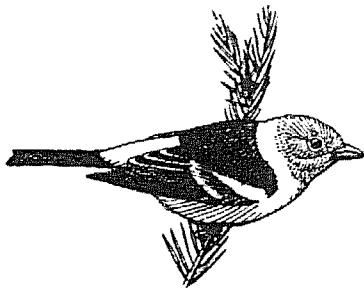


WESTERN TANAGER



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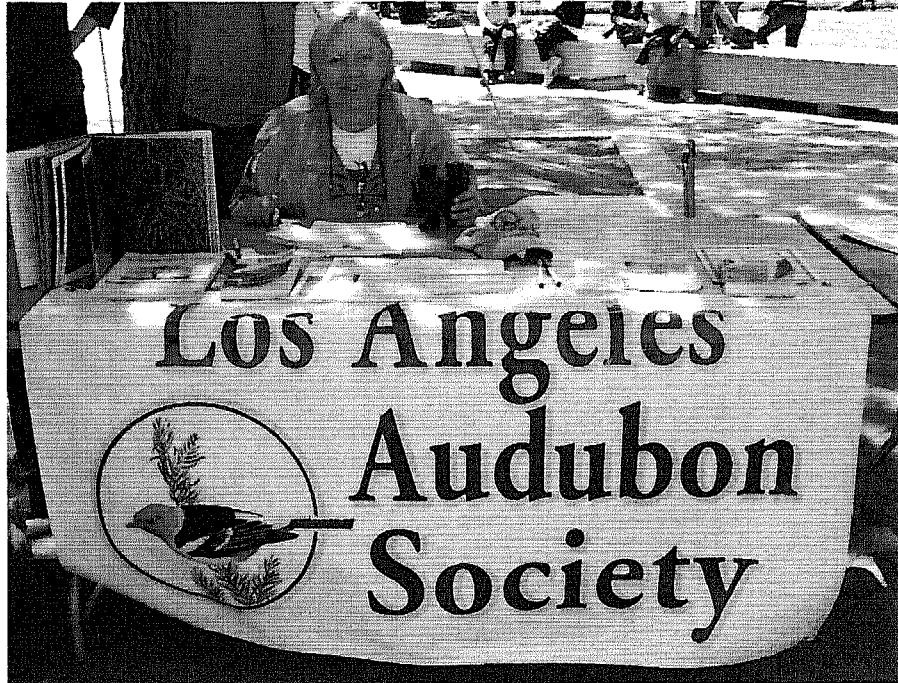
PAT'S BIG YEAR — AND OURS

BY DEXTER KELLY

At our November 2006 general meeting, former L.A. Audubon President Raymond Schep, laid down a challenge to our members and friends. He asked for volunteers for a year-long personal Birdathon in Los Angeles County to raise money for our education programs. Those who took up the challenge could set their own guidelines. The birder who raised the most money by the end of the year would be acclaimed and awarded gift certificates from our Nature Store.

Our then First Vice-President Patricia Heirs, took up the challenge, and decided to make 2007 her "Big Year" in Los Angeles County. She planned her goal using Todd McGrath's big year county list achieved in 2005. Todd had found a record 357 species that year within county boundaries, including the ocean zone. 20 of his birds were pelagics, which Pat subtracted from her list because she did not want to go out on boat trips. This left a total par goal of 337 species to pursue.

Pat adopted a few guidelines: no "extreme birding" such as chasing vagrants across the county in a single

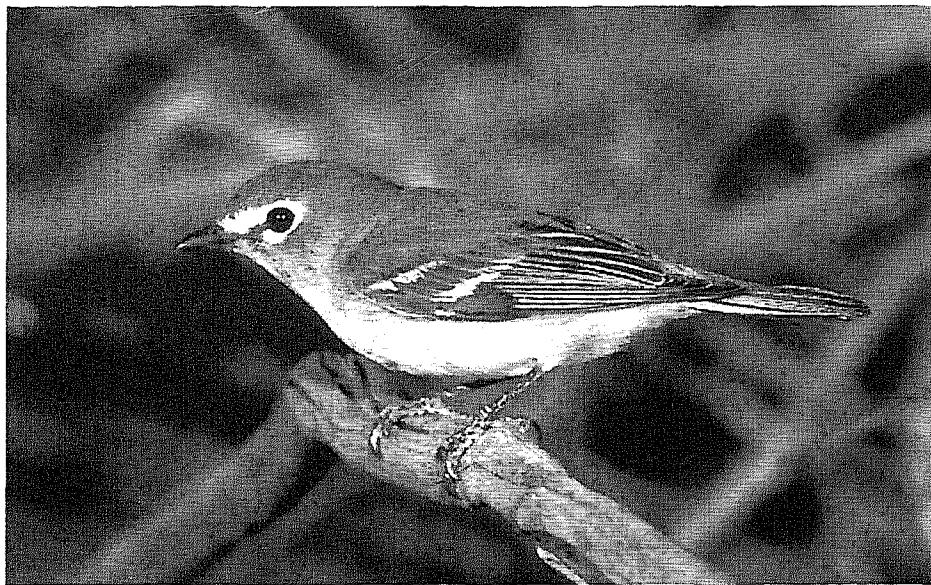


"Patricia Heirs, First VP of L.A. Audubon at UCLA on March 19, 2007 in celebration of Earth Day."

day. Her list would be what an average birder could accomplish in a year of persistent but enjoyable birding. Also, she looked forward to visiting favorite birding areas she had frequented during almost 20 years of birding, and finding out how they had changed. She would not bird alone; friends would provide company and help, and she would also find many birds on Audubon field trips and walks. She would monitor the Birdbox and LACo Birds listserve to

keep informed of special sightings. Hers was the kind of birding most of us do, but more intense and goal-driven, taking up a bigger chunk of time.

Pat lost no time getting started in the new year. On January 2, in El Dorado Park, she found Harris' Sparrow and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Five days later, she got the Rock Sandpiper on the jetty at Ballona Creek. These great rarities, new for her



Cassin's Vireo, Photo by Herb Clarke

life county list, were great morale boosters, and helped give her momentum early in the year. In February, Martha Estus, Johanna Dawes and Pat, joined together at Bonelli Park to see the Painted Redstart, Barn Owl and many others.

She found most of the county's common, expected residents and migrants in the first four months. The climactic day was April 26, when she and Jim Moore helped Jim Hardesty on the Big Day Birdathon he does annually to support San Fernando Valley Audubon. Beginning at 5:30 am at Walker Ranch, she added Hammond's, Gray and Dusky Flycatchers, along with Bullock's Oriole and Steller's Jay. At Hansen Dam, they picked up Cassin's and Bell's Vireo, Rock Wren and Lawrence's Goldfinch for Pat's list. By the end of their day they had found 138 species, and added 20 to her year list. As of April 30, her list totalled 203 species in Los Angeles County.

Chasing the remaining birds on her list wasn't easy, but provided many pleasant experiences. On May

12 at Hansen Dam, Pat, Judy Howell and John Kelly, serendipitously ran into Kimball Garrett, who guided them to a beautiful Yellow-throated Warbler. In September, as payback for her help on his big day, Jim Hardesty took Pat into Edwards Air Force Base, to find a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on the Piute Ponds. Three days later, she and Johanna Dawes saw the Eastern Yellow Wagtail at Malibu Lagoon, a bird not seen here

in twenty years, and a lifer for both of them.

One of her October highlights was a late afternoon call from Dick Barth. "Hi Pat, it's Dick, and I'm looking at a Black-throated Blue Warbler". When she learned it was just off Wilshire Blvd., so near to her, she dropped everything, and several minutes later she and Dick were both looking at this rare warbler.

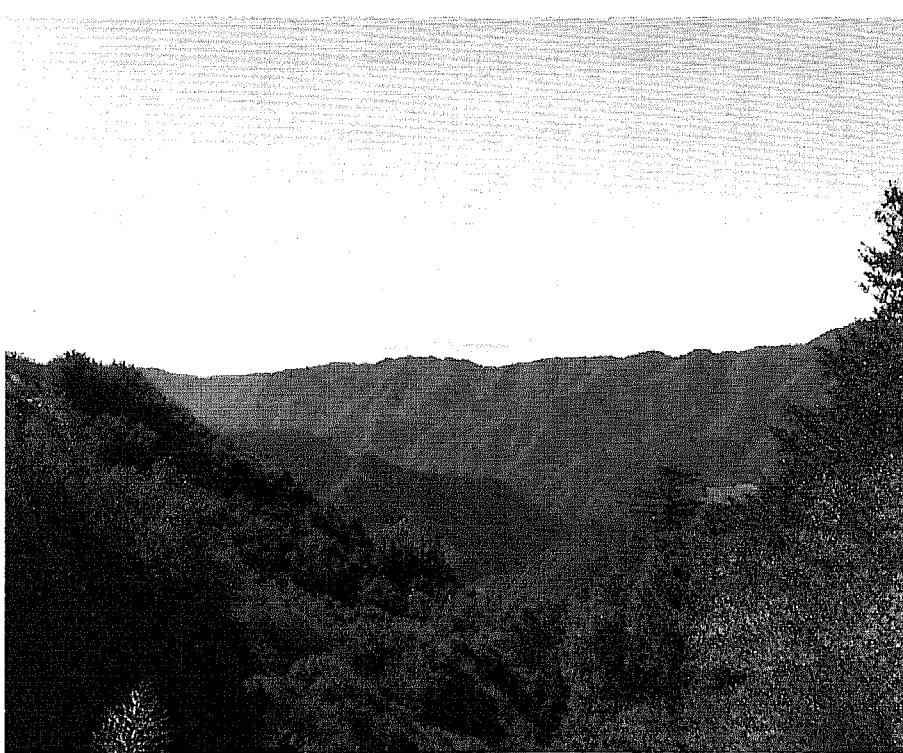
In November, Pat started birding harder in the home stretch. She helped to re-find a Bay-breasted Warbler at Legg Lake. A few weeks later in December, she went back to the Antelope Valley to get Burrowing Owl at 6:30 am, and spent much of the rest of the day cruising slowly past Joshua Trees in pursuit of Ladder-backed Woodpecker. Finally, near Lake Los Angeles, she heard a call note, got out of her car and spotted the bird. On

Pat's Big Year, Continued on Page 13



Bell's Vireo, Photo by Herb Clarke

ANNUAL L.A. AUDUBON PICNIC AT CHILAO CAMPGROUND SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2008



San Gabriel Mountains in the summer time by Mary Freeman

Come on up and out of the summer heat to the San Gabriel Mountains for the annual picnic of Los Angeles Audubon. We will provide soft drinks and water, with bird and butterfly walks.

Our guides will look for montane species such as White-headed Woodpecker, Western Tanager, Hermit Warbler plus more, perhaps coming into a drip at the visitor's center.

The first bird walk will be at 7:30 AM, led by Nick and Mary Freeman at Charlton Flats. For latercomers, Larry Allen will lead a second birdwalk around Chilao Visitor's Center at 8:30 AM. Fred Heath will lead a butterfly walk at 10:00 AM. Nick will even search the grounds for herps!

Bring your favorite sandwich for a noontime lunch. Stick around for an additional birdwalk at Buckhorn Campground after lunch.

Take the 210 Fwy. to Angeles Crest Highway (Hwy. 2) in La Cañada, and head up the hill for about 30 miles. It's on the left at the Chilao Visitor's Center entrance (not the first entrance). Cross the stream bed, and instead of going right to the visitor's center, go left back across the stream bed, and look for a frolicking flock of birders. If you've passed Newcomb Ranch on Hwy 2, which we call the biker bar, you've gone too far.

A Forest Service Adventure
Pass is necessary.

WESTERN TANAGER

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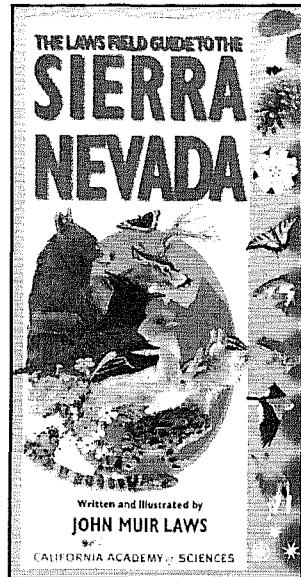
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BOOK REVIEW

The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada,

Written and Illustrated by
John Muir Laws, 2007



As a biologist, science illustrator, and field guide junkie, I jumped at the chance to review *The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*. A quick disclosure statement here: John Muir Laws and I both attended the UCSC Science Illustration

graduate program (different years), and I was fortunate enough to get to see parts of this book in progress and hear Mr. Laws discuss his working process. So, please excuse my lack of objectivity. The creation of a field guide requires untold hours of research, taking the author/illustrator out to field sites, through mazes of museum specimen drawers and library shelves, and to the offices (and email inboxes) of many experts. The result is, ideally, a small bound publication that seamlessly integrates all this information into a format usable by novice and expert alike. Mr. Laws' commitment to his subject has paid off—he's created a super one-stop field guide to the Sierra Nevada.

Birders may already be familiar with *Sierra Birds: A Hiker's Guide*, which is a stand-alone publication of the bird section from this larger field guide. But, the close proximity of other species just pages away from the bird section in *The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada* entices birders to pry their eyes away from

BY STACEY VIGALLON

the binoculars and look at what's going on around them mere feet away. If it can be seen with the naked eye during a hike (or can carry off your shoes while you're camped out at night), then it's probably in this book.

So you already know your Sierra birds, eh? Well, how about fungi? Aquatic insects? Fish? Even cloud formations and the seasonal night sky are given treatment here. The water-resistant cover (I tested it myself—I take field guide durability very seriously!) and handy size make it easy to fit in a pack. There are even inch and centimeter scales printed on the inside back cover for quick measuring of the creatures you encounter.

A wealth of information, detailed color illustrations, and very accessible organizational strategies await both the beginner and expert. I especially enjoyed the sections devoted to lichens (noted as indicators of air quality) and galls (hello, sawflies and wasps). 

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VOLUNTEER CORNER

What happens when you put 20 binoculars in the hands of 20 third-graders? You get instant excitement and an inner city schoolteacher's heartfelt appreciation.

That's what happened on Friday, March 14 when Eleanor Osgood and I visited Ms. Suttles' third grade class at Weeme's Elementary, a LAUSD school not far from Exposition Park. The children were told that they would be going on a bird walk. Bringing props and a brief slide show of common birds of urban Los Angeles, we presented to the children a quick lesson in the wonders of birds. Then, after a lesson on the use of binoculars, we all went out onto the playground to look for the birds. The kids were alert and eager, spotting crows, scrub jays, starlings and mockingbirds often before the adults could find them. The finale was a resident Cooper's Hawk, swooping low over the playground as we were returning to the classroom. Ms. Suttles told us that this was the best classroom session on nature that she had ever experienced, and that it was of great value to these educationally underserved children, not the least because it might give them an incentive to attend college. "They will never be the same," she said. And all this magic happened within less than a couple of hours!

So, if you would like to be a part of this excitement please join the Education Section of Los Angeles Audubon and help us expand our school visitation program.

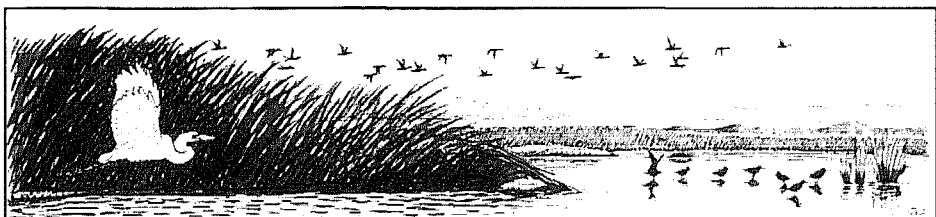
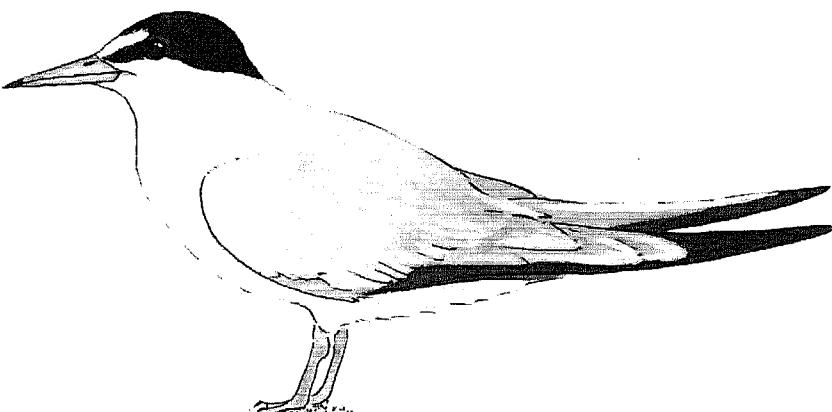
By Dexter Kelly and Eleanor Osgood

It's Least Tern season once again at the Venice Beach Colony, and we're looking for new volunteers to participate in the Least Tern Monitoring Program. Volunteers in this program survey the tern colony on a weekly basis through August - counting terns, observing behavior, and monitoring predator and human activity. It's an amazing opportunity to watch the life cycle of an endangered species in this remnant of dune habitat.

And it's not too late to get involved in the Snowy Plover Monitoring Program, which we're now conducting on a year-round basis. Whether you want to participate in snowy plover surveys once a month or just a few times a year, we welcome your participation.

If you are interested in either (or both!) of these great citizen science programs, please contact Stacey Vigallon (tern@laudubon.org, (323) 481-4037).

By Stacey Vigallon



CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

"Conservation Conversation" is on vacation this issue. It will return in our July/August 2008 issue of the *Western Tanager*.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BYLAWS AMMENDMENT

BOARD SLATE 2008-2009

A resolution to make a recommendation to amend the Bylaws, Article 6, Section 3, was passed by the Board on February 7, 2008. The recommended changes are in the third sentence of the paragraph and are in brackets:

Current Bylaws, Article 6, Section 3 reads:

Section 3. All elected officers shall hold office for a term of one year. The president and 1st Vice President shall be limited to a maximum of three consecutive one year terms in each office. The 2nd Vice President shall be limited to a maximum of one year in office. Other elected officers will be limited to a maximum of five consecutive one-year terms.

RECOMMENDED CHANGE:

Section 3. All elected officers shall hold office for a term of one year. The President and 1st Vice President shall be limited to a maximum of three consecutive one year terms in each office. [The 2nd Vice President shall be limited to a maximum of three consecutive one year terms in each office]. Other elected officers will be limited to a maximum of five consecutive one-year terms.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Johanna Dawes, Chair, Pat Heirs and Garry George has nominated the following slate for our Board of Directors for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

President – Mary Freeman
1st VP - David DeLange
2nd VP – Paul Fox
Treasurer – Lisa Fimiani
Executive Secretary – Linda Oberholtzer
Recording Secretary – Eleanor Osgood

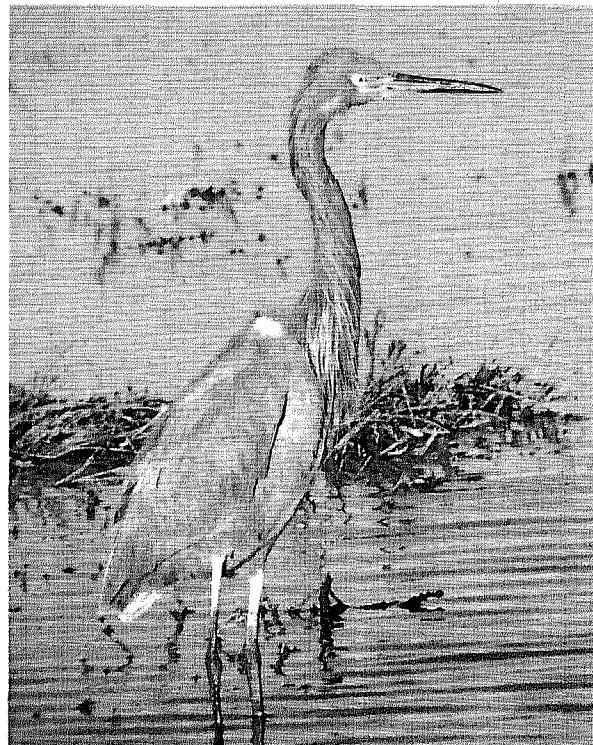
Dexter Kelly will remain on the Board as Executive Past President, a non-elective position.

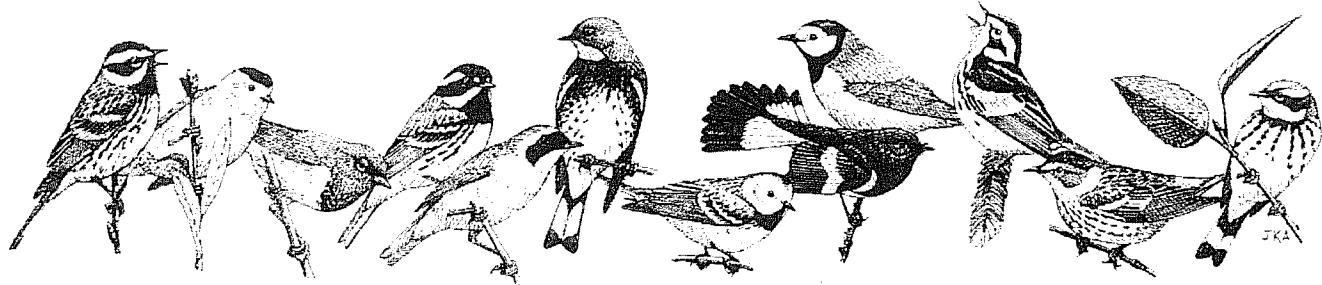
Members will be asked to vote on this slate at the May 14th meeting of Los Angeles Audubon. Please plan to attend.

Please note that Jenny Jones will resign as Executive Secretary to move to Portland after June 30, and Paul Fox has accepted the nomination for 2nd VP, a position that must be filled by a member who has never been on the Los Angeles Audubon Board. Paul has been generous in donating his time to create a new membership database for Los Angeles Audubon, and has been on several field trips with Nick and Mary.

By-laws covering the election process are on the website www.laaudubon.org under MAIN MENU, ABOUT US, OUR BY LAWS.

Reddish Egret, Photo by Mary Freeman





BIRDS OF THE SEASON

BY JON FISHER

Birds of the Season - March 2008

As I flew into Los Angeles last week, I tried to pick out the small patches of green and narrow ribbons of water of the birding spots I knew around the basin. It's sobering to see how few and far between they are, though with most of the ten million people living in the county concentrated here, there's little free space. But why dwell on something that can't be changed? If you're looking for change, it's here—spring has arrived

Birders are well aware that spring in southern California begins weeks before its arrival on the calendar. The swarms of swallows swirling over nearly every pond and river in February attest to that. Other early passerine migrants appeared on schedule in early March—Western Kingbirds, Pacific-slope Flycatchers and Bullock's and Hooded Orioles among them.

Over the second half of winter we continued to accumulate a fair amount of rain. Eventually this pushed us to a level slightly above normal which is a marked and very welcome improvement over last winter. Even at this early stage, the effects are clearly visible. Wildflowers are adding color to the landscape in the north county and flowering and herbaceous plants are flourishing

elsewhere. The willows along watercourses are suddenly dressed in green, and lush grass—admittedly of the non-native variety—covers local hillsides.

A few irruptive or irregular species continued to be represented by only a handful of individuals, but there were no significant movements of any of these species. No matter... there were more than enough new and continuing birds to keep things interesting.

An ultra rarity in the county was a **Trumpeter Swan** at Piute Ponds from February 23-March 9 (Trina Jones). This bird was unmarked and unbanded and thus not from the tagged and manipulated populations of the intermountain west; its point of origin remains a mystery.

Following the appearance of seven **Tundra Swans** on the Lancaster CBC in mid-December, a single bird turned up at Quail Lake on January 13 (Gary File). Another probable Tundra Swan was at Sepulveda Basin on March 12, but offered views too brief to confidently eliminate the rarer Trumpeter Swan or the non-native Mute Swan (Jean Brandt).

Other than swans, few waterfowl were reported. The only **Snow Goose** on the coastal slope was in

Willowbrook on January 29-February 23 (Richard Barth). Two 'new' **Eurasian Wigeons** appeared late in the period with one along the San Gabriel River in Pico Rivera on March 8 (Andrew Lee) and another on the LA River in Glendale on March 10 (Mike San Miguel).

Sea ducks included a **Black Scoter** at Dockweiler State Beach— often a good spot for all three species of scoters—from January 18-March 4 (Richard Barth) and a continuing **Long-tailed Duck** at Marina del Rey through March 10.

A remarkable report was a probable **Barrow's Goldeneye** at Quail Lake on January 20 (John Luther). This would constitute a first county record, but despite intensive coverage of the area the bird could not be relocated. Nevertheless, Quail Lake was a great place to study Common Goldeneye with about four dozen of them wintering there.

A **Red-necked Grebe**, very rare in the county, continued at Castaic Lagoon through February 2.

A few **Bald Eagles** were scattered around. These included one in Pico Rivera along the Rio Hondo from January 16-February 18 (Robert Bates) and another at the mouth of Big Dalton Canyon near Glendora on

February 21-23 (Dick Swinney). A third was at Little Rock Dam on the north slope of the San Gabriels on February 18 (Charles Hood) and a fourth was reported at Castaic Lagoon on February 22, but not confirmed. In addition, the Bald Eagle at Bonelli Park in San Dimas continued to be reported through the period.

Swainson's Hawks are on the move early—very early when one considers that the journey north for most of them begins in Argentina. A flock of three dozen over Valencia on February 17 (Evan Aldrich) and four over Tujunga on the same day (Kimball Garrett) were the first reported. These were followed by single birds over Pasadena on February 18 (John Garrett) and Eaton Canyon on February 24 (Peter Barnes). Oddly, there were no further reports until March 20 when a flock of twenty was over Pasadena (Lance Benner).

Several **Ferruginous Hawks** were recorded away from their usual stomping—or soaring—grounds in the Antelope Valley. One was at the Sepulveda Basin on January 26 (Dan Cooper), another was seen briefly at Forest Lawn in Glendale on March 1 (Jon Feenstra) and a third was near LAX from March 4-10 (Roy Van de Hoek). Another Ferruginous Hawk first found last December continued intermittently at Peck Pit in Arcadia through February 10.

Very scarce inland, especially outside of migration, was a **Red Phalarope** at Castaic Lagoon on January 29 (Becky & Steve Turley).

Another rarity at Castaic was a **Glaucous Gull** first found on January 1 that continued to be seen through February 22.

With little suitable habitat left, any **Burrowing Owl** on the coastal plain is of interest. One was in Pico Rivera on February 18 (Ed Stonick) and another was near LAX on March 4-10 (Roy Van de Hoek). Even though they are largely diurnal, these small owls are easy to overlook. Careful scrutiny of small patches of suitable habitat would undoubtedly turn up additional birds. The few places they might turn up are generally not those that are subject to intense coverage.

Common Poorwills were calling in the San Gabriel foothills on a few warm nights in late February (Lance Benner).

The first **Rufous Hummingbird** was found on February 18 at Hansen Dam (Kimball Garrett) and was soon followed by a number of others.

A few **Lewis's Woodpeckers** continued with four still present at the Cheeseboro Canyon trailhead in Agoura on January 18 and two others in San Dimas Canyon through February 21.

Rare away from the mountains were two **Williamson's Sapsuckers**. One was at Veteran's Park in Sylmar from January 14-February 4 (Jim Hardesty) and the other was at Forest Lawn in Glendale on January 30 (Richard Barth).

A sapsucker at the Arboretum in Arcadia from January 31-February 4 (Mike San Miguel) first appeared to be a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. Further study after this bird went through a molt indicated that this bird was likely a hybrid. Individuals such as this one illustrate the ID complexities that hybrids of such closely related species pairs as Yellow-bellied and Red-naped Sapsuckers pose.

A 'pure' **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continued to be seen throughout the period at the Village Green Condominiums in Los Angeles.

Another woodpecker rarely recorded away from the mountains was a **White-headed Woodpecker** at El Dorado Park. First reported on December 6 of last year, it continued to be seen through the period.

As the expected wintering Empidonax, it's no surprise that three additional **Gray Flycatchers** were found in addition to the seven detected earlier in the season. Meanwhile a **Hammond's Flycatcher** continued at Peck Pit in Arcadia through February 25 and the first **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** of the spring were spotted in Arcadia on March 3 (Camm Swift) and the Chino Hills on the same day (Dave Surtees).

Two **Dusky-capped Flycatchers** were found. One of these was at El Segundo Recreation Park from January 18-26 (Richard Barth) and the other turned up in La Mirada on February 27 (Jonathan Rowley). This second bird continued to be seen through the period. Because they are comparatively inconspicuous, wintering Dusky-cappeds are often not discovered until later in the season.

Several kingbird species aside from the expected Cassin's spent the winter. A **Tropical Kingbird** back for its second winter at Lincoln Park in Lincoln Heights was seen from January 15-February 2 (Tom Miko).

Wintering **Western Kingbirds** were at two different locations. El Dorado Park in Long Beach hosted one through February 23 (Martin

Byhower) and Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica had another through March 6. Rounding out this trio of tyrannids was a **Thick-billed Kingbird** enjoying its third winter at Banning Park in Wilmington reported through February 23.

A single **Pygmy Nuthatch** was noted away from normal areas of occurrence, a continuing bird at Veteran's Park in Sylmar on January 26 (Kimball Garrett).

A **Winter Wren** in Palos Verdes Estates on February 10 (Kevin Larson) was the only one reported during the late winter.

Rare but regular in winter on the LA County coastal slope were two **Hermit Warblers**. One was in Pico Rivera on February 2 (Jon Fisher) and another at the Village Green Condos in Los Angeles on February 27 (Richard Barth).

After a rather interesting fall and early winter, there were few wood warblers to speak of. The only **Palm Warbler** of the winter was a previously discovered bird along the San Gabriel River in Pico Rivera that continued through March 2.

A **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Banning Park from January 20–February 2 (Dennis Vollmar) and another continued at Loyola Marymount University through February 9. A third Black-and-white was at El Dorado Park in Long Beach on March 10 (Elisabeth Koster).

The returning **Painted Redstart** at the Bette Davis Picnic Area in Glendale was last seen on January 14 (Mike San Miguel). Another individual was back for its third winter at Bonelli Park in San Dimas and was seen throughout the period.

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was in Palos Verdes Estates on February 10 (Kevin Larson).

Only a few sparrows of note were found. One of these was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** discovered at Whittier Narrows in South El Monte on January 19 (Andrew Lee) with another one continuing at Hansen Dam in Sylmar through January 20 (Kimball Garrett).

Also recorded was a **White-throated Sparrow** at Bee Canyon Park on February 24 (Mark & Janet Scheel), with a second White-throated continuing at Eaton Canyon in Pasadena through February 24.

Quite rare in the county was a '**Pink-sided' Junco**' at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas on February 16 (Andrew Lee). Undoubtedly a few Pink-sides go overlooked, but simply sorting through the confusing assortment of 'Oregon' Juncos offers plenty of exercise for many.

A **Baltimore Oriole** continuing at West LA College through March 3 and a **Hooded Oriole** there through January 22 (both Don Sterba) were the only ones reported aside from the usual handful of wintering Bullock's Orioles.

Away from the mountains, five **Red Crossbills** were at Castaic Lake on February 2 (Andrew Lee). Small numbers also continued at Apollo Park in Lancaster with a female observed carrying nest material on March 9 (Mike San Miguel). Evidence of breeding should be watched for at this locale. Another eight crossbills were at Pearblossom Park in the Antelope Valley on March 18 (Jim Moore).

As I wrap up this column, the arrival large numbers of spring migrants is only a couple of weeks away. Pacific Loons and others streaming northward will be visible from coastal promontories. This is especially true of Point Vicente and Point Dume, two of our most productive spots for seabird watching.

Shorebirds in alternate plumage will be gracing the shores and mudflats, and foothill oaks will be loaded with warblers resting and refueling before continuing northward. There's almost nowhere one can go without observing some aspect of this event. The numbers will ebb just as vagrant season heats up, and while rarities are most likely to occur at the tail end of spring migration, vagrants can and do turn up anytime in April and early May.

The latter half of May will lure many of us to desert oases in hopes of finding a vagrant or two. That's arguably one of the most exciting aspects of birding in southern California, but if you don't want to spend two hours or more driving to a birding destination or are practicing 'greener' birding, there are plenty of closer alternatives that offer good variety and opportunities for discovery.

Experience has taught us that vagrants can turn up anywhere, and though migrant 'hotspots' might produce vagrants with greater reliability, imagine if we focused all that birding attention on any given locale? Even with the extensive coverage that much of the county receives, many vagrants slip through unnoticed. 

2008 SCHREIBER GRANT RECIPIENTS



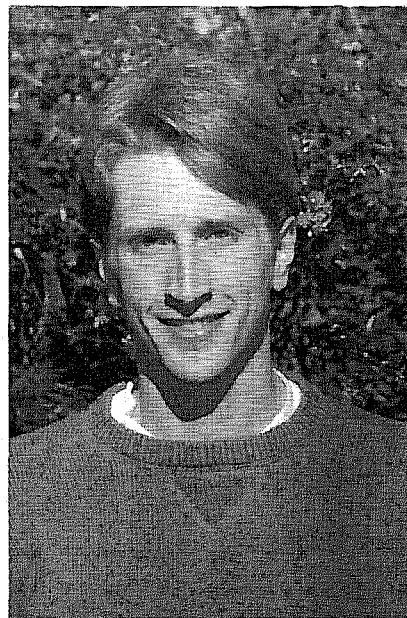
Sarah English

"Anna's Hummingbirds, like songbirds, learn and sing complex songs. However, there are no studies to show if they can discriminate between individuals on the basis of song. Being able to distinguish neighbor from stranger can be energetically beneficial for territory maintenance.

We are conducting neighbor-stranger song playbacks at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary and Boyd's Deep Canyon Desert Research Center, California to determine if male Anna's Hummingbirds distinguish between neighbors and strangers using song. Also, we are testing to see if male Anna's Hummingbirds react more aggressively to conspecific rather than heterospecific song." *—Sarah English*

The Board of Los Angeles Audubon announces the winners of the 2008 Ralph B. Schreiber research awards. The awards are given annually in memory of Dr. Schreiber, who was Curator of Ornithology at the Natural History Museum and an active member of Los Angeles Audubon. We extend our thanks to Grant Committee Chair Walt Sakai, his assistant Nick Freeman, and evaluator Dr. Jan Goerrissen, for their work in soliciting and reviewing the grants.

Contributions to L.A. Audubon with the memo "Schreiber Grants" will keep funding this research program.



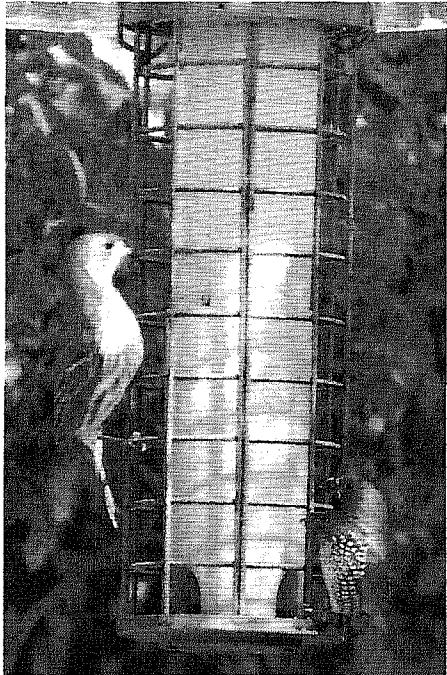
Neil Losin

"I will examine ecological and reproductive character displacement, together with a neglected form of character displacement involving traits used for competitor recognition, in the contact zone between Eastern and Western Meadowlarks in the central United States. Using museum specimens and field recordings, I will test three hypotheses: 1) coincident ecological niches will result in ecological character displacement; 2) selection for decreased hybridization will result in divergent vocal mating signals in sympatry; and 3) meadowlark territorial signals will converge in sympatry to facilitate interspecific territoriality. To test these hypotheses I will couple data from individual specimens and recordings with georeferenced ecological and population data from existing USGS datasets."

—Neil Losin

TO FEED, OR NOT TO FEED

—BY JENNY JONES



Nutmeg Mannikin shares feeder with House Finch. Photo by Jenny Jones

To feed or not to feed? Not the most burning of questions we birders face as admirers of the natural world, but one worthy of some discussion as it relates to My Patch in northeast Los Angeles. Population biologists consider backyard feeders as potential food sources for our wild species, and there are lots of science-based articles on the subject. There seems to be no real consensus on whether feeding wild birds has an overall positive or negative impact on individual birds, populations, species or ecosystems as a whole.

In my humble opinion, birds and most other wild things are in a battle for their lives every day against us humans. Providing food and water for birds in my backyard seems a simple way to help them survive. And, bringing birds in close has allowed me to learn much more about them and develop a complex relationship with

them. As with most everything, there are responsibilities involved in maintaining a clean safe place for "your" birds. But the rewards are worth it.

Here are a few observations from my experience feeding birds, nonstop, for three years or so now:

- All the House Finches in Mt. Washington know my backyard. Even the really dumb ones. Like the ones that get stuck in my round sunflower chips feeder, which happens to be clear plastic with highly visible exit holes. Last year my House Finches were more orange; this year so far they are mostly red. Intelligence has nothing to do with color. Neither does gender. Good thing to keep in mind as we approach the presidential election.

- Nutmeg Mannikins are cute. I know they are "invasive" or "exotic" or whatever other word fits in there. They come to my tube feeder on occasion. And they bugle!

- Scrub Jays are flying little dinosaurs. And ravens are smart enough to work at Home Depot. But I never said they could wash their kills in my bird bath. Tails of rats, lizards' legs... really gross.

- Running water is the key. In addition to the resident species, neotropical migrants can't resist it. The number of new species I see in my yard now after building a simple recirculating water-fall thing a year ago is proportional to the amount of time I've been able to spend watching. Warblers are really nice up close. No "warbler neck!"

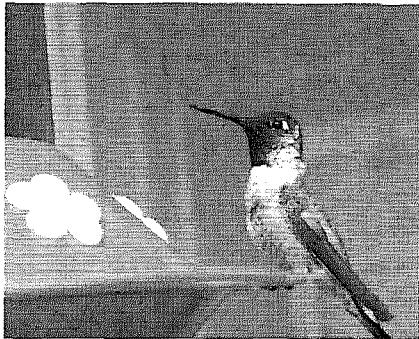
- The "Network Effect" applies to birds using feeders. The more that are there, the more are drawn in. Safety in numbers? Or every bird for himself? You decide.

- Rats are not that smart, the cartoon ones notwithstanding. A simple baffle will baffle them, no problem. But squirrels present more of a challenge. They sit up, look right at you, and stuff their cheeks with the birdseed you intend for the White-crowned Sparrows and towhees on the ground. Luckily, I don't have much of a squirrel problem in my backyard. The Red-shouldered Hawk that sits on the next telephone pole down from us keeps the squirrel population acceptable.

- Native plants are good. Sustainable, delicate, beautiful and interesting, supporting our native wildlife. They seem to belong here. Oh wait; they DO belong here, unlike most of our urban vegetation. I love seeing birds and butterflies using the native plants I've added to my garden. But even once these slow-growing plants mature, I will still feed many more



A Cedar Waxwing and a Northern Flicker argue over the birdbath. Photo by Jenny Jones



Anna's Hummingbird, Photo by Mary Freeman

birds out of my feeders.

- My neighbor's housecats are a threat, I think, to the birds I'm feeding. "Mojito" that lives next door knows not to enter the backyard. I suppose fear of our 80-pound pit-bull mix might keep him out, but the cat still prefers a walk up OUR stairs to get to his, and we have a niger feeder up there that he likes to stalk. Does anyone know where you can get poison darts?

- Lincoln Sparrows are stylish and spunky devils that will steal your heart.

- Birds watch our every move. It might seem like there are no birds around, when everything's quiet. But they are there, and they are watching you. Immediately upon filling my feeders, my backyard comes alive with chirping and chattering House Finches and Lesser Goldfinches, followed closely by Scrub Jays, Mourning Doves and the other usual suspects. And then come the special ones- a Phainopepla, a Hermit Thrush, a Townsend's Warbler, and many others that come in for a quick drink and stay only a few seconds. I wonder what's back there now?

So what about Your Patch? Feed or don't feed, but I highly recommend it, as do millions of Project Feeder Watchers and Great Backyard Bird Counters. Feeding birds is a great hobby.

Jon Feenstra's Pasadena Audubon trip to Quail Lake, Pat added Greater Scaup and Canvasback, and was alerted to a Lewis' Woodpecker near Puddingstone Reservoir. She found it the next day.

Pat's big year ended on December 30, the day of the Los Angeles Christmas Bird Count. After covering her count area in the canyons, Larry Allen told her about a Long-tailed Duck in Ballona Creek. She found it just before dark, for her final addition to the list.

The final result was 293 species for 2007 in Los Angeles County, of which six were new birds for Pat's county life list and one was new for her total life list.

Pat's quest was supported throughout the year by a loyal cadre of fellow birders. In addition to those already cited, they include: Kevin Larsen, who provided invaluable counsel and guidance for birding "his patch" in the south bay area of L.A. County; Mike San Miguel, who supplied his expertise on sea birds visible from land, and volunteered his

time to help in her search; Tori Collender, who helped track elusive birds, especially the Summer Tanager; and many others who came to her aid with helpful suggestions.

After the end of the year, Pat crafted a letter to request donations for her Birdathon. She asked for donations ranging from 25 cents to \$10 per species to support Los Angeles Audubon's educational programs. The result: Pat raised a total to date of more than \$3,400 for Los Angeles Audubon, an outstanding birdathon fundraising achievement.

Pat did not accept the gift certificates she had earned. For her, "the fun was in doing the birdathon, and asking friends to support a cause that I support." Anyone reading this who wishes to support Los Angeles Audubon and recognize Pat's year long effort is encouraged to send in their contribution with the notation "Pat's Big Year!"

The Board of Los Angeles Audubon thanks Pat for her efforts and her friendship.



Yellow-throated Warbler, Photo by Herb Clarke

FIELD TRIPS

Bird Walks 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. No pets or small children, please.

\$ Fee Event

✉ SASE

Reserve per directions in the gray box posted on page 16.

INCREASE IN PRICES: L.A. Audubon is increasing prices on longer trips to build up funds including the Schreiber Grant Fund, which is given out to deserving non-professional avian researchers who have limited access to funding. Envelopes for voluntary contributions will be distributed on some other trips.

Sunday, April 27

Point Dume Seabird Watch with Kimball Garrett.

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

Wednesday - Tuesday, April 30 - May 6

Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival.

Come visit "America's Birdiest Inland County, 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/Butterbreyt 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, E: bbarnes@lightspeed.net, P: (760) 382-1260.

Saturday, May 3

Rancho Sierra Vista.

Biologist, birder and ex-docent **Scott Harris** will be traipsing through the tussocks in search of the elusive Grasshopper Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting as well as other foothill and grassland species. This is one of the few spots in the Southland that reports Grasshopper Sparrow on an annual basis. A visit to the Satwiwa Indian Cultural Center will follow, if it is open. Take the 101 Fwy west past Thousand Oaks just into Ventura County, exit south on Lynn Road for 5.2 miles, turn left on Via Goleta, and proceed to the last parking lot where the group will be meeting. Meet at 8:00 AM, and bird until noon. Moderate hiking in rolling hills. Have sunscreen & water on your person. Nominal donation suggested.

\$ Saturday - Sunday, May 10 - 11

Galileo Hills and Butterbreyt Springs. Leaders: **Nick & Mary Freeman.** These are two of the best spring migrant traps in

the state. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline. Reptiles may be encountered! **Saturday:** Take Hwy 14 about 4 miles past Mojave, then turn right on California City Blvd. Drive through town about a mile past the shops, turn left past the golf course on Randsburg-Mojave Rd., and veer right on 20 Mule Team Rd. Turn left at the Galileo Hills sign before the hill, take your first paved right, your first right again, into the Silver Saddle Country Club, followed by two paved lefts into the lot. Park and meet at 7:00AM by the first pond. 3PM we will visit the Desert Tortoise Natural Area, and meet up with the docent. Dine together, if you wish. **Sunday:** Veer right heading north out of Mojave, take Hwy 14 for about 20 miles over the river bed to Jawbone Canyon Road on the left, and meet right at the turnoff at the ranger station parking lot at 6:30AM. We will carpool to Butterbreyt Springs, and perhaps finish the day at California City. LAAS sign-up mandatory. Fee: \$25. 12 max. Bring lunches, sun block. Reserve rooms (Motel 6 or other) in Mojave.

Saturday, May 17

Santa Anita Canyon.

Leader: **Mary Freeman.**

Take the 210 Fwy toward Arcadia, and take Santa Anita Avenue N to the parking lot at the very end of the road. Meet at the trailhead at the bottom of the lot. 4 mile

FIELD TRIPS

RT moderately strenuous walk through oak and chaparral canyons. Good selection of breeding and migrating birds including warblers, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Band-tailed Pigeon, three hummers and Dipper possible. Pack in a lunch and water. Meeting time 7:30AM.

Saturday, June 7

Apple Valley Herps.

Leader: Herpetologist **Harvey Fischer**. We will explore a small portion of open desert and poke around rocky desert outcrops searching for desert reptiles. "Feathered" reptiles will be included. Lunch at Morongo Preserve, followed by more exploration for critters. High clearance vehicles suggested but not mandatory. Meet at the San Bernardino County Museum parking lot at 8:00AM. Take 10 Fwy E past the 215 Fwy, take California Street N, Orange Tree Lane E, and turn into the museum lot on the left (N) side of the street. Come with lunch, plenty of water, durable shoes, functioning AC, and FRS radio (we have extras). Nominal donation suggested.

\$ Friday-Monday, June 13-16

Southern Sierra Extended Weekend.

Leader: **Bob Barnes**.

High deserts to High Sierra. The most diverse, species-rich region in the state. Likely: Goshawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Pileated Woodpecker and owls. 150 species likely in 4 days. Participation limited. To reserve, and receive trip information, send SASE with e-mail, phone number and \$15 for each day attended (\$60 for 4 days). Dawn to dusk (and more) birding ideal for enthusiastic beginning to advanced birders. Meet Friday at Union 76 station in Inyokern. Reserve Fri-Sat-Sun night rooms in Kernville area early (listed in flyer). Lots of driving, so bring a friend.

Saturday, June 21

L.A. Audubon Annual Picnic.

Chilao Campground. Sodas, water, bird and butterfly walks and tall tales of birding adventures provided. The first bird walk will be at 7:30 AM, and another will follow around 8:30 AM for latecomers. Later, we will look for butterflies at 10:00 AM or so. Lunch around noon, with possible birding options elsewhere later. Take the 210 Fwy to Angeles Crest Hwy (Hwy 2) in La Canada, and head up the hill for about 30 miles. It's on the left. The biker bar is too far. A **Forest Service Adventure Pass** is necessary.

\$ Saturday, June 28

Night Owling Field Trip.

Leader: **Raymond Schep**.

Target birds include Northern Pygmy Owl, Flammulated Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Western Screech (easier), and Common Poorwill (easy to hear). Until dark we will bird for mountain specialties such as Cassin's finch and White-headed Woodpecker. We will take a gentle hike into a canyon looking for Spotted Owl. They're all up there, but no promises! Leave promptly at 5:30 PM from where the 210 Fwy and Angeles Crest Highway intersect in La Canada. Exit the 210 at Angeles Crest Hwy N. About one block up is a frontage road on the right, where we will park and carpool. Finish around midnight. Bring a warm jacket, a full stomach, snacks, and a **Forest Service Adventure Pass**. Send \$15, phone number, e-mail address (if you have it) and a SASE to Audubon House to sign up. Limit 16.

\$ Thursday - Sunday, July 3-6

Quaking Aspen Camping Trip for Owls.

Leaders: **Mary and Nick Freeman**.

Campground is above Springville, and Camp Nelson near Ponderosa in the southwest Sierras. Owling by night, bird walks by day! We may also look at some butterflies! Hopeful birds: Flammulated, Northern Saw-whet, Spotted owls and others; Pileated Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Hammond's Flycatcher, Hermit Warbler and more. Some meals will be potluck, others provided or eat out. Tentatively meet Thursday 3:00PM at Quaking Aspen Campground Group Site G (already reserved). More details in flyer. Send SASE, phone, e-mail and \$70 to reserve. 10 sign-ups max., no children or pets, please.

Saturday, July 19

Mount Abel Area Field Trip. Leader: **Jean Brandt**. We will start the morning near "Shirley's Seep", watching as birds and mammals are drawn to a nearby spring. Bring a chair, snacks, thermos of hot drinks, and be prepared for any kind of weather. Possible birds include Calliope Hummingbird and White-headed Woodpecker. After we have exhausted the birds and mammals that come to the seep, we will bird our way up to the top of Mount Abel. Picnic lunch in campground near the top of Mt. Abel. Rain cancels. Anticipate the elements, and bring a lunch and a Forest Service Adventure Pass. Meet at Denny's parking lot off Roxford and I 405 in Sylmar at 6:00 AM for carpooling to Mt. Abel. Nominal donation suggested.

Before setting out on any field trip, please call (323) 874-1318 (Events & Announcements, #4). Special instructions or possible cancellations that may have occurred, by the Thursday before the trip, will be announced at this number.

BIRD WALKS, MAY - JUNE 2008

Earvin "Magic" Johnson

Recreation Area

Saturday, May 3

Leader: Larry Allen

9:00 a.m.

Join Larry for a walk around this large, inner city "oasis". A large lake attracts ducks, herons and shorebirds. The grassy, open areas with scattered with mature trees attracts flycatchers and warblers. We might even get to see the Peregrine Falcon that preys on the local Rock Pigeons.

Directions: 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.

Debs Park Audubon Center

Saturday May 3,

Saturday June 7

Leader: Jennifer Jones

Time 9:00 a.m.

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. The Center is located on Griffin Avenue on the west side of the park. From the south take the Pasadena Fwy. north to 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 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:

(323) 633-1920,

redshoulderhawk@earthlink.net

Topanga State Park Birdwalk

First Sunday of every month

Leaders: Ken Wheeland and

Chris Tosdevin

Sunday May 4

Sunday June 8

Sunday July 6

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Ken and Chris will lead participant 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 Pacific Coast Hwy, take Topanga Canyon Blvd, 5 miles to Entrada Rd. Parking fee.

Contacts: Ken:(310) 455-1401,

ksafarri@aol.com; Chris:

(310) 455-1270

Field Trips & Pelagic Trips, Reservation Policy and Procedure for limited participation/fee events.

Reservations will be accepted only if all the following information is supplied:

1) Separate checks payable to "LAAS" for exact amount for each trip. (no cash please, Credit Cards not accepted at this time.)

2) SASE (Self-addressed stamped envelope), for booking confirmation and associated trip flyer.

3) Date & Name of Field Trip or Pelagic Trip desired.

4) Name of each person in your party.

5) Phone numbers:

(a) usual and

(b) evening before event, (in case of cancellation)

(c) email addresses (if used).

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. Our office staff is available Monday through Thursday for most reservation services.

(323) 876-0202.

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.

BIRD WALKS, MAY - JUNE 2008

Ballona Wetlands Birdwalk

3rd Sunday of the month

August through May

Sunday May 18

Leader Bob Shanman

Time: 8:00

Join Bob for a walk through our L.A.'s remaining saltwater marsh and the adjacent rocky jetty. Migrating shorebirds and terns should be coming through plus the resident Black Oystercatchers frequent the rocky shores of La Ballona Creek. Meet at the Del Rey Lagoon parking lot. Take the Marina Fwy (90) 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.

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

Kenneth Hahn State

Recreation Area

Saturday, May 17

Saturday, June 21-

Dick Barth

Time: 8:00 a.m.

This trip covers landscaped parkland and natural coastal scrub habitats and is paced for beginning birders and members of the Baldwin Hills community. Expected birds are hawks and falcons, resident sparrows, herons, summering orioles and migrating warblers and flycatchers. The park entrance is off of La Cienega Blvd. between Rodeo Rd. and Stocker St. After

passing the entrance kiosk (\$4.00 parking fee) turn left (leading to the "Olympic Forest") and park in the first available spaces.

Upper Franklin Canyon

(Sooky Goldberg Nature Center)

Sunday May 18

Leader: Irwin Woldman

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Join Irwin as he escorts us around this local bird haven, with stunning Wood Ducks. Our resident chaparral and riparian species should be beginning or in the midst of nesting and raising young. Also expect to see migrating songbirds and flycatchers. This canyon is a hidden treasure where the surrounding urban residences of Sherman Oaks and Beverly Hills disappear from view. Meet in the parking lot of the Sooky Goldberg Nature Center and bird for a few hours in the cool of native trees and the ponds.

Directions: From the 101 Freeway, take Coldwater Canyon Blvd. south to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive. Make a 90 degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. There is no street sign; the turn at "Franklin Canyon Road" reads "Road Closed 800 Feet" and "Sunset to Sunrise"; this is the park entrance. Do not make a U-turn for this will bring you into Mulholland Drive instead of Franklin Canyon. Stay on paved surface to reach the Sooky Goldberg Nature Center.

From Sunset: take Coldwater Canyon to Mulholland Dr. Turn right on Mulholland. Make right turn onto Franklin Canyon Dr. (refer to directions from 101 Freeway).

Echo Park Lake Birdwalk.

Saturday, May 18

Leader: Judy Raskin

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet 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.

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.

Saturday, October 18

Northern Channel Islands Monument Trip

This 8 hour trip departs from the Island Packer's dock in the **Ventura Harbor** at 8:00 a.m. on the fast catamaran Islander. After dropping off campers on Santa Cruz Island, we will have the boat to ourselves and cruise around Santa Cruz Island to the Santa Cruz Passage by Santa Rosa Island, and along the Santa Rosa Flats to the deeper water near San Nicholas Island. Then, we will return by Arch Rock at Anacapa Island. Birds seen on prior trips: Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed Sooty and Black-vented Shearwaters; Black Storm-Petrel; comorants (3); Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Sabine's Gull; rocky shorebirds (up to 5); Common Murre; Craveri's and Xantus's Murrelets; Cassin's Auklet. Rarities: Buller's and Flesh-footed Shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Long-tailed Jaeger. Blue, Finback and Humpback whales have been seen on this trip. In 2002, a Streaked Shearwater, and in 2003 a Brown Booby and 2 Manx Shearwaters were seen.

Leaders: Todd McGrath, Jon Feenstra, David Pereksta.

\$130 – There is a snack-type galley with beverages, bring your lunch.

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. See page 16 for Reservation Policy & Procedures.

INTERNATIONAL BIRDING & WILDLIFE TOURS

NORTHERN TANZANIA BIRDING & WILDLIFE SAFARI October 8-22, 2008 - Extension- Saadani N.P. & Zanzibar

Anyone with just a slight interest in birds will be astonished by the beauty and diversity of birds one can easily observe on a TANZANIA wildlife safari. Within Tanzania's borders, over 1,000 species of birds have been recorded. From the beautifully-striking Hoopoe, to the yelping cry of the Fish Eagle, the colorful bee-eaters, the strutting Secretary Bird, and the long-legged grace of the Crowned Crane - all and more make this country of classic savannahs, craters, lakes and rivers a must for the serious birder, as well as the first-timer to Africa. The massive herds of wildebeest, zebras, Thompson's Gazelles, the gathering of Lions, Spotted Hyenas, leopards, cheetahs, along with jackals and vultures are possible.

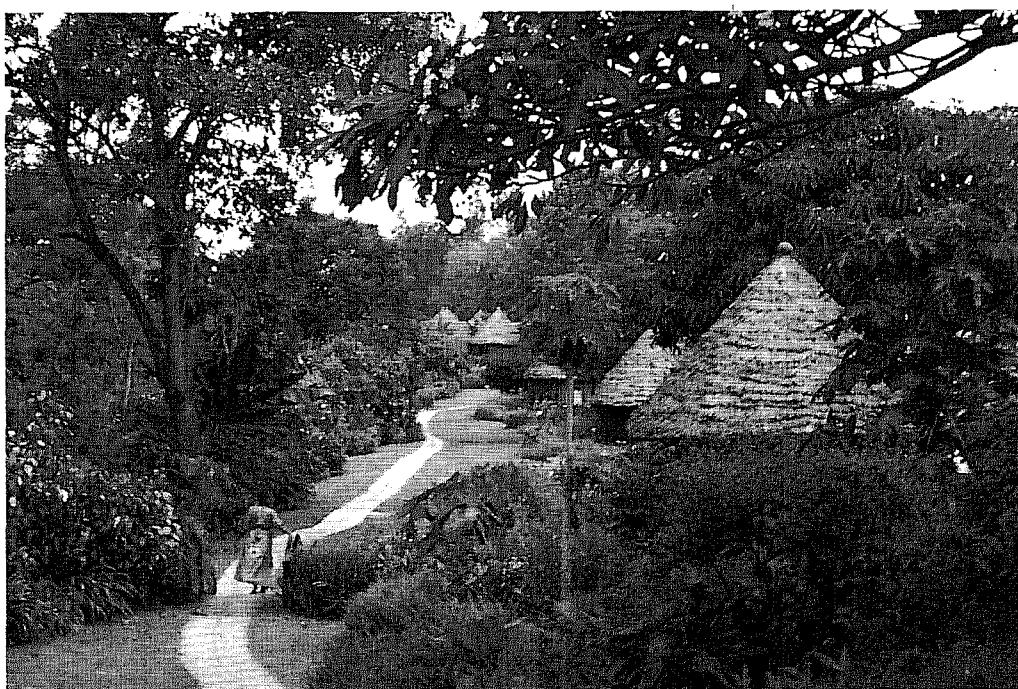
From the world-renowned Ngorongoro Crater, the largest unbroken volcanic caldera in the world, and the Olduvai Gorge, famous for the Leakeys discovery of remains dating back over 2 million years, to lush forests - photographic opportunities are endless. Join us for your dream of a lifetime adventure.

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



Red Colobus Monkey

Photo by Herb Clarke



Mountain Village Lodge, located on the shores of Lake Duluti, a perfect place to relax before embarking on your safari experience. Magnificent views of snowcapped Mount Kilimanjaro or the rugged peaks of Mount Meru.

PROGRAMS & EVENING MEETINGS

Meet at 7:30 at the Community Center in Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd (at Martel between La Brea & Fairfax)

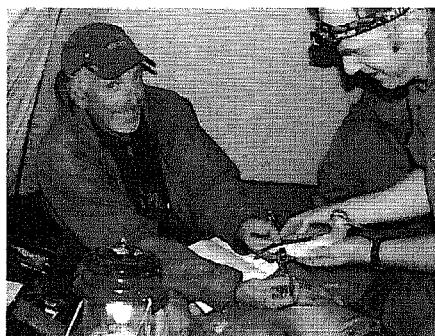
Wednesday, May 14, 2008

BIRDING IN SAN BLAS, MEXICO, with Nick & Mary Freeman

Mary and Nick spent two weeks birding one of the jewels of western Mexico - San Blas in the state of Nayarit. This sleepy fishing village a few hours north of Puerto Vallarta is the hub of the area's prime birding spots. Hospitable accomodations and guides can be had readily. San Blas is a slow-paced village where one can walk the streets at night to enjoy the local cuisine, and where the people are friendly. From sandy beaches, to mangroves, to coniferous forests, to thorn scrub forest to the north and more tropical forest to the south, the area around San Blas is a great introduction to a manageable number of tropical families, or a great destination for any relaxed birder's vacation. There are a number of endemics to be had in this area, as well as a smattering of exotic flora. Mary will feature her photographic essay of their most recent visit from April, 2006, which will feature some of the prized endemics of west Mexico.



Bienvenidos San Blas, Photo by Mary Freeman



Bob Gill with Al Akes

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

LONG HAUL MIGRATION, TRANS-PACIFIC FLIGHTS BY SHOREBIRDS, with Bob Gill

In March 1976, Bob Gill left California to take a job studying shorebirds in Alaska. Six weeks after arriving there he found himself in an isolated field camp on the Alaska Peninsula where throughout that summer and autumn he got his first exposure to numerous 'exotic' species like Rock Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Bristle-thighed Curlew. In a few short years he became aware of the complex dynamic of avian migration in that corner of the world in which birds arrive from and depart to all hemispheres of the globe. His ensuing studies have focused not only on describing basic migration ecology of

shorebirds but also understanding factors selected for the varied migration strategies employed by shorebirds as they embark on what has proven to be the longest nonstop flights among birds. In 2006, a generous grant from the Packard Foundation launched the Pacific Shorebird Migration Project, an effort to better understand the migration of godwits and curlews and the global-scale threats they face. To date, two populations of Bristle-thighed Curlew on their southward migrations and Bar-tailed Godwits and Long-billed Curlews on both their northward and southward migrations have been tracked. Bob will present some of the extraordinary results from this effort, including findings of birds engaged in non-stop flights that on average traverse 7,000–12,000 km of open ocean, take six to nine days to complete, incorporate several wind regimes in doing so, and take physiological processes to new extremes.

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