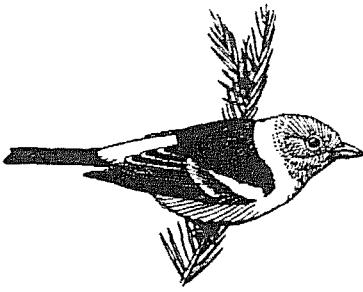


WESTERN TANAGER



A PUBLICATION OF LOS ANGELES AUDUBON

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WE WISH YOU BIRDY HOLIDAYS!

WHILE YOU ARE COUNTING PARTRIDGES IN PEAR TREES (OR CHUKARS IN PRICKY PEARS!) WE ASK YOU TO REMEMBER THE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE OF YOUR SIGHTINGS. HERE ARE THREE SUGGESTIONS FOR HOLIDAY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES:

LOS ANGELES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

—BY KIMBALL GARRETT

The Los Angeles Christmas Bird Count is one of the longest-running bird census efforts in southern California, having been conducted nearly continuously since 1915. One would think that the count's location within "America's Birdiest County" – a county with hundreds of active birdwatchers – would help generate great excitement every year as count season approaches. And considering the productive and well-birded sites that lie within the count circle, from Playa del Rey and the Ballona Valley through Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, Franklin Canyon and western Griffith Park, it is reasonable to expect a great turnout every year. On the other hand, the dense urban landscape that dominates the Los Angeles count circle surely makes potential Christmas counters think of the greener pastures of other count circles. Apart from a small core group of regular counters,

87 L.A. COUNTY BIRD SPECIES ARE ORPHANS

—BY FRED HEATH

As many of you may remember, during the five years from 1995 through 1999, the field work for the Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas was accomplished. In fact, some of you spent many hours helping by searching for breeding evidence of our local birds. This turned out to be a rewarding and wonderful learning experience.

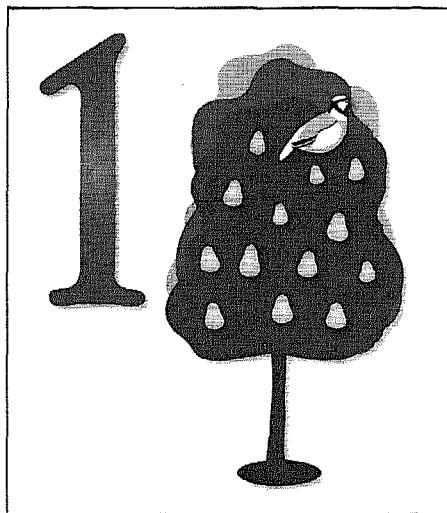
Bird Species Orphans
Continued on Page 2

HOT OFF THE PRESS!! "RARE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA"

—BY KIMBALL GARRETT

No California birder will want to be without *Rare Birds of California* – the long-awaited book by the California Bird Records Committee and the first book-length publication of Western Field Ornithologists. Editors Robb Hamilton, Michael Patten and Dick Erickson have done a superb job not only of compiling all of the Records Committee's decisions over its 35+ year history, but putting them into detailed context. Identification hints abound, and generous galleries of photographs, many in color, document the rare migrants and vagrants that occur in California.

Detailed accounts are provided for every vagrant and rare migrant species in California, providing a solid foundation for understanding seasonal and geographical patterns of vagrancy. Want to know the dates of all the Scarlet Tanager records in California? Curious about the best times of year to find rare shorebirds? Wondering about the



L.A. Christmas Bird Count
Continued on Page 16

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Rare Birds of California
Continued on Page 16

Quite different from the list chasing which generally absorbs the typical birder.

In the intervening years, the two main authors, Larry Allen and Kimball Garrett have worked diligently on completing the huge task of getting the atlas ready for publication. As all of their efforts on writing the atlas are on a strictly voluntary basis, this work is in addition to carrying on their normal busy lives. Much of individual species accounts and some of the introductory material has now been finished through the first drafts. Needless to say, it all still has to be cleaned up and peer reviewed by other experts. All of this is a slow careful process to insure that the finished product is one of which we can all be proud. It is anticipated that with the remaining work ahead, that the atlas will be published in time for holiday gift giving at the end of 2008.

Although that seems a long way off, there is yet a lot to do such as continuing to raise money to help offset the cost of producing this important and informative publication. One way to support the atlas is through the sponsorship of one of our almost 250 breeding species. For a mere \$100, you can be immortalized in the atlas and listed as the sponsor right under the species name in the main species accounts section of the atlas. As of this writing, 89 breeding species (a third) are orphans and do not have sponsors as yet. The list of these poor orphaned species is provided below.

I note that a number of these orphaned birds are introduced species starting with the Egyptian Goose going through a few doves, a

number of parrots and ending with the Zebra Finch (maybe its mere striped existence is a negative). I can't believe that there is a prejudice against these non-natives since most of us are certainly not native to California either. The European Starling, although a liability for some of our native birds, is most successful (sounds like people in general) and in full iridescent breeding plumage is a magnificent creature. If you are afraid that if you sponsor the Starling, people will blame you for its existence, then sponsor it in your mother-in-law's name. She will be flattered and never make the true connection with this noisy and pushy species.

And please don't duck the issue of sponsoring our waterfowl, many of which are still orphaned. Also don't forget that one good term deserves another and sponsor Caspian, Elegant, or Forster's. Maybe your grandfather was a curmudgeon who you lovingly called an "old coot". What could be more fitting than sponsoring the American Coot as a memorial to your grandfather?

I hope by now you get the idea and realize for a mere \$100 you or loved one (or not so loved one) can forever be associated with one of our marvelous species in the Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas.

Continued on Page 17

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MY PATCH

VENICE BEACH LEAST TERN COLONY

—BY STACEY VIGALLON, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



Least Terns mating, Photo by Lisa Fimiani

To a biologist, very little is more humbling than the first field day on a project involving a species about which you know next to nothing. I had just recently moved to Los Angeles from northeastern California. Still in the midst of adjusting to my new urban habitat, I was given the opportunity to participate in nest monitoring at the Venice Beach Least Tern colony. My career thus far had involved forest birds (corvids and goshawks, mainly), and this would be my first foray out of the woods. A quick disclaimer: I'm a biologist who happens to study birds - I don't dare refer to myself as a "birder" within earshot of an Audubon member. Ask me about foraging strategies of Steller's Jays, and you'll hear a long-winded answer. Ask me to identify a bird calling the ocean or beach it's home, and the only sound you're likely to hear is the disgruntled flipping of pages in a Sibley Guide. Had I ever seen a tern before? Possibly, though most likely as a study skin in my undergraduate ornithology lab section. Fortunately, I had a few weeks to get acquainted with the colony site before actually meeting the terns.

In fact, my first day on the job in mid-March was spent doing yard work for the terns while they were still away in warmer climes. SWCA senior biologist, Tom Ryan, myself, and dozens of volunteers spent two weekends removing invasive vegetation and creating a grid of various vegetation densities within the colony. The goal was not only to create microhabitat favorable to nesting terns, but also to begin to quantify and describe tern nest site preferences.

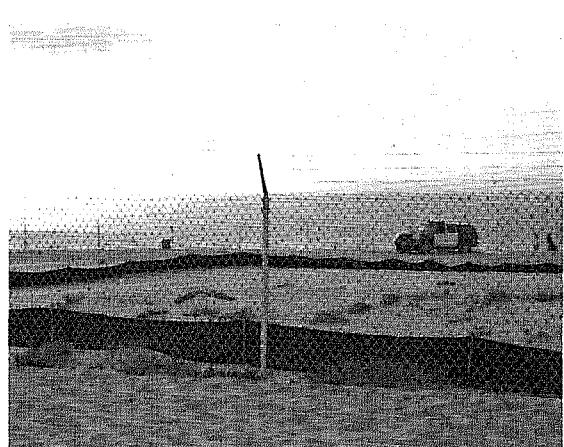
By early summer, hundreds of adult terns were on the colony. They zoomed overhead, calling and carrying presents of fish to their mates, while below we did careful weekly walk-throughs among the grids looking for nests. Also at this time Audubon volunteers began to monitor the tern colony from outside the enclosure, sending us weekly reports on tern, predator, and human behavior. In the span of a few short weeks, the number of nests exploded from a handful to hundreds. My nest search strategy changed from "think like a hungry nest predator" to "think like a nest predator who's hit the jackpot." And I wasn't the only one with this mantra. My old study subjects the American Crows were quick to take advantage of this seasonal food resource, supplementing their usual diet of abandoned cheetos and festering sandwiches with the more nutritious tern eggs. The terns would take a break from heckling us (with shrieks and dive-bombs) to aggressively chase out the intruding crows. The corvids may have gotten a snack or two, but the terns prevailed overall.

At the peak of the season the tiny ecosystem within the colony was booming. Killdeer, house finches, starlings, and mourning doves foraged in the more densely vegetated grids. Adult terns dutifully brought fish to sitting mates and newly hatched juveniles. A few raptors made the rounds to see who they could catch. Just outside the colony boundaries, humans flew kites, let off fireworks, raced their dogs, and picnicked in the sand.

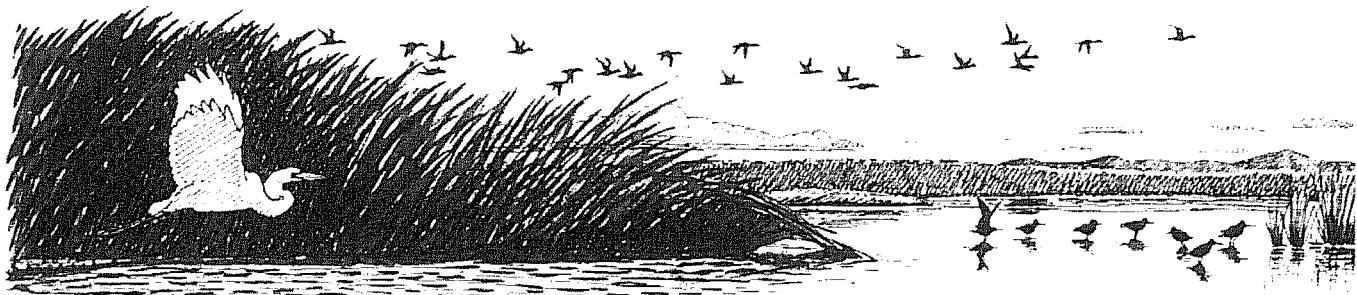
By mid-July the slogan for the colony might have been "Hatchlings Unite!" as dozens of fuzzy runners could be seen making a break for the chick fence during our walk-throughs. Frequent visits brought to light the many subtle differences

between chicks. Some tiny hatchlings staggered off uncertainly, like Frodo to Mount Doom, while slightly older chicks trotted off almost nonchalantly, Olympic athletes breezing through a victory lap. Some hatchlings refused to run, standing in defiance of our intruding shoes, their fuzzy plumage slightly ruffled in the breeze. And then there were the poseurs, those fledglings still clinging to their comfortable pre-flight days in the nest who would take a short jog and then burst into awkward flight. Am I anthropomorphizing a bit here? Absolutely, but baby bird cuteness can cloud the judgment of even the most hardened biologist.

The terns and their children are now long gone for the season. I found working at the colony to be just as fascinating as all the past single-species projects I've been involved in (despite the lack of forest). A whole lot can happen in a tiny natural space, and there is great satisfaction in getting to know that one small area and the behavior of a single group of birds. Being a beginner at something is always humbling, but it presents a fantastic learning opportunity. I'd like to thank Tom Ryan and Lauren Seckel at SWCA for being such knowledgeable and patient colleagues, and all the dedicated Audubon volunteers who kept a sharp eye on the colony all summer. I hope you found watching what went on within that chain-link fence as rewarding as I did.



Stacey's Patch, Photo by Lisa Fimiani



CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

—BY GARRY GEORGE

Losing a Battle, Winning a Battle

I got to the California Energy Commission building on 9th and O Street in Sacramento early so I could get a good seat. Today is the big day when the Commissioners will vote up or down on statewide guidelines for wind energy to reduce the impacts on birds and bats. Today is also the culmination of almost three years of my work as Conservation Chair for Los Angeles Audubon, first on the CEQA lawsuit we filed against LADWP over Pine Tree, the wind farm near Butterbrett that failed to study migratory songbirds with nocturnal assessments. We lost that lawsuit in Kern County, and lost the appeal in Fresno with a pretty harsh judgment in the opinion, softened only by the fact that the court refused to publish the opinion, saving us from the fate of a published opinion becoming precedent and re-interpreting CEQA law. The wind industry wanted it published, and petitioned the Appeals Court to do so arguing that the case is important for the future of renewable energy. The possibility of a Supreme Court opinion as harsh as the Appeals Court opinion being published caused the Board of Los Angeles Audubon to reverse itself and decide not to file with that court. An unpublished opinion was a better result than a published losing opinion that might affect future cases and future wind farms. We folded our tents.

But my two years of advocacy work at the California Energy Commission, had continued in a parallel universe with the years of our lawsuit. Dexter took over the Appeal while I attended workshops in Sacramento, Los Angeles and Riverside, wrote comment letters, did research and made statements for the Commission docket to counter wind industry claims, and point the Commission toward the little science in California on migratory songbirds. And here I was, two weeks after the Board decided to end the litigation, about to see another end to another long Los Angeles Audubon battle.

I got a seat in the second row, and the Commissioners filed in to the hearing room. Commission Staff read the report of the process, and California Fish & Game read their statement, including announcement of the addition of thirty new staff to process the huge increase in wind farm development. Public comment opened, and the wind industry fired their guns. Although they had participated in the process hoping for certainty on the kinds of studies that might give them the fastest pass through environmental review, the big lobbyists challenged the Commission with requests for a delay or no votes on the guidelines.

“The wind industry will leave California if you pass these guidelines,” threatened one lobbyist.

“Claims of damage to birds and bats are

exaggerated. I’ve developed wind power for thirty years in the desert of Coachella Valley, and I’ve never seen a dead bird, and I’ve never seen a bat in the desert,” claimed a veteran developer.

“I’ve already done my studies, I shouldn’t have to go back and do different ones,” complained another.

Then the few environmental organizations spoke. Julia Levin of Audubon California spoke for Audubon California, Defenders of Wildlife, and Sierra Club.

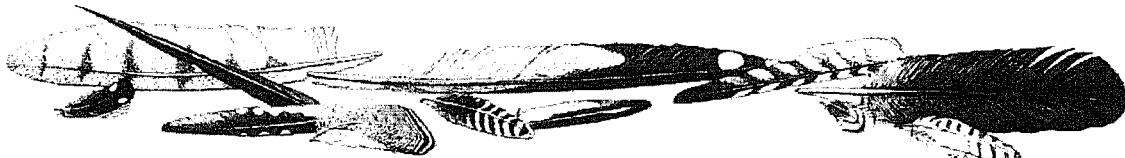
“The guidelines are voluntary, and there are provisions for revisions every five years. The wind industry has had almost two years of input on the guidelines and it is unfair of them to ask for a delay now. We urge you to pass these guidelines, and I say that as someone who worked on the Renewable Portfolio to reduce global warming. We need wind. But we need it done right.”

Golden Gate Audubon spoke. And then Los Angeles Audubon went on record.

“We support these guidelines, especially the sections that recommend nocturnal studies using radar and acoustic monitoring on migratory birds and bats. There has only been one nocturnal study in California using radar and that was in 1981, over 25 years ago. We urge the Commission’s PIER Research group to

*Conservation Conversation
Continued on Page 17*

THANK YOU!



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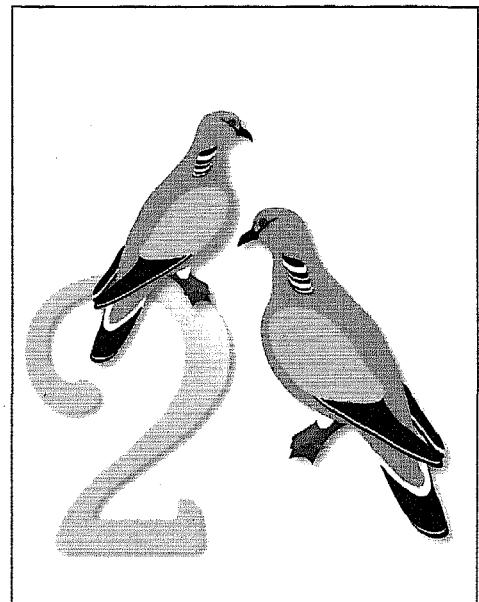
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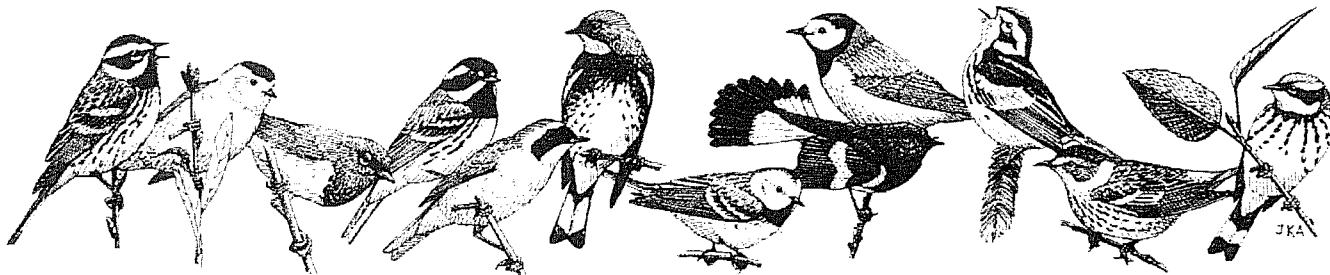
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BIRDS OF THE SEASON

BY JON FISHER

To nobody's surprise, the summer of 2007 continued hot and very dry. The remnants of a few tropical storms dumped some rain on the deserts and north slopes of the San Gabriels, but these events were too late to have much effect on habitat and breeding birds. There continued to be a dearth of reports from the mountains, and the few there were indicated relatively low numbers of birds. Fortunately birding elsewhere in the county was quite productive and in light of some last minute developments, it was downright incredible.

July and August are prime shorebird months for us and water levels on the lower L.A. River were generally good throughout the period. This unique area continued to attract and surprise birders. The array of shorebirds found here—particularly at the end of August and beginning of September—was remarkable. The fact that this habitat is little more than a concrete channel makes the annual shorebird phenomenon here even more impressive. Obviously the birds have to be there to begin with, but beyond that it's the extensive coverage by birders that results in so many good finds. Though receiving less coverage, the Piute Ponds on

Edwards Air Force Base also hosted some notable shorebirds.

By early September there had already been some reports of vagrant warblers, and a few passerines moved into the lowlands ahead of schedule and as early as late July. One is certainly tempted to interpret that as a result of extremely dry conditions, though in most cases there's no way of knowing precisely where a particular bird is coming from or why.

Here's how the last two months unfolded...

There wasn't much news as far as raptors were concerned. After a good spring movement of **Swainson's Hawks**, only a single fall bird was reported in La Canada on September 10 (Mark Hunter). An adult **Broad-winged Hawk** appeared at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach on September 14 (David Bell).

Caspian Terns nested again this year on barges in Long Beach harbor. Most will recall the disastrous hosing of these barges last year prior to their use for a Fourth of July event. Though few young birds were saved then, at least the terns are again

utilizing this artificial nesting habitat, though with limited success this year.

The first **Solitary Sandpiper** along the lower L.A. River was at Willow Street on July 27 (Andrew Lee). The first reported from Piute Ponds was not until August 10 (Mike San Miguel). A handful of additional reports followed from both Piute Ponds and the lower L.A. River. Two other birds were at less expected locations at Malibu Lagoon on August 25 (Kimball Garrett) and on the San Gabriel River below Valley on August 26 (Andrew Lee).

Rare inland were two **Ruddy Turnstones** at Piute Ponds on September 5 (Jim Moore), with one remaining through September 11.

Red Knots are relatively scarce in L.A. County, thus one on July 10 near the Ballona Creek mouth (Richard Barth), one at Piute Ponds on August 19 (Mike San Miguel, John Garrett), and a third at Malibu Lagoon on August 25 (Kimball Garrett) were of interest. The latest report was one along the L.A. River on September 1 (Richard Barth).

Rare but regular in the Antelope Valley area were two

Sanderlings at Piute Ponds and one at the Lancaster Sewer Ponds on September 5 (Mike San Miguel).

A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was present on July 24 at Piute Ponds (Mike San Miguel) constituting the second record from there this fall. The first reports from the lower L.A. River were single birds found on August 4 and 5 (Kevin Larson, Richard Barth). Following that, well over a dozen were found on the river through the month.

The season's first **Baird's Sandpiper** was at the Piute Ponds on July 24 (Jim Moore) with the first on the lower L.A. River reported on August 9 (Richard Barth). Following that, many more were seen on the river through August and into September. A high count of fourteen were at the Lancaster Sewer Ponds on September 2 (Mike San Miguel). Another report of interest was one on the Rio Hondo in Rosemead on September 7 (Larry Schmahl).

Pectoral Sandpipers were at Piute Ponds on July 24 (Jim Moore) and on the lower L.A. River from August 30-September 2 (Karen Gilbert, Jeff Boyd). Among additional later reports, a maximum of eight were on the L.A. River on September 6 (Richard Barth).

A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at Piute Ponds on July 24 (Mike San Miguel) and the same or a second bird was at there on August 1 (Jim Moore, Jim Garrett). An amazing total of seven Stilt Sandpipers were on the lower L.A. River on August 31 and September 1 (Richard Barth, Tom Miko, Dick Norton, Kevin Larson),

but this was eclipsed by an unprecedented twelve birds on September 4 (Richard Barth). Smaller numbers remained here through the period. As they are normally very rare migrants in the county, these counts are remarkable.

A very rare **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was found at Piute Ponds on September 8 (Mary Freeman) and was reported through September 12. This has been a good fall for this species, with a total of five birds in Ventura County, one in Kern, and a few others elsewhere in the state.

Three **Ruffs** were found, with one on the L.A. River in Long Beach on August 30-31 (Karen Gilbert, Jeff Boyd), another at the Lancaster Sewer Ponds from August 31-September 2 (Jennifer Rycenga) and a third at Malibu Lagoon on September 7 (Dave Furseth).

Quite rare in summer was a **Herring Gull** on the lower L.A. River. This bird was recorded several times in July (Kevin Larson). Even more out of time and place was a **Thayer's Gull** at the Lancaster Sewer Ponds on September 10 (Kimball Garrett). Given this exceptional date, it's likely that this gull summered in the area.

A few **Black Terns** were reported, with seven present at Piute Ponds on July 24 (Mike San Miguel). Reports of two more birds came from Playa del Rey in early August, the first at that locale since 1980 (fide Dan Cooper). Another Black Tern was at an unexpected location on the San Gabriel River near El Monte on September 2-3 (Andrew Lee)

Two **Chimney Swifts** along the Rio Hondo near San Gabriel Blvd on July 30 (John Green) were the only ones reported this summer and likewise was a single **Black Swift** over Hacienda Heights on August 20 (Dan Cooper).

A few **White-winged Doves** typically appear in late summer. One was at Ballona Freshwater Marsh on August 15 (Dan Cooper), another was in Saugus the following day (Laura Vance) and three were on the lower L.A. River south of Willow Street on September 3 (Karen Gilbert, Jeff Boyd).

A **Gray Flycatcher** at Bonelli Regional Park on August 6 passed through well ahead of schedule (Andrew Lee). Rather scarce as a migrant coastally at best, they are not normally expected until late August.

A **Bell's Vireo**— always very rare as a migrant— was at Piute Ponds on August 10 (Mike San Miguel).

A **Bank Swallow** along the lower L.A. River on August 1 (Richard Barth) and another at the Lancaster Sewer Ponds on September 10 (Kimball Garrett) were the only ones reported.

Another indication of bird movements likely related to dry conditions were two **Pygmy Nuthatches** in South Pasadena on September 7 (Ed Stonick). While Red-breasted Nuthatches are well known to be undergo periodic dispersals away from breeding areas and into the lowlands, this phenomenon is quite rare in Pygmy Nuthatches.

In September came the astounding records of three **Arctic Warblers** in southern California. The first bird was discovered at Galileo Hill in eastern Kern County on September 7 (Susan Steele). The numerous birders who came to look for this bird the following day relocated it, and then amazingly found a second one. This constituted only the fourth and fifth state records and the first inland record. Both Galileo birds were reported through September 10.

One would think that two Arctic Warblers were more than enough for any one fall, but L.A. County was not to be outdone. A third Arctic Warbler graced us, this time at DeForest Park in Long Beach from September 13-14 (Karen Gilbert, Jeff Boyd, Brian Daniels, Richard Barth), for the first L.A. County record. Thus in the space of one week California doubled its records of Arctic Warblers.

The closest previous record geographically was a bird at Pismo Beach in September 1996, with the most recent California record being from Mountain View in September 2000. Remarkable is a Baja California record from 1991 which predates all of the records for California.

One can't help but wonder if additional birds will be found, particularly as birders will now be on the watch for them. And these three Arctic Warblers beg the intriguing question—how many others pass through undetected?

Another stunning find was an immature **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** at Malibu Lagoon from September 14-15 (Kevin Pickard). It's

interesting to note that the only other L.A. County record was also at Malibu Lagoon in 1987, almost exactly twenty years ago. We've seen a virtual invasion of arctic birds thus far compared to almost any other fall.

A **Lucy's Warbler**, a rare but regular straggler to the coast in fall, was seen briefly in Long Beach on September 12 (Robb Hamilton).

The interest in a nesting pair of **Northern Parula** near Balboa Lake in Van Nuys was deflated when the nesting attempt appeared to have failed by the end of July (Brian Daniels).

Though just at the start of vagrant warbler season, already there were a few reports of rarities. Three **Virginia's Warblers** were found at different locations all on September 2. The first was at Peck Pit in Monrovia (Andrew Lee), the second was at Piute Ponds (Mike San Miguel) and the third was at De Forest Park in Long Beach (Mark & Janet Scheel).

An excellent find was a **Prairie Warbler** at DeForest Park in Long Beach from August 30-September 1 (Karen Gilbert, Jeff Boyd).

A **Black-and-white Warbler** at Whittier Narrows on July 18 was an atypical record, but likely a very late spring migrant (Nathan Moorhatch).

There were few reports of sparrows and buntings, but one of interest was that of three **Indigo Buntings** in the Eaton Canyon flood basin in Pasadena on July 25 (Jon Feenstra). The habitat here in late summer and fall has been very productive in the past for seedeaters.

The lone report of a **Yellow-headed**

Blackbird was a single bird on the lower L.A. River on September 6 (Richard Barth).

While it's already been a good shorebird season, we've yet to know what the whole of autumn migration will look like.

The appearance of three Arctic Warblers and a Yellow Wagtail by mid-September may be an indication of things to come, or it may end there. As always, birds are both predictable and unpredictable... of course that's what keeps things interesting. Regardless, the remainder of September and October are loaded with possibilities.

It's hard to believe how quickly both spring and fall migration go by.

The bulk of songbirds will have passed through by October, with stragglers and a few wintering vagrants left to be found. By the time this issue is in the mail, Christmas Counts will be just a couple of months away. Not only are these an interesting change from normal birding habits, but they allow us to contribute some useful data. Inevitably the counts turn up a handful of previously undiscovered rarities as well.



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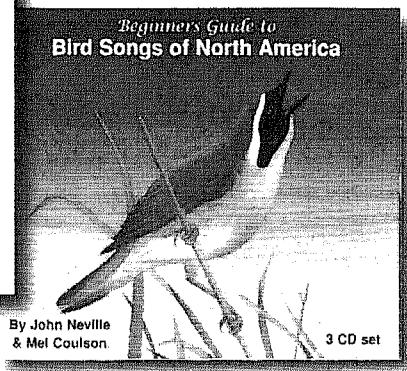
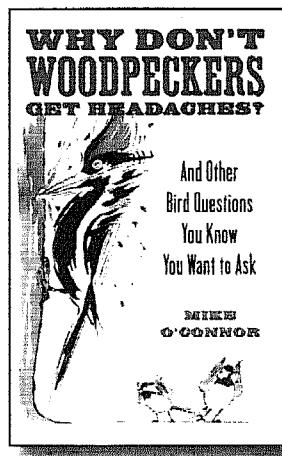
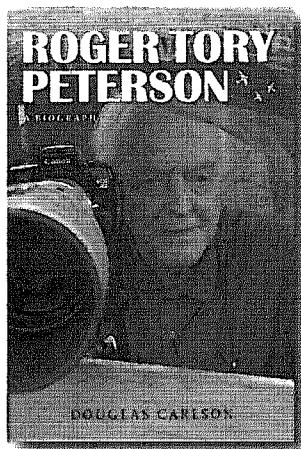
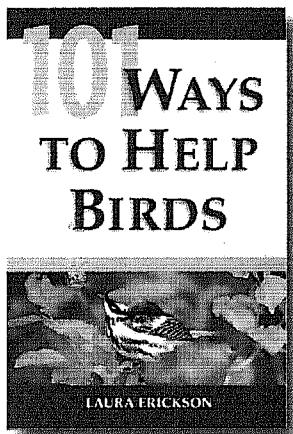
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Holiday giving got you in a twist?

Membership in Los Angeles Audubon is a great gift to give your neighbors, co-workers, fellow club members, friends and family. Perhaps you know an enthusiastic birder or Audubon member on a limited income who would love a gift membership to our chapter. Perhaps there is a young person who is interested in natural history who could benefit from a gift membership.

Giving a gift membership to Los Angeles Audubon is a wonderful way to raise awareness, and get people involved in our chapter.

You can call us at (323) 876-0202, fax us at (323) 876-7609 or email: laas@laaudubon.org, or go to our On Line Nature Store: www.losangelesaudubon.org/store and click on membership, to arrange the gift membership.

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

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

November 3, 2007
December 1, 2007
December 8, 2007
December 15, 2007
January 5, 2008

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The final report of the Snowy Plover wintering and breeding season survey has been published by SWCA Associates, Santa Monica Bay Audubon and Los Angeles Audubon. The report gives the results of the work of over 40 volunteers from the two chapters of Audubon, led by volunteer coordinators Jenny Jones and Stacey Vigallon, and documents the first recorded breeding attempt by Snowy Plovers on Los Angeles County beaches since 1947.

The report is available by emailing garrygeorge@laaudubon.org or call Audubon House 323-876-0202.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2007 L.A. Audubon, Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, CDFG, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and SWCA Environmental Consultants held a workshop for local beach managers and beach-related groups to work on solutions for protecting the Western Snowy Plover on Los Angeles County Beaches. The meeting was based on the survey efforts of volunteers last winter-spring to determine where and when the plovers occur here. There was general agreement that more can and should be done including more enclosures that would protect wintering plovers from vehicles and allow for more buildup of kelp and beach wrack for them to forage on. Other recommendations included expanding the volunteer program, creating a community outreach and docent program, and greater cooperation among Audubon and local beach managers in sharing



Audubon chapters welcomed 15 year old Malcolm Boothroyd on a stop at Santa Monica Pier on his big bird year bicycle ride from Yukon, Alaska to Florida to promote bird conservation and emission free bird watching by sail boat and bicycle. Follow Malcolm's journey on his website www.birdyear.com.

Left to right: Santa Monica Bay Audubon President Lu Plauzoles, Malcolm, Malcolm's Dad Ken, Los Angeles Audubon ED Garry George, Malcolm's Mom Wendy, and Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition ED Jennifer Klausner who rode with Malcolm from Ventura County line to Orange County line.

information about plover locations and providing training to personnel who may drive on the beach. The goal of these actions will be to protect and improve the wintering habitat for Snowy Plovers in L.A. County and to provide protected areas for nesting.

Los Angeles Audubon presents an annual research grant, the Ralph W. Schreiber Ornithology Research Award, to support research relevant to the biology of birds. Award recipients are limited to students or amateur ornithologists who are not able to secure research funding through channels available to professional ornithologists, and who reside in southern California (from San Luis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino

Counties south) or are currently enrolled in a southern California academic institution. There is no geographical restriction on the research area. While a more favorable consideration of research that is of a local nature involving a local species will be given, all researchers are encouraged to apply. Only one award will be given for an individual project or thesis.

One or more awards will be given this year, with a maximum individual award of \$1500.

The application deadline for the year 2008 Research Award is December 1, 2007; grants will be disbursed in April, 2008.

More details on www.laaudubon.org, MAIN MENU, Research Grants

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

We firmly believe that having a passion for birds leads to becoming a good steward of the Earth; and we need more people to join the ranks of stewards.

With that said, here is the Outreach report for the November-December Issue:

Jennifer Jones and Eleanor Osgood with the assistance of Lisa Fimiani introduced Los Angeles Audubon to over 40 novice "birders" who, since February 2006, participated in one of our four successful "Introduction to Bird Watching" classes. (Jennifer and Eleanor have developed a PowerPoint presentation to accompany in-class discussion of bird identification; the classes also include bird walks. If anyone has an interest in giving this presentation we can get you a copy. Or let us know if you know of a group that would be interested in such a class. It can be adapted to a 3 hour or 3+ day class.)

In September we launched our expanded schedule of Bird Walks geared toward urban parks and the families that frequent them. Larry Allen chose to lead a walk in Magic Johnson County Park in November, Judith Raskin officially added her monthly Echo Park walks to our schedule; Irwin Woldman chose to lead a beginner's walk at Upper Franklin Canyon in October. We have also once again teamed up with Beverly

Hills to lead three beginner bird walks at Greystone Mansion. If any of you have a favorite city park that is birdie (and even better, has a lake) let us know. And if you are interested in leading the walk we will be there to support you.

The committee has also been strategizing on ways to reach out to the Spanish-speaking community which is one of the most active users of our open-spaces. We are in the process of developing a Spanish language insert for our new membership brochure. We also plan to distribute Spanish translations of the beginning bird walks schedules and then distribute them in local parks and other venues.

"Audubon Film Fridays" was a resounding success reaching 40-100 people per showing. Families came with children; we ate popcorn and sat under the stars (except the day of the big storm) and watched some really good movies about nature and birds. Congratulations go to Jason Stuck for suggesting the concept. Thanks go out to Pasadena Audubon Society, Ron Cyger for recruiting volunteers, and to Garry George for organizing the event and raising funding for the program. And a very special thank you to Elva and Jeff at Deb's Park for providing the location, the publicity and for all their hard work in helping the event go smoothly each Friday night.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WESTERN TANAGER Editor

Our newsletter is looking for a new Editor. Any ideas?

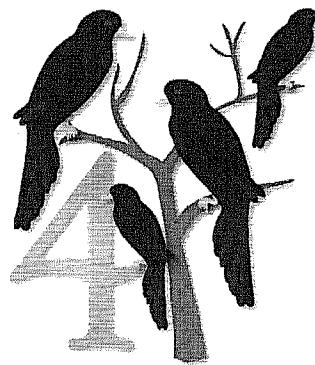
Marketing and Communications Intern

This person would be on-call to help the Board and committee chairs send announcements to local newspapers about special activities sponsored by our chapter. Amount of time commitment would be up to the volunteer.

Committee members:

We encourage each member of Los Angeles Audubon to become active in our Committees.

Contact Eleanor Osgood at volunteer@laaudubon.org or call 310-839-5420



©Photographer: Jeanne Simon
Agency: Dreamstime.com

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 8 –

West Antelope Valley Raptors and Other Wintering Birds

Jean Brandt will lead us from Quail Lake east across the Antelope Valley. Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon likely. Wear warm clothing, bring lunch, and have a full tank of gas. Meet at Denny's at 6:45 AM to carpool. Take 405 N to Roxford in Sylmar. Turn right, then right into the Denny's parking lot. Trip leaves at 7:00 AM sharp. 'Scopes and FRS radios 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.

Sunday, December 16 –

Malibu Christmas Bird Count

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

Sunday, December 30 –

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.

Before setting out on any field trip, please call (323) 874-1311

(Events & Announcements, #4).

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

Please see page 15 for reservation information

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.

F I E L D T R I P S

Friday & Saturday,

January 11&12 –

Slaty-backed Gull Workshop with Jon Dunn.

A knowledgeable second guide will assist, if sign-ups warrant.

Extensive Lecture in Half-Moon Bay area (exact location TBA soon) will be Friday from 8AM until 2PM with a break, so that we can look for gulls at Half-Moon Bay on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday (beach morning meeting time and place TBA at lecture). We may bird as a self-guided group on Sunday morning if there is interest. Sunday morning will also serve as a back-up day for the official field trip in case of rain on Saturday, although the nearby dump is closed on Sunday, and the loafing gulls at the beach thin out. Bad weather may actually increase the flock size. 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 states have been at this beach in this time frame, a number every year since people have been looking, so we do have a real chance of finding one!

\$80 for workshop with field trips.
25 max.

Please see page 15 for
reservation information

Saturday, January 19 –

East Antelope Valley

Leaders: Stan Gray and Todd Battey.

Beyond 50th Street East is neglected territory for many birders. However, DFG has oversight of the area, and Stan birds the area extensively; so they know that Mountain Plover, raptors, LeConte's Thrasher and other AV specialties are sometimes easiest to find in the far eastern reaches of the Valley. Take Hwy 14 N to Avenue S (next to Lake Palmdale). Drive into the Park-and-Ride just to the east of the offramp. Meet at 8:00 AM at the W end of the main lot. Bring lunch and a full tank of gas for a full day of spleandor in the alfalfa.

No fee, no reservation. 'Scopes and FRS radios helpful.

Sunday, January 20 –

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area.

Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp.

"Freeway close" morning of birding. Kris has led this walk on-and-off for 20 years, noting 200 species, and averaging 60-65 per walk. Take the 405 fwy N into the San Fernando Valley, turn W on Burbank Blvd. and N (Rt.) on Woodley Ave. to the second Rt., which is marked "Wildlife Area". Turn here and park in the lot at the end. Meet at 8:00 AM, and bird until about 11:30 AM.

Saturday & Sunday,

January 26 & 27 – Salton Sea

Leaders Nick and Mary Freeman.

Yellow-footed Gull, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Snow & Ross' geese, Sandhill Cranes, Stilt Sandpiper, and Gila Woodpecker all hopeful to certain.

Meet at 7:00 AM Saturday at the Wister Unit parking lot by the portapottys. This is 5 miles north of Niland where Davis joins Hwy 111. Calipatria Inn (800) 830-1113 (leader's preference) and Brawley Inn (760) 344-1199 are recommended. FRS radios & 'scopes helpful. Arrive fed, bring lunches, those who wish will dine together at Calipatria Inn Steak House.

Fee: \$10. No Limit, but sign up with phone, e-mail, and SASE for more details.

Saturday, February 2 –

Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station Wetlands.

Martin Byhower, Nick Freeman and a base biologist will drive 12 lucky LAAS participants around this prime wetlands site where Pacific Golden-Plover, Mountain Plover, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Sage Thrasher and numerous raptors regularly winter. Base will confirm with us around January 10.

Send SASE to Audubon House with e-mail and phone number (phone # required) by January 23. Only SASE-confirmed U.S. citizens with photo ID allowed on base. No cameras or weapons. Meet at the main public lot at 800 Seal Beach Blvd. at 7:30 AM, and bird until noon. Take Seal Beach Blvd. S from the 405 FWY, pass Westminster Blvd., turn left onto the base at the Forrestal Lane light, and left again into the lot.

12 max from LAAS,

12 max from PVAS. No fee.

BIRD WALKS

Saturday, November 3 –

Magic Johnson Recreation Area with Larry Allen

This bird walk will be an introduction of 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 at 9:00 AM. 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.

Sunday, November 4

Echo Park Lake Birdwalk

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

Saturday, November 3

Saturday, December 1

Saturday, January 5

Debs Park Audubon Center

Birdwalk

First Saturdays (Sep – Jul) –

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, November 4

Sunday, December 2

Sunday, January 6

Topanga State Park Bird Walk

First Sunday every month –

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, November 17

with Eleanor Osgood

Saturday, December 15

with Ann & Eric Brooks

Saturday, January 19

Leader: TBA

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Birdwalk

Third Saturdays (Sep – Jun) –

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.

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.

BIRD WALKS

Sunday, November 18

Sunday, December 16

Sunday, January 20

Ballona Wetlands Birdwalk

Third Sundays (Aug – May) –

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.

Saturday, November 24

Saturday, December 22

Saturday, January 26

Fourth Saturday every month –

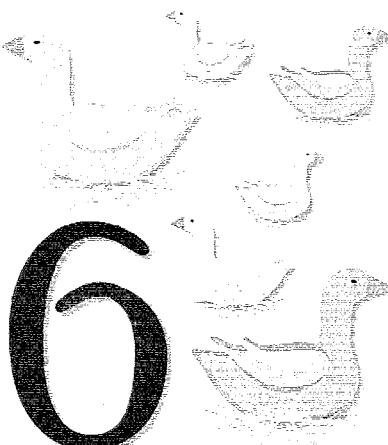
Whittier Narrows Birdwalk

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.

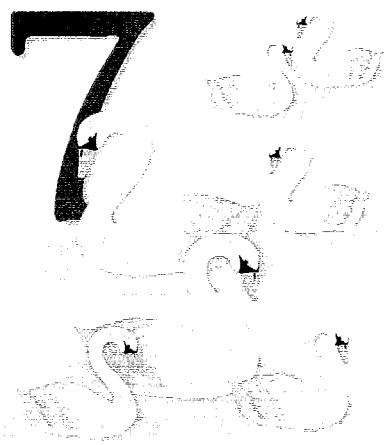
Saturday, December 8 —

Greystone Mansion in Beverley Hills

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.



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Agency: Dreamstime.com



©Photographer: Jeanne Simon
Agency: Dreamstime.com

RESERVATION & FEE EVENTS Policy and Procedure

(For Limited Participation
Field Trips & Pelagic Trips)

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.

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.



Audubon California Volunteer of the Year –Barbara Courtois

Los Angeles Audubon member and volunteer Barbara Courtois was honored as Volunteer of the Year by Audubon California. She was given the award along with five other chapter volunteers by Audubon President John Flicker at the Audubon Assembly in Asilomar on Monday, October 8 at a special event at Monterey Aquarium.

Barbara has volunteered for over a decade at the Ballona saltwater marsh education program where she recruits and trains docents, arranges for schoolchildren to come to the

program, and oversees the docent led field trips. She participated in the Snowy Plover winter and breeding season surveys, and in the monitoring program at the California Least Tern Colony. California Department of Fish & Game honored Barbara for her outstanding service at the Least Tern colony.

Barbara is a long time member of Los Angeles Audubon and Santa Monica Bay Audubon.

Rare Birds of California *Continued from Page 1*

history of that bizarre record of White-tailed Tropicbird? Or Common Stonechat? Just want to ogle beautiful photos of Ross's Gull, Short-tailed Albatross, or Streak-backed Oriole? This is a book you need to have.

Rare Birds of California will be available for sale at Matt Heindel's presentation about the book and the California Bird Records Committee at the Wednesday, November 14, 2007 evening meeting. Additional information is available on the Western Field Ornithologists web site: www.wfo-cbrc.org

L.A. Christmas Bird Count *Continued from page 1*

participation has been sporadic in recent years. Total species counts have generally been in the 140s in the past ten years – well below the high counts of up to 170 species in the late 1970s.

This is the year to "Come Home to Los Angeles!" With good participation, we can demonstrate the great mid-winter diversity of birds in the City. Numerous bird-rich canyons and neighborhoods from Beverly Hills to Brentwood are crying out for coverage, as are natural areas and urban parks alike. Every wetland and lake needs thorough coverage, as well as every inch of shoreline from Playa del Rey to the Santa Monica Pier. Please consider participating in the Los Angeles Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 30 this year – and get us over that 170 species threshold!

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.

Sunday, December 16 –
Malibu Christmas Bird Count
Contact compiler Larry Allen at: (626) 288-2701 or larryallen@earlymusicla.org to participate.

Sunday, December 30 –
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.

study the wind resource areas for migratory birds as soon as possible, and we urge wind energy developers to make their study information and monitoring data public to better understand the impacts of wind energy on our birds.” Two wind companies – PPL from Scotland and Horizon, ironically a party in our lawsuit, had participated in the process and both broke from wind industry ranks and recommended passage of the guidelines.

It was now 2 pm and we had started at 9 am. Public comments had ended and it was time for a vote. After a statement from Commissioner Geesman on the intentions of the guidelines, and a re-emphasis that the guidelines are voluntary, and an assurance to County permitters that they could make their own decisions, the Commissioners took a vote. The vote was unanimous to adopt the guidelines!

As I flew back to Los Angeles that afternoon, I looked out the window at the large pieces of habitat, and reflected on what had just happened. We had lost one bitter battle with our lawsuit, but from that battle came victory in another battle. The war to protect birds will never be over as long as populations of humans keep growing and more natural resources are needed for housing, industrial development, energy, water, food and consumer products. We protect birds not because we think we can stop progress, but because we think our wildlife is an important natural resource, and because it is declining so rapidly. We've experienced that joy and mystery of nature while watching birds, and that experience has changed us. It is not an option to not protect what we have grown to love.

**Atlas Species Needing
Sponsors**
(87 as of September 2007)

Egyptian Goose
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Pintail
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Bufflehead
Ruddy Duck
Ring-necked Pheasant
Pied-billed Grebe
Clark's Grebe
Brandt's Cormorant
Double-crested Cormorant
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
White-faced Ibis
Northern Harrier
Virginia Rail
Common Moorhen
American Coot
Black-necked Stilt
Wilson's Snipe
Spotted Sandpiper
Caspian Tern
Elegant Tern
Forster's Tern
Xantus's Murrelet
African Collared-Dove
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Inca Dove
Common Ground-Dove
Black-hooded Parakeet
Blue-crowned Parakeet
White-fronted Parrot
Blue-fronted Parrot
Yellow-headed Parrot
Costa's Hummingbird
Western Wood-Pewee
Willow Flycatcher
Dusky Flycatcher
Gray Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Cassin's Kingbird
Western Kingbird
Gray Vireo
Cassin's Vireo
Plumbeous Vireo
Hutton's Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Red-whiskered Bulbul
Rock Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Townsend's Solitaire
European Starling
Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Hermit Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Chipping Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Great-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Purple Finch
Cassin's Finch
European Goldfinch
Pine Siskin
House Sparrow
Zebra Finch



PELAGIC TRIPS

2008 Los Angeles Audubon Pelagic Schedule

Saturday, May 3

A deep water trip toward the San Juan Seamount.

This trip departs from the **Santa Barbara Harbor** on the fast catamaran Condor Express at 7:00 a.m., and will return approximately by 8:00 p.m. We will cruise along the deep water shelf by the San Juan Seamount. Birds previously seen: Laysan and Black-footed albatross; Northern Fulmar; Sooty and Pink-footed shearwaters; Parasitic, Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers; Ashy, Leach's and Fork-tailed storm-petrels; Pigeon Guillemot; Xantus Murrelet; Cassin's and Rhinoceros auklets; Tufted Puffin. Rare possibilities are **Murphy's Petrel** and **Red-billed Tropicbird**. **Leaders:** Todd McGrath, Jon Feenstra, Kimball Garrett, Dave Compton and David Pereksta. **\$198.** There is a complete galley that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Saturday, June 7

Land on Santa Cruz Island for the Island Scrub Jay, and then out to sea.

This 8 hour trip departs from the Island Packer dock in the **Oxnard Harbor** at 8:00 a.m. on the m/v Vanguard. We will land at Prisoner's Cove where the endemic Island Scrub-Jay is easily seen. Then we will cruise 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; Xantus Murrelet. Rarities seen: Flesh-footed Shearwater and American Oystercatcher. A **Tufted Puffin seen in 2002.**

Leaders: Todd McGrath, Jon Feenstra and David Pereksta

\$95. A box lunch and breakfast can be ordered from the adjoining dock-side deli. Galley onboard.

Saturday, September 6

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. We are far offshore in 3 counties Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles. Birds expected: Northern Fulmar; One **Cook's Petrel** was seen in 2005; Ashy and Leach's storm-petrels; South Polar Skua; Parasitic, Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern. **Red-billed Tropicbirds** are usually seen on this trip. Rarities seen: Black-footed Albatross; Buller's Shearwater; Least Storm-Petrel and Craveri's Murrelet. Blue, Fin and Minke whales as well as several species of dolphins can be seen. **Leaders:** Todd McGrath, Jon Feenstra, Kimball Garrett. Dave Compton and David Pereksta

\$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.

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

NOTE: Destinations may be changed to maximize bird sightings, or minimize rough seas.

With increased fuel costs there can be a \$5 to \$10 energy surcharge per person.

**Look for more exciting
new trips to be added
to this Schedule!**

*Please see page 15 for
reservation information*

INTERNATIONAL BIRDING TOURS

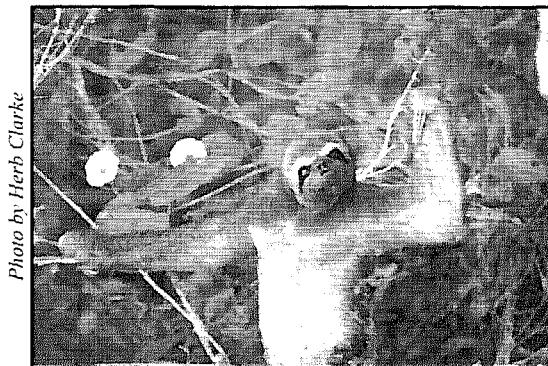


Photo by Herb Clarke

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth

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. **Fully Booked**

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:

Olga Clarke
Los Angeles Audubon - Travel Director
2027 El Arbolita Dr.
Glendale, CA 91208-1805

Ph/Fax: 818-249-9511
e-mail: oclarke@earthlink.net

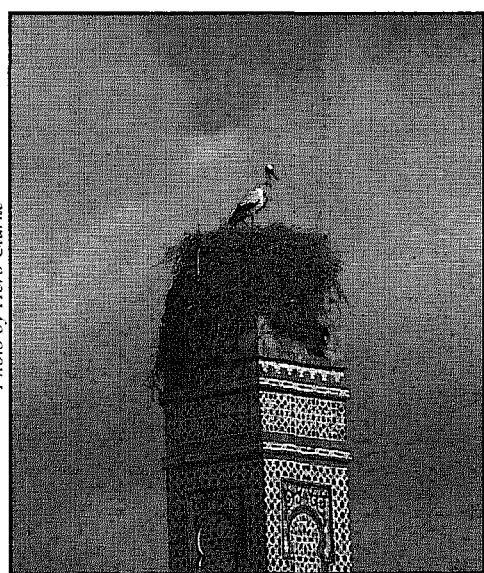


Photo by Herb Clarke

White Stork nesting on top of minaret.

PROGRAMS & EVENING MEETINGS

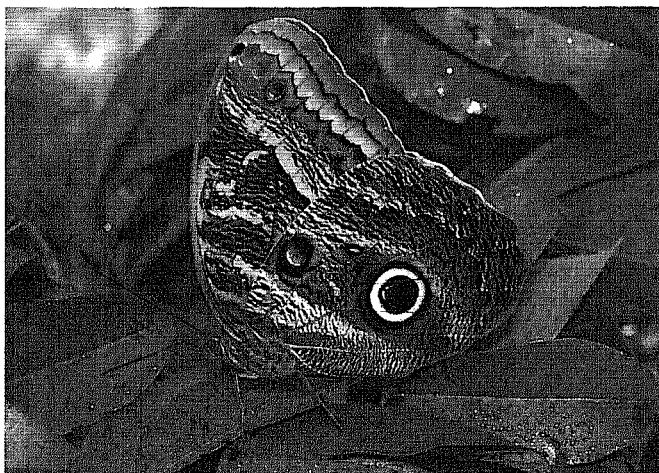
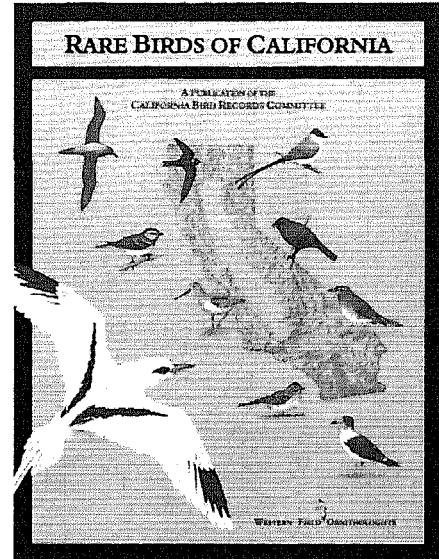
Meet at 7:30 at the Community Center in Plummer Park
7377 Santa Monica Blvd (at Martel between La Brea and Fairfax)
323-876-0202

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Matt Heindel Discusses the California Bird Records Committee Assessment of Records:

Matt Heindel will provide an overview of the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC), a group that assesses records of rarities reported in California. In addition to explaining the process the committee uses, he will also dispel some myths about the CBRC. There will be pictures that accompany some of the records on which he has voted with a discussion on how some of these decisions are reached. The timing of this meeting is perfect as the just published Rare Birds of California will be highlighted. In this book is every decision the committee reached over a 30-year period, with pictures aplenty. Bring two hands as this book is heavy and filled with a ton of data. And, your name might be in it! Matt has served four terms on the CBRC, the last two of which as Chairman. By profession, he has been involved in healthcare for decades and is currently buried with the launch of a new breast cancer screening test (which is severely denting his birding time!).

Come see the new book and learn a bit more about how (or if!) this Committee functions and how it can best interact with the birding community.



Illionaeus Giant-Owl Photo by Fred Heath

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