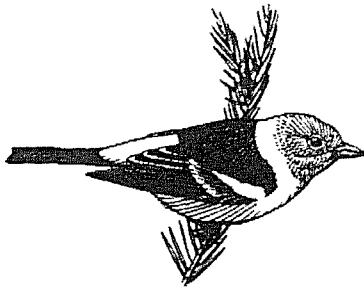


WESTERN TANAGER



A PUBLICATION OF LOS ANGELES AUDUBON

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THE TROUBLE WITH KITES, AND BY THE WAY, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A STATE "FULLY PROTECTED SPECIES"

—BY PETE BLOOM, CHRIS NIEMELA, AND SCOTT THOMAS

State Fully Protected Species. Common and widespread. Drastic decrease in population. Extinction predicted for this species. Species makes a remarkable comeback. Local populations show downward trend. Perhaps you've heard some of these contradictory phrases used to describe White-tailed Kites' tenuous history in California over the last century. How much of this is true and how much is based simply on anecdotal records? Do we really know and understand the current status of White-tailed Kites in California? Are kites really in trouble?

First of all, what does it mean to be a State Fully Protected Species? Other high profile avian species on this list, created as a precursor to the State Endangered Species Act (ESA), include California Condor, Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Brown Pelican, California Least Tern and Light-footed Clapper Rail. Each of these species, except the White-tailed Kite

and Golden Eagle, were later placed on both State and Federal ESAs, and thus received considerably more protection. The kite, presumably because it was thought to be increasing in numbers, was not protected under the wings of the State ESA; the Golden Eagle is more abundant and has a large species distribution in the U.S., but it and the kite seem to be the only two to have drastically decreased in southwestern California.

All of the aforementioned Fully Protected Species, except the White-tailed Kite, have received at least some, and in some cases extensive, State and Federal conservation funding. With the possible exception of the Light-footed Clapper Rail and Golden Eagle, all have done well to very well in terms of population recovery. Principal reasons for the decline of the condor, peregrine, bald eagle and pelican were all contaminant-related, while the tern, rail, Golden Eagle, and kite were largely habitat related.



Photo by Scott Thomas

Terns lost most of their nesting beaches, but were provided extensive protection from people and, more importantly, from predators. Subsequently, their numbers have soared. Rails lost most of their wetland estuaries, and continue to live a precarious existence, but they are at least monitored, and solid research has been and is being conducted. Kites and Golden Eagles on the other hand have received virtually no habitat protection, except that which was obtained indirectly in NCCP, park, and sanctuary set asides or donations, and they have received no monitoring or research money.

The White-tailed Kite is a medium-sized raptor often observed hovering over open grassland or sage scrub in search of mice, or perched atop an oak tree. Its mostly white plumage is very distinctive and makes it easy to locate. White-tailed Kites have a longer breeding season than all other local diurnal raptors and, also uniquely, can produce more than one brood in a season. They typically place their small nest at the very top of any one of a variety of different species of tree, as long as there is open foraging habitat nearby.

We are of the opinion that the kite, at least in San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties, is in a world of hurt, and warrants focused research and conservation efforts. Even without conducting extensive field research or digging into historical records, it would be safe to say that numbers of kites in southwestern California have dropped substantially. This statement could be based simply on the fact that a huge percentage of kite's foraging and nesting habitat (grasslands, open sage scrub, estuaries, marshland) has been lost to urban development. Open grassland and coastal habitats don't only appeal to kites, but also appeal to developers.

Unlike most raptors in southern California, White-tailed Kites are thought to be nomadic, with populations moving in response to fluctuating prey densities. While widely accepted, this hypothesis remains that, only a hypothesis. Essentially, very little is known about kite movements once the young have fledged. Kites have been known to disappear from traditional territories for years, and then reestablish themselves years later in what appears to be a productive prey year. The question then arises as to whether the kites simply temporarily relocated to another area, or died. Color-marking or attaching radio-transmitters to individuals may be the only way to discover what is really happening. Regardless, there is still no arguing the fact that many historical kite territories have been covered in concrete or golf turf.

In the early 1970s, up to 200 White-tailed Kites could be seen flying in from every direction, dropping down from the sky to roost in the San Joaquin Marsh adjacent to UCI. It was a site to behold. Other roosts in Orange County simultaneously numbered five to forty individuals. Now we would be lucky to see 20 birds roosting at one of a few remaining local roost sites. This

drastic decline in numbers of roosting individuals surely reflects a decline in the number of breeding pairs in the area. Local Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys from Los Angeles and Orange counties also further substantiate this decline in numbers of kites.

In Orange County in 2007, during one of the worst drought years on record, Audubon members estimate that perhaps as few as 5-6 pairs nested out of the roughly 30-40 pairs that existed in only a few years prior. A major concern is that an extended drought, coupled with rapid habitat loss and habitat conversion, could deliver a devastating blow to the remaining kite populations in coastal southern California.

So, our kites are in trouble. Now what? We can start by treating them with the management warranted under their Fully Protected Species status, as were other Fully Protected Species that were later granted ESA status. We should start taking habitat loss and degradation, especially of grasslands, more seriously. Optimally, we need to preserve essentially all remaining kite breeding territories, foraging habitat, and roost sites, as well, consider management decisions in preservation and outdoor recreational areas. We should promote more grassland restoration and preservation opportunities in neglected landscapes and open spaces, which could in turn support healthy prey populations. Kites are grassland habitat specialists and are highly dependent on three species of grassland-inhabiting rodents, namely, California Vole, Western Harvest Mouse, and the non-native house mouse. Preserving the remaining threatened habitats that support these three species of rodents, be it native or non-native grassland, would help ensure the long-term survival of local kite populations.

We should note that there are sometimes misconceptions about the adaptability of kites to urban development. Although it may appear that some kites have adapted to nesting on the urban edge, the reality is that very few kites that nest in these areas ever successfully fledge young. Highly territorial in nature, and dense in numbers, nesting American Crows have been observed harassing and killing fledgling kites. This often results in urban kite breeding territories that act more as local ecological sinks for the species.

Furthermore, because kites are so recognizable and sometimes forage in small, but highly visible grassy

strips along freeways and urban slopes, there is a false perception that they are thriving. Actually, with further investigation, we find that this foraging behavior only subsists for short periods of time and represents only a few kites accounting for many sightings. The reality is that these marginal open space areas may be all that remain that resemble grassland habitat. In addition, CalTrans, the agency that manages freeway landscapes, has been steadily converting its non-native grasslands to irrigated shrubs, which are basically useless to kites, their prey, and other raptors.

The good news is, because kites are so visible, it is feasible to get an accurate count of the number of individuals in a localized area. Accurate population counts and knowledge of kite whereabouts are the first steps in addressing the decline of White-tailed Kites in Southern California. Each one of us could help preserve our small local kite population by adding your knowledge of kite nesting and/or roosting locations. Why not make a small but meaningful contribution to ensure the persistence of this unique raptor in Southwestern California.



Juvenile Kite Photo by Scott Thomas

PETE BLOOM is a local naturalist currently working on his PhD at the University of Idaho, Moscow, where he is studying natal dispersal and philopatry in birds of prey. He can be contacted at PHBloom1@aol.com.

CHRIS NIEMELA first became interested in kites in 1994 as an undergrad at Humboldt State University. She subsequently wrote her Master's Thesis on White-tailed Kites nesting in Orange County, and continues to help with local raptor research. She currently works as a private biological consultant and research biologist. Please e-mail any information on White-tailed Kite sightings to her at: elanus67@hotmail.com.

SCOTT THOMAS is Conservation Director Orange County at Sea and Sage Audubon and has been actively working on SoCal raptors for more than 15 years.

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CONSERVATION CONVERSATION
IS ON VACATION

MY PATCH

THE ARROYO SECO WATERSHED

—BY JEFF CHAPMAN



Photo by Jeff Chapman

I remember those long days, when I was a kid. Those days that are made up of a mixture of sunlight filtered through a canopy of white alder leaves, the sound of canyon wrens echoing from wall to wall, the smell of sycamore leaves in the sun, and the cool, rushing feel of water around my body. I was four when my dad first started taking me to the Arroyo. We would walk, probably not far, and he would patiently watch me as I frolicked in the water, using sticks and leaves for boats, and learning to understand the natural world. These were the days in which my love for nature was born, and I not only thank my dad for his guidance, but also the place, my patch, the Arroyo Seco.

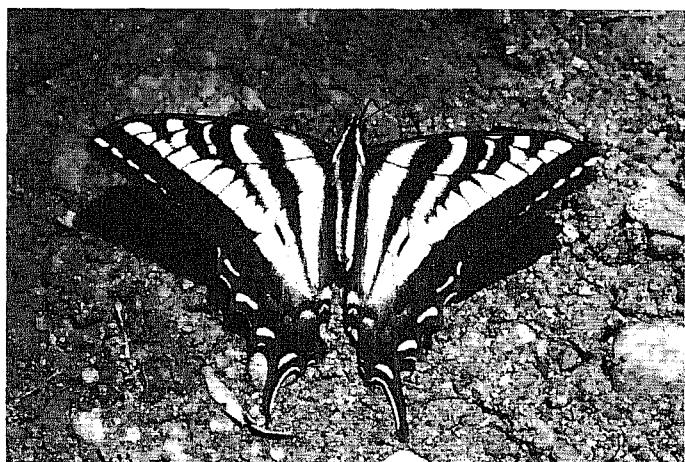
I grew up in Pasadena and I spent most my youth in the Arroyo. I went to summer day camp in a small park along the Arroyo in South Pasadena. I tried my hand at archery in Lower Arroyo Park. As I grew, my friends and I would mountain bike from Switzer Picnic area back home. And, of course, many New Year's Days were spent at the Rose Bowl. At the time, these experiences were disconnected, and it wasn't until I moved away for many years that I realized the power of the Arroyo and the importance of staking out your own little patch.

On many occasions I have seen the power of the Arroyo, not just from my youth. During the great storms of 2005, I watched the flood waters cascade over Devil's Gate Dam. I have seen a bobcat near the Brookside Golf Course, and recently another further upstream in the Angeles National Forest. I also remember the surprise of the belted kingfisher I saw as I rode my bike down the Arroyo Seco bike path, its dry rattle call unfamiliar at first in this urban area, but along the Arroyo, even in its concrete jacket, it seemed to be the most natural thing in the world.

Today, it is not only the natural places I love about the Arroyo, but also those urban areas. I love the mourning cloak and tiger swallowtail butterflies that pass through Sycamore Grove Park. I love the few California thrashers who survive against the odds in Debs Park. I love the graffiti that is found at the confluence where black-necked stilts thrive. And I love the possibility that one day we may be able to see concrete come out of this important tributary to the Los Angeles River.

Most of all I love the look in the eye of a child who has discovered the power of the Arroyo as she holds the fragile body of a slender salamander in her hand and new eyes are connected to nature.

Jeff Chapman is Master Teacher Naturalist at Audubon Center at Debs Park, located on the banks of the Arroyo Seco.



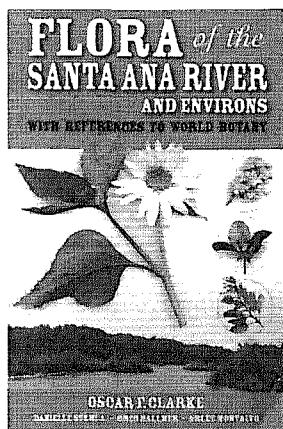
Pale Swallowtail Photo by Jeff Chapman

FLORA of the SANTA ANA
RIVER and Environs
With references to world botany

2007, OSCAR F. CLARKE

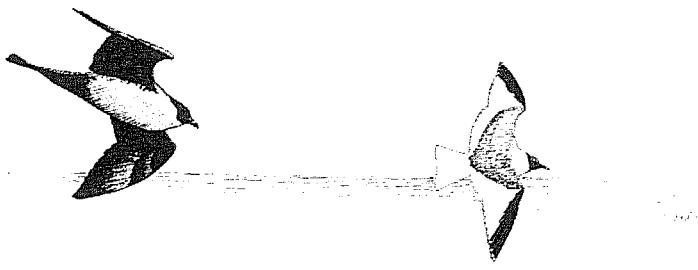
Sponsored in part by San
Bernardino Audubon Society

Heyday Books, 495 pages, \$29.95



This book is hands down the greatest book on plants I have ever seen. Although it is focused on the Santa Ana River running through San Bernardino and Orange Counties, it covers native and non-native plants that are found throughout Southern California. The chapters on plant phylogeny and communities are succinct and thorough at the same time. But it is the species accounts that totally rock. Each species is presented with italics or bold type indicating whether it is native or non-native, and plant descriptions include origin and probable introduction and pathway for non-natives. Every single species has at least two color scans of an actual plant – no drawings! – with closeup scans of inflorescence (sometimes dissected), seeds, or fruit, with a drawing of a penny to show relative size, and a box of symbols indicating whether it is a monocot or dicot, leaf type, flower symmetry, ovary position, below ground structures, etc. WOW! And all printed in blazing color almost as good as being in nature. If you have the slightest interest in plants get this book immediately at the Los Angeles Audubon Nature Store and read it for fun or take it along as a field guide.

Garry George



PELAGIC TRIPS

Save \$5.00 with an early sign-up 60 days prior to the trip departure.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

A deep water trip to Cherry, Tanner and Cortez Banks. This trip departs from the Santa Barbara Harbor at 7:00 a.m. on the fast catamaran Condor Express, and returns approximately at 8:00 p.m. This is our **Red-billed Tropicbird trip**. We are far offshore in 3 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; 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.

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

\$198 The trip will be cancelled if there is insufficient response 35 days prior to departure. There is a complete galley that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

A trip around the Northern Channel Islands Monument. This 8 hour trip departs from the Island Packer's dock in the Ventura Harbor at 8:00 a.m. 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. We will return by Arch Rock at Anacapa Island. Birds seen on prior trips: Northern Fulmar; Sooty, Pink-footed 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, Xantus's Murrelet; 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 2 Manx Shearwaters were seen. Blue, Fin and Humpback whales have been seen on this trip.

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

\$120 There is a snack galley with beverages, bring your own lunch.

2006 - 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR
—BY DEXTER KELLY, EXECUTIVE PAST PRESIDENT

For Los Angeles Audubon, 2006-2007 was the year of reaching out, to both our community and our own membership.

The scope of our conservation activities stretched from Newhall Ranch to the Mexican border and the wind farms of Jawbone Canyon. We made our presence known in the public arena with the formation of the Urban Wildlife Task Force, a coalition of Audubon chapters and other environmental organizations formed by our executive director Garry George, in response to the massacre of the Caspian Tern colony in Long Beach harbor. Both Garry and Lisa Fimiani gave multiple interviews for newspapers and TV news on many urban conservation issues, including the future of Griffith Park, the herons of Marina del Rey, the killing of thousands of raptors in the Los Angeles area by pigeon fanciers and the decline of urban populations of birds. With great tenacity, Conservation Committee member David de Lange, now on the Board, kept up the pressure on the Coastal Commission to prevent the destruction of the Marina heron roosts, while Garry testified before the Commission to prevent development at Bolsa Chica. These battles seem endless, but there are occasional victories; there will be no LNG plant threatening nesting auklets and murrelets at the Coronados Islands near San Diego. L.A. Audubon helped quash that harmful project.

But conservation was not all combat this year. A more pleasant activity was monitoring and nurturing the Least Tern colony on Marina del Rey beach, and searching for Snowy Plovers along the coast of Los Angeles County in partnership with our old friends Santa Monica Bay Audubon. Stacey Vigallon, our new staff endangered species intern and interpretive program writer and illustrator, coordinated a team of volunteers for the tern project, while Jenny Jones, our biologist Board member, did the same for the plover survey. Both projects were funded by grants from Audubon California and California Department of Fish & Game obtained by Garry. No breeding Snowy Plovers were discovered, although volunteers found the first “scrape” indicating a breeding attempt since 1947 at Malibu Lagoon, but the terns produced chicks. The colony should continue to flourish, provided that no invisible monofilament “eruv” line is put up along the beach. That’s another threat we’re fighting off!

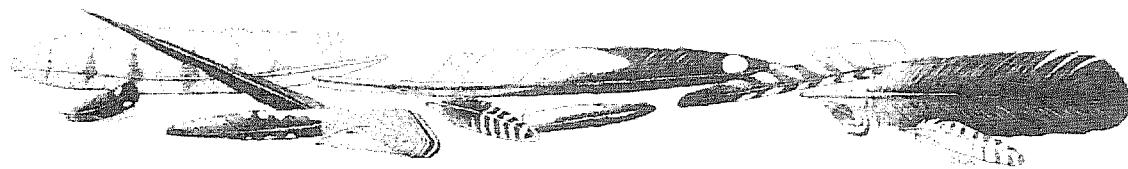
Although “outreach” may be used to define all our activities, it applies specifically to education and membership recruitment. This year, under Board member Eleanor Osgood’s leadership, Los Angeles Audubon launched birding classes at Los Angeles City College (given by Jenny Jones) and West Los Angeles College (given by Eleanor). Outgoing Board member Pat Heirs has helped us form an ongoing liaison with Beverly Hills Parks and

Recreation, and Eleanor and Pat have set up three new venues for beginning bird walks, including Franklin Canyon and the Greystone Mansion, for a total of five monthly walks.

Both classes and walks have attracted new members, and even “old” members enjoy them. I lead a monthly walk at Debs Park Audubon Center (occasionally spelled by Jenny), and enjoy it immensely –meeting new people, turning young neighborhood kids onto birds. I recommend beginner’s walk leadership to all somewhat seasoned birders. As volunteer coordinator, Eleanor is asking for trip leaders, and for other kinds of L.A. Audubon representation at various events. If you accept her offer, you won’t be sorry.

I should also mention the Baldwin Hills Native Plant & Wildlife Garden education booklet, produced by our very gifted Stacey Vigallon to support the near-future Baldwin Hills educational program, and thanks to a grant from Metropolitan Water District. We look forward to applying Stacey’s talent to other projects, such as an Audubon at Home publication.

This year’s membership drive, coordinated by Board member Jason Stuck, attracted 150 new chapter-only members for a total of 364. We finally have a colorful eye-catching brochure, for distribution at special events, stores, Audubon centers, and other appropriate venues. Jason is applying his computer expertise to



make better contact with our membership. He and volunteer Paul Fox are developing a FileMaker Pro database to help us manage information for members and other people that are involved with L.A. Audubon. It will simplify our record keeping of things like contact information; joins, expirations, and donations; field trip signups and participants, and volunteer lists and opportunities.

We would like to thank Paul for volunteering to help us develop this project. It will make us more organized and efficient as we continue to expand both in membership and in our activities.

Los Angeles Audubon is also involved in an Audubon California online pilot program called Get Active! which we hope will help us enhance our online presence, communicate better with our members, and increase our visibility relating to issues like education and conservation. We are happy to participate in this trial program and be able to provide feedback and support. If Get Active proves to be successful, other chapters will be able to utilize it as well.

(We will be using these systems to keep in touch with you and, we hope, strengthen your contact with Los Angeles Audubon. But I assure you that any information about our members is for Los Angeles Audubon use only, and will NOT be shared with any other organizations or entities, even Audubon.)

Our more routine activities, which we shouldn't take for granted, flourished this year. Olga Clarke led fabulous trips to Africa, Costa Rica and Thailand. Nick Freeman coordinated a great program of local field trips, and Phil Sayre and Millie Newton continued to manage our Pelagic trip program, which attracts birders from all over the world. Mary Freeman continued to recruit a very superior roster of elite bird experts for our justly renowned monthly meetings. Many of us participated in the three Christmas Bird counts we sponsor.

And there is the bookstore, run so well by the ever helpful and knowledgeable Martha Balkan, with the assistance of volunteers Dorothy Schwarz and Hanna Hayman. But now it is called the Nature Store, and it is ONLINE. So you don't have to fight through awful westside traffic to see and almost touch what we have on stock. We hope that you will continue to make use of the best birding bookstore in the West, with more titles than even the ABA, and tell your birding friends in other places about it. Remember, that our store sales help support our Los Angeles Audubon educational and conservation programs.

But you may want to make an actual rather than virtual visit to the store, if only to make use of Martha's expertise on books and optics. There you will also find Susan Castor at work maintaining the membership database and laying out the Western Tanager. She has

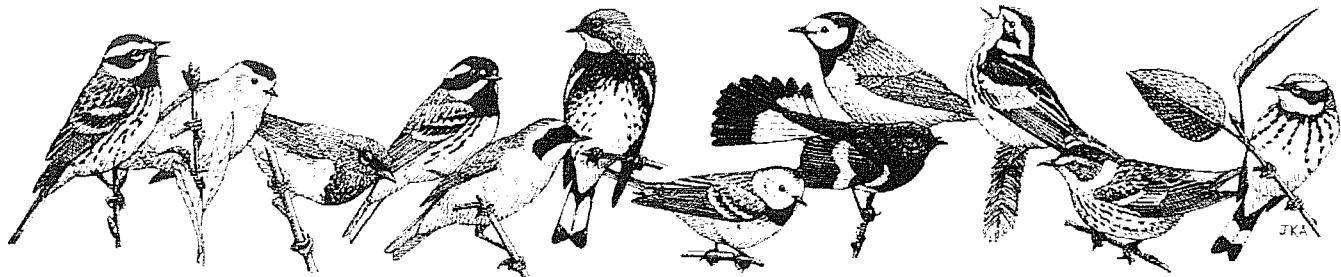
shown a special talent for the latter task, helping put the Western Tanager out under somewhat chaotic and irregular conditions. You may also encounter Millie Newton working on trip bookings, and Lisa Fimiani, keeping track of our too complex financial systems. Lisa has done a great job of management and record keeping, and reminding us that, while our assets have increased, we are still operating at a deficit. I hope that a bigger and more involved membership might turn that situation around.

Finally, our board put their heads together and came up with a fine-tuned mission statement. It reads as follows:

*The mission of
Los Angeles Audubon Society
is to promote the enjoyment
and protection of birds
and other wildlife through
recreation, education,
conservation and restoration.*

I think we lived up to our mission this year. But there is plenty of room for growth and improvement. May the changes never cease!

Dexter Kelly is the outgoing President and will remain on the Board as Executive Past President. Mary Freeman is the current president.



BIRDS OF THE SEASON

BY JON FISHER

With this year continuing as the driest ever recorded for L.A. County, evidence of the effects of such minimal rainfall have been all too obvious. Streams normally flowing at least until early summer were dry months before then. Vegetation away from well-watered suburban areas obviously suffered, and even though native plants and many of our birds are drought tolerant, there's a large gap between flourishing and just surviving. And there's most of a long hot summer still to endure...

Normally our foothill canyons and higher mountains support a relative abundance of birds at this time. There's also the potential for a stray Painted Redstart or other vagrant from Southeastern Arizona or Mexico. But this year things have been, in a word, quiet. One wonders if dry conditions have discouraged birders from even covering the San Gabriels, expecting the time spent there to be unproductive. In fact, this may be the year to do just that in an effort to assess the effects these dry conditions are having on both numbers and reproductive success.

In contrast, seabird watching from favored locations along the coast offered birders cooler temperatures and some great rewards.

A variety of rare and expected alcids and tubenoses were recorded during the period, the most notable being the appearance of several Horned Puffins. While this incursion was much more pronounced in central California, these few stragglers found their way to L.A. County waters.

Expected but always of interest were a handful of vagrant passerines that appeared in the first half of June. Overall however, relatively few vagrant passerines were found this spring.

The following summary covers reports over the period of mid-May to mid-July.

A **Brant** lingered in the San Gabriel Valley through June 11 at Legg Lake in South El Monte (Andrew Lee). This lone bird likely was left behind from the flock of forty-three present here at the end of April. The only other waterfowl of note was a **Canvasback** apparently summering at the Lancaster Sewer Ponds seen on July 7 (Jon Feenstra). This is presumably the same bird first reported here on May 14.

An immature **Brown Booby** seen from Point Vicente on June 2 was a pretty good bird, but it was followed

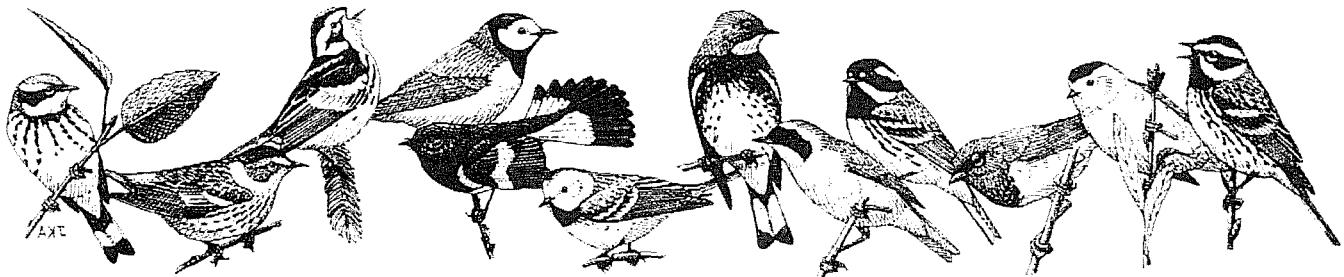
on June 23 by a much rarer **Blue-footed Booby** at the same location (both Kevin Larson). This is one of only a few L.A. County records and also falls outside of the normal dates of occurrence.

Very few **Little Blue Herons** are recorded in L.A. County, but an immature was at Malibu Lagoon on June 24 (Chuck Almdale).

Single **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**, rare at this time of year and even more unusual close to shore, were seen at Point Dume on June 23 (Kimball Garrett) and from Point Vicente on June 30 (John Garrett).

Mississippi Kites are very rarely seen in the county, and when recorded they are typically 'one day wonders'. Thus one that lingered from May 27-June 3 at the South Coast Botanic Garden (Kevin Larson) was unusual on two counts and afforded many birders the opportunity to see it.

Two **Swainson's Hawks** near Palmdale on July 7 (Jon Feenstra) were presumably one of the small number of pairs that breed in the Antelope Valley.



The first reported **Solitary Sandpipers** of the fall were two on the L.A. River in Van Nuys on July 14 (Jon Fisher).

A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the Piute Ponds on July 7 was the earliest fall migrant ever recorded there (Mike San Miguel, Jon Feenstra) and also a rather early date for anywhere in the county. What was presumably the same individual was still present on July 11.

Rare anywhere along the immediate coast was a **Red Phalarope** at Alondra Park in Lawndale from June 1-2 (Dave Moody). Another was at Malibu Lagoon from June 2-8 (James Kenney) where it was closer to appropriate habitat, but still unusual. A **Wilson's Phalarope** at Harbor Park in Wilmington on May 28 (Kevin Larson) must have been a very early southbound migrant, and a bit ahead of this species normal arrival in early June.

Though within expected dates of occurrence, two **South Polar Skuas** were notable for being seen from shore. The first was at the Los Angeles/Ventura County line on June 9 (Mike San Miguel) and the second was just off Point Dume on June 23 (Kimball Garrett).

Franklin's Gulls, present in good numbers at the Lancaster Sewer Ponds this spring, continued with seventeen still there on May 18 (Mike San Miguel).

An **Arctic Tern**, very rare inland, was at Piute Ponds on June 1 (Mike San Miguel) and another was there on July 11 (John Luther). Also present on July 11 were six **Black Terns** and three **Least Terns** (John Luther), the latter also very unusual away from the immediate coast and Salton Sea.

Several **Common Murre** turned up along the coast, with three at Pt. Fermin on June 9 (Kevin Larson) and one off Malibu on July 1 (Jon Fisher).

The aforementioned **Horned Puffin** incursion began with the report of one at Point Dume on May 12 noted in the last column. Additional birds followed: two were at Leo Carillo Beach on June 9 (Mike San Miguel) and one was at Point Vicente on June 30 (Kevin Larson, Mike San Miguel). This was an extraordinary event for L.A. County waters and marks the first occurrence of Horned Puffins in many years, with the last true 'invasion' years going even further back to the mid 1970s.

Each season seems to produce a good surprise or two. Horned Puffins were certainly one. Another was County's first confirmed **Parakeet Auklet** found on Venice Beach on June 18. The bird was picked up and taken to rehab, but unfortunately it expired the following day. The specimen now resides at the L.A. County Museum Natural History (*fide* Kimball Garrett).

Also unusual at this time of year were two **Ancient Murrelets** at Point Dume on June 23 (Kimball Garrett). Both Point Vicente and Point Dume have been quite productive recently, and with observers spending only a small percentage of theoretically possible time seawatching. One can imagine what else might be found with comprehensive coverage.

A few **Black Swifts** were noted during the period, with three at Hansen Dam on May 15 (Kimball Garrett), two over Lincoln Park on May 22 (Tom Miko) and one at JPL Pasadena on May 22 (Mary Freeman).

There were just two reports of **Chimney Swifts**. One was over Harbor Park in Wilmington on May 26 (Kevin Larson) and two were at the South Coast Botanic Garden on May 29 (Matt Brady, Ryan Terrill).

The best passerine find during the period was a **Yellow-throated Vireo** in the Wilmington Drain just north of Harbor Park in Wilmington on June 15 (Kevin Larson).

While small numbers of **Mountain Chickadees** often disperse into the lowlands quite early, June brought what appeared to be an above average movement. Dry conditions and resultant lack of food sources are the likely cause of this and of other bird movements yet to be realized.

Just two **Purple Martins** were reported, with one at Peck Pit in Monrovia on May 19 (Andrew Lee) and another at El Dorado Park on May 25 (Karen Gilbert). **Bank Swallows**, at best a rather rare migrant in the county, included two at Ballona Freshwater Marsh on May 22 (Kevin Larson) and a surprising one at Eaton Canyon on June 29 (John Garrett). The latter record falls outside any expected dates for this species on the coastal plain. The latest report was of two birds at Piute Ponds on July 11 (John Luther).

A **White-breasted Nuthatch** at Elysian Park on June 7 (Kimball Garrett) was in an area where they have not previously known to have breed. Though occurrence alone obviously is not proof of breeding, further evidence should certainly be watched for.

Even further out of place in time was a very late **Hermit Thrush** at Temescal Gateway Park in Pacific Palisades on June 12 (Dick Barth).

Unusual warblers were low in number this spring, with only a handful of noteworthy reports. At least **Northern Parulas** put in a good showing, with one near Willow Street and L.A. River on June 3 (Andrew Lee), another at the Village Green condos in Los Angeles on June 8 (Don Sterba) and a third at El Dorado Park in Long Beach on June 15 (Karen Gilbert). But topping the list of sightings was the discovery of a pair of **parulas** nesting in *Arundo* near Balboa Lake in the Sepulveda Basin in mid-June (Brian Daniels).

A **Black-and-white Warbler** at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach on June 8 (Dick Barth) and a female **American Redstart** there on May 27 (Mark Scheel) were the only reports for those species. Two **Ovenbirds** were found, with one at San Dune Park on May 22 (Kevin Larson) and the other at the Village Green condos on June 18 (Don Sterba).

Also at Sand Dune Park was an immature male **Summer Tanager** on May 23 (Mark Conrad)

Four **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were found. One was in Long Beach on May 21 (Jeff Moore), that one followed by a female at Sand Dune Park on May 25 (Kevin Larson) and then a second bird turned up in Long Beach on June 10 (Christine Kay). The most recent report was of one at Hansen Dam on July 1 (Steve Sosensky, Bruce & Greg Aird).

The sole report of an **Indigo Bunting** was from Sand Dune Park on May 18 (Dick Barth).

I thought it interesting to look at two introduced species in this month's column. While not officially countable, these birds should be of interest to birders both for the additional and often exotic variety they add to our avifauna, and in the interest of tracking their population trends.

Northern Cardinals, introduced in the 1950's in the Whittier Narrows area in South El Monte, have persisted there for many years. A more recent phenomenon has been the development of a small population at the Sepulveda Basin, with several observed near Balboa Lake on June 27 (Brian Daniels). Cardinals are also regularly seen nearby at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area. I know of no conclusive evidence of breeding here, but given the number of observations, this seems highly likely.

Red-whiskered Bulbuls too appear to have undertaken something of a range expansion. Formerly primarily confined to the Huntington Gardens in San Marino and the Arboretum in Arcadia, there have been continuing and increasing reports throughout much of the San Gabriel Valley.

With spring migration now well behind us, southbound shorebirds have already been on the move for weeks by mid July. The saving grace of the summer heat is the opportunity to watch shorebirds passing through. Numbers now will continue to increase as will the potential for rarities.

The lower L.A. River will no doubt continue to be a hotspot, with birders looking to add to the outstanding records of Upland and Curlew Sandpipers over the last few seasons. Several other locations will not be overlooked: Parts of the L.A. River further upstream have potential for regular migrants and vagrants as does the San Gabriel River, the excellent Piute Ponds (requiring a letter of permission) and Malibu Lagoon. Wetland habitats are certainly scarce in L.A. County, but the one upside is the concentrative effect that these few areas possess.

Passerines will be moving through the mountains in August—though one wonders what resources they'll find there this year—and by September migration will be in full swing across the region. As always during these few short months from August to October, it's difficult to find enough time to adequately bird even the county, let alone the rest of southern California.

Even though fall migration is a more protracted and less frenetic event in terms of numbers of birds and activity, it's the most exciting time to be birding. Not only are there rarities, but the enjoyment of watching migration evolve, with all of its subtleties and overlap. 

NEW TITLES AT THE NATURE STORE

“Silence of the Songbirds” by *Bridget Stutchbury*

The author reveals how we are losing the world's songbirds and what we can do to save them. Stutchbury follows the birds on their 6000 mile journey, exploring major threats to songbirds, such as pesticides, the destruction of vital habitat, the bright lights and structures in our cities and global warming.

SKU N12334 \$24.95

“The Mammals of Costa Rica” by *Mark Wainwright*

This field guide includes 279 color illustrations, detail text with key identification features, range maps, vocalizations, local folklore and mythology. The color illustrations include their tracks, food and skulls.

SKU N12316 \$29.95

“A Photographic Guide to Birds of Peru” by *Clive Byers*

A pocket size guide covers 252 species with color photographs, detailed text describing key identification features, and easy to use format.

SKU N12141 \$15.95

NATURE STORE FALL/WINTER SCHEDULE

The office and Nature Store are open Monday through Thursday from 9:30am to 4:00pm, and are normally closed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

ADDITIONAL CLOSINGS

Monday, September 3, 2007

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Thursday, November 22, 2007

Monday, December 24, 2007

Tuesday, December 25, 2007

Monday, December 31, 2007

Tuesday, January 1, 2008

SPECIAL SATURDAY OPENINGS

Open 10:00am to 3:00pm

September 1, 2007

October 6, 2007

November 3, 2007

December 1, 2007

December 8, 2007

December 15, 2007

January 5, 2008

THANK YOU

THANK YOU AND WELCOME TO EACH OF OUR
NEW AND RENEWED L.A. AUDUBON MEMBERS!

The Los Angeles Audubon Board, Executive Director and Committee chairs would like to acknowledge the many people who volunteered their time to further our mission:

Santa Monica Bay Audubon for partnering with us in the Least Tern and Snowy Plover Monitoring Projects.

LEAST TERN MONITORING VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Courtois, Cindy & John Hardin, Henry Borenstein, Julie Naylor, Peggy Mueller, Lisa Fimiani, Laurel Jones, Marian Porter, Eleanor Osgood

SNPL SURVEY VOLUNTEERS

Allan Kotin, Anne Laval, Aurelio Albaisa, Barbara Courtois, Ben Loehnen, Candy and Stacie Groat, Charlie Collins, Chris Lord, Chuck and Lillian Almdale, Dan Cooper, Garry George, David Moody, Dick Barth, Don & Susanna Nierlich, Greg Ainsworth, Guy Commeau, Henry Borenstein, Jess Morton, Lisa Fimiani, Jim Jennings, Jenny Jones, John Holson, Karen Martin, Laurel Jones, Lu Plauzoles, Lucy Barraza, Margery Nicolson, Marian Porter, Mary Prismon, Meighan Jackson, Peggy Mueller, RC Brody, Richard Montijo, Ron Batie, Ron Melin, Tommye Hite, Trudy and Gene Heiman

FOR TABLING AT EVENTS, LEADING BIRD WALKS, AND VOLUNTEERING THEIR EXPERTISE

Walter Lamb, Georgie Pettis, Irwin Woldman, Larry Allen, Antonio Paiz, Fred Heath, Eric and Ann Brooks, Cindy Hardin, Dick Barth, Ben Loehman, Kimball Garrett, Mike San Miguel, Jean Brandt, Jon Feenstra, Ray Schep, Alisa Malin, Paul Fox

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Los Angeles Audubon, Pasadena Audubon, Audubon Center at Debs Park present...

AUDUBON

FILEM

FRIDAYS



...under the stars!

Friday, August 3

HOOT

English w/ Spanish subtitles
(90 minutes)

Friday, August 17

HAPPY FEET

Spanish w/ English subtitles
(109 minutes)

Friday, September 7

WINGED MIGRATION

English w/ Spanish subtitles
(89 minutes)

Friday, September 21

EYEWITNESS: BIRD

English w/ Spanish subtitles (30 min)

OCEAN OASIS

La Naturaleza de Baja California
Spanish w/ English subtitles (60 min)

Friday, October 5

THE LIFE OF BIRDS

Hosted by David Attenborough
Part 2: The Mastery of Flight
Part 7: Finding Partners
English (Two 50 min. segments)

**FREE
ADMISSION!**

- This is an outdoor venue
- Refreshments available
- Seating limited, arrive early
- Bring the family

Audubon Center at Debs Park

4700 North Griffin Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90031

Phone: 323-221-2255

*Off the Arroyo Seco Parkway (110 FWY),
between Avenue 43 and Avenue 52*

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For more information, call

323-221-2255

FIELD TRIPS

Before setting out on any field trip, please call (323) 874-1318 (Events & Announcements, #4).

Special instructions or possible cancellations that may have occurred (by the Thursday before the trip) will be announced at this number.

Sunday, August 26

L.A. River Shorebird Migration Field Trip

Change in leader: Jon Fisher. Take the 710 Fwy S to the Willow Street offramp, head E over the L.A. River, and take the first left on Golden Ave, the first left on 26th, straight to the river, and park near the river access near the Willow Street bridge, meet along the river at 7:30AM, and bird until noonish. No fee, no sign-up. Spotting scopes helpful. Lots of walking, and it will get hot.

September 15 & 16 Weekend

Galileo Hills and Beyond Field Trip

Leaders: Nick and Mary Freeman. This is arguably the best fall migrant trap in the state. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline. Reptiles may be encountered! For those who stick around for Sunday, we may return to Galileo Hills and California City, or venture farther afield (did I hear Zzyzx?), as dictated by our rambling hearts and bird reports. This will be a combined trip for L.A. Audubon and Pasadena A.S. Take Hwy 14 about 4 miles past Mojave, then turn right on California City Blvd. Drive through town about a mile past the shops, turn left past the golf course on Randsburg-Mojave Rd., and veer right on 20 Mule Team Rd. Turn left on Rutgers Rd. at the Galileo Hills sign before the hill, take your first paved right, your first right again, into the Silver Saddle Country Club, followed by two paved lefts into the lot. Park by the first pond. About 2 hrs driving time from L.A. L.A. Audubon House phone sign-up mandatory. 12 max. Bring lunches, sun block. Reserve rooms for both nights in Mojave. Meet at 7:00 AM Saturday, finish up 3-4ish Sunday.

Saturday, September 22

San Diego Area Field Trip

Nick Freeman and **Drew Pallette** will lead. A good portion of the morning will certainly be spent at Pt. Loma. Some odd birds have been known to pop up here during late migration. Other possible areas include the Tijuana River marsh and nearby farm fields. Take the 5 Fwy S about three miles past Route 52 to the Clairemont Drive offramp and head W into the small lot adjacent to the Mission Bay Information Center. Meet E of the kiosk at 8:00 AM. Bring a lunch. Send \$5 fee to LAAS.

Sunday, September 30

Piute Ponds—Leader Irwin Woldman

A good mix of shorebirds, waterfowl and songbirds, with a chance at LeConte's Thrasher and Pectoral Sandpiper. Possible extension to Lancaster sewage ponds or Apollo Park afterwards. Carpool at Denny's (Roxford & I-5), leaving at 7 AM, or meet at McDonald's (Rosamond Blvd. about 1/4 mile west of the 14 Freeway) at 7:45AM. Bring lunch, water and sunblock. Expect hot weather, and afternoon wind. To reserve with LAAS, call Audubon House before September 25 with name, phone number, and e-mail address (optional). Limited sign-up of 15. No drop-ins. High clearance vehicles may be a plus. No cameras on base!

Saturday, October 6

Malibu to McGrath Field Trip

Leader Dexter Kelly. Late passerines and shorebirds should be moving through coastal migration spots, mixed with early wintering birds. Possibly 100 species. Take PCH N over the bridge in Malibu, and turn right on Cross Creek Road for parking (and Starbucks). Cross PCH, and meet at the kiosk by the lagoon at 7:30 AM for a full day of birding. There may be one or two access fees at McGrath, elsewhere. No sign-up or fee for the trip.

Saturday, October 20

Adobe Photoshop Workshop

Speaker Tom Stephenson. Back by popular demand. A laptop loaded with Adobe Photoshop and equiped with a CD drive is optimal, but VERY OPTIONAL! We should have plenty of time to go slowly, answer questions, and go over particular areas of interest to attendees. For the curious and the serious. This workshop is geared towards anyone who owns a digital camera and Photoshop (or comparable) graphics manipulation software. Eaton Canyon Nature Center 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, California 91107. Fee: \$25. Sign-ups with SASE and contact information. 12:00 Noon – 5:00 PM, with a break. Refrigerator on premises.

Birdwalks are geared for the beginner/intermediate looking for an introduction or less strenuous excursion.

Field Trips often require more time or effort, and delve more deeply into identification, natural histories and interactions observed in the field. All are welcome on either type of trip.

Reserve Field Trips per directions in the gray box posted on page 15.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, November 4

Oxnard Plain

Leader: **Larry Allen**. Meet at the Hueneme sod fields at 8:00 AM to look over the American Pipits for the Red-throated variety, as well as longspurs. Golden-Plovers are also possible. There may be eastern vagrants to chase. Mugu estuary, Sycamore Canyon, and local tamarisk stands are also possibilities. From the 101 N, drive S on Las Posas Rd., then turn Rt. onto Hueneme Rd. Meet on the N side of Hueneme Rd. about 1 mile W of PCH, and just before Casper Rd. Scopes helpful. Bird 'till we drop.

Saturday, November 17

Lake Perris area

Leader: **Howard King**. The Little Gulls, Ruddy Ground Dove, and Least and Vermilion flycatchers of past years may not be back, but surely something will take their places! Take the 10 or 60 Fwy E to the 215 Fwy S, exit E onto Ramona Expressway, continue E just past Perris Blvd., and meet at the Farmer Boys Restaurant on the S side of the road. Leave from here at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch, warm clothing and footwear for possible mud. No fee for the trip, but possible entrance fee.

Sunday, November 25

Newport Back Bay

Leader: **Mary Freeman**. Meet on the boardwalk along the NW bay at the "Sharp-tailed Sparrow Spot" accessible from the end of University Drive (small street) at 8:00 AM for the 7.1' high tide, and a full day of birding in the area. High tide at the mouth is 8:33, but may not peak in the back bay until after 9:00 AM. Rails, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (rare), California Gnatcatcher, and Bittern will be target birds. Eurasian Wigeon and Blue-winged Teal expected. Take the 405 Fwy S to the 73 Toll Road (free this far) to the Campus Dr. exit, which becomes Bristol St. Turn right on Irvine Ave., drive 1.4 miles, then turn left on a small street called University Drive. Park at the end, walk down the hill, over the bridge, and to the end of the boardwalk. Bring lunch. 'Scopes helpful.

Saturday, December 15

Lancaster Christmas Bird Count

Contact compiler **Nick Freeman** at: (818) 247-6172 or mnfreeman@earthlink.net to be placed on a team or be given an area.

RESERVATION & 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) (c) email address (if used). 4) Separate check (no cash please) to LAAS for exact amount for each trip. 5) Self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for confirmation and associated trip information. Our Mailing Address:

Los Angeles Audubon - 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 Pelagic trips. Our office staff is also available Monday through Thursday for most reservation services.

Sunday, December 16

Malibu Christmas Bird Count

Contact compiler **Larry Allen** at: (626) 288-2701 or larryallen@earlymusicla.org to participate.

Sunday, December 30th –

Los Angeles Basin Christmas Bird Count

Contact compilers **Eleanor Osgood** (310) 839-5420, **Barbara Courtois** (310) 379-4669, **Cindy Harding**, (310) 301-0050 or email to lacbc@laaudubon.org to be placed on a team or be given an area.

Friday & Saturday, January 11&12

Slaty-backed Gull Workshop

with **Jon Dunn** (possible second guide). This is a teaser blurb; all information is tentative. Extensive Lecture in **San Mateo** area south of San Francisco will be on Friday morning, so that we can look for gulls at **Half-Moon Bay** to the west, on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday (maybe Sunday morning?). The nearby dump is closed on Sunday, and the loafing gulls at the beach thin out, so a Friday lecture will give us the best chance to see thousands of gulls, and to possibly study rare gulls like Slaty-backed. No guarantees, of course, but we will probably find Thayer's, Glaucous, perhaps hybrids such as Nelson's, and all of the more common gulls (Ring-billed is rare here!). Most Slaty-backed Gull records for the lower 48 have been at this beach in this time frame, so we have a real chance of finding one! Pencil it in, but don't sign up until you hear more details. 25 max.

BIRD WALKS

Debs Park Audubon Center Birdwalk

First Saturdays (Sept. – July)

Saturday, September 1

Saturday, October 6 (Jenny Jones)

Saturday, November 3

Join **Dexter Kelly** for a leisurely morning walk through the diverse natural areas that surround the Audubon Center at Debs Park. A wide variety of birds of riparian, walnut woodland, and chaparral habitats can be found, including raptors. Meet at 9:00 AM. The Center is located on Griffin Avenue on the west side of the park. From the south, take the Pasadena Fwy north to the Avenue 43 exit. Bear right on Ave. 43 up the hill to Griffin Ave. Turn left on Griffin Ave., and go about a quarter mile to the Center's driveway, which goes steeply uphill on the right. From the north, exit the Pasadena Freeway southbound at Avenue 52. Turn left on Ave. 52, and follow it across the freeway to where it becomes Griffin Ave. The driveway is a quarter mile on the left.

Sunday, September 9 (occasional)

Upper Franklin Canyon Birdwalk

Leader: **Mary Freeman** will be escorting us around this local bird haven, with Wood Ducks, migrating songbirds, and resident chaparral species expected. Franklin Canyon is located between Sherman Oaks and Beverly Hills. Meet in the parking lot at 8:00AM, and bird for a few hours. From the 101 Fwy, take Coldwater Cyn. Ave. S into the hills. Immediately after Mulholland Dr. merges from the W with Coldwater Cyn. Ave., make a 90-degree right turn onto Franklin Cyn. Dr. and continue west to the Sooky Goldberg Nature Center. The lot is through a gated drive on the left. Good chance to practice digiscoping Wood Ducks.

Topanga State Park Bird Walk

First Sunday every month

Sunday, September 2

Sunday, October 7

Sunday, November 4

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.

Beverly Hills —Greystone Mansion

Saturday, September 8 Leader: **Pat Heirs**

Friday, October 6 Leader: **Ray Schep**

Saturday, December 8 Leader: **Eleanor Osgood**

Birdwalk in conjunction with Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation. Meet at the upper parking lot (from Sunset go north on Foothill, make a left on Loma Vista and another left into the public parking lot , continue to the upper area. Time: 10:00 am

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Birdwalk

Third Saturdays (Sept. – June)

Saturday, September 15 with **Eleanor Osgood**

Saturday, October 20 with **Ann & Eric Brooks**

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.

Ballona Wetlands Birdwalk

Third Sundays (Aug. – May)

Sunday, September 16

Sunday, October 21

Bob Shanman leads this trip to our nearest wetland and adjacent rocky jetty. Migrating shorebirds and terns should be coming through. 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.

BIRD WALKS

Whittier Narrows Birdwalk

Fourth Saturday every month

Saturday, September 22

Saturday, October 27

Leader: park ranger **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. Meet at 8:15 AM.

Franklin Canyon (Sooky Goldman Nature Center)

Sunday, October 14

Leader: Irwin Woldman

Directions: From the 101 Freeway, take Coldwater Canyon Blvd. south to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive. Make a 90 degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. There is no street sign "Franklin Canyon." Road signs read "Road Closed 800 Feet" and "Sunset to Sunrise", this is the park entrance. Do not make a U-turn for this will bring you into Mulholland Drive instead of Franklin Canyon. Stay on paved surface to reach the Sooky Goldman Nature Center. From Sunset: Take Coldwater Canyon to Mulholland Dr. Turn right on Mulholland. Make right turn onto Franklin Canyon Dr. (refer to directions from 101 Freeway). Time: 9:00

Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area

Saturday, November 3

Leader: Larry Allen

Directions: Bird walk will be an introduction to the basics of birdwatching. We will be learning about ducks and common birds of urban parks. Meet at the Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area, 120th St. parking lot. From either direction of the 105 Freeway, exit on Central Ave. Proceed south on Central to 120th St (first signal), then right (west) on 120th St. to parking lot on left. 905 E El Segundo Blvd. Time: 9:00 am

Birdwalks are geared for the beginner/intermediate looking for an introduction or less strenuous excursion. Birdwalks do not require sign-up or reservation, just show up.

Echo Park Lake Birdwalk

Sunday, November 4

Leader: Judith Raskin

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Boathouse, Echo Park Ave. near Laguna Ave. Plenty of street parking. Take a leisurely walk around Echo Park Lake, one of the oldest in Los Angeles. More than 60 species call Echo Park their home for all or part of the year. They include Mallards, Great-tailed Grackles, American Coots, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, hawks and various gulls and doves. This is an excellent walk for beginners. Parents are encouraged to take their children. Binoculars recommended, and a bird guide, if you have one. Directions: From N/B 101 Freeway, exit Echo Park Ave. and continue north about ? mile. From S/B 101 Freeway, exit Glendale Blvd./Union Ave., go left on Temple St., left on Glendale Blvd., right on Bellevue Ave., then left on Echo Park Ave. to the boathouse. For more information call (323) 663-6767 or write judycalifornia@yahoo.com.

Audubon California Assembly 2007

**Sunday, Monday and Tuesday,
October 7, 8 and 9**

**Asilomar Conference Grounds,
Pacific Grove, CA**

**Registration Fees: \$325.
Includes two nights/three days, double occupancy;
six meals; workshops.**

**Visit
http://ca.audubon.org/audubon_assembly.html
for details, or call 510.601.1866 ext 3.**

S P E C I A L E V E N T

Los Angeles Audubon and
Pasadena Audubon Societies
are proud to present a special event on:

Resplendent Quetzal Conservation in Guatemala

Sunday, November 4, 2007, 3:00pm

Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 N. Altadena Drive
Pasadena, California 91107

Rob and Tara Cahill will speak on Resplendent Quetzal conservation efforts being conducted in Guatemala by themselves and other Proeval Raxmu environmental associates.

The Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) has been described as the most majestic bird of the western hemisphere. An inhabitant of the highland cloud forests, the Quetzal flourishes in some of the most at-risk natural habitats of Central America. Rob and Tara, associates of Proeval Raxmu, are dedicated to the conservation of the cloud forests of Guatemala's central highlands. Proeval Raxmu is a team of Guatemalan nationals and foreign ex-patriots, some of whom have been studying the Quetzals for 20 years!

Rob and Tara Cahill have worked in Guatemala for the last six years with projects in agro-forestry, conservation and food security supported by Mennonite Central Committee and Heifer Project International, are working to conserve these last great habitats. They developed an agro-ecology program at a school for Q'eqchi' speaking youth in Alta Verapaz. In recent years, Rob and Tara have become associates of Proeval Raxmu (pronounced Rash-moo), working ever more intentionally to combine the dual needs of the community, including economic and human development; and the need for conservation, along the vulnerable borderline of the cloud forest edge.



Their presentation on the Resplendent Quetzal brings together current research on the Quetzal itself and a review of conservation efforts that include projects in food security in the communities that border the cloud forest. Their website is:

<http://www.proeval-raxmu.org/english/index.html>

There will be a \$3.00 suggested donation taken at the door. No sign up, just show up!

Directions:

From the west: take the Pasadena (210) Fwy east to Pasadena, exit N. Altadena Dr., and head north, continuing 0.6 miles past New York Dr. to the next small street on the right, which leads to the parking lot for the Eaton Cyn. Nature Center (Robert M. McCurdy Nature Center on some maps) at 1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena.

From the east: take the Pasadena (210) Fwy west to Pasadena, exit N. Sierra Madre Blvd., take this frontage road (Maple St.) straight through the light, and turn N (Rt.) on N. Altadena Dr. Pass New York Dr., and continue 0.6 miles to the next small street on the right, which leads to the parking lot for the Eaton Cyn. Nature Center.

INTERNATIONAL BIRDING TOURS

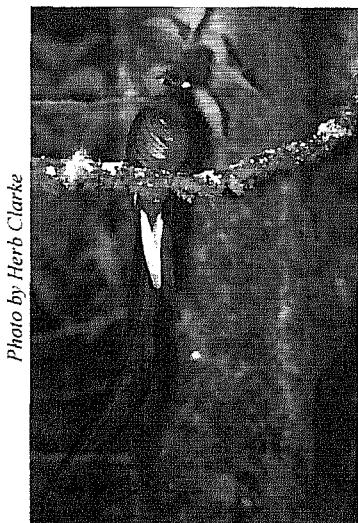


Photo by Herb Clarke

Resplendent Quetzal

THE BEST OF COSTA RICA *February 5-17, 2008*

Costa Rica, with its well deserved reputation as a country sincerely interested in conserving its natural resources, is one that is invariably on all birder's lists to visit. Its tropical forests harbor howler monkeys, Resplendent Quetzals, poison-dart frogs, giant morpho butterflies, over 830 species of birds, and the beauty of thousands of plant species. We will visit six of the major locations that are distinctive, each offering a marvelous profusion of tropical birds.

Habitats encountered will range from semiarid ranch land, to misty cloud forest, the transition zone between the dry and moist forests of the Pacific lowlands, the treeless paramo, and what may well be the highlight of our trip, a visit to La Selva, a lowland rainforest where nearly 400 birds have been recorded. As part of a small group, enjoy some of the best tropical birding in Costa Rica., where you will be accompanied by outstanding leaders throughout. **Space is limited.**

MOROCCO: FROM THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS TO THE SAHARA

April 19 - May 5, 2008

Post-Extension Tangier to Fes —May 5-10, 2008

The thought of Morocco brings visions of casbahs, deserts, minarets, camels, and Arabian nights. These sights, coupled with shopping excursions in Marrakech and Fes, will frame your experience, but the primary purpose of this trip is Morocco's birds. With its coasts, islands, wadis, plains, forests, mountains and deserts, Morocco is a birding wonderland—quite distinct from European habitats to the north.

From the moment you arrive in Casablanca, you'll be on your way to look for the over 460 bird species that have been recorded in this country. We will visit numerous habitats to search for species such as Crested Lark, Fan-tailed and Sardinian Warblers, and migrants such as Olivaceous Warbler, Barbary Partridge, the rare Bald Ibis and the difficult-to-find Double-spurred Francolin, to name only a few. From a birder's point of view, we will be in Morocco at probably the most interesting time of year. After the winter and early spring rains, hundreds of dayas (temporary ponds) form, and an abundance of flowers and lush green forests resound with birdsong. Beyond birds many natural wonders will be encountered: minerals from the Middle and High Atlas Mountains, fossils, orchids, mammals, herps and insects. Accommodations are outstanding, and the cuisine excellent. We will be accompanied by expert birding guides. **Space is limited.**

For information and itinerary, contact:

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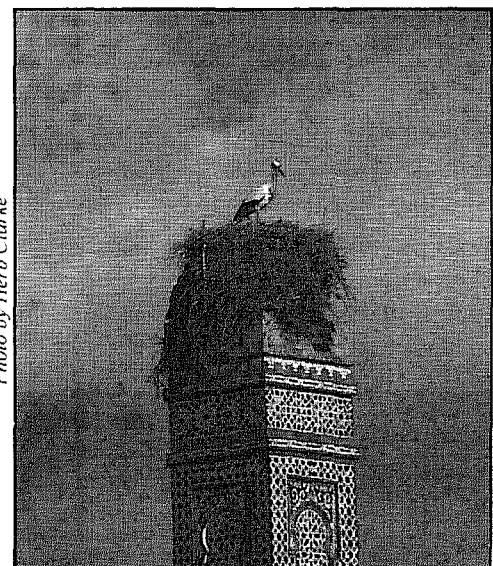


Photo by Herb Clarke

White Stork nesting on top of minaret.

PROGRAMS & EVENING MEETINGS

Meet at 7:30 at the Community Center in Plummer Park
7377 Santa Monica Blvd (at Martel between La Brea and Fairfax)
323-876-0202

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

**Tom Ryan returns for discussion on the recent
Burrowing Owl survey.**

In recent years, the conversion of former agricultural and pasturelands to suburban housing and industrial uses has caused the burrowing to disappear from much of coastal California. Within Los Angeles County, Burrowing Owls are mostly gone from the coastal slope, but still hanging on in the quickly developing areas of the high desert in Antelope Valley. Mr. Ryan will present the most up-to-date information on the owl from the 2006-07 Statewide survey and provide a preview to preliminary findings of the survey throughout the state.



Burrowing Owl Photo by Mary Freeman

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Martin Byhower presents a discussion on who the “good guys” and “bad guys” really are, in terms of invasive species of plants and animals (which, next to habitat loss, are the greatest threat to biodiversity).

Many people are surprised not only by which species are harmful but also by which species are not. Some native species are actually problematic due to overpopulation, and some non-natives are harmless or even beneficial. I like pigeons and hate fox squirrels, and I can tell you how to get rid of Argentine ants in and around your house, guilt free! The complex links and webs are amazing, such as pigs destroying coral reefs, lizards that keep us safe from Lyme disease and Endangered Species threatening other Endangered Species. Martin will also talk about habitat restoration, including my own habitat restoration project and the best habitat restorer of all, the coyote.

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