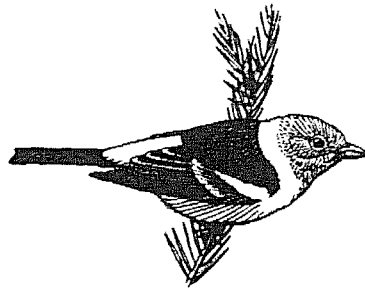


WESTERN TANAGER



A PUBLICATION OF LOS ANGELES AUDUBON

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LOOKING FORWARD IN 2008

BY GARRY GEORGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our mission has four legs that support it: recreation, education, conservation and restoration. Our future depends on a balance of these essential Audubon elements and a weakness in any one leg can affect the forward movement of the entire organization. In 2004, the Board of Directors shared a vision of strengthening the education, conservation and restoration legs of our body by putting the funds to work that had built up over the years from bequests and investment income. The supervision of our education programs at Ballona saltwater marsh and Sepulveda Wildlife Basin which we had relinquished to Audubon California were reclaimed and revitalized. We strengthened our own conservation programs rather than supporting other non-profits, and focused on endangered and threatened species of birds, and urban conservation challenges in Los Angeles. We didn't anticipate that those challenges would include crimes of causing the deaths of Elegant and Caspian Terns in Long Beach Harbor (Terngate), the death of thousands of raptors in Los Angeles to protect roller pigeons (Raptorgate), and the protection of Great Blue Herons and their nests and roosting sites from developers at Marina del Rey and Long Beach. In our revitalized mission, we involved ourselves in efforts on Endangered Species and Important Bird Areas and



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began advocating for protections for birds in chambers and halls in which Los Angeles Audubon had been absent. City Hall, Coastal Commission, California Energy Commission, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power began to see representatives from Los Angeles Audubon speaking publicly about protections for birds, or the lack thereof. We were loud and clear in public hearings on wind energy projects. Our restoration programs have been strengthened by the interest in renewed habitat through the removal of invasive non-natives in Los Angeles County, and our message of the use of native plants to attract biodiversity especially of species of birds in re-development projects throughout Los Angeles like the L.A. River, Silver Lake Reservoir, Baldwin Hills Park and Echo

Park Lake. As our three other legs have strengthened to match our decades long, strong recreational programs for bird watchers, we can look forward to progress on all legs in 2008 using some engines that the current Board of Directors has identified as key to expand our growth and continue to the imperative of the 2004 Board of Directors to position Los Angeles Audubon as a conservation organization that has the power to affect policy and inspire people to protect and enjoy birds and their habitat.

1. Reaching out

The future of any membership organization depends on fresh new members, new blood, and new ideas. While National Audubon membership numbers have remained around the same over the last four decades, our Chapter Only Membership program has more than doubled every year, now topping 400 members. This achievement is thanks to Membership drives, Board leadership and a fantastic new brochure. Our former Membership Chair Jason Stuck demanded we carry this brochure with us at all times. We may turn up a new supporter while bird watching, getting coffee at Starbucks or standing in line at the bank. Jason taught me well, and I recently gave one to Councilmember Eric Garcetti after our meeting on the Silver Lake

reservoir! Board member Eleanor Osgood enthusiastically has taken on the role of Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, and takes the Audubon message to new audiences through bird watching classes (with Board member Jenny Jones), to new audiences including UCLA Environmental Bruins, to the Latino community with the help of bird watcher and L.A. Audubon member Antonio Paiz, through programs like AUDUBON FILM FRIDAYS, and in bird walks for beginners in areas of Los Angeles like South Central, Baldwin Hills and Northeast Los Angeles where Audubon has seldom ventured. This is attracting not only new nature lovers through watching birds, but new conservation activists through an awareness of the natural habitat that birds need. This engine is full steam ahead.

2. Reaching In and Building Capacity

We've learned in the past few years how to build capacity at Los Angeles Audubon, and that's through strong conservation and education programs and dedicated people to staff those programs. Successful programs attract funding through grant partners and donors, and we've seen our conservation and education programs attract enough resources to not only pay for the programs and the part-time staff

to run them, but attract additional resources from donors who are encouraging us to sustain and broaden our impact. Although all paid staff are on a part-time basis, we focus on our programs on a daily basis, and that means we can take on more of the projects we care about and not burn out our volunteers and Board or Directors. These programs build our organization and it's identity to the public. We're already on the way to building capacity at Los Angeles thanks to the generosity of conservation and education donors and grant partners of over \$100,000 in 2007, and the fine work of our staff and Board.

3. Partnering

Our organization cannot accomplish our goals alone. We are not a silo serving our own interests, but just like species are a part of a biodiversity web we are part of a web of organizations with common goals. We have entered into partnerships with Audubon California through collaborative funding on endangered species, and through conservation of Important Bird Areas like Santa Clara River, Hansen Dam, Bolsa Chica, and lower Los Angeles River. We enjoy partnerships with Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, California Department of Fish & Game, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on endangered

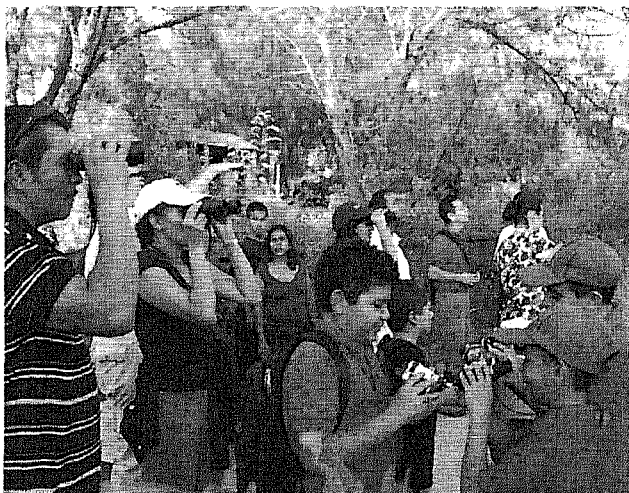
Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern. We've created relationships with Friends of Ballona on our saltwater marsh education program and San Fernando Valley Audubon on our Sepulveda Basin Wildlife education program, with Pasadena Audubon and Audubon Center of Debs Park on AUDUBON FILM FRIDAYS, with Committee to Save Silver Lake Reservoir on re-naturalization of native habitat, and with the City of Beverly Hills on the Great Backyard Bird Count. These partnerships create links to our local and state communities that expand our message, our mission and our role in the enjoyment and protection of birds and their habitat, and we'll continue to nourish them and make new ones in 2008.

The three engines of Reaching Out, Reaching In and Partnering will move our organization forward on the four legs of our mission throughout the New Year.

Los Angeles Audubon is looking forward to a great '08! Thank you for being a part of it.

Happy New Year!

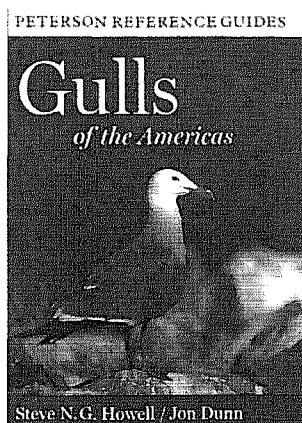
Garry George
Executive Director



New crop of birders joined Dexter Kelly's bird walk at Debs Park before AUDUBON FILM FRIDAYS.

BOOK REVIEW

BY LARRY ALLEN



Peterson Reference Guides: Gulls of the Americas, by Steve N. G. Howell and Jon Dunn, Houghton Mifflin, 2007

This work is the first in what appears to be a new series of in-depth identification guides published under the aegis of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. It addresses 36 gull species, and eight identifiable subspecies (I will hereafter use "taxa" to refer species and/or subspecies together). The book is divided into three sections: introduction, plates, and species accounts.

The introduction covers definitions, hints on how to examine gulls, pitfalls that may arise in the field, and an extensive section on gull molt and age characteristics. The authors have used the most recent research to clarify the molt strategies employed by the various gull species (summarized on p. 45). The discussion of molt is enhanced by a series of 34 photos illustrating the sequence of molts and maturation of the Western Gull, from juvenal to adult. Another nice feature of the introduction is a comparative gray-scale ranking of gull dorsal colors (p. 26).

The plates occupy the bulk of the book (251 pp.), and for most users will be the most consulted portion. This portion of the book is truly impressive,

consisting of 1160 four-color photographs and five illustrations. The plates are organized into sections and subsections, with each subsection beginning with one representative photo of each taxon therein. Following are from seven to 40+ photos for each taxon, illustrating identifiable stages in its maturation sequence. These photos include a sequence of perched gulls, followed by a similar sequence of gulls in flight.

The goal seems to have been to include a photo (occasionally illustration) of the plumage at each major stage in a gull's development, and photos of some transitional plumages as well. With rare exception, the authors have succeeded admirably. The figure captions address morphological structure, plumage details, aging, and molt. As is the case with Western Gull in the introduction, the photos provide a much more immediate sense of the sequence of plumage development and the identification of subadult gulls than words can convey. Additionally helpful in this section is a comparison of wingtip patterns for the Iceland-Thayer's Gull complex (p. 252).

Following the recognized taxa are sets of plates illustrating plumage features of 14 hybrid gulls. This series of plates provides much food for thought and an extensive number of cautionary examples. Every gull watcher is likely to benefit from perusal of these photos. Inexplicably, a series of photos illustrating hybrid Ring-billed ? California and Mew Gulls is not included here, but placed instead following Ring-billed Gull on pp. 144–145. These plates are not listed on the contents page. I trust a future edition will fold this series into the "Hybrids" section.

The species accounts follow the same order as the plates, and include

identification basics, comments on distribution and habitat, details of the molt sequence at each age, and known hybrids. Particularly helpful is a discussion of similar species, with separate headings for similar species that are common and rare respectively.

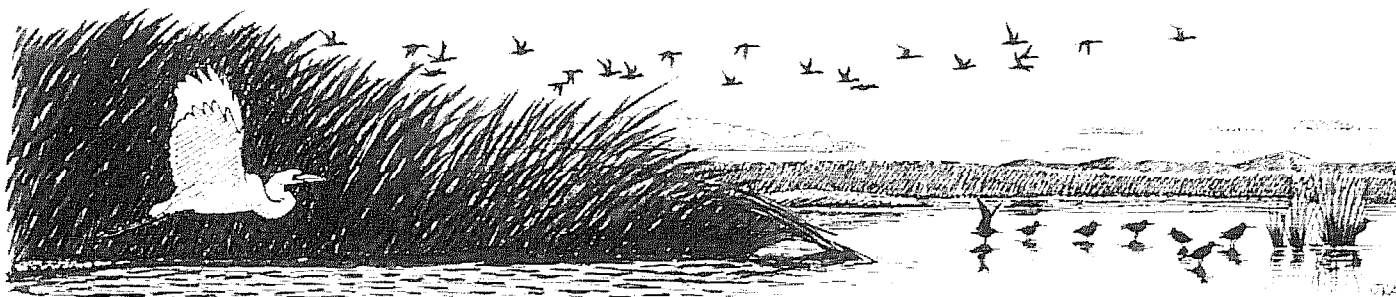
On a disquieting note, I found the book's layout hard to use. The title page contains a list of all taxa addressed, with numerals denoting the order in which they are treated. It neglects, however, to include page numbers for either the plates or the species accounts. In flipping through plates in search of a species of interest, there is an occasional stumble if your first glance lands upon a plate in the mixed group at the head of each subsection, since you will get an erroneous idea of where in the sequence you are. (The procedure with the species accounts is similar, also made inconvenient by the lack of species number in the running footers.)

This is not difficult to solve: most family-group volumes manage to provide page numbers for both plates and text in their tables of contents. Heavy users of this book may wish to tape a list of gulls with the paginations noted inside the front cover (people wishing a copy of the one I made for my volume may e-mail me at larryallen@earlymusicla.org).

For some reason the bibliography is split among four sections: a main sequence followed by references grouped into three geographic regions. Some references in the latter are duplicated in the main sequence, and some are unique. Every reference I followed was in the main sequence, but there was occasional page turning to find that sequence.

I noticed a few minor problems that would be easy to fix at the next printing: on plate 1.22 (p. 19) the label pointing

continued on page 9



CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

—BY GARRY GEORGE

L.A. AUDUBON LAUNCHES CONSERVATION PAGE ON WEBSITE

We've put up a Conservation page on www.laaudubon.org under MAIN MENU, CONSERVATION thanks to the suggestion of many folks. On this page we've posted our conservation priorities by species, area, and issue, along with documents and policies that are relevant. Have a look, please make suggestions and comments, and most of all GET INVOLVED! We'll try to put up as many links and documents as possible in the next months.

SPILLS AND CHILLS

Environmental challenges hit Northern and Southern California with a one two punch in October and November.

In October, wildlifes devastated Southern California from San Diego to Magic Mountain, and devastated species of birds as well. Anecdotal reports were that the fires were unnaturally hot and fast due to the drought. Attention was focused on two species of birds that in initial inventories seem to have suffered a heavy loss due to the fires, California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*) and the coastal population of Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*).

One fire burned what is probably the biggest contiguous coastal sage scrub habitat in California near San Diego, and along with it most likely the Gnatcatchers that live, breed and nest in it. Two sites in Southern Orange County contained a high percentage of the coastal Southern California population of Cactus Wren. We won't know the final impacts until an inventory and analysis is done, but these two populations will surely move up on anyone's watch list or sensitive species list, and recovery efforts may be required. California Gnatcatcher is already federally endangered due to habitat loss.

On November 8 a 60,000 gallon oil spill in San Francisco Bay from a vessel that collided with the Bay Bridge poured into the Bay at the worst possible time when Fall migration was still in full swing and wintering birds were returning to the Bay. Within a week, rescuers had attempted to clean over 1200 birds but Point Reyes Bird Observatory predicted that between 10,000 and 20,000 would be affected by the spill. Initial reports were that Surf Scoters had been the species most affected by the accident.

Audubon California's Center at Richardson Bay became a hub of rescue activity in Marin County. For almost an entire day the spill threatened to enter the 900 acres of Richardson Bay owned

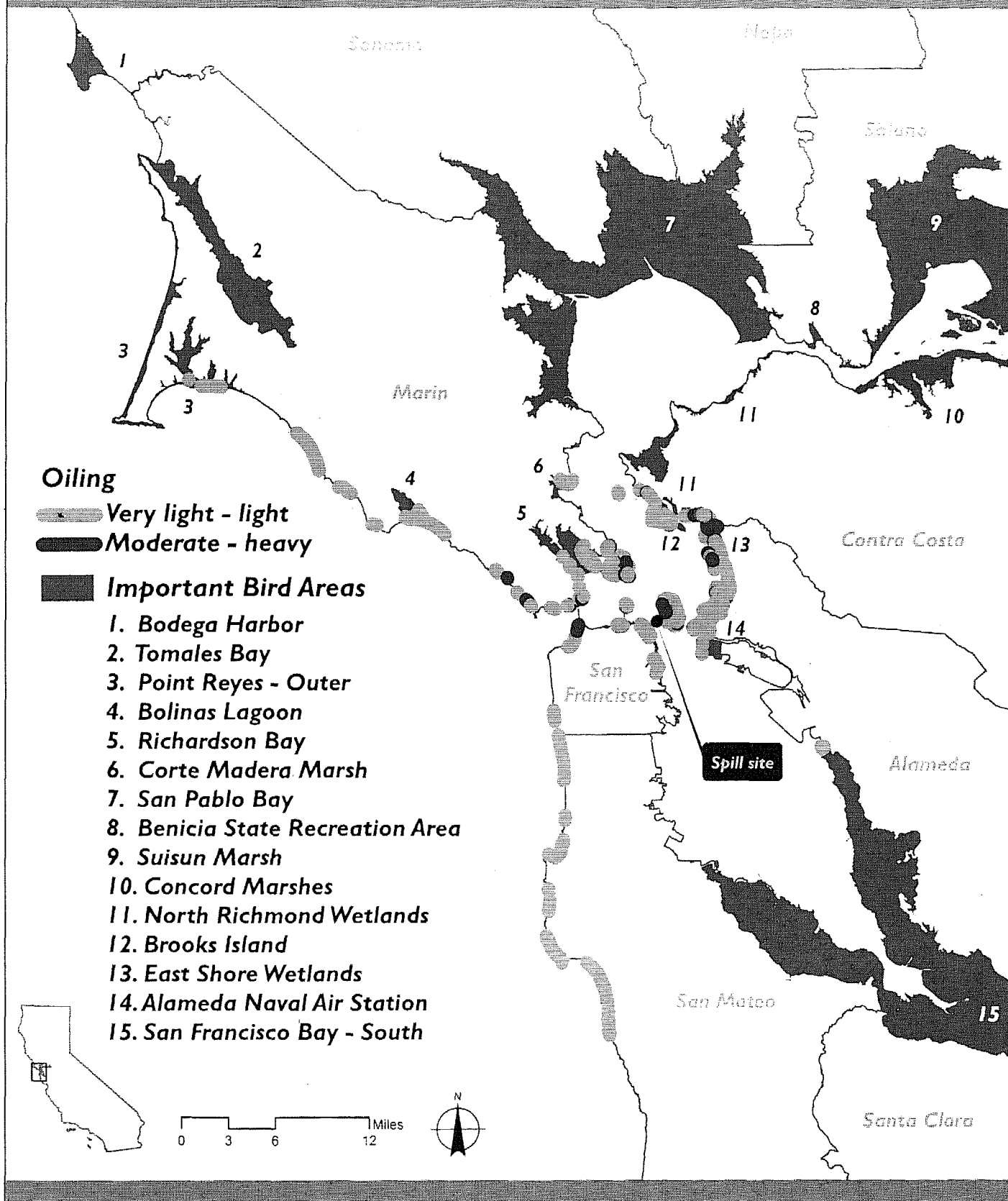


Cactus Wren, Arnold Small Photo Collection, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

continued on page 6



Audubon CALIFORNIA



CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

continued from page 4

by Audubon which would impact the eelgrass and native oyster bed restoration. At the last minute, the tide took the spill in the other direction, but oiled and injured birds continued to be brought to the Center for rescue and cleanup. Audubon California created a map of the Bay showing the scope of the spill in comparison to the Important Bird Areas that ring the Bay, and a map of the fires in Southern California. Those color maps are available on our Conservation page of our website.

BOLSA CHICA

Coastal Commissioners voted 8-4 on November 14 to approve development of homes on the upper Mesa of Bolsa Chica with a few conditions, but not as many conditions asked for by the conservationists that gathered at the Commission hearing in San Diego in their eight hours of public comment. The Commission approved a variable buffer zone around the raptor nesting and roosting habitat on the mesa that has already been declared an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area by the Commission instead of a 100 meter minimum buffer zone advocated by Sea & Sage Audubon Conservation Director Scott Thomas and biologist Pete Bloom. Bloom cautioned the Commission on the precarious status of White-tailed Kite, a fully protected species, on that site. The Commissioners recognized around five acres of the 21 or so acres as wetlands, but ignored testimony that other sites were wetlands and had been filled illegally over many years.

Meanwhile at Parkside Homes, another development adjacent to Bolsa Chica, bird carcasses were discovered next to the glass wall erected by the developer. Northern Harrier, hummingbirds and warblers were some of the species found. In response, Sea &

Sage mounted a "Wall of Death" field trip every Saturday to document the mortalities and to protest to the developer. A campaign brought in the LA TIMES, KPPC and other media. As of press time, the developer had not taken down the glass wall.

MARINA DEL REY HERONS

At the same Coastal Commission hearing L.A. Audubon Board member David DeLange gave a presentation on the nesting and roosting herons in Marina del Rey in advance of the upcoming Coastal Commission hearings on the Marina Del Rey LCP Review. That hearing will take place in January in Marina del Rey. To find out the times and location of the hearing, or to watch Coastal Commission hearings live or archived on video, go to www.coastal.ca.gov. Watch our website www.laaudubon.org for an announcement of any group action to make public statements at the Commission hearing to protect the heron and egret rookery in Marina del Rey.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WIND FARM

The County of Santa Barbara is currently working on a final EIR on a large wind energy project near Lompoc. Los Angeles Audubon joined La Purisma and Santa Barbara Audubons in writing a lengthy comment letter, available on our website under MAIN MENU, CONSERVATION. At issue, again, are inadequate studies on birds, especially migratory songbirds which migrate at night.



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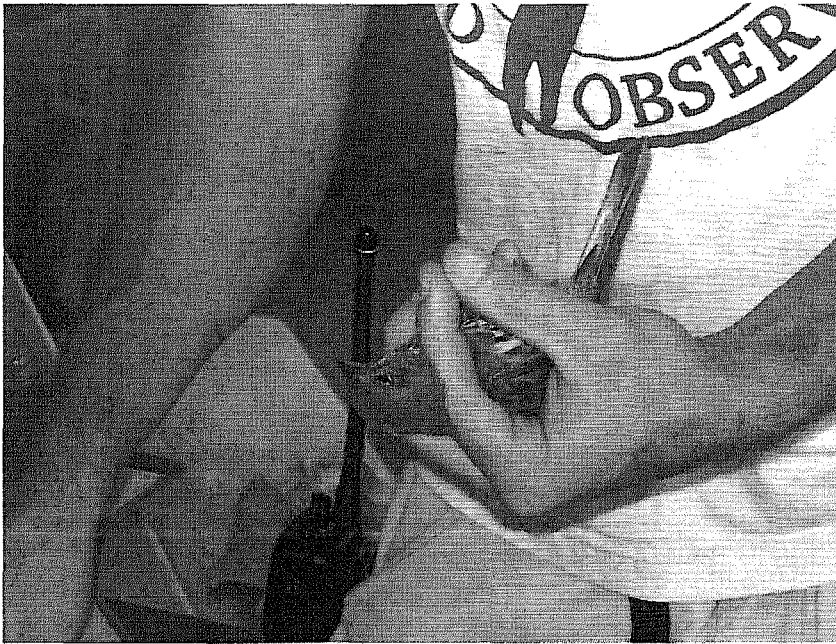
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MY PATCH

STARR RANCH

—BY LINDA OBERHOLTZER



Bird Banding, Photo by Linda Oberholtzer

A small unmarked road winds down into Trabuco Canyon to Starr Ranch. The sounds of cars are replaced with singing White-crowned Sparrows hopping around the bushes. Deer walk casually across the path and a quiet calmness draws you to this place where time stands still. One feels like an early pioneer might have upon coming to California. As civilization disappears, the delightful sound of birds can be heard in the trees.

Starr Ranch is located within the Dove Canyon gated community near Mission Viejo in Southern Orange County. Visits to Starr Ranch need to be arranged in advance. I had decided to volunteer at the Starr Ranch Bird Observatory this fall and play a role in helping to monitor the survivorship of birds over the winter. I did not know that this place would call to me and become my "patch."

Starr Ranch is a MoSi Station which monitors the overwintering survival of birds coming from Mexico and Central America. The Starr Ranch Bird Observatory helps with estimates of monitoring overwintering and annual survivorship of birds by assessing their physical condition.

I embarked on a two-day classroom training session and several in-the-field observation days. We learned about bird safety and how birds' physical condition are assessed through looking at molt, body fat, weight, and other indicators. I learned that extracting a bird from a net is a very complicated process and that once the bird is out of the net, the process of banding and collecting the data is very involved.

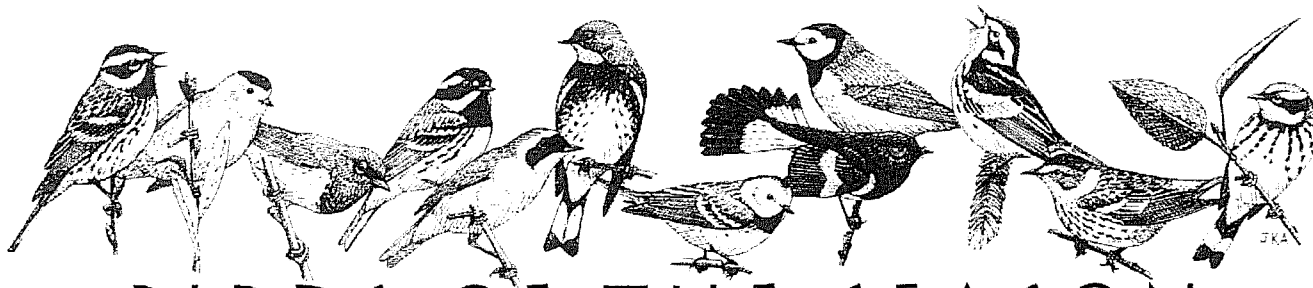
Starr Ranch Bird Observatory also has home-school programs where young kids can watch and "help" gather scientific data about the birds and see how it plays a role in monitoring a bird's survival. Maybe some of the kids

will become scientists. Justin Shew, Biologist/Educator has a giant board which simulates the data collection sheet. He has the kids mark in the data. He holds a Sooty Fox Sparrow and then weighs it on a scale. He tells the weight and a boy writes it on the board. Later, all the kids want to help release the bird. He patiently lets each one hold a bird close to the ground and let it fly away. The kids are excited and thrilled.

Southern Orange County, one of California's Important Bird Areas (IBA), encompasses some of the last remaining expanses of California's southern coast wildlands. Starr Ranch plays a significant role in this IBA, protecting nearly 4,000 acres of imperiled habitats such as coastal sage scrub and needlegrass grassland in mosaics with oak and riparian woodlands. Rare habitats provide foraging and nesting for rare bird species such as the Coastal California Gnatcatcher (federally threatened) and Coastal Cactus Wren (CDFG Species of Special Concern) in coastal sage scrub and Grasshopper Sparrow (proposed listing as a Species of Special Concern) in needlegrass grasslands.

SRBO's mission is to provide science-based educational programs that stimulate an interest in birds and conservation of bird habitat and to contribute to avian conservation through applied and basic research.

If you are interested in volunteering for Bird Banding, contact Justin Shew at jshew@audubon.org or look at the webpage at <http://www.starranch.org/srbo.html>.



BIRDS OF THE SEASON

BY JON FISHER

The middle of September through mid-November was nothing if not varied. With summer waning, we had some cool weather, heat, Santa Ana winds, wildfires and even a bit of rain. All typical in some measure for fall in southern California.

Also typical in fall is diversity in the types and movements of birds. Some montane species-- Mountain Chickadees for example-- were recorded away from breeding areas in above average numbers. It's probable these movements were related at least in part to dry conditions and resultant lack of food sources. In addition to that, the usual shorebirds, waterfowl and passerines were all on the move, which makes for great variety.

Though the appearance of three Arctic Warblers in L.A. and Kern Counties and an Eastern Yellow Wagtail in Malibu sparked hopes of a fallout, the tantalizing possibility of an Alaskan/Siberian 'invasion' never materialized. Objectively we can say no more were found, though a few certainly passed through undetected.

Unusual waterfowl included two "Aleutian" Cackling Geese at Apollo Park in Lancaster on November 3 (Kimball Garrett). There was a White-winged Scoter and two fly by Black Scoters at the Ballona Creek mouth on October 28 (Martin Byhower). The number was up to two White-winged Scoters there on November 9 (Barbara Johnson). All three scoters are to be looked for in late fall and winter between

Dockweiler Beach and Marina del Rey.

Horned Grebes are quite scarce away from the coast, thus one at Apollo Park in Lancaster on November 3 was of interest (Kimball Garrett).

Very rare in L.A. County-- and indeed anywhere in California waters-- was a **Masked Booby** found and recovered on September 29 between Catalina Island and San Pedro. The bird was rehabilitated and released on October 9 (Susan Kaveggia).

Two **Cook's Petrels** were in L.A. County waters southwest of San Clemente Island on September 4-5 (Todd McGrath). This species is regular well offshore elsewhere in California, but rarely recorded in L.A. County.

An **American Bittern** was at Sepulveda Basin on October 19 (Bob Pann). While somewhat regular in winter at this locale, they are very scarce on the coastal plain. There's simply not much habitat left capable of supporting them.

Raptor reports included five **Swainson's Hawks** over Claremont on September 24 and another seven there on October 2 (Tom Miko). Rather unusual was an immature **Ferruginous Hawk** first seen at the El Monte Airport and then at Peck Pit in Monrovia from November 9-10 (Larry Schmahl, Andrew Lee).

A **Crested Caracara** was seen briefly over the 10 Freeway at Rosemead Blvd.

on October 14 (Todd McGrath). Sightings of this species are on the increase, but there's always the problem of determining whether any record involves a naturally occurring bird or an escapee.

A great find-- and the second in the county this fall-- was a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** near the Ballona Creek mouth in Playa del Rey on September 28 (Christopher Taylor). The bird was seen again the following day but then apparently moved on.

Following a lively summer for shorebirds, the lower L.A. River was quiet after mid-September, with the only notable report being three **Baird's Sandpipers** near DeForest Park on September 20 (Richard Barth). Another trio of Baird's was at the Lancaster Sewer Ponds on September 24 (Jon Feenstra), and a **Stilt Sandpiper** was not far from there at Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB the same day (Jon Feenstra).

Scarce as a migrant along the coast was **Franklin's Gull** at Hermosa Beach on October 18 (Martin Byhower).

Also quite rare as a transient was a **Burrowing Owl** at Kenneth Hahn Park on October 2 (Eric Brooks).

A ground-dove was at the Sepulveda Basin in Van Nuys on October 7 was likely a more expected **Common Ground-Dove**, but under poor viewing conditions it could not be identified to species (Raymond Schep). With L.A. County's first Ruddy Ground-Dove appearing in La Canada last year, either species is possible.

Four **Common Poorwills** turned up away from breeding areas in rapid-fire succession with one returning for a fourth year at Kenneth Hahn Park on October 9 (Ann and Eric Brooks), one at Madrona Marsh on October 12 (Dave Moody) and another at Malibu Lagoon on October 13 (Dan Cooper). The last report was of one at Peck Pit in Monrovia on October 14 (Andrew Lee). Many populations of poorwills are migratory, and each year we see this October influx into the area.

Reports of swifts included a **Black Swift** and a **Chimney Swift** over Hazard Park in Los Angeles on September 24 (Tom Miko).

Quite late was an adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** at Banning Park on October 28 (Steve Sosensky, Bruce & Greg Aird). Given the date, this bird may well spend the winter.

The only **Lewis's Woodpecker** found thus far was a bird flying over Exposition Park on October 9 (Kimball Garrett). Other woodpecker reports included Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Ed Vincent Park in Inglewood on October 20, and at the Village Green Condominiums in Los Angeles on October 19 (both Don Sterba).

Bonelli Park had a **Gray Flycatcher** from September 17-28 which was apparently a continuing bird (Andrew Lee). What is probably the same individual was first reported here on August 6. Another Gray Flycatcher was at Elysian Park on October 31 (Richard Barth) and a third was at Ballona Freshwater Marsh on November 9 (Jim Moore).

Apollo Park in Lancaster produced a **Least Flycatcher** on September 24 (Mike San Miguel, Jon Feenstra).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, a long overdue first for the county if the record is accepted, was at Apollo Park on September 19 (John Sterling).

A **Vermilion Flycatcher** was in West Los Angeles on October 11 (Dan Cooper).

Tropical Kingbird reports included two at Harbor Regional Park in Wilmington on September 29 (Kevin Larson, Carol Selvey). Another was at El Dorado Park on October 24 (Karen Gilbert) followed by a bird returning for its second winter at Lincoln Park in Lincoln Heights on October 30 (Tom Miko). The last one recorded was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on October 31 (Don Sterba).

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was at Banning Park briefly on October 27 (Kevin Larson), but the bird flew off and could not be relocated.

Plumbeous Vireos were relatively widely reported with over a half dozen birds in the county between mid-September and mid-November. The productive Village Green Condominiums in Los Angeles held a **Red-eyed Vireo** on October 10 (Kimball Garrett).

Two **Purple Martins** were reported for the period, with one at DeForest Park on September 20 (Jeff Boyd) and another at Peck Pit in Monrovia on September 24 (Tom Ryan).

An above average number of Red-breasted Nuthatches were scattered through the lowlands, but of greater interest were four **Pygmy Nuthatches** at Griffith Park on October 7 (Dan Cooper). While some degree of dispersal is normal in Red-breasted, movements of Pygmy Nuthatches into the coastal lowlands are comparatively rare.

Brown Creepers also were more widely encountered than usual. Most reports were of single birds, but three were at Bonelli Park in San Dimas on October 11 (Rod Higbie).

The only **Winter Wren** reported thus far was at Griffith Park on October 10 (Dan Cooper).

Not unexpectedly, warblers made up the bulk of unusual passerines, with three dozen vagrants of thirteen species recorded. The list begins with a **Tennessee Warbler** at Bonelli Park in San Dimas on September 17 (Andrew Lee) and another (?) on the opposite side of the park the following day (Rod Higbie). Others were found at the Village Green Condominiums on September 20 (Don Sterba) and at DeForest Park in Long Beach on September 24-29 (Karen Gilbert).

Two **Virginia's Warblers** was less than average, with one at DeForest Park in Long Beach on September 20-22 (Karen Gilbert, Jeff Boyd) and another at Kenneth Hahn Park in Baldwin Hills on September 23 (Richard Barth).

The only **Northern Parula** reported was at Banning Park on October 2 (Tom Wurster).

On the other hand, **Chestnut-sided Warblers** kept turning up. The first one was at Ladera Park in Ladera Heights from September 17-19 (Richard Barth). Others were at the Village Green Condominiums on September 19 (Kimball Garrett, Johanna Dawes), at Creek Park in La Mirada on September 20 (Jonathan Rowley), at DeForest Park from September 25-30 (Richard Barth, Karen Gilbert) and in Studio City on September 27 (Bruce Katz).

The only **Magnolia Warbler** was one at Sepulveda Basin on September 16 (Jon Fisher). The bird apparently liked this location as it lingered here through October 4.

Two **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found, with one at Holmby Park near Westwood from October 10-13 (Richard Barth), and another at Zuma Beach on October 14 (Jon Fisher).

A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Apollo Park in Lancaster on September 20 (Jim Lomax). This locale was well-worked and productive this fall.

Five **Palm Warblers** were reported, with one at Peck Pit in Monrovia on October 14 and another at Sante Fe Dam in Iwrandale the following day (both Andrew Lee). Additional birds were at El Dorado Park in Long Beach from October 20-24 (Richard Barth), at Oak Park Cemetery in Claremont on October 26 (Rick Clements) and in Willowbrook on October 30 (Richard Barth).

Two **Blackpoll Warblers**, one at Pomona Cemetery on September 30 (Tom Miko) and another at Sand Dune Park from October 7-13 (Kevin Larson), was a below average number for the period.

Among the more common vagrants--more accurately labeled 'rare migrants'--was a **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Ladera Park on September 18 (Tori Collender). This was followed by Black-and-whites at Peck Pit in Monrovia on October 2 (Andrew Lee), Legg Lake on October 2 (Peter Sharp). Two Black-and-whites were found on October 28, with one at Banning Park in Wilmington and another at El Dorado Park the same day (Steve Sosensky, Bruce & Greg Aird). A Black-and-white at Legg Lake on November 4 may have been the same bird seen on October 2 (Andrew Lee).

Three **American Redstarts** were found, with birds at Peck Pit in Monrovia on September 24 (Gjon Hazard), at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach on September 28 (Richard Barth, John Ivanov) and at the Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area in Willowbrook on October 1 (Richard Barth).

A **Northern Waterthrush** near Orcas Park in Lake View Terrace on November 4 (Kimball Garrett) was the only one reported in the county this fall.

A **Painted Redstart** was back for its third season at Bonelli Park as of October 17 (Rod Higbie). Another returning bird was in Glendale at the Bette Davis Picnic Area on October 21 (Mike San Miguel).

As expected, a few **Summer Tanagers** turned up. Reports came from Sycamore Canyon in Whittier on September 29 (Andrew Lee), Elysian Park from October 21 through November 12 (Richard Barth), Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica on October 23 (Barbara Johnson) and Ladera Park from October 26-27 (Richard Barth).

A **Green-tailed Towhee** in Lomita on October 22 was the only one reported on the coastal slope (Martin Byhower). Though a fairly common breeder in the higher San Gabriels they are virtually absent from the coastal lowlands as migrants.

Several **Clay-colored Sparrows** were found, with the first at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach on September 22 (Lori & Mark Conrad). Others turned up at Hansen Dam the same day (Kimball Garrett), at Vanderlip Park on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on October 8 (Martin Meyers) and at Peck Pit in Monrovia on October 14 (Andrew Lee).

Vesper Sparrows, regular but sparse migrants away from the deserts, were recorded at Ballona Freshwater Marsh on September 24 (Dan Cooper), in south central Los Angeles on October 6 (Richard Barth), at Debs Park on October 23 (Richard Barth) and at Oak Park Cemetery on October 25 (Mike San Miguel Jr.).

Quite rare in the county was a **Lark Bunting** discovered at Griffith Park on September 20 (Dan Cooper).

Though an uncommon local breeder **Grasshopper Sparrows** are rarely detected in migration. Nonetheless, two of them were at Rose Hills in Whittier on October 21 (Andrew Lee) and another was found and photographed at Madrona Marsh in Torrance on November 9-10 (Tracy Drake, David Moody).

A **Swamp Sparrow** returning to Bonelli Park for its second winter was first reported on October 27 (Cathy

McFadden, Paul Clarke) and seen through the end of the period.

Three **White-throated Sparrows** included one at Augustus Hawkins Nature Park in south central Los Angeles on September 28 (Richard Barth). A returning bird was at Eaton Canyon on November 8 (Will & Lois Fulmer) and the last was at Polliwog Park in Manhattan Beach on November 11 (Bob Shanman).

In Claremont, a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** stuck a window and then recovered to fly away on September 23 (Dan Guthrie). Another was at Oak Park Cemetery in Claremont on October 11 (Michael San Miguel Jr.).

A **Blue Grosbeak** in San Pedro on November 2 was late (David Ellsworth).

Two **Indigo Buntings** were at Bonelli Park on September 17 (Andrew Lee) and three were present there on September 22 (Lance Benner, Kathi Ellsworth).

In early October, there was a second-hand report of a probable female **Painted Bunting** at Madrona Marsh in Torrance (fide Tom Miko). Unfortunately the bird was not confirmed.

A count of two **Bobolinks** was below average, with single birds at Madrona Marsh in Torrance from September 15-20 (fide Tom Miko) and another at Peck Pit in Monrovia on September 18 (Andrew Lee).

An **Orchard Oriole** and a **Baltimore Oriole** were at DeForest Park in Long Beach on September 15 (Tom Wurster, Liga Auzins, Kevin Larson). Another Orchard Oriole was at DeForest Park on September 30 (Kevin Larson) and a third was at Banning Park in Wilmington on October 6 (Kevin Larson). Other Baltimores were at Bonelli Park in San Dimas on September 28, with the same or a second bird there on October 12 (Andrew Lee), and at Forest Lawn in Glendale on October 14 (Richard Barth).

A **Scott's Oriole**, always rare on the coastal slope, was in north Glendora on September 26 (Mickey Long). Another Scott's was at St. Andrew's Priory near Valyermo on November 10 (Mark Scheel), well after most have departed.

Thus was the story of fall migration. The continuing drought, and to a lesser degree fires and other forces, will continue to affect bird distribution and movements. Continuing dispersal of montane species into the lowlands is to be watched for. Observations over the next few months and Christmas Bird Counts will better illuminate the movements and numbers of nuthatches, creepers, chickadees and others.

With summer's heat behind us, the cool mornings are a welcome change. The excitement of passerine migration is over, but other birds are just arriving in mid-November, and there are always lingering migrants and wintering vagrants to be found.

By January and February, the first northbound migrants will appear... White-fronted Geese and Turkey Vultures, Selasphorous hummingbirds and swallows among them.

In the brief meantime, the winter months can be put to good use indulging in that favorite pastime of refining gull ID skills. It's also a good time to check those female ducks closely. There are certainly a few female Eurasian Wigeons present each winter that go undetected.

There are also plenty of birds to be found and much to be learned by birding a local patch on a regular basis, a prospect made all the more palatable by the price of gas. 🐦

Book Review continued from page 3

to the secondaries (the "skirt") is obscured by the background; on plate 1.41 (p. 29) the picture is cropped so that a feature being compared is not visible on one of the specimens; the caption to plate 25A.43 (p. 167) refers to left and right upperwings, but they are arrayed upper and lower in the plate; and the bird on plate 23.26 (p. 144) appears to be in third cycle, not adult, plumage.

I do not wish to leave the impression that I have more quibbles than kudos for the volume. It is an excellent work, to some degree sabotaged by poor layout. The authors have not only included an impressive amount of factual information in this compendium, but are also giving us the results of their long experience and deep familiarity with this family. I recommend it unhesitatingly. 🐦

Larry Allen is the co-author, with Kimball Garrett, of the forthcoming Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas to be published by Los Angeles Audubon, and frequently leads gull workshops, field trips and bird walks for us.

See Gull Workshop
Details on page 14.



Ross's Gull Photo by Mary Freeman

NATURE STORE

JANUARY / FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Open Mon., - Thurs., 9:30AM to 4:00PM

Normally closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Additional Closing

Mon., Dec. 31, 2007 & Tues., Jan. 1, 2008

SPECIAL SATURDAY OPENINGS

10:00AM to 3:00PM

Sat., Jan., 5, 2008 & Sat., Feb., 2008

SPECIAL REMINDER

The Nature Store is open one hour before the Wednesday General Meetings and 30 to 45 minutes after the meeting.

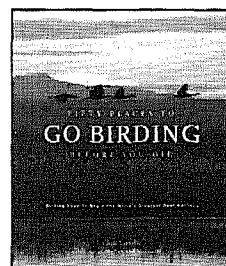
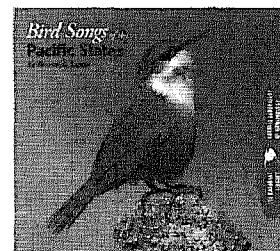
New At The Nature Store

N12371, \$19.95, Field Guide to
Owls of California and the
West

N10849, \$29.95, Bird Songs of
the Pacific States (CD)

N12433, \$24.95, Fifty Places to
Go Birding Before You Die

N12346, \$49.50, Birds of Peru





DORSEY HIGH SCHOOL ECO-CLUB GROUP PHOTO

Dorsey High School Eco-club Helps Out Least Terns

By Stacey Vigallon

On a sunny Sunday morning in October, 37 students and two teachers from Susan Miller Dorsey High School trekked across the Venice Beach sand and into the Least Tern colony enclosure. Though the terns were basking in warmer climes at the time, come spring they will return to nesting grounds greatly improved through the help of the Dorsey eco-club. These students are serious about the environment, and were willing to arrive at school early on a Sunday morning to take a bus from the Adams District out to the tern colony in Marina del Rey. Tom Ryan of SWCA Environmental Consultants was there to greet them, and gave them information about the terns and the importance of removing invasive plants (namely, sea rocket) from the colony enclosure. The mission of the day: out with the sea rocket! Armed with implements of destruction (a.k.a. rakes, shovels, and garbage bags)

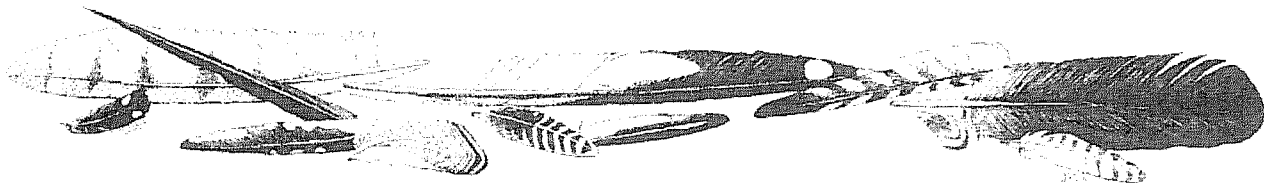
the students diligently set to work. If you were flying out of LAX that day and happened to look down at the colony (yes, you can see it from the air – very cool!) you would have seen a small army busily scouring the enclosure. Teachers Robert Jeffers (club advisor) and Kate Rainey provided encouragement, supervision, and strong arms for hauling out the bagged up sea rocket. Within about three hours almost all the sea rocket was gone from the colony, a feat that would have taken one or two biologists working alone many days to accomplish. The volunteer effort provided by the Dorsey eco-club was extremely helpful in maintaining quality nesting habitat for the terns, and the students were able to get hands-on experience in an important coastal conservation issue. This was an extremely successful event, and we hope to plan more in the future. Many thanks to the teachers and students of Dorsey High School as well as Tom Ryan for donating their Sunday to the terns.



DORSEY HIGH SCHOOL
ECO-CLUB PRESIDENT

Stacey Vigallon is Volunteer Coordinator for Los Angeles Audubon and Santa Monica Bay Audubon Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern monitoring and protection program. She also illustrated and wrote much of the Native Plant & Wildlife Garden booklet for Baldwin Hills Park, and recently wrote the curriculum for the education program at Baldwin Hills Park.

THANK YOU!



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thanks an Anonymous Donor
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F I E L D T R I P S

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 laabc@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.

A knowledgeable second guide will assist, if sign-ups warrant. Extensive Lecture in **Half-Moon Bay** will be Friday from 8AM until 2PM with a break, then look for gulls at **Half-Moon Bay** on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. Saturday morning meeting time and place at the beach TBA at lecture with maps. 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

Saturday, January 19 – East Antelope Valley

with leaders **Stan Gray** and **Todd Battey**. Beyond 50th Street East is neglected territory for many birders. However, both Todd and Stan bird 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 splendor in the alfalfa. No fee, no reservation. 'Scopes and FRS radios helpful. A precursor to Todd's February 13 LAAS program on Raptors and Other Wildlife of the Antelope Valley.

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

Saturday, February 2 – Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station Wetlands. **John Nieto, Nick Freeman** and a base biologist will drive 12 lucky LAAS participants - and 12 from PVAS - around this prime wetlands site where wintering Pacific Golden-Plover, Mountain Plover, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Sage Thrasher and numerous raptors are often sighted. 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. No fee.

Before setting out on any field trip, please call (323) 874-131 (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 17 for reservation information

Birdwalks (pages 16 & 17) 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

Saturday and Sunday, February 9 and 10 – Carrizo Plain. Leaders: **Larry Allen & Mary Freeman.** Meet at 8AM in Maricopa. Spectacular scenery. We will see Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Golden Eagles, LeConte's Thrasher, Merlin and pronghorn; with likely Rough-legged Hawk, Mountain Plover and Sandhill Crane. We will meet in Maricopa, drive around the Plain all weekend, then leave the Plain heading north via Bitterwater Road on Sunday before we away to LA. If possible, please carpool or avail your vehicle to others when you reserve. Your phone number will be released for carpooling unless you request otherwise. Send name, phone number, e-mail, \$40 per person (Schreiber Grant Fund Raiser), and SASE to sign-up with Audubon House for exact directions and further information. Reserve your own room in Buttonwillow for Saturday night. Motel 6 is one option here. FRS radios & 'scopes helpful. Limit: 14.

Sunday, February 17 – Private Duck Club. Leader: **Irwin Woldman.** The duck club in Ventura has a long history of producing the kinds of birds that most rich, well-birded and disappearing habitats can lay claim to, including Sora and Virginia rails, American Bittern, Eurasian Wigeon, dark morph Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, and one Lesser Sand Plover. Get to the preserve by taking the 101 Fwy W to Rice Avenue S, following the Rice Ave. prompts to the T-intersection, then take Hueneme Rd. W. Take the first left at Casper Rd., continue past the turn, and leave your car across the street from the barn. Meet by the road at 7:30 AM. Free. No sign-up required. We will walk the property, so good hiking/mud shoes with energetic legs inside a plus. Scopes & FRS radios helpful.

Saturday, February 23 – Parrot Patrol. Parrots have become a common sight in much of the L.A. basin, with many species well established. **Larry Allen** will take us to staging areas and roosting spots for up to eight species of parrots and parakeets now found in the San Gabriel Valley. Meet at 3:00 PM in South Pasadena, and pick out parrots until about 5:00 PM. Take the Pasadena Fwy (110) to Orange Grove Ave, turn S, and meet on the W side of this small street just beyond the offramp.

Saturday, March 8 – Upper Franklin Canyon Birdwalk. Docent **Steve Botts** will be escorting us around this local bird haven, with stunning Wood Ducks, resident chaparral species, and a few migrating songbirds expected. Franklin Canyon is located between Sherman Oaks and Beverly Hills. Meet in the parking lot at 8:00 AM, 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.

Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16 – Anza Borrego Birds, Butterflies and Beyond. Leader: **Fred Heath.** High points over the years: blooming desert evening-primrose and indigo bush, chuckwalla, collared lizard, desert bighorn (annual), Swainson's Hawks, LeConte's Thrasher, Long-eared Owl (hopeful). Suggested accommodations: Tamarisk Grove Campground (reserve through www.reserveamerica.com), or Stanlund Motel in Borrego Springs (760) 767-5501. Anticipate a busy weekend, and reserve camping and motels very early. Meet at 7AM at

Yaqui Wells across from Tamarisk Grove Campground. Limit 20 people. Send SASE with phone number, e-mail and \$30 fee (Schreiber Grant Fund Raiser) to LAAS to learn more details. Pleasant to warm days, cool to cold nights.

Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13 – Owens Valley Grouse Trip. **Mary Freeman** leads. Sage Grouse on the lek, breathtaking scenery, raptor-rich valleys, early shorebirds heading north. Meet early Saturday and Sunday mornings in Bishop. Limited to 20. To sign up, send \$55 (Schreiber Grant Fund Raiser), phone#, and e-mail in a SASE to LAAS. More details next issue and in mailer. Reserve rooms and trip early, for this perennially popular trip. Motel 6, Mountain View Inn, Bishop Elms are some of many hotels in Bishop. Submitted Later:

April 30-May 6 – Bird Kern County Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival. Come visit "America's Birdiest Inland County" 04-07, including Sequoia National Forest and South Fork Kern River Valley Globally Important Bird Areas. 242 species during 07 festival! Thirty-five+ birding trips with twenty+ excellent leaders set for 08 including Central Valley/Kern National Wildlife Refuge, Mojave Desert/Butterbrecht Spring, Kern River Valley/Kern River Preserve, and Sierra Nevada/Giant Sequoia National Monument. Go birding during a "Best in West" spring migration. Owling, art/photo contests, butterflies, dinner speakers, exhibitors, and more. NEW in 2008: Owens Valley birding. Trip size restricted. FREE trip planning services. Area's spring birding featured in *ABA's "A Birder's Guide to Southern California" 2007 edition.* Contact: Bob Barnes, Field Trips Chair, Email: bbarnes@lightspeed.net, Phone: 760-382-1260. 

B I R D W A L K S

Echo Park Lake Birdwalk

Leader: Judith Raskin

First Sunday

Sunday, January 6

Sunday, February 3

Sunday, March 2

Meet at 9:00 AM 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 Fwy, exit Echo Park Ave. and continue north about 2 mile. From S/B 101 Fwy, 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 or write:

Judy Raskin – (323) 663-6767

jayebea@earthlink.net or

judycalifornia@yahoo.com



Mallard (male), Arnold Small Photo Collection, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Debs Park Audubon Center Birdwalk

Leader: Jenny Jones

Saturday, January 5

Saturday, February 2

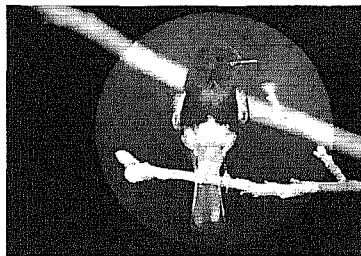
Saturday, March 1

Join Jenny 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.

Contact Info:

Jenny: w(323) 633-1920,

redshoulderedhawk@earthlink.net



Black Phoebe, Arnold Small Photo Collection, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Topanga State Park Bird Walk

Leaders: Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin

First Sunday every month

Sunday, January 6

Sunday, February 3

Sunday, March 2

Ken & Chris 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.

Contacts: Ken: (310) 455-1401,

ksafarri@aol.com

Chris: (310) 455-1270

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Birdwalk

Saturday, January 19 –

Leader: Eleanor Osgood

Saturday, February 16 –

Leader: TBA

Saturday, March 15 –

Leader: Ann and Eric Brooks

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.

B I R D W A L K S

Ballona Wetlands Birdwalk Third Sundays (Aug – May)

Leader: Bob Shanman

Sunday, January 20

Sunday, February 17

Sunday, March 16

Bob 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.

Contacts: Bob: (310) 326-2473
wildbirdbob@cs.com

Whittier Narrows Birdwalk Fourth Saturday every month Leader: park ranger Ray Jillson Saturday, January 26 Saturday, February 23 Saturday, March 22

View colorful resident and wintering 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.

Contacts: Ray: (213) 257-9274,
odri@juno.com (friend's e-mail;
checks every couple days)

Great Backyard Bird Count (In conjunction with the City of Beverly Hills)

Coldwater Canyon

**Park/Greystone Mansion in
Beverly Hills**

February 17, 2008

Leader: Pat Heirs

Meet at Coldwater Canyon Park at 8:00, then carpool over to Greystone Mansion at 10:00.

Come join us and Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation in this yearly national citizen science bird survey sponsored by Cornell University's Ornithology Laboratory. All bird sightings will be entered into a national data base which helps track the health of bird populations and their winter distribution.

Directions: Coldwater Canyon Park:
From Sunset Blvd, go north on Coldwater Canyon Drive. The park is on the west side of Coldwater about a mile up from Sunset Blvd. Meet near the children's playground.

Directions: Greystone Mansion:
From Sunset go north on Foothill (just east of Coldwater Canyon). Make a left on Loma Vista and another left into the parking lot driveway. Continue to drive to the upper lot. Meet at the upper parking lot.

Leader: Larry Allen Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area February 23, 9:00 A.M.

This bird walk will be an introduction to the basics of bird watching. We will be learning about ducks and common birds of urban parks. This well-used park has a large lake, and lots of mature trees. 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.

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.

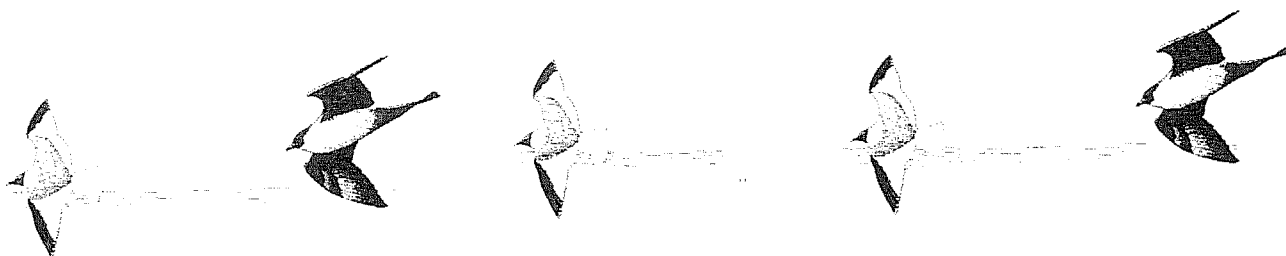
REFUND POLICY FOR PELAGIC TRIPS

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.

2008 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, 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 17 for
reservation information*

INTERNATIONAL BIRDING TOURS

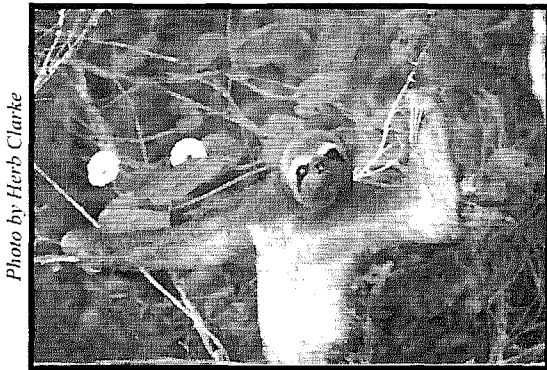


Photo by Herb Clarke

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**

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: oclarketravel@earthlink.net

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.**

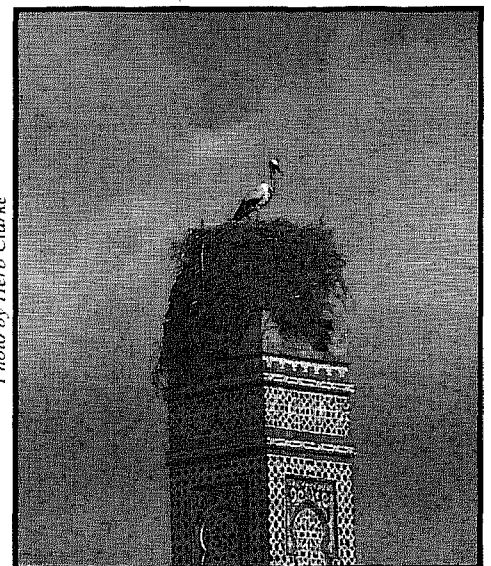


Photo by Herb Clarke

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 & Fairfax)

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

JEWELS OF SOUTH AMERICA

Garry George presents a new DVD of rare and elusive birds from his trips to Venezuela and Southeast Brazil as well as Ecuador. The DVD highlights representative species from unique families found only in South and Central America like Tinamous, Guans, Ovenbirds, Antbirds, Antpittas, Gnateaters and Cotingas but also colorful families we share such as Hummingbirds, Tanagers and Finches. This presentation is pure avian entertainment for those who like to watch the behavior and hear the sounds of some of the glamorous birds of the continent to the South. Also included is a short DVD on a conservation program by UCLA's Center for Tropical Research in the Choco habitat of Ecuador featuring historic footage of mega-rarities Banded Ground Cuckoo, Brown Wood-Rail and Long-wattled Umbrellabird

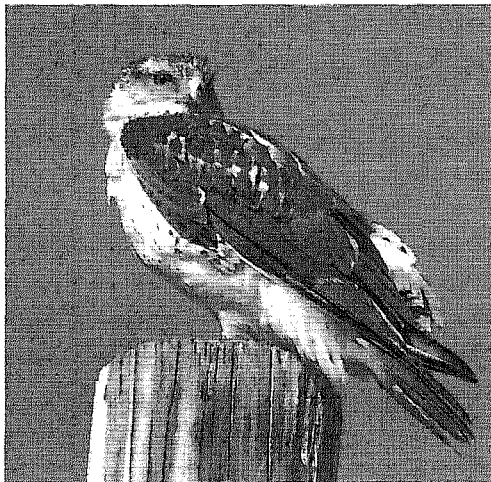


Bi-colored Antpitta Photo by Garry George

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Todd Battey Presents Images of Raptors and Other Wildlife of the Antelope Valley

Many birders travel to the Antelope Valley to enjoy the birds that inhabit this part of the Mojave Desert, and winter is the time to find many of the area's specialty species. Large numbers of raptors occur during the colder months, including Ferruginous Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, Long-eared Owl, and many other species. Todd Battey has been digiscoping the local birds for several years and has accumulated a collection of raptor images that documents the variability of many of the common species. Additional photographs by others will be included to provide a more complete presentation of the raptors that can be found in the Antelope Valley. Here's a chance to bone up on the identification of the various color morphs of AV's raptors while there is still time to get out and see them. Todd will also present additional images of other birds (non-raptors) and wildlife of the area, including the many reptiles that emerge about the time the raptors thin out.



Ferruginous Hawk Photo by Mary Freeman

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

*DATED MATERIAL
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