Fe Dam on November 19 [AL] making for a good winter coastal-slope sighting. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was in Sylmar November 23 – December 9 [RB]. **Swamp Sparrows**, although probably more numerous, were only represented by a single report – the San Gabriel River on December 22 [KGa]. **White-throated Sparrows** were in Arcadia [MS] and in Tapia Park in mid-December [RB]. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was present in Zuma Canyon on December 10 [KGa]. **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, almost as unusual as Rose-breasteds in the winter, were at Elysian Park on November 27 [JFe]. A very late lingering **Lazuli Bunting** was at Santa Fe Dam on December 17 [AL]. **Baltimore Orioles** were found at West L.A. College on December 5 [DS], at the South Coast Botanic Gardens on December 11 [KL], and at Harbor Park on December 26 [MB]. An adult male **Scott's Oriole** was at a residence in Tujunga on December 21 [KGa].

The formula is pretty simple: many birders spending many hours in the field equals many great birds are found. Sadly, late winter is the birding doldrums around here when new things don't show up with the same regularity and we've become tired (shame on us) of the birds we've been looking at for the past few months. Rare birds are great and thrilling to see, and especially so to find, but that's not why we do this. To quote 2004 vice-presidential hopeful John Edwards, "Help is on the way." Spring migration is almost here. The first northbound species will be dropping in during the second weekend of March – Western Kingbirds and Warbling Vireos and Wilson's Warblers. Spring. Migration. 

see credits pg. 12

Observers and Contributors

[BA] Brian Ashton
[RB] Richard Barth
[DB] David Bell
[SB] Suzanne Bowers
[RBr] Rick Bradley
[JB] Jean Brandt
[MB] Martin Byhower
[TC] Tori Collender
[RC] Ron Cyger
[JFe] Jon Feenstra
[JFi] Jon Fisher
[KGa] Kimball Garrett
[KGi] Karen Gilbert
[DG] Dan Guthrie
[RHa] Rob Hamilton
[JH] Jim Hardesty
[RHi] Rod Higbie
[SH] Sue Horton
[KL] Kevin Larson

[AL] Andrew Lee
[ML] Mickey Long
[TMc] Todd McGrath
[BMc] Bob McMillan
[DM] Dave Moody
[CM] Curtis Marantz
[LP] Lu Plauzoles
[MS] Mike San Miguel
[MSJ] Michael San Miguel Jr.
[JSc] Janet Scheel
[MSc] Mark Scheel
[LS] Larry Schmahl
[DS] Don Sterba
[ES] Ed Stonick
[JS] Judy Sugden
[TW] Tom Wurster
[EZ] Elias Zuniga
[JZ] Jeremy Zuniga
[VZ] Val Zuniga

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

To report birds, send observations with as many details as possible to:

Birds of the Season,
Jon Feenstra at feenstra@its.caltech.edu

North American Birds, L.A. County
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

LAAS INTERNATIONAL TOURS

THAILAND BIRDING ADVENTURE

March 3-19, 2006

Our tour takes us from Bangkok to Kaeng Krachan National Park in the east, Khao Yai National Park in the west, and Chiang Mai in the north, all hosting unusual and diverse oriental avifauna. Several species of hornbills, colorful malkohas, trogons, barbets, broadbills, minivets, leafbirds, laughingthrushes, sunbirds, and numerous others likely. An ideal introduction to Southeast Asia's biological riches. **Space is limited.**

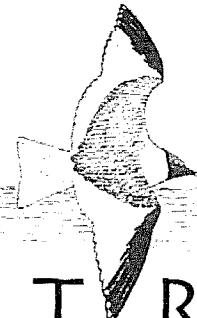
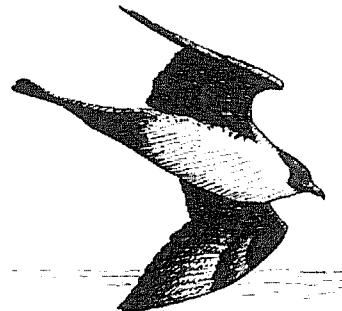
COSTA RICA – SOUTH

May 1-11, 2006

This is a completely new itinerary, featuring some of the best of Costa Rica birding in ideal locations away from the maddening crowds. From the Turrialba region of the Talamanca Mountains, to the southern Pacific coastal range near the Panama border, to Corcovado National Park – the crown jewel of Costa Rica's rainforests. Join us for some exciting birding and nature viewing, surrounded by some of the richest and most varied habitats within the country. **Space is limited.**

For information and itinerary, contact:

Olga Clarke, Travel Director, Los Angeles Audubon Society
2027 El Arbolita Dr., Glendale, CA 91208
Ph/Fax: (818) 249-9511 e-mail: oclarketravel@earthlink.net



PELAGIC TRIPS

Saturday, April 22 –

Deep water trip toward Rodriguez Dome and the San Juan Seamount.

This trip will depart from Santa Barbara Harbor on the Condor Express at 7:00 AM and returns approximately by 8:00 PM. This is a **One-Day Murphy's Petrel Search!**

We will cruise along the deep water shelf by the San Juan Seamount. Birds expected are: Laysan and Black-footed albatross, Northern Fulmar, Sooty and Pink-footed shearwaters, Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Cassin's Auklet, and Xantus's Murrelet. Rare possibilities are Cook's Petrel and Red-billed Tropicbird. Leaders: **Kimball Garrett, Todd McGrath, Jon Feenstra, and David Pereksta.** \$198 – There is a complete galley that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

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

Sunday, June 4 –

Landing on **Santa Cruz Island** for the **Island Scrub-Jay**, then out to sea. This 9-hour trip departs from Island Packer's Oxnard dock in the Oxnard Harbor at 8:00 AM on the M/V Vanguard. We will land on Santa Cruz Island (for about an hour) at Prisoners Cove where the endemic Island Scrub-Jay is easily seen. Then we will go out to sea for pelagic birding, returning by Anacapa Island. Birds seen on prior trips: Northern Fulmar, Sooty and Pink-footed shearwaters, South Polar Skua, Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers, Sabine's Gull, rocky shorebirds (up to 5), Pigeon Guillemot, and Xantus's Murrelet.

Rarities - Flesh-footed Shearwater. A Tufted Puffin was seen in 2002.

Leaders: **Todd McGrath, Jon Feenstra, and David Pereksta.**

\$85 – A box lunch can be ordered from the adjoining dock-side deli, or bring a picnic lunch and drinks.

Saturday, September 9 –

Deep water trip toward Cherry, Tanner, and Cortez Banks.

This trip departs from Sea Landing in the Santa Barbara Harbor at 7:00 AM on the Condor Express and returns approximately at 8:00 PM. This is the **Red-billed Tropicbird trip**. We will be offshore in three counties, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles. Birds expected: Black, Least, Ashy, and Leach's storm-petrels, South Polar Skua, Parasitic, Pomarine, and Long-tailed jaegers, Sabine's Gull, and Arctic Tern. Rarities: Black-footed Albatross, Buller's Shearwater, Craveri's Murrelet. Blue, Fin, and Minke whales as well as several species of dolphin can be seen.

Leaders: **Kimball Garrett, Todd McGrath, Jon Feenstra, and David Pereksta.**

\$198 – There is a complete galley that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Saturday, October 14 –

Northern Channel Islands Monument.

This 9 hour trip departs from the Island Packer's dock in the Ventura Harbor 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 cruise around Santa Cruz Island to the Santa Cruz Passage by Santa Rosa

Island and along the Santa Rosa Flats to the deeper water near San Nicolas Island. Then we will return by Arch Rock at Anacapa Island. Birds seen on prior trips: Northern Fulmar, Pink-footed, Sooty, and Black-vented shearwaters, Leach's, Least, and Ashy storm-petrels, cormorants (3), Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers, Sabine's Gull, rocky shorebirds (up to 5), Common Murre, Craveri's and Xantus's murrelets, and Cassin's Auklet. Rarities: Buller's and Flesh-footed shearwaters, South Polar Skua, and Long-tailed Jaeger. Blue, Fin, and Humpback whales have been seen on this trip. In 2002 a Streaked Shearwater was seen and in 2003 a Brown Booby and two Manx Shearwaters were seen.

Leaders: **Todd McGrath and David Pereksta.**

\$110 – There is a snack type galley with beverages.

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.*

NOTE: Destinations may be changed in order to maximize bird sightings, or minimize rough seas. In order to meet unexpected increases in fuel costs, there can be a \$5 to \$10 energy surcharge per person.

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.

Saturday, March 4 –

Bonelli Regional Park. Leader Rod Higbie. Bonelli Regional Park is a remarkable island of coastal sage scrub habitat with adjacent lake and parkland. Birds regularly seen include California Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, Golden Eagle, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. 200 other species throughout the year. Take the 57 Fwy to San Dimas, take the Via Verde offramp, turn onto Via Verde toward the freeway from either side, and meet in the Park and Ride lot on the north side of the street at 7:30 AM to carpool, since there is a \$7/car park entrance fee. Rod will continue after lunch, if there is interest. There are picnic tables and facilities. Bring lunch, if you plan to bird into the afternoon. No limit, but please call your name and phone number in to LAAS if possible.

Sunday, March 5 –

Private Duck Club. Leader: Irwin Woldman. We will be walking extensively on good dirt roads – no driving. This duck club is an excellent spot to observe late wintering birds, and migrating shorebirds. We have seen Sora and Virginia rails here, as well as American Bittern, Eurasian Wigeon, dark morph 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 Fwy W to Las Posas Rd. S, then take Hueneme Rd. W past PCH to Casper Rd. Take Casper Rd. S past the turn, turn cars around and park on the other side of the street opposite the barn at 8:00 AM. Free. No sign-up required. Bring a lunch, as we may bird nearby afterwards.

Sunday, March 5 –

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.

Saturday and Sunday, March 11-12 –

Anza Borrego with Fred Heath. The spring explosion of desert flora and fauna should be well under way in the Colorado Desert, including butterflies, Desert Bighorn, herps, and early birds in the throes of breeding activity. Swainson's Hawk, Black-throated Sparrow, Scott's and Hooded orioles, Long-eared Owl, Chuckwalla all likely. Suggested accommodations: Tamarisk Grove Campground (reserve through www.reserveamerica.com), or Stanlund Motel in Borrego Springs (760) 767-5501. Anticipate a busy weekend, and reserve early. Limit 20 people. Send SASE with phone number, e-mail and \$5 fee to LAAS to learn 7:00 AM meeting place and more details. Pleasant to warm days, cool to cold nights.

Saturday, March 18 –

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.

Sunday, March 19 –

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. 3-hour walk. 'scopes helpful. Meet at 8:00 AM.

Saturday, March 25 –

Whittier Narrows. Leader: Ray Jillson. View colorful resident and migrating birds, possibly 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, March 25 –

Sparrow Identification Lecture. Who better than Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn to guide us through the nuances of sparrow identification? Both speakers are superbly qualified to speak on this and most other topics in ornithology. Status, distribution, and taxonomy also covered in this slide lecture. Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Altadena, 1:00 PM. until 5:30 PM. One or two breaks. Send SASE and \$30 with phone and e-mail to LAAS to reserve, and for directions. Bring binoculars.

Saturday, April 1 –

Pt. Dume Seabird Watch with Kimball Garrett. We will be concentrating on how to identify late gulls, migrating seabirds, and possible tubenoses and alcids in flight and at a distance. Some may be near, and we will start with gulls on the beach by the meeting spot. Take PCH N to Westward Beach Road, turn left, and meet along the right side of the road before the restrooms to carpool. We will carpool up to the pay lot at the overlook. Spotting scope required. 8:00 AM until about noon.

Sunday, April 2 –

Topanga State Park. Leaders: Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin. Meet at 8:00 AM. See March 5 listing for details.

Saturday and Sunday, April 8-9 –

Owens Valley Grouse Trip. Mary Freeman will be leading for her 15th year! Sage Grouse on the lek, Blue Grouse in the trees, breathtaking scenery, raptor-rich valleys. Meet 7:00 AM. in Bishop Saturday, and stay in Bishop Saturday night. Limited to 20. No painfully early starts! To sign up, send phone, e-mail, \$20 and a SASE to LAAS. Details in mailer. Reserve rooms early.

Saturday, April 15 –

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Leaders: Ann and Eric Brooks. \$4 entry fee. See March 18 listing for details. Meet at 8:00 AM.

Sunday, April 16 –

Ballona Wetlands. Leader: **Bob Shanman.** See March 19 listing for details. Meet at 8:00 AM.

Saturday, April 22 –

Owens Lake and River Delta. Botanist and birder **Mike Prather** will be showing us the lower Owens River, which is another mitigation site for our DWP. Around the Lower Owens River proper, we will have chances at Le Conte's Thrasher and early songbird migration in this riparian corridor. In the river delta, there will be waterfowl, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and possible bitterns, falcons, nesting harriers in the reeds, and Swainson's Hawks nearby. At the outflow, we may see nesting Snowy Plovers and many migrating shorebirds. If staying in Lone Pine, Olancha is 22 miles south. If staying in Mojave (Motel 6?), the drive will be more like 90 miles north. Meet at the Ranch House CafÈ in Olancha around 7:30 AM, and be ready to depart at 8:30 AM. It may be hot or cold. Bring sunscreen, a large hat, a full tank of gas, (mud shoes?) and lunch. Reserve by phone with LAAS. Maximum 20. A \$10 (or greater) suggested donation to the Owens Valley Committee Foundation will get you a membership.

Saturday, April 22 –

Whittier Narrows. Leader: **Ray Jillson.** See March 25 listing for details. Meet at 8:15 AM.

Saturday, April 29 –

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, 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 7:00 AM, and bird until noon. Have sunscreen and water on your person.

Saturday and Sunday, April 29-30 –
12th Annual Kern Valley Bioregions Festival. Check www.audubon.org for details.

Saturday, May 6 –

L.A. Audubon Society Annual Picnic. We will meet at **Kenneth Hahn Park** this year to coincide with the Native Plant and Wildlife Garden opening at 11 AM. All LAAS members are invited! LAAS bird walk at 8:00 AM, and plant walk after lunch. 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. Members of many local environmental groups involved in the Garden Project should be present. Picnic space will be reserved for LAAS. Come out and see what LAAS money and involvement has helped create in our inner city! Bring a lunch. Free sodas provided. Check *May Tanager* for more details.

Sunday, May 7 –

Box Canyon Herps. Leader: **Harvey Fischer.** We will poke around this beautiful canyon east of Indio in search of lizards of the southern deserts such as Zebra-tailed, Leopard, Desert Horned lizards, Desert Iguana, and possible Chuckwalla and Collared Lizard. And, yes, we will also look at any birds that we encounter! Meet at Thousand Palms Canyon Preserve at 8:30 AM. Allow at least 2 hours driving time from L.A. Reserve with L.A. Audubon with SASE for meeting information, directions, etc. Provide name, phone number, e-mail. Your contact information will be released for carpooling, unless you request it not be. No limit.

Sunday, May 7 –

Topanga State Park. Leaders: **Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin.** Meet at 8:00 AM. See March 5 listing for details.

Saturday, May 13 –

Galileo Hills and Butterbreyt Springs. Leader: **Nick Freeman.** These are two of the best spring migrant traps in the state. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline. Directions in next newsletter. LAAS phone sign-up mandatory. 12 max. Bring lunch, sun block. Meet at 7:30 AM.

Friday through Monday, June 16-19 –

Southern Sierras. Leader: **Bob Barnes.** High deserts to High Sierra. The most diverse, species-rich region in the state. 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 4 days). Dawn to dusk (and more) birding ideal for enthusiastic beginning to advanced birders. Reserve rooms in Kernville early (listed in flyer).

Saturday through Tuesday July 1-4 –
Quaking Aspen Camping Trip for Owls. Leaders: **Mary and Nick Freeman.**

Campground is between Springerville and Ponderosa in the southwest Sierras. A group campsite is reserved. Owling by night, bird walks by day! Hopeful birds: Flammulated, Northern Saw-whet, Spotted owls and others; Pileated Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Hammond's Flycatcher, and more. Some meals will be potluck, others provided or eat out. Meet Saturday 8:00 AM or Noon. More details next *Western Tanager* and in flyer. Send SASE, phone, e-mail and \$45 to reserve. Maximum 10 sign-ups, no children or pets, please.

**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
P.O. Box 931057
Los Angeles, CA 90093-1057

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.

EVENING MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, March 14

Pete Bloom
Raptors of California

Pete Bloom, a biologist who grew up in Orange County, has focused his research and conservation efforts on California raptors. He and his colleagues have banded more than 30,000 raptors – mostly nestlings – since 1970. They expend a great deal of time attempting to recapture these young birds to determine where they ultimately nest and to garner information related to their survival. Pete has conducted two state-wide status studies on Swainson's Hawk and Northern Goshawk for the Department of Fish & Game, and worked five years as a National Audubon employee on the California Condor program. He will be speaking about the status, trends, and natural history insights that he has learned over the last three decades.



Photos by Mary Freeman



Tuesday, April 11

Walter Wehtje
A Birder's Guide to Ventura County

For many Los Angeles birders, Ventura County is only visited during the fall to scan Big Sycamore Canyon, the Laguna Road Tamarisks, and the Hueneme Road sodfields. However, there are many other places to bird, and not only during the fall. Ventura County has a wide variety of birding locations within easy driving distance of Los Angeles. It has the sixth highest bird list of any county in the state (473 species), and is relatively underbirded compared to Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Orange counties. Walter's talk will provide an overview of the county, discuss the various birds one is likely to encounter, and also show photographs of some of the rarer species. His greatest hope is that many of you will bird Ventura County so we can learn more about our regional avifauna.



Los Angeles Audubon Society
P.O. Box 931057
Los Angeles, CA 90093-1057

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