



Drawing by  
Guy Coheleach

# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

**Pasadena Audubon Society**  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 55 – No. 3

*To bring the excitement of birds to our community through birding, education  
and the conservation of bird habitats.*

May-June 2007

## May Program

**The Answers to All Your  
Panama Birding Questions:**  
*Or at least all the ones we could think of*  
Wednesday, May 16, 2007  
Panama Birders



Collared Aracari

Last October, eleven hardy members of Pasadena Audubon Society ventured to Panama for a week. They came back with a new sense of camaraderie and great stories. Oh, and lots of fantastic photos and video! Come hear about the tower, Pipeline Road and the Wild & Crazy Spot. See not only birds but rodents, larger mammals, and incredible scenery. You will practically be able to smell the rainforest and its inhabitants.

Please join us for a great evening in Panama!

## June Program



## Annual Dinner

*Saturday, June 23, 2007*  
**6:00 – 9:00 pm**  
**Eaton Canyon Nature  
Center**

**Potluck  
Live Entertainment  
Election Results**

**See Page 6 for Details**

## September Program

### ID Workshop

**Wednesday, September 19, 2007**  
**Mickey Long and Jon Fisher**

The third week of September falls right in the middle of autumn migration and is a perfect time to look at potentially confusing species and difficult IDs. From the small to the large, from the dull to the colorful and from common to rare, we will cover a variety of species occurring in the area. We will also focus on aspects of behavior, status and distribution; especially where they are helpful in making a correct identification.

This program will have something for everyone, from the beginner to the more seasoned birder. We will also review available books on bird ID that are applicable to Southern California. We encourage audience participation, and welcome questions both during and after the program.

General Meetings held at:  
**Eaton Canyon Nature Center**  
**1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena**  
7:00 pm Social  
7:30 pm Program

## President's Perch

Good News! Susan Gilliland has joined Judy Bass and Kathi Ellsworth to form a Hospitality Team to assure that refreshments will be provided at our meetings – Hooray!

Lois and I just got back from an exciting bird trip in the mountains and rainforest of Ecuador. We visited perhaps the most "birdy" area in the world – over 900 species listed for sites we visited. We saw 424 species, including 64 tanagers and 45 hummingbirds and added over 350 species to Lois's

"Life List." We spent our 2 weeks traveling up the west slope of the Andes and down the east (jungle) side of the mountains with a final five days at Sacha Lodge. A great trip, good food, comfortable lodges and great guides, but it is good to get back home and relax. I think a washing will get the smell of mildew out of our clothes.

*Will*

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## Conservation

### Diary of a Green Housewife

I don't know about all of you, but when I think about all the different ways that I'm supposed to go green I get overwhelmed. Buy a Prius. Use gray water. Build a hay-bale-solar-powered-composting-toilet-fluorescently-lit-recycled-aluminum house. Whew! My heart is in the right place but my wallet is empty and my time is short. When I decided to go green, I felt stuck because we'd already switched to fluorescent light bulbs, Green Power and Fair Trade coffee, and we stopped using pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers back in the 1990s. We compost our kitchen and yard waste, plant native plants, and our garden has been named a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Still, I knew I could do more, but with so many problems in the world, I felt overwhelmed. So what's a wannabe green housewife to do?

I realized that my problem was I was trying to go green all at once while I only needed to change one habit at a time. To get started, I decided that I would make one easy green change a month. Or, to paraphrase Ed Begley Jr., I could do the cheap and easy things first. So, in January, I took the plunge and bought canvas shopping bags to keep in the car for all those trips to Trader Joe's. They only cost about \$4 each and I'm amazed at all the bags we have already saved, maybe a whole tree's worth—okay, a very small tree. Okay, Charlie Brown's Christmas tree, but it's a start. By the way, did you know that while paper bags can decompose, they "generate 70% more air pollutants and 50% more water pollutants than plastic bags" (*LA Times*, April 10, 2007)? On the other hand, plastic bags kill at least 100,000 birds, whales, seals and turtles every year (*365 Ways to Change the World*, 2005). Canvas bags it is!

Once we got used to using canvas bags, in February, we switched to green cleaning products, which biodegrade unlike petroleum-based cleaners. They work great and they don't have that funky chemical smell. We've been using Seventh Generation products which are widely available. We even found them at Target.

My next change was inspired by Pasadena Audubon's trip to the Carrizo Plain. On our way to the Plain itself, we stopped at a spot to look for Le Conte's and Sage Thrashers. Our landmark was a sign for a pet food company that marked the location of a kitty litter mine. Yup, they were gouging a massive hole in a mountain so that my cat could poop in clay litter. Yikes! No more clay litter for me. We started using litter made from wheat

called "Sweat Scoop," which is clay, chemical and fragrance free, and biodegradable. The cat seems happy enough (can you ever really tell with a cat?) and my house smells better than before.

April was a little harder because I felt like I'd made the easiest and most obvious changes. So, I turned to a few books to get more inspiration. I checked out *365 Ways to Change the World* (2005), *The Ten Minute Activist* (2007) and *Hold Your Water* (2006). All three books have great ways to help animals, people and the environment. After reading several pages of these books, it became clear that we need to pay more attention to our food. We need to look for food grown locally instead of in, say, China. That's right, when I looked at the label of a bag of frozen mixed greens, the food was grown in China! Just think of the enormous energy spent to get that food all the way over to Pasadena! We will also make more of a commitment to purchase organically grown food; not only is it better for the planet, it's better for us!

That's where I am for now. It's a good start, but I still have a ways to go. If you have any questions or suggestions, please send them to the email address below. So what's next you ask? Check this space next time for further adventures in the life of a wannabe green housewife.

### Good News!

*News items from Birders United,*  
[WWW.BIRDERSUNITED.COM](http://WWW.BIRDERSUNITED.COM)

**Bald Eagles:** Apparently, for the first time in two centuries, a breeding pair of bald eagles has built a nest within the city limits of Philadelphia. The nest is located in the former Philadelphia Navy Yard where a new \$150 million produce market is planned.

Even if, as expected, the bald eagle is removed from the endangered species list this coming June, under other federal legislation it would still be illegal for developers to disturb an eagle's nest. There were 117 nesting pairs of eagles in Pennsylvania in 2006, up from two or three in the early 1970s.

**Conservation in Canada:** The Canadian government has taken a major step in bird habitat conservation by designating the Scott Islands off the coast of British Columbia and the surrounding ocean as federally protected areas. The islands are home to an estimated 2 million seabirds. Eleven of the 12 bird species that nest on the islands are listed as "vulnerable" by the Canadian government. Birds commonly found on the islands include bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and puffins.

**Whooping Cranes:** For the first

time in nearly a century a breeding pair of whooping cranes has been observed in the vast 436,000-acre Okefenokee Swamp on the border of Florida and Georgia. The birds were bred in captivity and released into the wild in central Florida. They migrate north to Wisconsin in the spring. The cranes traditionally return to the same wintering habitat each year once they have been established in a particular area. For more information, go to [www.birdersunited.com](http://www.birdersunited.com).

### Shameful News Regarding the Desiderio Land

At nearly midnight on Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Pasadena City Council deadlocked on a staff recommendation on the future of the Desiderio site on the Arroyo Seco. The effect of the Council's indecision is that the Desiderio buildings on the banks of the Arroyo Seco will not be saved. The door was slammed shut on the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment (ACAE).

The staff recommendation, worked out after numerous public hearings and negotiations, would have provided for the reuse of most of the main Desiderio building as the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment (ACAE) along with a nine-unit bungalow courtyard with affordable housing sponsored by Habitat for Humanity and three acres of parkland.

The California Art Club and the Arroyo Seco Foundation, the joint sponsors of ACAE, both endorsed the staff recommendation, but Habitat for Humanity balked at the proposal, insisting on more space for their courtyard. The previous Council action does provide for a new smaller art and nature building on the site, although both Arroyo Center sponsors made clear that approach would be too expensive and inconsistent with their goals.

The City Council rewarded Habitat for Humanity for not cooperating and gave them one of the most select and environmentally sensitive sites in our region. "Without vision, the people perish," the scriptures say. Vision fled interim City Hall on Monday night. The California Art Club and the Arroyo Seco Foundation offered a tremendous gift to the City of Pasadena, a legacy to celebrate the Arroyo and enrich future generations. That gift was rejected. That's a shame.

*Reprinted from Arroyo Seco News*  
[Keep your eyes on this space for more information.]

Laura Garrett  
Conservation Chair  
[PURPLECOW@JPS.NET](mailto:PURPLECOW@JPS.NET)



## Field Trip Reports

### Santa Fe Dam

February 24, 2007

Six birders and leader Mickey Long joined this trip to explore the last of the unique alluvial scrub natural community in the San Gabriel Valley. At the Nature Center we enjoyed two Western Bluebirds, a good number of White-crowned Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Say's Phoebe, among others. But the bird of the trip came early as we walked the self-guided nature trail to the west and south on the upper terrace of the San Gabriel River flood plain. Nancy Strang and Pam Dong reported the mewing call of a California Gnatcatcher, instantly grabbing the attention of all. The sound came from fairly dense sagebrush, buckwheat and laurel sumac cover just to the south of the trail. In a few moments a female-plumaged California Gnatcatcher popped up at the top of a sage-brush and gave us all a brief but adequate look. This is the first of its kind in the Santa Fe Dam area in about thirty years, despite numerous bird surveys in the excellent habitat of the basin. Appropriate people and agencies have been notified and further search is planned.

We walked on and recorded about four Cactus Wrens, including singing birds and a pair courting, along with singing California Thrashers, and some got a quick glimpse of a Fox Sparrow. Yellow-rumped Warblers were everywhere and we picked up three California Quail, a couple of California and one Spotted Towhee, and Lesser Goldfinches. At the lake were three Common Mergansers, three Bufflehead and a Common Moorhen. About a dozen swallows (Tree, Violet-green, Rough-winged and Cliff) foraged over the water and a good number of White-throated Swifts were higher up. By 11:00 am we had recorded 44 species for the morning.

*Mickey Long*

### Piute Ponds

April 14, 2007

Mike San Miguel led 8 PAS members through Piute Ponds, a private ranch in the Antelope Valley, and the (strangely empty) Lancaster Sewage Ponds. We were blessed with calm weather early in the morning, but after nine the usual strong breezes developed. We had a great day, with 102 species sighted. Some highlights were Sage Sparrow, Hammond's Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Sora, Virginia Rail, White-faced Ibis, Long-billed Curlew, and a whole bunch of alternate plumage on Black-bellied Plovers and other species.

*Mark Hunter*

### Bird Banding in Zuma Canyon

March 10, 2007

On Saturday morning, ten early-rising birders met at Zuma Canyon in Malibu to learn about bird banding from Santa Monica College Professor Walt Sakai and his friendly team of banding associates and undergraduate biology students. Walt has operated a banding station at this location for many years, and it's one of only four regularly-operating banding stations along California's entire coast.

We arrived at about 6:00 am, when the bird and banding activity usually peaks. We got very close looks at common resident and wintering species such as Spotted Towhee, Western Scrub-Jay, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wrenit, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Bushtit. In addition to banding each bird, the banders identify its species, weigh it, attempt to determine its gender and age, estimate its body fat, check for brood patches, and collect tail feathers that are archived in a museum at UCLA for stable isotope and DNA studies.

The highlight was Walt placing an Anna's Hummingbird in six-year-old Natalie Dale's hand, where it hunkered down for several minutes before it flew off.

The total number of birds banded during the morning was 32, from 12 different species. A summary of Walt's banding work is available on his website at: [HTTP://HOME.PAGE.SMC.EDU/SAKAI\\_WALTER/BANDING.HTM](http://homepage.smc.edu/sakai_walter/banding.htm) We had a very pleasant time and hope to do the trip again next year.

*Lance Benner*



Susan Gilliland & Natalie Dale

### Salton Sea

March 23-25, 2007

This year was the first time in memory that PAS had gone to the Salton Sea in March. The experience was different in many ways from our usual trip in January. Rather than the usual thousands of Snow Geese, there were only a couple of dozen.

In fact, this was kind of a theme for this trip. Birds we were used to seeing by the bushel were only in singles or pairs. But what we lacked in quantity of an individual species, we made up for in total number of species, with over 120 seen for the weekend.

Spring was prominent, with many migrants just arriving. There were Western Kingbirds all around and even a few Cassin's. Other migrant perching birds included American Robin, Plumbeous and Warbling Vireo, Wilson's Warbler, and Bullock's Oriole. We also did well on vagrant flycatchers with both Vermilion and Gray.

As for groups, we had 15 species of ducks/geese, 13 shorebirds/waders; 7 raptors; 7 gulls/terns; 6 doves (including Ruddy Ground-dove), 6 heron/egrets; 5 sparrows (not counting House) and, among other species, one Pheasant (Ring-necked).

While the experience was different on this trip, there is never a bad time of the year to go to the Salton Sea.

*Ron Cyger*



Burrowing Owl



Great-tailed Grackle



"Burrowing" Egret (Rare)

## Field Trips

### Hahamongna Monthly Walk

**Saturday, September 1, 2007**

**8:00 am – noon**

This monthly bird walk is for birders of all ages and experience. A good variety of birds should be in residence. Bring binoculars, birding guide, water and wear walking shoes. No dogs.

Exit the north 210 at Berkshire and make a right, then a left at Oak Grove. The Hahamongna Watershed Park entrance is on the right at the next stop light. Take the first left after entering Hahamongna, and park by the ballfield

*Ron Cyger*

### Eaton Canyon

#### Monthly Walk

**Sunday, May 20, 2007**

**Sunday, June 17, 2007**

**Sunday, July 15, 2007**

**Sunday, August 19, 2007**

**Sunday, September 23, 2007**

**8:00 am – 11:00 am**

Pasadena Audubon and Eaton Canyon Nature Center are cosponsoring monthly walks at Eaton Canyon. The walks are led by Hill Penfold, who has been leading them at ECNC for many years. Hill is wonderful with birders of all levels and Eaton Canyon is one of the best locations to learn the birds of the Pasadena area.

The walks are held on the third Sunday of each month. Meet at the flagpole: bring water, binoculars, hats, *but no dogs*.

*Hill Penfold*

### Huntington Library

#### Birdwalks (PAS Members only)

**Sunday, May 27, 2007**

**8:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Sunday, June 24, 2007**

**Sunday, July 22, 2007**

**Sunday, August 26, 2007**

**7:00 am – 10:00 am (Summer)**

**Sunday, September 23, 2007**

**8:00 am – 11:00 am**

A special benefit for Pasadena Audubon Society members is the chance to bird the Huntington Library grounds. Attendance is by reservation only and limited to 15 participants. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible.

Contact Elaine by email (preferred) or phone, putting "Huntington" in the subject line to avoid inadvertent deletion.

*Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis*

### Big Morongo Reserve

**Saturday, May 19, 2007**

**8:00 am - 1:00 pm**

This desert oasis and migrant trap offers great birding in the spring. Warblers, flycatchers, hummingbirds and orioles are among the birds expected. At least one pair of Vermilion Flycatchers has been seen every April in memory. Join us as we walk the trails in Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and into adjoining Covington Park, where you will enjoy one of the finest birding locations in the world, with over 250 species of birds making stops at the Preserve annually.

Allow 2 hours drive from Pasadena. Take Interstate 10 east to Route 62, which is past the Palm Springs turnoff. Go north to the tiny town of Morongo Valley and turn right on East Drive to the Big Morongo Preserve at 11055 East Drive. Meet at the Information Kiosk at the south end of the parking lot. Bring lunch and drinks. Rain in Pasadena cancels.

*Kathi Ellsworth and Lance Benner*

### Big Santa Anita Canyon

**Saturday, June 9, 2007**

**6:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

We will hike up Big Santa Anita Canyon to Sturtevant Falls to look for diurnal species while it's still light and to look for Black Swifts arriving to roost at dusk. On the way back we'll look for owls, poorwills, and glow worms. Other possible species: American Dipper, Purple Finch, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, and Canyon Wren.

Take 210 to Santa Anita Avenue, exit north to its end past the gate, and up to the parking lot at Chantry Flats (about 3.5 miles above the edge of Arcadia). An "Adventure Pass" is required to park. We will meet in the lower parking lot at the gate.

Bring water, food, lights, bug repellent, a jacket, and sturdy shoes. It's 4 miles to the waterfall and back with a steep half-mile climb at the end, so our pace will be leisurely.

*Lance Benner*

### Buckhorn

**Saturday, June 16, 2007**

**8:00 am – noon**

At an elevation of 6,300 feet, Buckhorn Campground is a beautiful and comfortable retreat from the hot, smoggy valleys below. There is a small shaded stream, tall evergreens of several varieties, and some open dry slopes. This is an excellent mixture for montane species, including several species of woodpeckers, nuthatches, and flycatchers, Cassin's and Purple Finches, Green-tailed Towhees, Fox Sparrows, and MacGillivray's Warblers. Occasionally other mountain birds, such as Brown Creepers and Pine Siskins, may be found.

From Interstate 210, go north (right) on Angeles Crest Highway, State Route 2, about 34 miles. The campground entrance is about one mile past Cloudburst Summit, at mile marker 58.3. Proceed through the campground, following signs for the Burkhart Trail. A Forest Adventure Pass is required to park in the trailhead lot, where we'll meet. Allow a least 1 hour and 15 minutes for the drive from Pasadena.

*Ed Stonick*

### Throop Peak

**Saturday, July 14, 2007**

**8:00 am – noon**

Throop Peak is one of the highest mountains in the San Gabriels at a towering 9,138 feet. A moderate hike of 4 1/2 miles round trip from Dawson Saddle, with a 1,200 foot elevation, takes you to the top and back. The views are spectacular and the birding can be very good. Possibilities include Williamson's and Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Dusky and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Clark's Nutcrackers, all three nuthatches, Cassin's and Purple Finches, and Red Crossbill.

From Interstate 210, go north (right) on Angeles Crest Highway, State Route 2, about 49 miles to Dawson Saddle, at mile marker 69.5. Park in the clearing on the north side of the road. A Forest Adventure Pass is required. Allow about 1 hour and 30 minutes for the drive from Pasadena.

[PLEASE NOTE: At this time, the Angeles Crest Highway remains closed at Islip Saddle, and it was not opened last summer. Please check with the Forest Service or trip leader in late June to make sure the area is available.]

*Ed Stonick*

### Antelope Valley Birding

**Saturday, August 11, 2007**

The main focus of this trip will be to observe shorebirds at the Piute Ponds and other west Mojave hot spots in the Antelope Valley of northern Los Angeles County. Thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage at these isolated wetlands during their southerly migration and we will be there to meet them. Baird's Sandpiper is nearly guaranteed to be present and Semipalmated Sandpiper is possible. In addition to shorebirds (if this weren't enough), the surrounding desert can produce Prairie Falcon, LeConte's Thrasher, and lots of Horned Larks and Sage Sparrows.

**Reservations Required.** Contact Jon Feenstra for more information.

*(see Trips, page 7)*



Calendar
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*Submit material for the next Wrentit by August 1<sup>st</sup>*

**May 2007**

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader*
2	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
5	Sat	All day	Birdathon	Your choice!	Will Fulmer
15	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Lower Arroyo	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
16	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Panama Stories
19	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Big Morongo	Kathi Ellsworth & Lance Benner
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

**June 2007**

6	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
9	Sat	6:00 pm	Field Trip	Big Santa Anita Canyon	Lance Benner
16	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Buckhorn	Ed Stonick
17	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Descanso Gardens	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
23	Sat	6:00 pm	Annual Dinner	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Kathi Ellsworth
24	Sun	7:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

**July 2007**

14	Sat	6:00 pm	Field Trip	Throop Peak	Ed Stonick
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
22	Sun	7:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

**August 2007**

11	Sun	TBD	Field Trip	Antelope Valley Birding	Jon Feenstra
18-19	S-S	8:00 am	Field Trip	East Mojave	Kathi Ellsworth & Lance Benner
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
25	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	L.A. River	Mike San Miguel
26	Sun	7:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

**September 2007**

1	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Monthly Walk	Ron Cyger
5	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
15-16	S-S	7:00 am	Field Trip	Galileo Hills	Nick & Mary Freeman
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	TBD	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: ID Workshop
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

**\*Trip Leader Information**

Mark Scheel (Chair)	(818) 366-7343	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu
Larry Allen	(626) 288-2701	larryallen@earlymusicla.org
Lance Benner	(626) 791-1187	lbenner@charter.net
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625 (before 9 pm)	ron@cyger.org (preferred)
Kathi Ellsworth	(626) 564-0652	pandionsky@yahoo.com
Jon Feenstra	(626) 792-4346	feenstra@its.caltech.edu
Nick & Mary Freeman	(818) 247-6172	mnfreeman@earthlink.net
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	
Dan Lewis	(626) 398-4805	danolewis@earthlink.net
Mickey Long	(626) 398-5420	mlongbird@charter.net
Elaine MacPherson	(626) 355-9412	birdergrrl@aol.com
Hill Penfold	(818) 352-4954	hpenfold@gmail.com
Mike San Miguel	(626) 355-5058	sanmigbird@aol.com
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@earthlink.net
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	west226@adelphia.net



# Annual June Dinner Celebration

Saturday, June 23th, 2007

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Eaton Canyon Nature Center (626) 398-5420

This year not only we will be sharing bird stories, but we will be hosting a potluck event with **no entrance fee!**

That's right, in lieu of a monetary admission fee we are asking you to bring your favorite

**appetizer or dessert** –enough to share with 8-10 people.

Wine (\$2.00) and soft drinks (\$1.00) will be available. There will be **live music** and we will be hosting our ever-popular and fun **raffle** for fabulous prizes! Raffle tickets will be only \$1.00.

We will also be having a **slide show** featuring YOUR favorite bird photos. Simply choose your "Favorite Five Fotos" (animal, mineral or vegetable) and email them to Steve Bass, STEVEBASS@EARTHLINK.NET. Please keep the photo size to: 500X700 @ 72dpi. (or if you don't understand that, just keep it under 500k please) or just bring them on a CD or flash drive the night of the event and be prepared to show the world! Well, at least PAS.

**RSVP**

Kathi Ellsworth, PANDIONSKY@YAHOO.COM, or Susan Gilliland, 626-441-8487 (before 9 pm), or Judy Bass, JUDYBASS@EARTHLINK.NET

Pasadena Audubon Society

## BIRDATHON 2007

Saturday, May 5, 2007 (Only one day this year)

Pasadena Audubon Society has two fundraising drives a year, the *BIRDATHON* in Spring and the Appeal in the Winter. The appeal is directed towards you as members of PAS, but *BIRDATHON* is geared towards others. *BIRDATHON* gives every member a chance to help non-birders become aware of birds and habitat. When they read about *BIRDATHON* in the paper or see it on the news, they can say "I supported." So, please, participate! Collect pledges (lots of small amounts work just as well as a few large pledges – that's our top money-producer John Garrett's strategy) and allow everyone to help PAS. Start getting your pledges now and after the *BIRDATHON*, give each of your sponsors a list of your total species. They'll love it and love the fact that they contributed to *BIRDATHON*'s success!

Turn in the form with pledge money you collect, along with your species list

**BY JUNE 1, 2007 to:**

Pasadena Audubon Society *BIRDATHON 2007*

c/o Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107

Results will be announced at the Annual Dinner in June

Name: _____	Species Count: _____
Street Address: _____	Total \$ _____
City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone, Day: _____ Night: _____	
Chapter: _____ Pasadena Audubon Society	

Please print clearly – Make checks payable to: PASADENA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Sponsor's Name	Address	Phone Number	Pledge Per Species	Gift	Corporate Match?	Paid
<b>TOTALS</b>						

## PAS Donates Tree to City Hall Garden



On March 22, 2007, the Pasadena Audubon Society donated \$1000.00 to the Pasadena Community Foundation. Our gift will fund the purchase of a Live Oak that will be planted in the new City Hall garden. Along with other donors, Pasadena Audubon Society will be recognized on a distinctive plaque in the grand entrance of the newly refurbished City Hall. Pictured is Jennifer DeVoll, Executive Director of the Pasadena Community Foundation (left), receiving the check from Laura Garrett, Conservation Chair of the Pasadena Audubon Society.

### Field Trips *(continued)*

#### East Mojave

Sat-Sun, August 18-19, 2007

All Day

Contact leader for details

*Kathi Ellsworth, Lance Benner*

#### L.A. River

Saturday, August 25, 2007

800 am – noon

Contact leader for details

*Mike San Miguel*

#### Galileo Hills

Sat-Sun, September 15-16, 2007

All Day

Contact leaders for details

*Nick and Mary Freeman*

### Become a Chapter-only Member of PAS

Policy changes by the National Audubon Society have severely reduced the share of NAS membership dues returned to local chapters, funds which Pasadena Audubon has used to finance its programs and services. To make up for the loss of funds from National Audubon, Pasadena Audubon, like many other National Audubon chapters, now offers *Chapter only* memberships.

When it's time to renew your National Audubon membership, we invite you to instead become a *Chapter only* Member of the Pasadena Audubon Society, or make a donation to our Chapter to support our programs. Chapter-only dues are \$20 per year, or \$15 for seniors and students, all of which remains with our local chapter to fund our programs, including publication of *The Wren*.

We thank you all for your support!

### 2007-2008 Officer Elections

Officer election for Pasadena Audubon Society for the 2007/2008 term will be held at the General Meeting on Wednesday, May 16, 2007. Those nominated for election are:

**President:** Will Fulmer  
**Vice President:** Norm Arnheim  
**Treasurer:** Peggy Ogata  
**Secretary:** Jean O'Hagan

Results will be formally announced at the Annual Dinner on June 23, 2007.

### Magpie Bird Study Group



The group meets the third Tuesday of each month. We bird 9:00 am to about 11:30 am, eat sack lunches and have a short business meeting. All PAS members welcome.

**Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

**Lower Arroyo**

Meet by the casting pool.

**Tuesday, June 19, 2007**

**Descanso Gardens**

Meet at the entrance.

**July & August**

**No Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 18, 2007**

**TBD**

*Sid Heyman*

*Madeline West*

### PAS on the WEB

Website

[HTTP://WWW.PASADENA AUDUBON.ORG](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)

ListServe

[HTTP://GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/PASADENA AUDUBON/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pasadenaaudubon/)

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Donor's address for gift membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

#### Yearly Membership for Individual or Family

PAS Chapter Only [ ] \$20 [ ] \$35\* [ ] Other \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Plus Chapter Pin and Tee Shirt or PAS Birding Guide*

[ ] \$15 Senior/Full-time Student

Donation [ ] \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail to:

**Pasadena Audubon Society, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107**

### Kid's Corner

The Nominate Bell's Vireo  
(*Vireo bellii bellii*)

At a recent Pasadena Audubon meeting, Kimball Garrett encouraged all of us to "bird our patch." I've been doing that since 2001 and occasionally it can be very rewarding. Last November, I was casually watching the usual visitors in my backyard, when suddenly an active pale yellow bird landed in our Crape Myrtle Tree. Several good glimpses of its behavior and its heavy, hooked bill indicated that it was a vireo, and the one white wingbar proved that it was a Bell's Vireo. My mom said, "Wow, that's a pretty bright yellow one, isn't it?" I nodded, grabbed my camera, and took pictures. After a few minutes the bird left.

I was excited not only because it was a first record for my yard, but also because the local subspecies, the 'Least' Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), is endangered. Much later, when I was

looking at my photographs, it struck me like a lightning bolt: *Least Bell's aren't bright yellow!* Only the 'Eastern' Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii bellii*), the nominate subspecies, is yellow. According to the *Birds of Southern California Status and Distribution* there have been only two sight records in California and both were in the Tijuana River Valley. Of course more sightings could have occurred since 1981 when this invaluable book was published, but I believed that I might have just found the first confirmed record for Southern California!

The bird returned and I took more pictures and e-mailed them to Kimball Garrett as well as a few other trustworthy people. Most thought (although they weren't sure) that it just was a particularly bright 'Least' Bell's Vireo. Oh well. Nearly a month later, I received a tardy e-mail from Kimball who apologized for not responding earlier. He told me everything I could possibly want to know about the

subspecies of Bell's Vireos. The biggest thrill was that he, along with Joe Morlan and Jon Feenstra, believed that this was an 'Eastern' Bell's Vireo, and he stated that it would be the first confirmed Los Angeles County record, and one of only a few "probable" records for California.

There are four subspecies of the Bell's Vireo in the U.S. In California, the endangered 'Least' subspecies *pusillus* is found, a bird that is a drab gray overall. In Arizona and some nearby states, lives the grayish subspecies *arizonae*, which is very similar in plumage to *pusillus* except that it can sometimes have a slight yellow hue. In Texas, the subspecies *medius* is fairly yellow, but not as much as the nominate subspecies. The nominate subspecies lives in Eastern North America, a bird that is bright yellow (at least for a Bell's Vireo), and one that mysteriously found its way into "my patch."

John Garrett

### New Members

PAS is pleased to welcome the following new members. We hope you will get involved in our many activities.

**ALHAMBRA:** Harold Salisbury; **ALTA-DENA:** Serena Burris, Laura Davis, Elwood Hain, Lindy & Susan Hardman, Hilda Nichols, Peter Pfeiffer; **ARCADIA:** Mei Ping Cheng, Hiromi Gibbs, R. Meason, Fritz Mutter, Steffanie Wiggins; **AZUSA:**

Lisa Stockford; **BRADBURY:** Dahlem Family; **COVINA:** Bruce & Nancy Strang; **EL MONTE:** David Reyes; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Donald Crockett, Susan Heldoorn, Mary Jack, Lela Lindsey; **MONROVIA:** Angelo & Beth Costanza, Beverley Pray; **MONTEREY PARK:** T.L. Huebsch; **MONTROSE:** Valerie Jordan; **PASADENA:** B.J. Amago, Ahni Armstrong, Eileen Beirich, Earl Berndes, Helen Garces, Beth Gertmenian, Simon Guevrekian, Hermon Hagopian, Judith

Hally, Lew Hastings, Thomas Kemp, Fred Lowe, Adam Mekler, Beth Moore, Nancy Potekian, Thomas Rigler, Jennifer Schwartz, Renee Shrieves, Ruth Siegel; **ROSEMEAD:** Rick Campomanes; **SAN GABRIEL:** J.L. Hjelsand; **SANMARINO:** Johnnie Chuang, Tori Collender; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Catherine Clark, Robert Phillips, Lila Selig Jennifer Serrano, Tiona Wierman; **TEMPLE CITY:** Elaine Kely, Libia Massanet, Theresa Shaw.

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