



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

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

September–October 2016

Mountain Quail

Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*) can be found in the mountains of the Pacific States from Washington all the way south to Baja California and in isolated pockets eastwards into Nevada and Idaho. It is estimated by Partners in Flight and Birdlife International that they have a stable population of around 300,000 birds, with 95% of that population being found within the USA. There are five accepted subspecies of Mountain Quail with the one in our local mountains known as Desert Mountain Quail (*O. p. eremophilus*).

The species is a bird of shrubby mountainous habitat between 2250 and 9500+ feet in elevation and typically found in small coveys (groups) of around ten birds. They are the only New World quail that is known to regularly "migrate", with seasonal movements made between breeding and wintering territory. Much of this altitudinal migration may be attempts to avoid snow, though movements of up to 20 miles have been recorded.

The Mountain Quail is the largest of all quail species found in the U.S., with a length between 10.2 and 12.2 inches and an average weight of around nine ounces. The relatively large size of the bird and their healthy population numbers don't, however, seem to make them any more readily findable for your average birder and these mountain ghosts are probably among the most sought-after species among visiting birders.

Those seeking this species out are advised to do so from March through to September when their vocalizations will likely draw you towards findable birds. Considering how infrequent sightings are, it's interesting to note how common this species is during the breeding season when you can detect them by voice. They are known to come to feeders (most of their adult diet is plant material) and water features and it is believed availability of water is an important factor in determining their range in more arid regions.

Mountain Quail are relatively reliable at a few places in L.A. County and good places to "hunt" for quail include a number of sites in Angeles National Forest like Barley Flats Rd, Upper Big Tujunga Rd (where relatively lightly vegetated slopes can make viewing easier) and around the Chilao



Photo: Luke Tiller

Continued on page 9

President's Perch

Hope you had a nice summer and are ready for fall migration! PAS has a great year lined up – thanks to the efforts of the PAS board, we will soon have a **vision** statement. A good vision statement should help to clarify our path forward. An effective one should light the way, enabling PAS to move quickly and precisely toward our goals. Our common vision will help us align our efforts for future programs and projects. Certainly we will uncover more opportunities to reach like-minded folks in the extended community around us who may not know about PAS.

Once we have our plan in place, we will need your help to make our vision a reality. Will you help us? I hope so, since we are all in this together! In the coming months please be on the lookout for a list of specific opportunities available. I am sure there is a perfect fit for your skills!

Happy Birding,

Deni Sinnott

In This Issue

Programs	2
Conservation	2, 4
Education	3
History	4
Field Trips	5, 8
Calendar	6
Hawaiian Birds	7
Volunteering	8
Announcements	9
New Members	10

September Program

Building ID Skills

Wednesday, September 21, 2016
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Jon Fisher and Mickey Long

In birding there's perhaps nothing more frustrating than being unable to identify what you are looking at. Many species are simple IDs, but others can confuse us and challenge us. It's perplexing, but interesting.

In this program we'll take a look at a number of these similar species and discuss how to tell them apart. We'll also cover the vocalizations, seasonal status and behavior that often offer clues to identification. Almost all birders strive to maintain "clean" lists and to make accurate eBird entries. To that end, it's always helpful to review field marks and perhaps learn some new ones.

This time, we'll use **your actual photos** as examples during the talk. Email your confusing photos to mlongbird@gmail.com by September 7 or sooner.

General meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (address on back cover). Refreshments and socializing begin at 7:00 pm and programs are presented from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Programs for youth begin at 6:30 pm; check the insert in this issue.

October Program

Bird-Friendly Coffee

Wednesday, October 19, 2016
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

John Sterling

You need your coffee. But where and how that coffee is grown can have an important environmental impact.

John will be presenting some of his Smithsonian research supporting the Bird-Friendly Coffee movement. He will discuss why some coffee farms are better than others for birds, why good coffee farms are critically important for conservation, and will illustrate his talk with photos of birds from coffee farms in Latin America, the Philippines and Sumatra.

An active birder since 1971, John has traveled internationally as a guide and ornithologist for many institutions. John currently has his own company specializing in tours, birding classes, research, and environmental consulting.

Try some bird-friendly coffee at the pre-meeting social!

November Program

Birding in Prison

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

They trespassed on private property one too many times, and now all they can observe are pigeons, crows, and House Sparrows. Come hear their story.



O.K., we made that up. The program for the November meeting is still in flux but, by the time you receive the November issue of *The Wrentit*, all will be well. Check with us then.

Photo by Luke Tiller.

Conservation

No Big Dig – Lawsuit Update

In December of 2014, the Pasadena Audubon Society and the Arroyo Seco Foundation filed a lawsuit against the L.A. County Flood Control District to stop their Big Dig to remove 2.4 million cubic yards of sediment from behind Devil's Gate Dam. We finally have a court date—January 2017. In the meantime, the County held three public meetings in July 2016, and we held a press conference the week before their first meeting. Our concern is that they have applied for a take permit for the federally listed 'Least' Bell's Vireo, meaning that they want permission to disturb or even kill this endangered bird as part of the sediment removal program. According to Tim Brick, Managing Director of AFC, the good news is that they have not been able to get the "key environmental permits" they need from state and federal agencies, and both federal agencies, the Army Corps of Engineers and US Fish and Wildlife, "have indicated that they have other priorities at this time," so we will probably not have to file a preliminary injunction before we go to trial in January. If the County tells you that the lawsuit is what's holding up the Big Dig, that's not true. It's their inability to get the permits they need.

At our press conference, we raised the point that we much prefer the plan approved by the Pasadena City Council because the Big Dig is too big, is harmful to the air quality and traffic of

the neighborhood and region, and permanently damages 52 acres of willow forest right in the heart of 'Least' Bell's Vireo territory. Astonishingly, at their three meetings, the County claimed that this would be good for the Vireo because they say that they will restore the habitat. What they mean to say is that they will permanently destroy perfectly good habitat and then restore the fringe of habitat around it. We're not buying it. The County has never proven that they need to remove sediment at all, and the more we look at this project, the more it looks like Step One of a much larger project—the Eaton Canyon Pipeline, a monstrous and entirely unexamined plan to move water from one side of Pasadena to the other.

Stay tuned! This could get very interesting!

Laura Garrett



Hahamonga photo by Dorothy Wong

Education

Young Birder Scholarship Report

Dessi Sieburth

From July 16 to July 21, 2016, I attended an American Birding Association (ABA) camp for young birders in Colorado. I received a grant from the Pasadena Audubon Society and a scholarship from the ABA to attend the camp. The camp was located at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park near Rocky Mountain National Park. It was very exciting to meet 21 other young birders from ages 13-18 who also have a great passion for birds. The young birders came from different places around the U.S., such as New York, Wisconsin, California and Georgia. Our camp leaders were Jennie Duberstein, Jen Brumfield, Raymond VanBuskirk, Marcel Such, and Bill Schmoker, and they were all experienced birders and great mentors.

The first day, I arrived in the late afternoon, and it did not take long to make friends with the other young birders. The first evening, some of us birded around the YMCA feeders, where we saw a gorgeous male Evening Grosbeak and Cordilleran Flycatchers. The next day, we birded the montane forests of the Rocky Mountain National Park where we saw Black Swifts flying overhead, a Calliope Hummingbird visiting the feeders at a residence, and many Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. After dinner, some of us decided that we would do a “Big Hour” every evening after dinner where we would go out and see how many species we could find in an hour. Our record was 28 species, including Red-naped Sapsucker and Red Crossbills.



A MacGillivray's Warbler perches in montane habitat

One day of the camp was devoted to doing a “Big Day” where we went out to find as many species as possible in a single day. We started the day in the grasslands, finding roosting Common Nighthawks, Orchard Orioles, and Brown Thrashers. We also got good looks at Dickcissel, McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs, and Mountain Plovers. We ended our day back at camp finding a male Williamson's Sapsucker. We got a total of 95 species, a new record for Camp Colorado!

We spent two days birding in sub-Alpine tundra (spruces

and firs) and the Alpine tundra (treeless, rocky habitat) which are prime birding locations in Rocky Mountain National Park. We were able to see a female Dusky Grouse with two chicks. In the Alpine tundra, we saw six White-tailed Ptarmigan: two females, a male, and three chicks. We found Brown-capped Rosy-Finches along a snow bank. The Brown-capped Rosy-Finch is a Colorado specialty. On the way down from the Alpine tundra, we pulled off the road and saw a male American Three-toed Woodpecker.

I also attended several workshops, led by the camp counselors. I first took a photography class with Bill Schmoker, who judges the photography entries of the ABA young birders contest. One of the things he taught me was how to get a good exposure on my camera. I also took a sketching class with Jen Brumfield, a professional artist who judges illustration entries for the ABA young birders contest. I sketched a Pine Siskin at the YMCA feeders with her. There were several interesting presentations by the leaders. Raymond presented on how he bands Rosy-Finches in New Mexico and tracks their movement. Bill talked about his journey to the North Pole with a research vessel, and Jen spoke about her big year in Cleveland where she managed to set a new record for her county. Marcel gave a presentation about how to successfully get a job in ornithology. He told us that making yourself known to others by attending birding events and giving presentations can lead to job opportunities in the future.

Camp Colorado was an incredible experience. It was my first Young Birder's Camp and I really enjoyed it. I especially



A Common Nighthawk roosts in a riparian area near grasslands

liked meeting the other young birders at the camp. By the end of the five days of Camp, we got 126 species, and four of them were lifers for me. I took lots of photos, improved my photography and sketching skills, and learned about ornithology jobs. I can't wait to go to more Young Birder's Camps around the country next summer. Thanks to Jennie, Raymond, Jen, Bill, Marcel, and all the kids for making Camp Colorado an experience that I will always remember. Thanks to the ABA and Pasadena Audubon Society for providing the funds.

Conservation

Just Hatched, and Orphaned

Gillian Martin of the Cavity Conservation Initiative gave a presentation at the October 2014 general meeting of PAS. She pointed out the ecological benefits of leaving dead trees standing and the hazards of pruning trees during nesting season.

Those hazards were emphasized last spring by an incident in which a tree-trimming crew removed the top portion of a tree in Hacienda Heights and a Good Samaritan later discovered

three just-hatched Acorn Woodpecker nestlings on the ground at the trimming site. The birds were taken to the Songbird Care and Education Center in Orange County. The original story, with video, can be found on the web at <http://cavityconservation.com/2016/05/21/just-hatched-and-orphaned/>

The center saved the young birds' lives and reared them to a point at which they could be relocated to a mobile aviary where they can develop further and adapt to their new home. Check out their progress at <http://cavityconservation.com/2016/06/08/rescue-d-baby-woodpeckers-half-way-to-release/>

After six weeks in the mobile aviary, the three birds were released and were accepted by the local Acorn Woodpecker population.

This is an excellent reminder not to trim trees during nesting season (usually February through August) unless a skilled arborist has carefully checked the tree for nesting activity. And recognize the value of holes in trees, and dead trees, for the important nest sites and food sources that they provide.



Mark Hunter — Photos: Gillian Martin

History

Forty Years Ago at Pasadena Audubon

Exactly forty years ago, in September, 1976, the Wrentit, then known as the "Bulletin of the Pasadena Audubon Society," highlighted the election of a new leader. He had come to Southern California in early childhood and, intending to be a naturalist, obtained a degree in Zoology at a local university. He had a strong interest in general field biology and especially in the ecology and distribution of Southwestern amphibians and reptiles. Most recently he had worked for five years as a biologist at the Whittier Narrows Nature Center.

As he took office he had mixed feelings of anticipation and uncertainty but looked forward to getting to work. In his initial message he expressed the difficulties but importance of Audubon dealing with conservation issues. The contribution of Audubon members in providing bird lists to various agencies to be included on Environmental Impact Reports was highlighted. In particular, the relation of loss of habitat to the decline of wildlife populations was highlighted.

Forty years later, we are fortunate to have then-President Mickey Long once again on our PAS Board of Directors.

The conservation issues of the day included the proposed building of two dams in the San Rafael Hills northwest of the Rose Bowl and a proposed nuclear power facility in the desert near Blythe. [In 2016, PAS is a leader in the fight against habitat destruction behind Devil's Gate Dam and has made major contributions to habitat preservation in Millard Canyon, Rubio Canyon, and Cottonwood Canyon in the San Rafael Hills.]

A total of three field trips were planned over the following three months to the lakes at Whittier Narrows, to Malibu Lagoon and to Upper Newport Bay. [In 2016 PAS will sponsor about 18 trips from September through November.]

Members were invited to visit the PAS library housed at Eaton Canyon and to participate in the Magpie Study Group, which met in various homes.

The Wrentit was mailed that month to our 905 National members. [In 2016 PAS has about 1000 members from National, after they eliminated some obsolete records, and also about 360 chapter-only members.]

Ira Blitz

September Conservation Event at Hahamongna Nursery

Saturday September 17, 2016

8:00 am — noon

Our September conservation project will support our friends and partners at the Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery, located in Hahamongna Watershed Park. We'll go on a shorter version of our Hahamongna walk from 8:00 to 10:00 am, and then lend a hand in the nursery, which currently grows over 200 native species. This project is family friendly and kids are welcome. Please bring gardening gloves if you have them (PAS will have some on hand as well). Please contact Kym (kym.buzdygon@pasadenaaudubon.org) if you're interested.

Field Trips

Migrant Fallies

Actual title: "Fall Migration Walks with Luke Tiller." Luke will be running a series of local walks that will take place Thursdays and Saturdays throughout fall. The walks, at various locations, will last a couple of hours and focus on migrant species. For more details and to sign up visit underclearskies.com/trips-and-tours/ or email him at luke.tiller@gmail.com.

WCC

Luke Tiller

residents, migrants, and vagrants (only the feathered kind). A stray flyball or a redstart is not unheard of, and either will be pretty exciting! We do expect to see fall warblers, woodpeckers, and other perching birds while we explore Solano Canyon and possibly other locations.

From Pasadena, take the Pasadena (110) Freeway south, exit on Academy Way and go straight about 0.3 miles to the traffic light (Park Dr./Solano Canyon). Turn right and go about 0.3 miles to the parking area on your left.

Ron Cyger and Sue Horton

Piute Ponds and Vicinity

Saturday, September 10, 2016

6:30 am — early afternoon

By September, southbound migration will be in full swing. Join us at the Piute Ponds, a wetland oasis in the desert, where every year thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage on their way south. We should find over a dozen shorebird species, and we may see Baird's or Pectoral Sandpipers. We will also look for desert birds such as Bell's Sparrow and we have a chance for LeConte's Thrasher. After Piute Ponds, we will visit nearby Apollo Park, where we will look for migrating songbirds such as warblers and flycatchers. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

Note: Piute Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base, which has restricted entry, so space is limited. Please email Mark Scheel if you would like to attend. We will be meeting in the northern Antelope Valley at dawn (6:30 am); the meeting place will be arranged.

Mark and Janet Scheel

WC

Big Santa Anita Canyon

Sunday, November 6, 2016

6:30 am — noon (first day of Pacific Standard Time)

Join us for a fall hike as we search for Pacific Wren, American Dipper, Canyon Wren, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Hutton's vireo, and other lower montane species.

We're planning to hike past Sturtevant Falls as far as the Cascade Picnic Area for a total of about six miles. Parking at Chantry Flat is crowded on weekends so please carpool and arrive early if possible.

Bring sturdy shoes, water, some food, sunscreen, a hat, warm clothing, and an Adventure Pass for your car. Heavy rain cancels but drizzle does not.

Lance Benner

WCC

Elysian Park Redstart Recon

Saturday, October 15, 2016

7:30 am — noon

On this walk in L.A.'s oldest park, we will search out

WC

North Slope San Gabriels

Saturday, November 12, 2016

7:30 am — early afternoon

We will explore areas on the northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, such as Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center, Jackson Lake, and locations in Valyermo. We will search for high-altitude species as well as wintering raptors. Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and Golden Eagle are possible, as are

WC

Continued on page 8!

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, September 18, 2016

Sunday, October 16, 2016

Sunday, November 20, 2016

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

WCC

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, September 3, 2016

Saturday, October 1, 2016

7:30 am — 11:30 am

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 Hahagmongna, and park by the ballfield.

Darren Dowell

WCC

Huntington Library Monthly Walk

Sunday, September 25, 2016

Sunday, October 23, 2016

Sunday, November 27, 2016

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. Members may bring one non-member guest, space permitting. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible.

For reservations contact me (see bottom of calendar page) by email (preferred), or by phone.

Mark Hunter








WCC

 = Wrentit Club!

Calendar
Submit material for the next Wrentit by October 1

 = Wrentit Club
Count Circle!

September 2016

3	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
7	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
10	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip		County Arboretum	Julia Ray
10	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip*		Piute Ponds & vicinity	Mark & Janet Scheel
11	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
14	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E. Colorado Blvd.	See page 9
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Legg Lakes	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
21	Wed	6:00 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Bird ID Workshop
25	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*		Huntington Botanical Garden	Mark Hunter

October 2016

1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
5	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
8	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip		County Arboretum	Julia Ray
9	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
12	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E Colorado Blvd	See page 9
15	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Elysian Park	Ron Cyger, Sue Horton
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Peck Road Park	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Bird-friendly Coffee
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*		Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

November 2016

2	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
5	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Legg Lake	Darren Dowell
6	Sun	6:30 am	Field Trip		Big Santa Anita Canyon	Lance Benner
9	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E Colorado Blvd	See page 9
12	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip		County Arboretum	Julia Ray
12	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		North Slope San Gabriels	Mark & Janet Scheel
13	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
15	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Santa Fe Dam	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
16	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	TBD (check Nov. Wrentit)
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*		Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

* - reservations required, PAS members only

* Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (chair), (626) 765-5408, scheel@tapir.caltech.edu	Frank & Susan Gilliland, (626) 441-8487, gillilandsusan@gmail.com
Larry Allen, (626) 797-1810, larryallen@earlymusicla.org	Mark Hunter, (626) 344-8428, mark.hunter@pasadenaudubon.org
Lance Benner, (626) 791-1187, lbenner@charter.net	Mickey Long, (626) 285-8878, mstrongbird@charter.net
Ron Cyger, (626) 840-2566, ron@cyger.org (preferred)	Hill Penfold, (818) 352-4954, hpenfold@gmail.com
Darren Dowell, (626) 344-4003, dowell.darren@yahoo.com	Julia Ray, (818) 314-5127, jraymusic@att.net
Kathi Ellsworth, (626) 524-0652, pandionsky@yahoo.com	Ed Stonick, (626) 796-0595, edstonick@att.net
Jon Feenstra, (626) 319-4723, feenstra@alumni.caltech.edu	Luke Tiller, streatham2003@aol.com
Jon Fisher, (818) 800-2776, jonf60@hotmail.com	

Saving Native Hawaiian Birds

Frank and Susan Gilliland

Hawaii is the 50th state in the U.S. and yet, many of us are unaware of the wonders of Hawaii's flora and fauna. This is a problem because many of the unique birds of Hawaii are endangered, extinct in the wild or just plain extinct. For example, take the Hawaiian Crow, the 'alalā (*Corvus hawaiiensis*), whose wild population, known only from the west side of the Big Island, gradually declined to just two birds in 2002 and none were seen after that. Native Hawaiian birds really need our help.

We recently had the pleasure of birding the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge with Jack Jeffrey, biologist and photographer, and one of the founders of the Refuge. Hakalau contains some of the finest remaining stands of native montane rain forest in Hawai'i, including the beautiful koa and 'ōhi'a trees. Many of the threatened species, birds and plants, are found there. Over the years alien grasses were introduced as food for cattle and sheep. European boars, introduced for hunting, were left to roam the forest. As a result many of the native plants and trees were decimated. "Lose the plants and the birds die. Lose the birds and the plant communities don't survive," says Jack Jeffrey. Over the last 40 years, Jack has witnessed eight bird species become extinct across the Hawaiian Islands.

The Refuge offers protected areas for endangered species, including the Hawai'i 'ākepa, the Hawai'i creeper, the 'akiapōlā'au and the 'io (Hawaiian hawk).

The good news is that there are captive breeding programs for the 'alalā and other endangered species on the Big Island and Maui. Active conservation and reforestation projects exist for other endangered habitats and species.

Hawaiian birds need and deserve our attention and our support. Here are some recommendations on how you can help

native Hawaiian birds:

- Learn all you can about native Hawaiian birds.
- Share what you learn with your friends and family.
- Ask the ABA to include Hawaii in the ABA birding area.
- Donate to Hakalau Forest, www.FriendsofHakalauForest.org. Click the Endowment link.
- Bird Hawaii and let everyone know you are there to see the native birds.



Clockwise from top left:
'Akiapōlā'au, critically endangered, Frank Gilliland
'Iwi, Frank Gilliland
Nene, endangered, Hawaiian state bird, Susan Gilliland
'Akepa, endangered, Frank Gilliland

Field Trips, continued

Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers. Unusual species (e.g. Lewis's Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Swamp Sparrow) have been found in some years. Time permitting, we may look for Mountain Plovers or longspurs in the nearby Antelope Valley.

Although we will get to higher elevations, all locations on this trip are accessible by car, and there is no strenuous hiking involved. We will be out most of the day, but anyone who needs to leave early will be able to do so.

It may be cold, especially at higher elevations, so bring warm clothes. Also, bring lunch. We will meet at Pearblossom Park, which is at the corner of 121st st. East and East Avenue V14 in Pearblossom, just south of Hwy 138 (Pearblossom Highway).

Mark & Janet Scheel

L.A. County Arboretum

Second Saturday of every month
8:00 am — 10:00 am



This easy walk is for birders of all ages and experience levels. Meet on the steps leading to the entrance of the Arboretum. Admission is \$5 – free for members of the Arboretum or Audubon, and free for children under 12.

Julia Ray

Chilao Visitor Center

Second Sunday of every month
8:00 am — 10:00 am



The Chilao Visitor Center walks continue each month, weather and roads permitting. (If things look rainy, snowy or brush fire-y, check first.)

Chilao, 26.5 miles north of I-210 on Angeles Crest (State Hwy 2), is a good place to see woodpeckers and we often see four or more species on a walk. Mountain Quail are somewhat elusive but still seen or heard about half the time. You can also expect Purple Finches, Steller's Jays, Dark-eyed Juncos and several species of nuthatches and others totaling about 30 species during the 2-hour walk.

Hill Penfold

Legg Lake & San Gabriel River

Saturday, November 5, 2016
7:30 am — 11:30 am



In winter, the Hahamongna monthly walk is replaced by one at Legg Lake. These trips will cover some consistently good lake and park birding areas. Legg Lake has lots of water and scattered trees and has produced good waterfowl numbers and varieties as well as an impressive list of migrants and wintering birds. Time permitting we'll include the Pico Rivera spreading grounds or some other river locations, based on what's around. An excellent trip for beginning and young birders.

Meet in the Santa Anita Ave. parking lot. From the 60 freeway, take Santa Anita south a short distance to the lake and parking lot on your right.

Darren Dowell

Volunteer Opportunities

Please Help Us Out

Pasadena Audubon is growing, and we need your help! In addition to conservation volunteers, who can sign up for projects as they are announced, we are looking for people to fill some specific roles.

Assistant Editor — Do you have professional writing or editing experience? Can you hunt down and obtain interesting stories and photos? Are you comfortable using Scribus desktop publishing software, or willing to learn? The Wrentit gets a little bigger and better each year and it could use another volunteer for any or all of those tasks. Please contact Mark Hunter at pas.wrentit@gmail.com if you are interested. We are also looking for a volunteer to assist with updating our own Pasadena Birding Guide. This major revision will feature color photos, updated text, and professional bookbinding. If you are interested in the Birding Guide, please contact Ron Cyger at ron@cyger.org

Hospitality — Hospitality volunteers are the glue that holds our meetings together! We really need people to help set up the room before the meeting, bring cookies, and clean up afterwards. If we get enough people to sign up, then we can rotate the responsibility. If you're interested, please contact Liz Cordero at ecordero@ph.lacounty.gov

Bilingual Assistance — We would really love to have our outreach brochure translated into Spanish and Chinese. If you are fluent in either of those languages and would like to help, please get in touch with Kym at kym.buzdygon@pasadenaudubon.org.

Graphic Artist — We are looking for help to make our communications, outreach materials, and eventually our website look even more awesome and beautiful. If you have some experience in graphic design and would like to assist, please contact Deni Sinnott at denisinnott25@gmail.com.

The PAS crew is full of talented, friendly people, and we will be glad to welcome you.

Outreach Volunteer Training

Interested in being an outreach volunteer? Come to our first ever outreach volunteer training on Wednesday, September 28 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center classroom. We will go over our outreach materials and common questions so that you feel comfortable representing PAS at a variety of community events. Please RSVP to Kym at kym.buzdygon@pasadenaudubon.org

Peck Road Water Conservation Park

The fall Peck Park cleanup will take place on **Saturday, Oct. 22**. Meet at the parking lot at 8:00 am. for a bird walk; cleanup will go from 10:00 am to noon. Trash bags, gloves, snacks, and water will be provided. Please wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for uneven ground. RSVP to kym.buzdygon@pasadenaudubon.org

Young Birders Recognized

The PAS Young Birders Club was honored at Condor Night on August 17 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and the California Condor Recovery Program recognized the efforts of our young birders as ambassadors for the California Condor. The club has participated in many outreach and educational events. Look for more young birder news in the insert in this issue of *The Wrentit*.



Announcements

Magpie Bird Study Group



We meet the third Tuesday of most months. We bird 9:00 am to 11:30 am and have a sack lunch and a short meeting. All PAS members welcome!

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Legg Lakes
Santa Anita Ave parking lot

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Peck Road Water Conservation Park

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Santa Fe Dam
Meet at Nature Center

Trip leaders: Julia Ray, Sid Heyman

DONATIONS TO PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Margaret Blackford, Denise Castillo, Jennifer Cole, Ruby Gardner, Beth Gertmenian, Walter Lamb, Elliott Mazur, Doris Popoff, Cindy Shilkret, Chrystal & Claire Watson. Thank you!

Page 1 Bird, continued

Visitors Center. In previous years Chilao was perhaps the most reliable spot to find these birds though less regular filling of the center’s feeders seems to negatively impacted the reliability of sightings.

Being a tasty-looking, chicken-like bird that is more at home on the ground than in the air, it probably pays for Mountain Quail to be both secretive and wary. Birders’ encounters with them often amount to a brief sighting as one crosses a road or path before rushing back to the cover of deep brush. The species’ preference for inhabiting areas with steep slopes and dense brush cover means that following up on sightings is often impossible. With that in mind any birding trip that involves a visual encounter with a Mountain Quail can be considered a good one. Happy hunting!
Luke Tiller

You can see more of author Luke Tiller’s Mountain Quail photos on his blog here:
underclearskies.com/2016/07/28/mother-of-all-mountain-quail/

Birds 'n Beers

Good food, good beverages, and good bird talk at this casual monthly gathering led by Luke Tiller, Catherine Hamilton, and David Bell. Everyone is welcome! 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, the second Wednesday of each month, at Lucky Baldwin's at 1770 E. Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena.

Become a Chapter-only Member of PAS

Local chapters of the National Audubon Society, such as Pasadena Audubon, receive only a small share of NAS membership dues. In order to finance our programs and services, including publication of *The Wrentit*, PAS 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, per family, or \$15 for seniors and students, all of which remains with our local chapter to fund our programs. We thank you all for your support!

Chapter-only Membership Application

Name Phone
 Address
 City State ZIP
 Email

If this is a gift, please also provide donor's information below:

Name Phone
 Address
 City State ZIP

Yearly dues:

- \$20 (individual or family) \$15 (senior or student)
- \$_____ (donation)

Make checks payable to, and mail to:

Pasadena Audubon, 1750 N Altadena Dr, Pasadena, CA 91107

Or pay with PayPal at www.pasadenaaudubon.org

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Magpie Bird Study Group	Julia Ray	(818) 314-5127
	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991

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See chapter-only dues on previous page. Wrentit subscription only—1 year \$10. National Audubon Society membership fees—\$35. National members receive Audubon magazine and The Wrentit. Messages or queries for Pasadena Audubon may be left at (626) 355-9412. For change of NAS address call: (800) 274-4201.

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Because I'm the Editor, That's Why

Ordinarily I rely on photos from our talented members for entertaining content in *The Wrentit*. But when my heavily-used birdbath fountain had an unusual visitor (bobcat) on a hot day last July, I thought it was worth a printing the shot.

Mark Hunter

**New Members**

ALHAMBRA: Cubby Williams; **ALTADENA:** Mary Bristow, Amanda Celetano, Laural Hill, Sara Ngo; **ARCADIA:** Lynne Curry, Marissa Caringella, Rebecca Fabry, David Siegrist; **COVINA:** Katarina Gomez; **EAGLE ROCK:** Lee Dunkman; **ENCINO:** Jean Brandt; **GARDENA:** Vincent Lloyd; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Leslie Ann Miller, Marvin Nelson; **LOS ANGELES:** Karen Smallfoot; **MONROVIA:** Margaret Blackford, Wanda Grieve, Joanna Kelley, Elizabeth Young; **MONTEREY PARK:** Timothy Chang, Mitsue Oshita; **NORTH HOLLYWOOD:** Nariporn Pratheepmanowong; **PASADENA:** Desirée Allard, Meagan Bartholemy, Kyle Bertolucci, Sophia Bliziotis, Joan Cathcart, Elizabeth Crockett, Lynn Fairbanks, Eva Hanloser, James Hastings, Georgia Jung, Birute Kliore, Shirley Knuth, Denise Lamontagne, Hildegard Lindsay, Harriet Robinson, Golareh Safarian, Diane Sipieter, Molly Sharp, Dorothy Urner, Wayne Walker; **ROSEMEAD:** Christina de Vanhoof; **SAN MARINO:** Patricia Lindsay; **SIERRA MADRE:** Marcielle Brandler, Ellen Carroll, Jillian Neary; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Ray Santana, Judi Shur; **TEMPLE CITY:** Jerry Ewing; **WHITTIER:** Dan Holguin