

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 2018

Least Bittern

The Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) is a small and secretive inhabitant of marshes and riverbanks that is found across southern North America, Central America, and northern South America. The smallest of the herons found in our area, Least Bitterns are well adapted to navigating the dense vegetation of marshes and wetlands, often hunting in deep water by clinging to the overhanging stems of reeds and other grasses too small to support a larger bird. Both sexes are pale reddish brown on the body and folded wings with the neck striped white, while males have a solid black/green crown and back - rusty brown on the female. The bill, ceres, legs and feet are a rich yellow. Least Bittern also exhibits a dark morph, “Cory’s” Bittern, that has been recorded in locations ranging from the Great Lakes to Florida and Brazil sparingly since the early 20th century. Cory’s Least Bittern is all-dark throughout the body and lacks the pale brown of the typical Least Bittern. Vocalizations include a range of low, guttural rolling calls and slow individual notes.



Least Bittern

© Mark Scheel

The bittern subfamily, Botaurinae, is a globally distributed family of wetland birds closely related to herons and egrets. Within the heron family, the bittern subfamily split off from the other subfamilies relatively early in the group’s history, with the typical herons and egrets representing the most recently separated lineage. Along with the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), the Least Bittern represents the only Botaurinae occurring regularly in North America. Within the genus *Ixobrychus*, Least Bittern is most closely related to the Little and Yellow Bitterns, both old world species. In some parts of its range the Least Bittern is migratory, while some populations are sedentary throughout the year. In Los Angeles, Ballona Freshwater Marsh and Legg Lake are the best places to reliably find Least Bitterns.

Diego Blanco

President’s Perch

Over the years, I’ve noticed that one question that annoys experienced birders is “What’s your favorite bird?” The answer is usually “The one I’m looking at,” which is clever, but for me, not quite truthful. While I do love all birds, my favorite one to watch is the albatross, any albatross. Such a magically paradoxical bird, with its fragile strength, its wise innocence, its clumsy grace. I marvel at their ability to skim the waves, to fly thousands of miles without rest, to find their true mate after months apart. When I see an albatross fly free over the sea, it always brings tears to my eyes, and I’m not even sure why.

My love for these birds made watching the film, *Albatross*, by Chris Jordan almost unbearable. (See albatrossthefilm.com if you missed our showing of it on July 31 at Eaton Canyon.) In this poetic love story of a documentary, he shows the suffering that we cause the albatross because of our societal agreement to use plastic for almost everything. Despite efforts to recycle it, far too much plastic ends up in the ocean, and while we may know intellectually that this causes sea birds to suffer and die, the film demands that we confront that suffering up close and personal. The horror of the problems we cause with plastic demands that we do something to stop it. And so we shall.

Besides plastic, birds face threats from all sides: habitat loss, pesticides, climate change, even the current attack on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. In order to do more to help birds, the Pasadena Audubon Society board decided at our retreat in early August to create two committees: Advocacy and Education. The first will focus on ways we can advocate for birds locally, regionally, nationally, and even globally. This committee will help us focus on how we can help individually and as a chapter. The Education Committee will focus on opportunities for bringing the excitement of birds to our community, including schools, in news ways. And we’d love for you to join us! If you’d like to do more to help birds or to help people learn about birds, then please email Lois Brunet at lbrunet@pasadenaaudubon.org. I’d love it if everyone could have the experience of watching their favorite birds, even if it’s just the one in their scope. We are Pasadena Audubon and we love birds!

Laura Garrett

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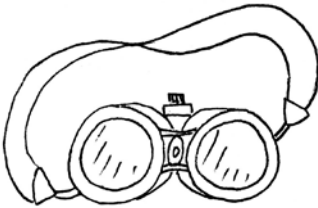
MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS: UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Mickey and Jon's Bird ID Quiz
September 19, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

As is traditional, we will kick off our fall season of meetings with Mickey Long and Jon Fisher hosting an evening of bird identification challenges.

This year we will be including fun and games that involve an expert panel of PAS's birding glitterati. We will get into the swing of fall migration by helping sharpen your ID skills and have some laughs along the way.

Come join in the fun!


It's All About the Habitat
October 17, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Rivers and the riparian habitat they support are key to several important bird species locally in Southern California. 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. Steve Evans from California Wilderness Coalition (CalWild) will present a program exploring the Act's legacy of protecting free-flowing rivers and streams throughout the state. Even in these politically troubled times, there is legislation pending in Congress that will more than double the miles of protected rivers in the state. Come learn what you can do to be good stewards of rivers currently in the system and how to secure protection for new rivers and streams. Steve Evans, the Wild & Scenic Rivers Program Director for CalWild, has been involved in the protection of more than 480 miles of wild and scenic rivers in the last 30 years.

The Young Birder Club

Young people interested in birds and nature are invited to join our Young Birders Club. Parents are encouraged to attend, too.

Monthly meetings are held just before the monthly chapter meetings, September through May, at 6:45 pm on the third Wednesday of the month. Field trips are organized regularly.

To find out more about the Young Birder Club, please email Susan Gilliland at gillilandsusan@gmail.com.

Monthly chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (1750 N. Altadena Drive in Pasadena). 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 6:45 pm

CONSERVATION

It's a regular occurrence for birds to die in extremely cold temperatures, but it's uncommon for birds to die of heat exposure. Yet that's what happened to birds in Death Valley during July's heat waves, when the valley reached an average temperature of 108.1 degrees, day and night, for several days. And huge numbers of animals have suffered death or homelessness in the wake of the recent statewide wildfires. Climate change is here, it's real, and it will have major impacts on the numbers and distribution of birds in our area. A recent New York Times article, "California's Birds Are Testing New Survival Tactics on a Vast Scale," details some of the other ways that California species are adjusting to the new reality, including earlier nesting seasons (heat is very hard on hatchlings).

The current Federal administration is actively pursuing ways to weaken the bird protection regulations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We are joining forces with California Audubon to maintain these protections in our state. Read Carolyn Murphy's article on page 3 for more detailed information.

The Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy recently held a celebration of their acquisition of 11 acres in Cottonwood Canyon, a vital link in the wildlife corridor from the San Gabriel Mountains to the San Rafael Hills (just east of the Glendale Freeway) and beyond to the Verdugo Mountains (just west of the Glendale Freeway). There are two resident mountain lions in the Verdugos now - Nikita and Adonis - so this corridor is increasingly important. The conservancy plans to acquire more parcels in the corridor to keep it viable. Pasadena Audubon was a major donor in the Cottonwood Canyon campaign.

Remember the article about the Red-whiskered Bulbul in the last issue of the Wrentit? Fasten your seat belts – the Red-vented Bulbul has been sighted recently in the San Gabriel Valley. In areas where it was already introduced (Hawaii, South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand, Persian Gulf) it is considered one of the worst invasive species.

Mark Hunter

CONSERVATION

PAS Joins the Fight to Defend America's Cornerstone Bird Conservation Law

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) was passed in 1918 to implement the Migratory Bird Treaty between the U.S. and Canada. The purpose of the MBTA was to protect rapidly declining bird species from threats such as plume trade, market hunting, and habitat loss. It worked and millions, if not billions of birds, have been saved because of enforcement of the act over the last 100 years.

But birds now face 21st century threats and MBTA protections are as critical as ever. The act makes it unlawful to kill, hunt, sell, or possess most native species of birds in the U.S., along with their nests, eggs, and feathers without a permit. But in the modern era, millions of birds are also killed "incidentally" each year from industrial activities such as oil waste pits, power lines, communications towers, and gas flares. Many of these deaths are avoidable with inexpensive solutions such as covering oil pits or marking transmission lines which the act currently requires. The Fish and Wildlife Service is the designated enforcer of the act.

In December 2017, the Trump administration issued a legal opinion that the incidental killing of birds is not prohibited under the act and will no longer be enforced. This change along with others that the administration is trying to put into law will gut the MBTA by giving a free pass for bird deaths from industrial activities. It would end the Fish and Wildlife Service's authority to address incidental killing as well as terminating existing protections for certain other species.

Pasadena Audubon Society is joining with other local and state chapters all over the country, including CA Audubon and National Audubon to oppose this move. The State of California has already passed a statewide Resolution supporting the MBTA. PAS is joining other local chapters to urge the Pasadena City Council, the City of Los Angeles and the LA County Board of Supervisors to pass their own Resolutions in support of the current MBTA and its enforcement. This law is needed now as much as ever and it is critical that we oppose any efforts that undermines the MBTA, America's cornerstone bird conservation law.

Carolyn Murphy

Protecting Seabirds

From June 2 to June 8, 2018, I visited the Hawaiian Island of Kauai for a birding trip. Kauai is known for its large nesting seabird populations. I was privileged to visit the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, which was established in 1985 to protect the island's nesting seabirds. I saw hundreds of nesting Red-footed Boobies, as well as both Red-tailed and White-tailed Tropicbirds flying around the cliffs at Kilauea Point. I was able to see several fuzzy Laysan Albatross chicks in a residential neighborhood bordering Kilauea Point. Unfortunately, many of Kauai's seabird populations have been declining. However, since the establishment of the refuge, some species have made a comeback. Fences that surround the refuge eliminate the threats of rats and cats, and as a result, birds such as the Laysan Albatross and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters have been increasing in numbers.

The Kauai Endangered Seabird Recovery Project is an agency that protects and monitors Kauai's endangered seabirds. For examples, radio telemetry data has shown that Newell's Shearwaters have declined by 94 percent over the last 25 years, and Hawaiian Petrels have declined by 78 percent over that same period. The reasons for these declines include plastic ingestion at sea, light attractions of fledglings, predation from introduced mammals such as cats and rats, as well as power-line collisions.

Seabird populations are declining all over the world. Seabirds hunt fish and squid, but they also accidentally ingest bits of plastic that are floating in the ocean. When seabirds feed plastic to their young it can accumulate inside their stomachs, killing them. Plastic often gets blown away from landfills and beach visitors leave their trash behind and it ends up in the ocean. We all can make a big difference by reducing the plastic we are using. For example, we can use reusable water bottles, avoid straws and purchase food from bulk bins and use reusable containers.

Dessi Sieburth



Red-tailed Tropicbirds are numerous at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. © Dessi Sieburth

A BIRD FROM AFAR

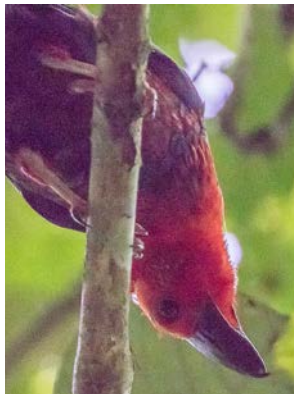
Into the Heart of Borneo!

Borneo! Maybe the name conjures up images of far away, wild, steamy jungles and mountains full of exotic birds, mammals and reptiles. Well, that's a pretty accurate image. Take a look at a world map and you will find Borneo located in Southeast Asia's Malay Archipelago. Borneo is the third largest island in the world and is politically split in half by two nations: Malaysia and Indonesia. Borneo is an island rich in endemics and is famous for its lowland rainforest birds and primate watching. In July 2017 we had an opportunity to visit Malaysian Borneo, including the states of Sabah and Sarawak. We flew from Los Angeles to Hong Kong to Kota Kinabalu. We began our birding trip in the delightfully cool and beautiful area of Mount Kinabalu. After a lot of hiking, slipping, and falling in the muddy trails, we were able to see several endemic birds including a couple of fantastic sightings of Whitehead's Trogon, Bornean Green Magpie, Golden-naped Barbet, Bare-headed Laughingthrush, and Bornean Forktail. In the Crocker Range we were lucky to see four endemic species of Barbets: Brown, Bornean, Mountain, and Gold-faced.

The last half of the trip was our absolute favorite. We spent ten days in the lowland jungles of Sabah. While the jungle lived up to its reputation of hot and steamy, we saw four species of stunning Pittas including Black-headed, Bornean Banded, Hooded, and Blue-headed.



Bornean Green Magpie
© Frank Gilliland



Bornean Bristlehead
© Frank Gilliland

One of the strangest birds we encountered was the rather bizarre looking Bornean Bristlehead. The monotypic Bristlehead is the only bird in its genus (*Pityriasis*) and in its entire family (*Pityriasisidae*). We also had good looks at the endemic Bornean Wren-Babbler and the Black-throated Wren-Babbler. While the birds were amazing, the Danum Valley will always be remembered by us as one of our most extraordinary mammal sightings. Unbelievably, on our very first night in the Valley we went out night birding and on the way back to the Rainforest Lodge, we saw none other than a Bornean Clouded Leopard! It's a very rare sighting! Indeed the guides, who are out on most nights, only see the Clouded Leopard about once a year. Borneo is famous for the endemic and endangered Bornean Orangutan and we were extremely lucky to have a large male perched in a tree just outside the lodge for several days. Watching it strip and eat the bark off the tree was surely one of the highlights of the trip. On the Kinabatangan River, we had even greater

mammal sightings including a group of Bornean Pygmy Elephants swimming across the main river, with a tiny baby Pygmy Elephant tucked in behind his mother's ear, a baby Orangutan hanging in view of our boat, and lots of incredible Proboscis Monkeys. Here too we had great looks at a hard to see and rare Bornean Ground-Cuckoo that we watched for some time from our boat, while we enjoyed coffee no less! There was plethora of Hornbill species to be enjoyed, including the White-crowned Hornbill.



White-crowned Hornbill
© Frank Gilliland



Whitehead's Trogon
© Susan Gilliland

We did plenty of night birding and mammalling. On one such night we heard and located an Oriental Bay Owl. We had extraordinary long looks at this beautiful owl. But little did we know that we were being watched by a Reticulated Python! The Python was stretched out a few feet over our heads! All in all, our trip to Malaysian Borneo was surely one of the highlights of our time on earth. We saw more than 40 endemic birds and over 30 mammals on our trip.



Hooded Pita
© Frank Gilliland



Golden-naped Barbet
© Frank Gilliland

Susan & Frank Gilliland



If there's a Bird from Afar, that you saw and loved, we'd love to hear about it. Send your text and photos to the Editor at pas.wrentit@gmail.com.

FIELD TRIPS

Piute Ponds and Vicinity

Saturday, September 8, 6:30 am to 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

Fall Warblerama

Saturday, September 22, 7:00 am to 11:30 am

Join us as we look for interesting warblers, flycatchers, and other passerines near the end of fall migration. We will start at DeForest Park in Long Beach, which tends to attract migrants: it is a green area with tall trees in an area that is mostly residential, and it is located adjacent to the LA River. We will search the park for migrants, and explore other nearby areas depending on where migrants are showing up.

Directions: From the southbound 710 freeway, exit south on Atlantic (same exit as the eastbound 91 freeway). Go south on Atlantic, then right (west) on 63rd street to the end, which is DeForest Ave. Go south on DeForest Ave and park in the parking lot on the west side of the street, opposite Harding St.

Mark and Janet Scheel

Desert Migrants

Saturday October 6, 7:30 am - afternoon.

Come join Luke Tiller during peak season for interesting migrants and vagrants in the Antelope Valley. We will plan to hit a variety of spots and stay out as long as the birding remains interesting. Sparrows, wayward warblers, early returning wintering raptors and more will all be sought out.

If you are interested in this trip please email Luke at streatham2003@aol.com to reserve your place.

Luke Tiller

Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, Long Beach

Saturday, October 27, 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park features a large lake, extensive wetlands, and riparian habitat. More than 260 species have been recorded here, which makes it one of the top ten eBird hotspots in Los Angeles County. This includes a wide variety of water birds, including grebes, ducks, gulls, terns, egrets, and shorebirds as well as many passerines. For about two years in the 1990s, it was also home to Reggie, an American Alligator, who is now safely on display at the Los Angeles Zoo.

Driving Directions (from Pasadena): Take the 110 freeway south to Anaheim St. in Long Beach. Turn right and travel on Anaheim St. for about one mile to the first parking lot on your right. Allow about an hour for traveling.

Ed Stonick



Spotted Towhee

© Kathy Degner

North Slope San Gabriels

Saturday, November 17, 7:30 am to 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 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

Field trips continued on page 6

FIELD TRIPS AND MONTHLY BIRD WALKS

Morro Bay

November 10-11, 2018 7:00 am

Come join us in Morro Bay, winter home to thousands of shorebirds and many species of raptors and passerines. We have planned a wonderful weekend of birding and exploration for you.

Saturday and Sunday we will meet early in order to have plenty of time to bird the local hot spots. We will look for shorebirds, do a little seabird watching, and explore some very bird-rich riparian and woodland locations nearby. Target species include Nelson's Sparrow and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Yellow-billed Magpies are possible as well.

After the trip on Saturday, please join us at one of the many dockside restaurants. We will finish our scheduled trip after lunch on Sunday.

Meeting site and trip schedule to be announced. Motel information will be provided at least 1 month in advance for trip members. Please reserve your space ASAP!

Trip is limited to 15 persons.

Please include the following information when you send in your reservation for this trip: name, phone number, email address, do you have a 2 way radio.

Kathi Ellsworth, pandionsky@yahoo.com

Lance Benner, lbenner@charter.net

Legg Lake & Hahamongna

First Saturday of each month, September and October Hahamongna: 7:30 am to 11:30 am

First Saturday of each month, November to March Legg Lake and Beyond: 8:00 am—1:00 pm

Hahamongna is a wonderful trip for birders of all ages and experience. The walk visits oak woodland and riparian habitat. A nice variety of resident and migratory species should be around. Bring binoculars, water, walking shoes but no dogs. Enter the park at Oak Grove and Foothill Blvd. Take the first left and park by the ballfield.

Darren Dowell

Legg Lake: These trips will cover several consistently good lake and river 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. From there, we'll head for either the Pico Rivera Spreading Grounds or Peck Road Park, depending on water levels and bird reports. Both often host a wide variety of water birds, including grebes, ducks, gulls, terns, egrets, and shorebirds.

Driving Directions (from Pasadena): Take the 210 freeway east to the 605 freeway. Go south on the 605 freeway to the Pomona (60) freeway going west (towards Los Angeles). Exit at Santa Anita Ave. Turn left and take Santa Anita south (about one-half mile), and enter the first parking lot on your right.

Ed Stonick

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 twelve.

Katy Mann

Magpie Bird Study Group

**Third Tuesday of most months
9:00 am until about noon**

September 18, Legg Lakes, meet in the Santa Anita Ave parking lot

October 16, Peck Road Water Conservation Park

November 20, Santa Fe Dam, meet at Nature Center

We bird until 11:30 and then have a sack lunch and a short meeting.

All PAS members welcome!

Julia Ray, Sid Heyman

Eaton Canyon

**Third Sunday of every month
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 Eaton Canyon for many years. This is a wonderful walk for 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

**Fourth Sunday of every month
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 nonmember guest, space permitting. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible.

To reserve contact Mark at
mark.hunter@pasadenaaudubon.org.

Mark Hunter

CALENDAR

September 2018

1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
5	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Laura Garrett
8	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Piute Ponds	Mark & Janet Scheel
8	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	County Arboretum	Katy Mann
12	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Lucky Baldwin's, Pasadena	See page 11
15	Sat	9:00 am	Coastal Cleanup		Lower Arroyo Seco	Lois Brunet
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Legg Lakes	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
19	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Mickey & Jon's Bird ID Quiz
22	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Fall Warblerama	Mark & Janet Scheel
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

October 2018

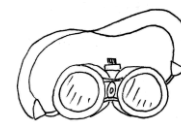
3	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Laura Garrett
6	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
6	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Desert Migrants, Antelope Valley	Luke Tiller
10	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Lucky Baldwin's, Pasadena	see page 11
13	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	County Arboretum	Katy Mann
16	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Peck Road Water Conservation Park	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
17	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	It's All About the Habitat
21	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Eaton Canyon	Hill Penfold
27	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Harbor Park	Ed Stonick
28	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

November 2018

3	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Legg Lake	Ed Stonick
7	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Laura Garrett
10	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	County Arboretum	Katy Mann
10/11	Sat-Sun		Field Trip		Morro Bay	Lance Benner, Kathi Ellsworth
14	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Lucky Baldwin's, Pasadena	See page 11
17	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Northern Slope San Gabriels	Mark & Janet Scheel
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Eaton Canyon	Hill Penfold
20	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Santa Fe Dam	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
21	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	TBD
25	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

Trip Leaders

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Mark Hunter	(626) 344-8428	mark.hunter@pasadenaaudubon.org
Mickey Long	(626) 285-8878	mlongbird@gmail.com
Katy Mann	(626) 797-0307	katymann1960@gmail.com
Hill Penfold	(818) 352-4954	hpenfold@gmail.com
Julia Ray	(818) 314-5127	jraymusic@att.net
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@att.net
Luke Tiller		streatham2003@aol.com



WC Wrentit Club

The Wrentit Club is a special distinction for members who've seen 250 birds or more in L.A. County within the calendar year. The field trips designated WC are within L.A. County. Any birds seen on these trips count towards the Wrentit Club distinction. See our website for a listing of current and past members. Good birding!

YOUNG BIRDERS REPORT ON THEIR AUDUBON CAMP EXPERIENCE AT HOG ISLAND



We boarded the boat and cruised for an hour, heading towards Eastern Egg Rock Island. The canoe met the slippery rocks and helping hands were offered as a large flock of angry terns screeched above our heads. We were separated into groups and given three tasks: 1) 60 minutes to observe puffins through blinds, 2) cut plants off the trails for path management, and 3) create a puffin trap for banding.

I climbed into a blind where I had a good view of the island's large mossy rocks with Black Guillemots, Laughing Gulls, Razorbills, and Arctic, Common, and Roseate Terns. I took pictures of a fairly close Common Tern that was caring for its nest a few feet away. As I was sketching, the tern began circling my blind, screaming loudly and giving me angry looks. It later grew tired and as it swooped in front of me, it expertly aimed and landed its waste on my field notebook and clothes. I quickly cleaned up but left the mark on my notebook, for it was a moment I did not want to forget, and was proof of the bird's behavior.

All of a sudden I heard heavy flapping, and I looked up to encounter an Atlantic Puffin standing on a rock decorated with green lichens, holding about seven fish in its mouth and staring curiously. I could not believe my eyes; I have waited all these years to see a puffin and there it was, only ten feet away, looking at me.

After a few seconds the bird walked down the tilted rock and into a burrow, where a chick was likely waiting for its

meal. That was one of the biggest surprises of my life, and one I won't forget!

The Snowgoose III slowly rocked back and forth, peacefully. Everyone was quietly sitting and looking back to what a memorable day it had been, as we slowly headed back to Hog Island. The sky was beautifully dark and clouded, so I looked up and closed my eyes to taste the sweet rain as it slowly fell upon us.

To read more about Justina's adventures on Hog Island go to our website and click on Young Birder Club.

Justina says, "A big thank you to the Pasadena Audubon Society, as well as the Hog Island Audubon Program for making this trip possible."

Justina Martelli, age 15



Atlantic Puffin

© Justina Martelli



Our rental car, loaded with Californians, made its way from asphalt to dirt roads; it trundled past Hog Island Audubon Camp signs and smiling volunteers; and it came to rest a few feet from the Atlantic, before a sort of dock-house.

And - there it was! The subject of years' longing was visible from the dock: just offshore there waited Hog Island. I stared and had to blink a few times to shake off the surprise of its nearness - I had assumed that it was an island more along the lines of the ones at home (the Channel Islands, visible 20 miles offshore). A pale New England cottage shone invitingly from its dock with the promise of another life. Now that I was almost there, I could have swum with the guillemots across that little channel.

A cheery Captain Chapman took my sister and me for our first ride aboard the Snowgoose III instead, pointing out to us a female Common Eider, shepherding chicks over the smooth water. It was really wonderful weather, which luckily persisted throughout the week. We stepped onto the dock and rolled our luggage up the ramp and under the famed black-and-white sign with its silent wooden welcome. A bleached walkway extended from the ramp, and this led us up to where the counselors and staff stood waiting to give us each introduction.

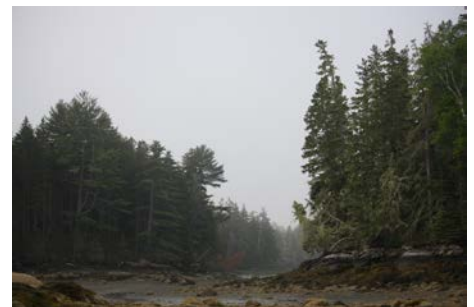
Once we got to know each other, got settled in our respective rooms, and had an outdoor dinner, the first evening program was held in the Fish House. Steve Kress, the founder of

Project Puffin (which brought puffins back to Eastern Egg Rock, among other islands) presented to us about the project and the applications of its methods. Like many alcids and other seabirds, the puffin is attracted to large congregations of its kind - it disdains to breed in solitude, which made it difficult to recolonize empty islands.

To find out more about Teodelina's experience on Hog Island, go to our website and click on Young Birder Club.

Teodelina is the American Birding Association Young Birder of the Year 2018 and says, I am "so grateful for those who made it possible for us to attend Hog Island Camp - a big thank you to National Audubon, and to Pasadena Audubon Society!"

Teodelina Martelli, age 17



Hog Island

© Teodelina Martelli

WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

Birding 101

Another Great Session of Birding 101

Birding 101 is offered twice per year (March and July) and is designed to give students the basics of identification, the confidence to be comfortable on a bird walk, and to demonstrate the thrill of birding! The class has three classroom sessions and two field trips, and fills quickly.

Some recent comments from students:

“The teachers were very knowledgeable and engaging.”

“Learned how to look at birds and listen to birds.”

“Essentials were covered with clarity and humor.”

“I started actually recognizing birds!”

Hope you can join us next session!



Brown Pelican © Kathy Degner



Sparrow Identification Class

Two Thursdays: October 25 and November 1, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The sparrows are seemingly little, basic brown birds with just enough species in our Los Angeles County area (over 20 species) to make them difficult to master. This two-evening class will be geared to the mid-level or more advanced birder who wants more focus on a single group of birds that often give birders trouble.

Along with learnable field marks, we will use seasonal and geographical distribution to support identifications. Habitats and good locations to view sparrows will also be enumerated.

Fee: \$60 for Pasadena Audubon members, \$80 for non-members. Class is limited to 25 participants. Please note, priority will be given to those who have not taken a Pasadena Audubon class in the past year.

Mickey Long



Gull Identification Class

Wednesday, January 9th, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (workshop session)

Saturday, January 12th, 8:00 to noon (field session)

Of the roughly 57 species of gull (subfamily Larinae) found worldwide, more than half have been detected in North America. Identification as to species is challenging not only because of the substantial resemblance of many in their adult plumages (particularly the large “white headed” gulls), but also by the near-uniformity of their “juvenile” and “formative” plumages in their first year.

The workshop session will address the identification of the gulls that are to be expected in Southern California. The session will address not only identification of gulls in their adult, or “definitive,” plumages, but will also present a heuristic “model” of how gulls develop as they mature, so that participants will be able to distinguish the species at whatever age class, or “cycle,” they may encounter. If time permits, we will address the latest findings regarding gull taxonomy.

The field session will be devoted to testing the developmental model presented in the workshop. However, the identification of adult gulls, in flight as well as standing/swimming will not be ignored. Location will be determined by the location of gull flocks that week. Be prepared to go as far north as Zuma Beach or as far south as Doheny Beach (Orange County).

Price: \$45 Pasadena Audubon members, \$65 non-members

Please note: Priority will be given to members who have not taken a class in the past year.

Larry W. Allen

CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAS Brings Birding to Tom Sawyer Camp

Pasadena Audubon had a memorable week at Tom Sawyer Camp, a veritable Pasadena institution which has been offering children an all outdoor summer of fun for 92 years!

Over 240 kids were shown the basics of binocular use and introduced to some of the birds of Hahamongna. A birdwalk followed. We saw lots of Scrub Jays, Towhees, Black Phoebes and Acorn Woodpeckers, but some lucky campers saw Hooded Orioles, White Breasted Nuthatches, and Oak Titmice. A lone Western Tanager showed up in a treetop. A select group of campers came back for a second visit and did Nature Journaling with Annabelle Aylmer, an Eaton Canyon docent and artist. We had a taxidermied Acorn Woodpecker for close-up views, and the kids learned the basics of bird sketching. The children seemed to enjoy the discovery and we were just tickled pink to hear the oohs and ahhs when the birds came into sharp focus through the binoculars. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers, the Matthies family, Carl, Learden and Wolfgang, Wendy Gordon and Annabelle Aylmer. And thanks to Tom Sawyer Camp for the invitation – see ya next summer!

Lois Brunet & Kathy Degner

Albatross Sends A Powerful Message

PAS screened *Albatross*, a moving documentary which showcases the life cycle of the Laysan Albatross on remote Midway Island, and the impact of plastics pollution on the colony. 75 people attended the screening which was co-hosted by Eaton Canyon Nature Center. We also partnered with AltaPasa Green Circle, a local group which brought enough metal cups to make the event plastic free! Reusable bamboo cutlery and metal straw sets were among the raffle prizes.

The message is clear, everyone needs to do their part to reduce single-use plastics and PAS has heard the message. We've resolved to make all our meetings and programs plastic free. The Albatrosses are watching!

Lois Brunet



Coastal Cleanup Day

September 15th is Coastal Cleanup Day with Heal the Bay! Coastal Cleanup Day is the world's largest volunteer day to protect our environment. Heal the Bay organizes efforts in L.A. County and Pasadena Audubon is in! We'll be picking up trash at the Arroyo Seco from 9:00 am to noon.

To register, please email Lois Brunet at lbrunet@pasadenaudubon.org.



© Tom Sawyer Camp

Audubon Assembly, Come Join Us!

Chapter leaders, members, and friends are invited to join Audubon California November 2nd through 4th in Long Beach for the 2018 Audubon Assembly!

The theme of the 2018 Assembly is Look Up. The weekend will be an opportunity to look outside our local programs and learn from each other.

This will be an exciting opportunity for you to meet with chapter leaders, members, and partners from all over the state to enjoy birding coastal wetlands and other unique areas, explore conservation opportunities and practices, share stories with leaders from various regions, and establish peer-to-peer collaborations and partnerships. This program will offer multiple interactive presentations and breakout sessions that focus on topics from advocacy, fundraising and communications to SoCal conservation and coalition building.

The last Audubon Assembly, held in Yosemite in 2016, offered chapter members a chance to connect with other conservationists from all over California. One chapter leader said: "Feeling part of something larger was my first 'ah ha' moment. I was also humbled by the education, experience, accomplishments and skills of some of the chapter leaders. Many were inspiring to be around."

Please visit the Audubon California website at <http://ca.audubon.org/about/chapters/audubon-california-assembly> to register, reserve lodging, and see the agenda. If you have any questions, please email the Chapter Network Team at chapternetworkca@audubon.org.

Hope to see you in Long Beach this fall!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAS is Soliciting Grant Funding Requests

Last year, PAS funded grants in support of our mission, up to \$12,000. We are once again accepting requests. These must be submitted by December 15, 2018 and applicants will be notified by March 17, 2019.

Three categories of requests for funds will be considered by PAS:

- Scholarships to help support Pasadena area birders, teachers, and others to attend conferences, classes, and workshops or to study ornithology.

- Research grants for collecting data on birds, birding, habitat conservation, and education. Preference will be given to projects in southern California but national and international studies will also be considered.

- Grant awards for specific projects may also be awarded to organizations that have missions similar to those of PAS.

More detailed information is available on our website.



Hooded Merganser

© Kathy Degner

Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Our thanks go to these PAS members and friends for their recent donations to our chapter.

WARBLER – Renate Buerner, Helena Czepiec, Elwood Hain, Jane Hirschokowitz, Muriel Horacek, Val Howard, Cynthia Morgan, Joan Roach, Nancy Thompson, Daniel & Grace Wu.

ORIOLE – M. Koesnik, Kathleen Linowski, Linda Zinn.

The following persons donated in memory of Marilyn Morgan:

Richard Barth, Lois & Pascal Brunet, Eileen & Larry Burton, Marianne & Ed Fisher, Meredith Freeman, Will & Lois Fulmer, Laura Garrett, Lisa & Steven Haussler, Courtney & Brian Hiler, Vera Hirtz, Phoebe Liebig & Michael Larky, Elaine MacPherson, Anita Sohus & James Margitan, Linda Van Pelt

And the Crow Cup goes to Susan Gilliland

In recognition of Susan’s outstanding work in mentoring our fabulous Young Birders, she was awarded the 2018 Crow Cup.

Congratulations Susan!



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.



Surfbird

© Javier Vazquez

Join the Pasadena Audubon Society

Pasadena Audubon Society Chapter-only Membership provides important support for our conservation, education and outreach efforts. You'll also be the first to hear about our programs and field trips, and you'll receive a one-year subscription to our newsletter, The Wrentit.

Membership dues: \$20 for individuals or families, \$15 for seniors or students. Your information is never shared.

Make checks payable to PAS, 1750 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena CA 91107

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Or join online and pay through PayPal at pasadenaaudubon.org

If you'd like to provide a gift membership, please contact our membership chair, Lois Fulmer, at willo2001@earthlink.net

We thank you for your support!

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paperless@pasadenaaudubon.org

You'll receive an email and link to the newsletter when each issue comes out. You'll also have our gratitude, as this will allow us to reduce our paper use and printing expenses. Plus, photos will be in living color, just like the birds we love!

Welcome to our New Members

ALHAMBRA: Richard Heredia; ALTADENA: Mari Bennett, Laura Derr, George Hopkins, Catherine Johansing, Rochelle Robkin; ARCADIA: Joy Klein, Violeta Rowley; BURBANK: Kim Smith; CLAREMONT: Susan Guerrero; EL MONTE: Rodrigo Hernandez; GLENDALE: Betsy Kelley; LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE: Jane Glicksman, William Schubert; LOS ANGELES: Marilyn Allen, Brian Brown, Margaret Gallagher, Sandra Kinder; MONROVIA: Jeffrey Bjorck, Erica Hahn, Lauren Metzger Warner; MONTEREY PARK: Alvin Hironaka; MONTROSE: Karen Drake; PASADENA: Mitchell Barnhart, Brandy Dunn, George Christy, Alan Epstein, Eloise Kaeck, Marcia Murota, Beth Stone REDLANDS: Michael Sharkey; SOUTH PASADENA: Frances Chang, Lynn Myers; SUN VALLEY: Joanne & Ken Millins; SYLMAR: Anthony Kemper; TEMPLE CITY: Judy Lutes.

PAS Gear Now Available at Zazzle.com

Let the world know you're with Pasadena Audubon. Go to www.zazzle.com/pasadena_audubon for T-shirts, water bottles, luggage tags and more, all featuring our lovely wrentit logo.

