



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 52 – No. 5

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

November-December 2004

November Program

Deserts of North America

Sylvia Ranney Gallagher
November 17, 2004

For many people the word *DESERT* produces an image of desolate, barren sand – or glorious carpets of spring wildflowers among towering green Saguaros.

Both images are correct, but they are far from the whole picture. Sylvia Gallagher will take you on a slide tour of the deserts of North America. She will address such questions as: Why are the deserts located where they are and how do they differ from one another? What are some of the birds typical of each desert, and how are they adapted to life in their severe environments?

Sylvia received her PhD in Chemistry and has taught at John Muir High School, Chaffey College and Col Poly, Pomona. She is a past Vice-president of Sea and Sage Audubon and is currently their Bird Information chair. Besides conducting very successful birding skills workshops, she was a major contributor to the *Orange County Breeding Bird Atlas* and produced *Learning California Bird Sounds*.

December Program

CHRISTMAS COUNT DINNER

When:
6:00 pm
Saturday, December 18, 2004

Where:
Matt Denny's Restaurant
And Pub
145 E. Huntington Drive
Arcadia, CA
(626) 446-1077

Parking:
Ample parking in rear off
Wheeler Street

Details and Reservations:
See Page 3

January Program

A Geologist Analyzes the Prospects for the Survival of the Salton Sea

Dr. Ivan P. Colburn
January 19, 2005

This lecture is designed to inform the listener on how the Salton Sea came into being, how it has evolved to its present state, and what we can expect to see happen to it in the future. Also addressed are a number of alternative strategies that might be instituted to mitigate the negative impact of those factors that are causing the rising salinity of the Salton Sea.

(Editor's note: While most agree on the origins of the sea, there is a wide variation of solutions proposed. Dr. Colburn will present only some of those proposed solutions.)

General Meetings held at:

Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena
7:00 pm Social
7:30 pm Program

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President's Perch

Communication is important to just about everything human. And it's the life-blood of an organization like ours. At PAS we have four ways we communicate, *The Wrenit*, our Website, our ListServ, and word-of-mouth.

Right now you're probably reading this out of *The Wrenit*, the newsletter of Pasadena Audubon Society. This has been the mainstay of our society's communication for decades and still is the main source of trips and news of PAS. Bev McKenzie edits and Don Rogers does the layout. But it couldn't happen without the logistical support of Alex Strong. All members receive this newsletter and if you don't, please see the membership application in this newsletter.

Our second form of communication is

our website. Jane Strong started and maintains this site and as she points out, the best way to use this site is to explore. Besides listing all upcoming trips, programs and other chapter information, it contains interesting information about our environment and a copy of the latest *Wrenit*. But if you're looking for a place to bird or hike in the Pasadena area, look no further than this website. There is a listing, with clickable map, of birding sites in our area. It also has links to more sources. So, after you put down this newsletter, explore! Pick up your mouse and go to www.PASADENA.AUDUBON.ORG.

Birding has taken full advantage of the Internet and email. One of the most productive ways has been with ListServs. When you join a ListServ, it acts as a

(see *President's Perch*, page 7)

Board Member Changes

Madeline West, long-time member of the PAS Board, has resigned. We thank her for her dedication and her ability and willingness to wear many hats.

We are, however, pleased to welcome Mark Hunter as a Member-at-Large. We look forward to working with you, Mark!

Conservation

Invasive Species:

Invasive species threaten more than one-third of the birds on Audubon's WatchList. WatchList species are those that face population declines, are threatened by habitat loss on their breeding or wintering grounds, or have limited geographic ranges that heighten their vulnerability to isolated disasters like severe weather or oil spills. Invasive plants like buffleggrass, *Phragmites*, and salt cedar are destroying habitat needed by many of America's fastest-declining birds, including Costa's Hummingbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Seaside Sparrow, Abert's Towhee, and the Elf Owl.

Another WatchList species, the Long-billed Curlew, has been declining significantly over the past 150 years largely due to the disappearance of much of its prairie and meadow habitat. On San Luis National Wildlife Refuge in California, an invasive plant called yellow starthistle is wiping out grasslands and rendering the area unusable for breeding by the curlews. Invasive species are a leading cause of bird extinctions

Working with other conservation organizations and using a science-based process, Audubon has identified more than 200 species of birds in America that show either significantly decreasing numbers or restricted range, or face other threats. The Audubon WatchList includes birds that are restricted in their breeding range, such as the Whiskered Auklet, Elegant Tern, and Millerbird, which are highly vulnerable to introduced invasive predators in their specialized breeding areas. Other species on the WatchList, such as Bell's Vireo, are experiencing widespread habitat loss across their range, with invasive species as a contributing factor in their decline. Others, like the Bristle-thighed Curlew, have special vulnerabilities to invasive species. The Bristle-thighed Curlew has a unique flightless molt period, which makes the species particularly vulnerable to introduced predators that can quickly capture the defenseless birds.

Invasive species have entirely or partially caused the majority of all bird extinctions since 1800. Many of these extinctions were of island birds lacking natural defenses against introduced predators. For example, invasive brown tree snakes, which arrived in Guam after World War II as stowaways on cargo ships, have decimated Guam's native forest birds. The birds of Guam evolved in the absence of snake predators, making them easy prey for the tree snakes, which are skilled climbers with a voracious

appetite for eggs, chicks, and small birds. Because of the brown tree snake, nine of the 11 species of native forest-dwelling birds have been extirpated on Guam. Five subspecies of forest birds were driven to extinction, such as the Rufous Fantail and Guam Flycatcher.

Please visit [HTTP://WWW.AUDUBON.ORG/CAMPAIGN/INVASIVES/THREATS.SHTM](http://www.audubon.org/campaign/invasives/threats.shtm) for more information

Source: Audubon.org

Cormorant Slaughter and Proposal to Shift Migratory Bird Management to USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Service (WS) has been steadily killing thousands of birds across the U.S. Even prior to an October Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Cormorant depredation, the WS had killed some 47,000 Double-Crested Cormorants annually, and destroyed thousands more eggs. This new depredation order allows WS to kill unlimited numbers of cormorants in 24 states, without requiring permits, if the birds are "injurious to public resources", regardless of scientific evidence to the contrary.

Acting under this order, the Michigan Wildlife Services has finalized plans for the eradication of thousands of Double-Crested Cormorants on the Les Cheneaux Islands in Lake Huron. WS alleges that the cormorant control is necessary because the birds eat yellow perch. Scientists and conservationists have repeatedly noted the lack of scientific documentation linking cormorants to declines in yellow perch population populations. A definitive, peer-reviewed study to examine the impact of cormorant predation on yellow perch in the Les Cheneaux Islands concluded that cormorants removed only 24,000 out of a total of 2.76 million legal-sized yellow perch in 1995 – less than 1%. Since total annual perch mortality was estimated at 45%, researchers concluded that other sources must therefore account for the remaining mortality.

WS is already escalating cormorant control and kills thousands of other fish-eating birds around the country under FWS permits. These include Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Blue Herons, Belted Kingfishers, mergansers, and tens of thousands of gulls. Recently introduced legislation, H.R. 3320, would place independent authority for controlling *all take of migratory birds* in the hands of the WS, taking it away from the jurisdiction of the FWS. This legislation would also remove these management actions from public review by exempting WS from the National

Environment Policy Act.

Those wishing to voice their concern should contact their House Representative and/or email Harry Burrows, staffer for Subcommittee Chair Wayne Gilchrest, HARRY.BURROUGHS@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV.

Source: *Birds Calls*, vol. 8, No. 2, American Bird Conservancy

A Visit To North Ronaldsay

In May 2004 we visited North Ronaldsay, the most northerly island of Orkney, Scotland, located on the migratory cross-roads for birds heading toward Iceland and Greenland and Scandinavia. We planned a day trip, arriving on Loganair's 8-seater plane from Kirkwall. The North Ronaldsay Bird Observatory [NRBO; www.nrbo.fs.com] is a mile from the airfield, and on our way there we wandered past Holland House (early 1700s) and an early 1800s church. Cheerful NRBO staff prepared an interesting lunch, a North Ronaldsay lamb sandwich made from native sheep which eat seaweed, washed ashore by strong tides.

We wandered across Nouster Bay's expansive sandy beach, adjacent to NRBO; it hosted a couple of dozen plump, curious grey seals. Many fulmars nested below the rock dyke which confines the sheep to the intertidal zone. Inland from the Bay are small farms, some abandoned, a few cattle, lush green fields, bluebells, and few vehicles.

Thick fog precluded the scheduled 5:00 pm return flight to the mainland and we were told to be ready at 10:30 am the next morning. The visiting nurse and teacher (of three students) advised us to return to NRBO, where we were warmly welcomed, fed a sumptuous dinner, and slept in a dorm. The evening's discussions, among the ten NRBO guests, centered around ongoing bird monitoring and banding; there weren't unusual bird visitors at this time.

After a fabulous breakfast, we again enjoyed Nouster Bay's shore and seabirds and the inland passerines. The plane attempted a couple more landings but was diverted to mainland Scotland. So we proceeded to the Ancum Loch bird blind, set in a marsh marigold and horsetail wetland, and then back to the Bay before the NRBO staff located us when the plane was actually on its way.

In the garage-sized airport there was a posted notice: "No banking facilities in April. Next visit of the bank on 10 May 2004". Someone had changed "2004" to "2009".

Jan and Bob Stull

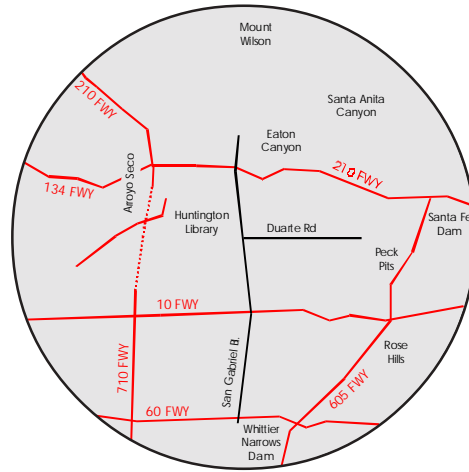
Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Christmas Count/Dinner

Sunday, December 18, 2004

The Christmas Count is our most significant event of the birding year. It's about lending our bird-watching talents to an important project, it's about maintaining a tradition, and it's also about a group effort. It's a chance for all of us to get together, socialize, find birds, and have quite a bit of fun in the process.

We are blessed with a broad array of habitats in our Pasadena count circle. Ponds, rivers, marshes, mountains, oak, chaparral, riparian, coastal sage and exotic/ornamental plantings all occur. In combination with our mild climate, these habitats create a wide diversity of winter bird life. The Christmas Count creates a yearly snapshot of the early winter avifauna of the San Gabriel Valley. The count circle, extending 7.5 miles in every direction, has its center at the intersection of San Gabriel Boulevard and Duarte Road. It includes such interesting and productive birding locales as Santa Fe Dam, Big Santa Anita Canyon, Whittier Narrows, Peck Pit, Eaton Canyon and the Huntington Gardens and L.A. Arboretum. The circle also reaches Mount Wilson, thus offering the possibility of a number of mountain birds.

The Pasadena/SGV count originated in the mid 1940's, and while the six decades that followed have seen a



tremendous amount of change, we continue to find close to 150 species each year. In fact, that's far more than were found on the early counts. Of course our ability to find and identify birds has increased dramatically since that time. We also add new and rare birds to the

count list on an almost annual basis. What unexpected birds will show up this year? Whatever your birding ability, be sure to join us for this event and be a part of the discovery. It's a great learning experience, always enjoyable, and it is worthwhile because it contributes to our knowledge of bird distribution and population trends.

This year's Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Christmas Count will take place on Saturday, December 18. Our pre-count meeting will be held at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center on Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 pm. At the pre-count meeting we will hand out count materials and checklists, review procedures and assign count areas to the participants. If you're unable to attend the pre-count meeting, you can call to sign up for (or be assigned) an area to count.

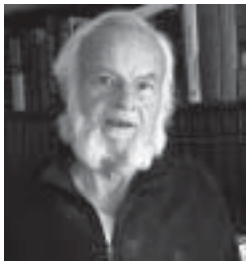
As usual, we will hold a post-count dinner and wrap-up at 6:00 pm on count night. This year we'll meet at Matt Denny's Restaurant and Pub on Huntington Drive in Arcadia. See below for details on the dinner.

For additional information, please contact count coordinator Jon Fisher at 818-544-5009 or at JON.L.FISHER@DISNEY.COM.

Jon Fisher

In Memoriam: Arden Brame

By Mickey Long



It is with sadness we report the passing of Arden H. Brame, supervisor of Eaton Canyon Nature Center during two periods, 1965 through 1968 and 1970 through 1978. Arden, who

died August 19, 2004 at the age of 70, became the second supervisor of the then-new Nature Center just two years after it's construction in 1963.

His primary professional interest was Herpetology, reptile and amphibian study, and Arden was especially known for his research with salamanders, naming many new species from North, Central and South America, and publishing over 50 scientific papers. A specialty of Arden's was the slender salamander genus *Batrachoseps*, and I have strong personal memories of field trips with Arden and his wife Pat to two desert springs in the Santa Rosa and Inyo Mountains to study newly discovered slender salamanders at oases where they had not been expected before. We coauthored a paper on the odd tail-raising defensive behavior of the rare Desert Slender Sala-

mander. Many friends will also remember that one of the bathtubs at the Brame house was devoted to the live, four-foot plus Japanese Giant Salamander.

Arden was President of Pasadena Audubon Society from 1971 to 1976, and it was he who encouraged me to join the Board of Pasadena Audubon Society in the early 1970s, shortly after I came to work for the Nature Centers. Arden had a strong conservation ethic and worked hard to acquire land for public use at the early La Vina and Cobb Estate properties. He was also good at introducing young naturalists to important contact people in the field. Arden was a confirmed (hopeless) bibliophile and was generous with his books, donating many hard-to-get items to the Eaton Canyon library in early years. This made literature available to staff and public for research and enjoyment.

He moved to a research position at the County Natural History Museum from 1968-70. Arden developed a strong interest in genealogy and plunged into this study as vigorously as he did into salamanders, joining numerous societies. During the course of study he discovered he had an older half brother of the same name, thus he proudly became Arden H. Brame Jr., II.

Arden was preceded in death by his wife Pat, also a Nature Center employee performing art and display work for all of the Nature Center's then in the County system.

Dinner After The Count

Good Food, Rest, Relaxation

Join us at Matt Denny's in Arcadia. We have four great meals to offer you:

- BBQ'd Tri-Tip *or*
- BBQ'd Chicken Sandwich, served on a roll w/choice of fries or fruit
- Grilled Vegetable Sandwich w/fruit
- Chinese Chicken Salad – vegetarian or w/chicken

(Meals include soft drink or coffee)

The cost is just \$13/person *including* tax and tip. To expedite food service and simplify bookkeeping, payment in advance is appreciated. Please see Will Fulmer at the November General Meeting, at the Pre-Count Meeting December 15, or mail your reservation before Dec. 15 to PAS' address on page 8. Be sure to indicate your food preference. Free parking in the rear off Wheeler Street.

If you have questions or need directions, contact Bev McKenzie (626) 355-9842 or LBMAC2@EARTHLINK.NET

PAS on the WEB

Website

[HTTP://WWW.PASADENAUDUBON.ORG](http://WWW.PASADENAUDUBON.ORG)

ListServe

[HTTP://GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/PASADENAUDUBON/](http://GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/PASADENAUDUBON/)

Field Trip Reports

Lewis/Cyger Trip

San Gabriel Mountains

Sunday, July 18, 2004

At the PAS dinner, I was the winning bidder on a birding tour for four given by our own erstwhile Ron Cyger. Quite selfishly, I decided that it was best to go by myself. I sent Ron a copy of my life list; he declared my list of mountain birds "old" and "spotty," which it certainly is, and we decided it was best to try to see what we could of birdlife at higher elevations.

I picked up Ron at 5:30 am in my trusty truck, Blanca, and off we went, well-supplied with water and gear. One of our first stops was the Buckhorn Campgrounds in the San Gabriel Mountains, just above 6,000 feet in elevation. We promptly spotted some great birds: a Western scrub jay (an oddity because it's rarely seen at that elevation); a white-headed woodpecker (a new life bird for me, among others seen that day); a red-breasted sapsucker; a Western Wood Pewee, and others. Then it was off to Little Jimmy's Campground trail, a hiking trail beginning at mile marker 65.50 on the Angeles Crest Highway. The highlight of that very warm hike was the small riparian spring that runs across the trail, attracting birds in a nice little microzone of green and water. I promptly named it "Cyger Springs"! I think it should go on the maps with that designation. We saw a Steller's Jay, a Pygmy Nuthatch, Green-tailed Towhees, many Mountain Chickadees, and other species.

We also visited several other locales during the day, having a great time communing with nature and each other. Ron has an *incredible* ear, and he heard at least ten species that I didn't see (or even hear, in some cases!) including a Northern Pygmy-Owl and a Black-Headed Grosbeak.

Our final destination was the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center, where we had a nice late lunch and strolled around, looking for more birds. A warm and lovely day up in the mountains.

Now, to spot that Lewis' Woodpecker that must be hiding up there somewhere!

Dan Lewis

Antelope Valley/Piute Ponds

Saturday, August 7, 2004

This was the Pasadena Audubon's summer shorebird trip to the Antelope Valley. We birded the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB, the Lancaster Sewage Ponds, and Ave G.

Highlights at the Piute Ponds were scope views of a LeConte's Thrasher, three Bank Swallows, five Barn Owls,

several Black Terns, a Peregrine Falcon, two Canvasback, and many Western and Least Sandpipers. The Lancaster Sewage Ponds had some Black Terns and a Bonaparte's Gull flying around and hundreds of Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes. In addition, a juvenile Baird's Sandpiper was with the loads of Least and Westerns. At Ave. G on the side of the freeway between Avenues G and H, the flooded vegetation contained an adult Solitary Sandpiper. A total of 77 species were seen by the group and the day out in the crippling heat was quite refreshing.

Jon Feenstra

Oxnard Plain

Saturday, September 25, 2004

This was the Pasadena Audubon trip to the Oxnard Plain of Ventura county. We started at 7:00 am at Leo Carillo State Beach, then went to Sycamore Canyon, the sod farms, and finally the tamarisk rows. We logged in a whopping 96 species (including Black-hooded Parakeet) with multiple highlights. Scoping the ocean from Leo Carillo produced one Pomarine and a few Parasitic Jaegers, Common Terns, a Royal Tern, some Surf Scoters, two Western Grebes, and the usual pelicans, cormorants, gulls, and shorebirds. Just down the road at Sycamore Canyon, we changed gears to land birding and pulled out a Yellow-breasted Chat, two Willow Flycatchers, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a White-winged Dove.

We stopped briefly along the PCH at Mugu Lagoon and picked up a few more waders and shorebirds. On the sod farms along Arnold and Casper Roads, we missed some of the rarities that had been previously reported but were able to scrape up a Baird's Sandpiper and watch some White-tailed Kites kiting. Next we went to the Hueneme Rd. tamarisks ("The Hueneme tams") and saw lots of Orange-crowned Warblers, a few juncos, a Common Ground-Dove, but not much else. The Laguna Road tamarisks ("The Laguna Tams") had been the subject of numerous postings to rare bird alerts for the past week or so, and when we arrived in the afternoon they did not disappoint. Warblers and Warbling Vireos were streaming by. We saw multiple Hermit Warblers, a Black-and-white Warbler, an American Redstart, and a rarest-bird-of-the-day Lucy's Warbler in the time that we were there. It was hard to tear ourselves away from such great birding, but by then it was 4:30 pm. Thanks to those of you came and shared this extra long day of really fantastic birding.

Jon Feenstra

Hahamongna Watershed Park

October 2, 2004

The gates were open to the park, so we knew it would be a good day. We totaled over 40 species for the morning. Highlights included; Say's and Black Phoebe on top of the same Oak at the same time, Black-headed Grosbeak, Gray Flycatcher (5th year running?) in the Oaks North of the parking lot, Western Meadowlarks (before soccer practice started in the main field), 2 Say's Phoebes on the East side, a flock of Chipping Sparrows, an American Kestrel chasing a Cooper's Hawk out its territory, and a stream of Nutmeg Mannikens pouring into the a weedy patch below the dam.

The next monthly walk on Nov. 6, will be at Peck Pit (Peck Water Conservation Park).

For directions see *Magpie*, page 7.

Ron Cyger

Oxnard Area

Sunday, October 3, 2004

Those of us who didn't go to Oxnard with Jon Feenstra September 25 were getting kind of jealous of his great report. So Kathy Moyd instigated a trip today and she, Kathi Ellsworth, Sid Johnson, and I went first to the Laguna Road tamarisks. Quite a few birders were there and in a couple of hours we got 13 species of warblers. Rarest to commonest (roughly), they were Cape May, Virginia's, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, American Redstart, Black-throated Gray, Hermit, Townsend's, Yellow, Wilson's, Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned, Common Yellowthroat. There were abundant Townsend's and Hermit. Lots of warbling vireos, too. What I found unique about this place was the very close distance between the watchers and the birds. It made for some wonderful looks.

After that we headed for the sod farms on Arnold south of Hueneme Road, finding no plovers, then to the beach at the end of Arnold, for some routine shorebirds and one muskrat! Then back to the sod farms for some American Pipit, Killdeer, and Black-bellied Plover. Then lunch, then to the Ormond Beach Wetland near the Oxnard sewage treatment plant. This was a nice place to walk around, full of various grebes, terns (including common), ducks, etc. We also saw a kingbird that we eventually decided was a Tropical Kingbird, based on the very high extent of yellow on the body. Pretty good day, with a lot of life birds for this beginner. I'll not soon forget watching dozens of warblers from as close as eight feet away, either.

Mark Hunter

Field Trips

Peck Pit

Saturday, November 6, 2004

8:00 am – noon

This field trip is in lieu of the regular Hahamongna Monthly Walk. For directions see *Magpie*, page 7.

*Ed Stonick (626)796-0595 or
STONICKS@EARTHLINK.NET*

North Slope of the San Gabriels

Saturday, November 13, 2004

7:45 am – noon

On this trip we're going to visit some infrequently birded locations along the northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains. In winter, the North Slope is excellent for finding birds that retreat from higher elevations. Additionally, this area collects birds that wander in from the north and rarely occur in the LA basin. On last year's trip we saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and many Lewis's Woodpeckers. If we have time we'll head out into the Antelope Valley to look for wintering raptors and longspurs.

Meet at the Park & Ride on Ave S in Palmdale. Dress warm.

*Jon Feenstra
(626) 792-4346*

FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU

Prado Regional Park

Saturday, November 20, 2004

8:00 am – noon

Wintering waterfowl, marsh birds, and gulls will be the main focus of attention (last year Little Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake were reported from this site). However, the mature trees at the park also support woodland birds. Suggestions for additional afternoon birding will be entertained by the leader.

Take Route 71 south past Chino to the Euclid Ave. exit, turn east on Euclid and the park entrance will be on your right. There is a per-car entry fee; you may wish to carpool.

*Larry Allen
(323) 221-2022*

LARRYALLEN@EARLYMUSICLA.ORG

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, November 21, 2004

8:00 am – noon

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 Pasa-

dena 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 (818) 352-4954
HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM*

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, December 4, 2004

8:00 am – noon

This is monthly bird walk is for birders of all ages and experience. A good variety of resident and wintering species should be in residence.

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

*RON CYGER RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred)
(626) 449-3625 (before 9:00 pm)*

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 18, 2004

All Day

See page 3 for information on Christmas Count and Count Dinner.

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, December 19, 2004

8:00 am – noon

See November 21, 2004 for details.

Peck Pit

Saturday, January 1, 2005

8:00 am – noon

This field trip is in lieu of the regular Hahamongna Monthly Walk. For directions see *Magpie*, page 7.

*Ed Stonick (626)796-0595 or
STONICKS@EARTHLINK.NET*

Perris Lake, San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Sunday, January 15, 2005

8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Perris Lake is one of Southern California's largest reservoirs. It hosts numerous species of water birds and coastal sage scrub residents. Recent rarities have included Pacific Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Tufted Duck, and several species of gulls including Little and Thayer's.

Nearby San Jacinto Wildlife Area has even more variety and numbers of ducks, raptors, including eagles and owls, shorebirds and passerine species. It is located within the San Jacinto Lake CBC circle, which is consistently among the top five counts in the U.S. for inland areas. We'll meet at the Marina and bird the north shore of the lake. We'll then proceed the short distance to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Carpooling is recommended as there is an \$8.00 parking

fee for Lake Perris. Allow about one hour and 15 minutes for the drive.

*Ed Stonick (626) 796-0595
STONICKS@EARTHLINK.NET.*

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, January 16, 2005

8:00 am – noon

See November 21, 2004 for details.

Salton Sea

January 29 – 30, 2005

The Salton Sea has been a traditional way for PAS members to begin their year list for many years now. Species lists for the weekend regularly run into the 100's at one of the premier birding spots on the continent. We will bird all day Saturday and half a day on Sunday, heading home after lunch.

This trip is for Pasadena Audubon Members only. (What!?! Not a member yet? Download an application from our website and send it in today!) and this trip is limited to 15. To reserve a spot on the trip, accommodation information and meeting location/times, please email (highly preferable) or call Ron.

This trip will be a great way to start your 2005 year list!

*Ron Cyger
626-449-3625 (before 9:00 p.m.)
RON@CYGER.ORG*

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, February 5, 2005

8:00 am – noon

See September 4, 2004 for details.

Santa Fe Dam

Saturday, February 12, 2005

8:00 am – ?

This park in eastern LA County contains a lake surrounded by trees and chaparral habitat. In the winter, a diverse group of waterfowl, gulls, and songbirds are attracted to the water and surrounding vegetation. Flocks of Cassin's Kingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, and American Robins regularly spend the winter feeding on the dense berry trees. Wintering rarities are occasionally found among these birds.

The entrance to the park is on the north side of Arrow Hwy. two blocks west of Irwindale Ave. in Irwindale. Meet at the first parking lot. There is an entrance fee.

*Jon Feenstra (626) 792-4346
FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU*

Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by **December 1st**

November 2004

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader *
6	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Peck Pit	Ed Stonick
11	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church 585 E. Colorado (at Madison)	
13	Sat	7:45 am	Field Trip	North Slope of San Gabriels	Jon Feenstra
16	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Peck Road Park	Sid Heyman Madeline West
17	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Deserts
20	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Prado Regional Park	Larry Allen
21	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold

December 2004

4	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
9	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church 585 E. Colorado (at Madison)	
14	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	San Dimas Nature Center	Sid Heyman Madeline West
15	Wed	8:00 am	Pre-count Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Jon Fisher
18	Sat	Various 6:00 pm	Christmas Bird Count Count Dinner	Count Area Matt Denny's Restaurant 145 E. Huntington Drive, Arcadia,	Everyone
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold

January 2005

1	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Peck Pit	Ed Stonick
13	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church 585 E. Colorado (at Madison)	
15	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Perris Lake	Ed Stonick
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Santa Fe Dam	Sid Heyman Madeline West
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Salton Sea
29/30	S/S	All Day	Field Trip	Salton Sea (<i>PAS Members Only</i>)	Ron Cyger

February 2005

5	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
10	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Sante Fe Dam	Jon Feenstra
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
		8:00 am	Field Trip	San Joaquin Wildlife Area	Mark Schell

***Trip Leader Information**

John Feenstra (Chair)	(626) 792-4346	FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU
Larry Allen	(323) 221-2022	LARRYALLEN@EARLYMUSICLA.ORG
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625 (<i>before 9 pm</i>)	RON@CYGER.ORG (<i>preferred</i>)
Josh Engel	(909) 990-9203	JENGEL5230@YAHOO.COM
Nick Freeman	(818) 247-6172	MNFREEMAN@EARTHLINK.NET
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	
Hill Penfold	(626) 352-4954	HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM
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Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	STONICKS@EARTHLINK.NET
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	MADEBILL@EARTHLINK.NET

Lost Books

Did you happen to pick up one of four bird monographs on the front table with other books after Jon and Mickey's Raptor program? They probably looked like free handouts but they belonged to Eaton Canyon Library (were unlabeled).

They are the Birds of North America Series: one each for Merlin, Cooper's, Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks. They are part of a valuable collection.

If you have one or more, please drop them by Eaton Canyon and you will have our thanks!

Mickey Long

New Members

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

Alhambra: Rosemary Flores; **Altadena:** Suzanne Audia, Karin Bugge, Ray Morris; **Arcadia:** Ruby Frenchick, Carol Platz, Bernard Steg, Robert Weber; **Azusa:** Elena Grandinetti; **La Cañada:** Sheree Butts; **Los Angeles:** Catherine Newell; **Monrovia:** Annette Kleihauer; **Monterey Park:** Gloria Enriquez; **Montrose:** Lisa Stewart; **Pasadena:** Martin Berkowitz, Robert Hatch, R.J. Haugen, T.A. Holliday, John Marquez, Pat McLaughlin, Michael Moreau, Pamela Waterman; **Rosemead:** Leo Vanhoof; **San Gabriel:** Jay Darmstaetter, Yoruba Favorite, Thomas Lyall, Fred Nelson, Harry Standfuss; **San Marino:** Nicole Petrens; **Sierra Madre:** George Beardshear, Kathryn Bray, Martha Spriggs; **South Pasadena:** Karla Butler.

Become A Chapter Member of Pasadena Audubon Society

Recent policy changes by the National Audubon Society have severely reduced and will soon eliminate the share of NAS membership dues returned to local chapters. The chapters have been encouraged to offer Chapter Only memberships.

Please fill out the application below. A PAS membership of \$35 or more, entitles you to a Pasadena Audubon Society tee shirt and pin. You can pick them up at any of our general meetings!

Pasadena Audubon Society is a 501 (c) (3) corporation, which entitles you to deduct your contributions on your federal and state tax returns.

Ron Cyger

President's Perch *(continued)*

clearinghouse and you receive any message sent to that ListServ (or variations on this theme). For example, to send out a trip announcement to the members on the list, I just send an email message to the ListServ. The ListServ then forwards that message to all members. Likewise, any member of the ListServ can send an email message to the ListServ which is then forwarded to all members. Most members only use it to receive information. The Pasadena Audubon ListServ announces trips and meetings, it has trip follow-ups, and sends out other events or topics of interest to the members of Pasadena Audubon Society. To subscribe, just send an email to PASADENA@AUDUBON-SUBSCRIBE@YAHOOGROUPS.COM and to post a message after joining just send an email to PASADENA@AUDUBON@YAHOOGROUPS.COM. It's really that easy.

The final, and probably most satisfying, way of communicating is word-of-mouth. Talking to other members is the best way to find out about trips, people and places. Every meeting begins with a social period and birding segment. Hope to talk to you at the next one!

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, November 16, 2004
Peck Road Park**

Drive down Myrtle in Monrovia, it becomes Peck Road, to the traffic light at Clark Ave. The park entrance is the first right after the light.

**Tuesday, December 14, 2004
San Dimas Nature Center**
Meet at the Nature Center

**Tuesday, January 18, 2005
Santa Fe Dam**

The entrance to the park is on the north side of Arrow Hwy. two blocks west of Irwindale Ave. in Irwindale. There is an entrance fee.

*Sid Heyman (626) 571-5991
Madeline West (626) 574-0429*

Reminder

**November 17-18, 2004
Audubon California Assembly
Contact:
Jill Shirley
(530) 795-0550
JSHIRLEY@AUDUBON.ORT**

**November 18-21, 2004
Central Valley Bird Symposium
Contact:
Frances Oliver
(209) 369-2010
HTTP://WWW.CVBS.ORG/**

Membership Application

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City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____
E-mail _____

Donor's address for gift membership:

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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Yearly Membership for Individual or Family

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

** Plus Chapter Pin and Tee Shirt (not Centennial shirt)*

[] \$15 Senior/Full-time Student

NAS C06 [] \$35 Basic Membership Only

Make checks payable and mail to:

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

Kid's Corner

Editor: John and his family were successful bidders at the Silent Auction in June for a personal birding trip to be led by Jon Feenstra. This is the second section of John's article about their adventure.

Our Trip with Jon Feenstra

Our next stop was Little Jimmy Springs, where we saw lots of good birds. At the beginning of the hike we heard a Western Tanager (yes, it was Jon who identified it), and later had amazing views of Dusky Flycatchers, Pygnuts and "Whibnuts" (you can guess what those are), Mountain Chickadees, Thick-billed Fox Sparrows, and Purple Finches. One time we had a great view of a Least Chipmunk, and Jon joked that you would need many of them just to make one sandwich! Only Eleanor didn't think that was funny. We also heard a Pine Siskin in the distance, and were very lucky to hear some Golden-crowned Kinglets, which, according to Jon, are rare and local in Los Angeles County. At the end of the hike we saw gorgeous male Purple Finches singing very beautifully, a juvenile Anna's Hummingbird sitting very close by, and about seven beautiful Lawrence's Goldfinches perched high on some Scarlet Monkeyflowers.

We returned to the car and drove off to Grassy Hollow. Of course, we almost instantly saw Violet-Green Swallows swarming amongst the bugs. We walked to the bird observatory and saw some feeding Purple Finches, a female Cassin's Finch and several Brown-headed Cow-



Eleanor, John, and Laura Garrett with Jon Feenstra (second from left)

birds. Surprisingly, we saw a House Finch, which is very unusual in the mountains. After watching a couple of White-headed Woodpeckers, we saw a juvenile Chipping Sparrow in a puddle. It would have taken us forever to identify it if Jon wasn't there.

When we were finished birding at the bird observatory, we went to the picnic benches and had lunch. It was very nice to see some 'almost-done-nesting' Violet-Green Swallows, and it was humorous to see some confused Whibnuts climbing both up and down the walls of the Nature Center, not just the trees! As we were eating lunch, Jon told us about some of the birds seen in the winter both there and in other places we visited that day: Varied Thrushes, Williamson's Sapsuckers, and many others.

From Grassy Hollow we went to Blue

Ridge Campground, and although we didn't see a wide variety of birds, one of the species was for me a lifebird. As we walked into a wooded area, I almost instantly saw a Townsend's Solitaire, my 297th lifebird! In my excitement I dropped my lens cap and rushed over to it to take a picture of it. Instead, I scared it over to my mom and Jon, who were a little farther ahead. Soon I heard them calling, "JOHN! JOHN! COME OVER HERE!!!" "I KNOW! I KNOW! I SAW

THE TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE TOO!!!" I excitedly replied. After finding my lens cap I quietly ran over to them. Soon some more solitaires came by, mostly juveniles.

We then went to Lightning Ridge, to take some pictures of ourselves and saw a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers on the way. I'm afraid, though, that Jon and I were looking at a Say's Phoebe, not the camera. It was great birding with Jon Feenstra. I was amazed at how much I learned and how much he knew about the birds of Los Angeles County. I know that I'll go to these locations again and I hope that you have the chance to too. Thank you again Jon!

John Garrett

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