



Drawing by  
Guy Coheleach

# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 53 – No. 1

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

January-February 2005

## 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.

(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

## February Program

### **The Good, the Bad, and the Unwanted**

**Martin Byhower**  
February 16, 2005

Martin Byhower has degrees in both Biology and Geology and is a Life Science teacher and Ecology Club Coordinator at Chadwick School. In addition to teaching, he heads up a 12-acre Chadwick Canyon Coastal Sage Scrub restoration project.

Martin will discuss who the “good guys” and “bad guys” really are, in terms of invasive species (which, next to habitat loss, is the greatest threat to biodiversity). Many people are surprised not only by which species are harmful but also by which species are not. Come find out why Martin likes pigeons but hates fox squirrels. He can also tell you how to get rid of Argentine ants in and around your house, guilt free! The complex webs are amazing, such as pigs destroying reefs, lizards that keep us safe from Lyme disease and endangered species threatening other endangered species. Martin will also talk about habitat restoration, including the best habitat restorer of all, the coyote.

## March Program

### **Important Bird Areas of California**

**By Daniel S. Cooper**  
March 16, 2005

Dan Cooper is the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California, the state office of the National Audubon Society. He graduated from Harvard in 1995, and completed his Master’s at University of California, Riverside in 1999. An avid birder since early childhood, Dan has traveled widely in the U.S. and abroad conducting fieldwork.

Audubon California recently released Dan’s book, *Important Bird Areas of California*. This landmark publication is the result of a three-year effort to identify and describe key areas around the state most important to birds

*Important Bird Areas of California* provides current data for roughly 150 sites in all 58 counties. It features dozens of photos of selected IBAs and the sensitive bird species that rely on them

Learn what this book has to offer and why it is important. Dan will sign his book at the end of the meeting. If you don’t have your copy yet, there will be copies for sale.

## President’s Perch

Bev McKenzie and I attended the Audubon-California Assembly in Stockton in November. As you are all aware, National Audubon Society has ceased sharing its dues with chapters (we received a “safety net” payment through 2004). Dues share and fundraising were hot topics at the assembly. Other workshops we attended included the priorities Audubon-California will take in Sacramento, inspiring volunteers, Salton Sea restoration, education programs and best practices for a healthy chapter.

On the way up to Stockton, Bev and I took a detour to the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. Among the many birds we saw were a Ring-necked Pheasant, seven species of duck including some

beautiful Canvasbacks, Golden-crown Sparrows, White-tailed Kites, and White-faced Ibises. The next day the entire assembly went to a near-by marsh with hundreds of Sand-hill Cranes and Tundra Swans. While there we also had hundreds of Cackling Geese (a recent split from the Canada Goose).

Audubon-California is looking to have these assemblies more often than in the past. This will give us a chance to compare notes and see how other chapters are dealing with the many common issues that we face.

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## Conservation

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Dr. Robert Ridgely

### *The Changing Face of Conservation of Neotropical Birds*

**Saturday, March 19, 2005, 7:00 pm**

**Los Angeles County**

**Museum of Natural History Auditorium**

**900 Exposition Boulevard**

**Los Angeles, California 90007**

Tickets are \$50/person (tax-deductible), and can be purchased by mailing a check or money order with a self-addressed stamped envelope payable to:

Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Attn: Ridgely in SOCAL  
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90046

*Price includes a reception catered by Wolfgang Puck following the program. No-host bar available.*

This event benefits: Los Angeles Audubon Society, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, Pasadena Audubon Society, Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society, Santa Monica Audubon Society, Dr. Ridgely's Jocotoco Foundation (supporting six habitat reserves in Ecuador)

### Dr. Robert Ridgely in Southern California

Dr. Ridgely will make a rare appearance in Southern California to discuss the changes occurring in the conservation of neotropical birds. Dr. Ridgely received his Ph.D. from Yale University and is a leading ornithologist in the study of endemic and endangered species of birds in the Americas. Dr. Ridgely is currently International Vice President of the International Bird Conservancy. He will be introduced by Kimball Garrett, Collections Manager of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Ridgely has written several books, including "Birds of Panama", "Birds of South America, Vols I and II" and "Birds of Ecuador". He will sign books at this event and they may be pre-ordered from the LA Audubon Society Bookstore with delivery at the Museum the night of the event.

There will be a reception immediately following the presentation, catered by Wolfgang Puck, in the Museum's Grand Foyer. A no-host bar will also be available.



### Reenchanting The City III: Building a Coalition for Urban Wildlife

In escaping the juggernaut of human development, the bird has been relatively lucky, at least the ones that can fly. A road, freeway or fenced, concrete waterway, doesn't represent an absolute barrier as it does for the walking and crawling wildlife that need to migrate to survive. Many of us who study wild birds also appreciate the plight of other wild critters. One cannot study birds without realizing they are all part of ecosystems that are being disrupted by man and his creations. A healthy habitat is a connected habitat not islands of green separated by roads and other barriers of civilization.

In October 2004, a one-day conference, sponsored by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, the LA Department of Recreation and Parks, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the Canada Goose Project/Migration Foundation, was held at Griffith Park's Friendship Auditorium. A few people got together to discuss how wildlife is being impacted by the growth of human cities, and how concerned citizens can organize to help them survive. It was given in two parts: lectures and speeches in the morning and small work groups in the afternoon.

The speakers included an array of professions including Tom La Bonge, LA

City Councilman, Andy Lipkis of the Tree People, Melanie Winter of The River Project and scientists, engineers, and managers from private and government arenas. Topics ranged from HSUS' wildlife expert Susan Hagood's presentation on the negative effects of roads on wildlife migration to environmental activism. ([HTTP://WWW.HSUS.ORG/ACE/13409](http://www.hsus.org/ace/13409)). Andy Lipkis described how he formed The Tree People and Dr. Gordon LaBedz, M.D., gave a brief biographical note on his founding of The Surfrider Foundation. ([HTTP://WWW.SURFLINE.COM/SURFAZ/SURFRIDER.CFM](http://www.surflife.com/surfaaz/surfrider.cfm)). Dr. LaBedz inspired the audience to action saying that results could be achieved by "constant pressure, applied endlessly".

My favorite presentation was by Dr. Ray Sauvajot, National Park Service, on "Biodiversity and the Mountain Lion Project". Dr. Sauvajot, gave us cutting edge information on how mountain lions survive in the Santa Monica Mountains despite being so close to humans. Using tracking collars on individual lions, his study group found that individual lions roam over hundreds of miles, crossing highways and inhabited areas, that they could co-exist peacefully with humans and that they didn't prey on human pets such as dogs and cats. They not only survive but thrive under these conditions: his group discovered a litter of 4 cubs born recently to one of their study subjects ([HTTP://WWW.MOUNTAINLION.ORG/NEWSROOM\\_ARTICLE.ASP?NEWS\\_ID=96](http://www.mountainlion.org/newsroom_article.asp?news_id=96)).

In the afternoon, small groups discussed certain selected topics. "Local Projects Protecting Wildlife" discussed the use of TEA (Transportation Equity Act) money for building crossing structures. The Los Angeles River Project is restoring the river back to a wilder state. And a housing developer and an environmentalist discussed how they cooperated to create a wildlife reserve, in order to save an empty field used by foraging Canada Geese. So there was material directly relevant to birds after all!

*Brian Tomikawa*

### 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/)



**PASADENA AUDUBON SOCIETY**

*Founded April 1904*

1750 N. Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
WWW.PASADENAAUDUBON.ORG

January, 2005

Dear Pasadena Audubon Society members,

It's that time of the year again, but before you turn the page let me remind you of the difference your support for PAS makes for you and for our community.

During the last year:

- We sponsored 20 classrooms with Audubon Adventures. This year we would like to take a more active role in youth education.
- We presented eight programs from bird identification and subspecies to bats, digiscoping and pelagic birding. This year we will have programs on North American deserts, owling, invasive species and DNA among others.
- We took over 35 field trips from as close as Pasadena to as far as Arizona. We had regular monthly walks at Eaton Canyon and Hahamongna Watershed Park. This year we will add a monthly walk at the Huntington Library Gardens for PAS members.
- We sponsored a field trip for KPCC that raised \$500 for our local public radio station.
- We maintain an active website ([www.PASADENAAUDUBON.ORG](http://www.PASADENAAUDUBON.ORG)) and listserv.
- We published our newsletter five times last year. The Wrentit was jam-packed with information on conservation, activities, education, and of course, birding.
- We held a jubilant Anniversary Party to celebrate our first century featuring Glenn Olson, the Director of Audubon-California.

What are our plans for the next year and how will your support help? Besides supporting the achievements I've mentioned, with your contribution we will install an interpretive nature trail at the Cobb Estate and explore sponsoring a bird festival next fall.

- If you did not donate last year, please consider how Pasadena Audubon Society helps to enrich your life and improve your community, then help us.
- If you were one of our donors last year, thank you! We need your continuing commitment and support.

We will only come to you once a fiscal year to request a donation. Do not wait for "next time" because this is it!

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

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

Thank you for your help and good birding!

Ron Cyger, President  
Pasadena Audubon Society

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



## Field Trip Reports

### Peck Pit

November 6, 2005

We had lovely weather and an enthusiastic group of 16 birders at Peck Road Park. The water level was still quite high and we quickly recorded all four grebe species, including a dozen Eared, and most of the usual ducks. A small flock of Great and Snowy Egrets briefly entertained us by flying in a circular formation and landing (I believe) on the island that is usually above water on the north lake but is now submerged. There were a group of about a dozen Canvasbacks, only one pair of Shovelers, and a few American Wigeons. (Plenty of Ruddy Ducks and Coots of course.) First one and then a total of four White Pelicans were observed. Raptors included Red-tails, a Sharpie, a pair of Kestrels, and a couple of Turkey Vultures. We heard a Greater Yellowlegs and saw a couple of Spotties. Songbirds included Great-tailed Grackles, Lark and White-crowned Sparrows, both Phoebe's, Yellow-rumps, goldfinches, kinglets, an unidentified swallow (prob. Tree) a half dozen Meadowlarks, two dozen Red-crowned Parrots and 4 or 5 Cassin's Kingbirds. We also had a Red-breasted Sapsucker.

Moving on to Livingston-Graham, we added Lesser Scaup (300 or more), Ring-necked Ducks, Bufflehead, Green-winged Teal and Gadwall. Gulls here included Ring-billed, California, a Herring, and several Western. Two Bonaparte's Gulls were at Peck. We saw five Caspian Terns (one at Peck) and an Osprey (at L-H).

On a personal note, following the field trip, Bill Myers and I zipped over the mountains to the Silver Saddle Resort east of California City. While there, I picked up life bird #600!

In addition to the Pine Grosbeak, we also had a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, juncos including Slate-colored and Pink-sided, and a Pine Siskin. Most of these birds were on the lawn just east of the pool area at the resort. The PIGR was on the lawn just southeast of the main parking area.

*Ed Stonick*

### PAS Bird Festival in 2005

Well, if you keep up with the Pasadena Audubon Society (PAS) Yahoo! Group forum on the Internet, you know that plans are underway for PAS to do a bird festival in 2005, in cooperation with the Eaton Canyon Nature Center (ECNC). Tentative plans include a weekend long program which includes a Saturday nature/birding fair with beginning bird walks, lectures and workshops at ECNC followed on Sunday with field trips to local birding hotspots. The purpose of

### North Slope of the San Gabriels

November 13, 2004

This trip to the north slope of the San Gabriels covered the area between Lake Palmdale and Grassy Hollow. We totaled about 65 species and saw multiple highlight birds.

Meeting at the Ave S Park & Ride overlooking Lake Palmdale we picked out about 10 Common Loons on the lake. Moving east to Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center we passed through Valyermo and saw two Ferruginous Hawks and a small group of Mountain Bluebirds in the field east of the Valyermo Post Office. Grassy Hollow itself was pretty dead, although the snow flurries were fun. Jackson Lake produced a Swamp Sparrow in the weeds along the north side of the lake, east side. The sparrow was very cooperative for a few minutes, then it disappeared and we couldn't push it back up. At the end of Big Rock Creek Road there were at least a dozen Clark's Nutcrackers. Further west at St. Andrew's Abbey we ran into Red-breasted and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a couple of White-headed Woodpeckers, Pine Siskens, and a male Scott's Oriole. All of these birds were located in the trees of the "Monastic Enclosure", the place where the monks live. It's a fenced area south of the parking lot. The trees are along the fence and can be easily seen from the outside. We left the Abbey at about 3:30 pm.

Some of us, returning to the Ave S Park & Ride to de-carpool were then treated to a pair of immature Tundra Swans which flew in and landed on the lake.

Pictures of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Scott's Oriole, and Tundra Swans are posted at:

[HTTP://WWW.ITS.CALTECH.EDU/~FEENSTRA/IMG\\_CA\\_2004/YBSA\\_STANDREWSABBEY\\_111304.HTM](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~FEENSTRA/IMG_CA_2004/YBSA_STANDREWSABBEY_111304.HTM)

[HTTP://WWW.ITS.CALTECH.EDU/~FEENSTRA/IMG\\_CA\\_2004/SCOR\\_STANDREWSABBEY\\_111304.HTM](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~FEENSTRA/IMG_CA_2004/SCOR_STANDREWSABBEY_111304.HTM)

[HTTP://WWW.ITS.CALTECH.EDU/~FEENSTRA/IMG\\_CA\\_2004/TUSW\\_LAKEPALMDALE\\_111304.HTM](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~FEENSTRA/IMG_CA_2004/TUSW_LAKEPALMDALE_111304.HTM)

[HTTP://WWW.ITS.CALTECH.EDU/~FEENSTRA/IMG\\_CA\\_2004/TUSW\\_LAKEPALMDALE\\_111304.HTM](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~FEENSTRA/IMG_CA_2004/TUSW_LAKEPALMDALE_111304.HTM)

[HTTP://WWW.ITS.CALTECH.EDU/~FEENSTRA/IMG\\_CA\\_2004/TUSW\\_LAKEPALMDALE\\_111304.HTM](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~FEENSTRA/IMG_CA_2004/TUSW_LAKEPALMDALE_111304.HTM)

*Jon Feenstra*

such a festival would be for promoting birding, birding related businesses and environmental causes, fund-raising, food, and fun. Such an event requires much advance planning and organizing. If you are excited by the idea and want to participate sign on to [HTTP://GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/PASADENABIRDFEST/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PASADENABIRDFEST/), show up at the organizing committee meeting: January 4, 2005, 7:00 pm at ECNC, and/or call Brian Tomikawa (Festival Organizing Committee Chairperson) at 323-223-7787.

### Shade Coffee and Shade Chocolate:

Part I

The holiday season is over and before you looms the bleak harsh winter. So you reach for a box of chocolates and a cup of brisk coffee. But wait. Was that cacao or coffee bean grown under the sun or under a tree? That Summer Tanager might have a preference.

Both coffee and cacao beans are grown under a variety of conditions. At one end are the so-called 'sun-beans' – those grown under the sun. If shade is present at all, it is due to a single species of tree. If that doesn't convey an image of a lush tropical forest, bursting with toucans and orchids, that's because it isn't. 'Sun-beans', hybrids of native beans, were created and designed to tolerate sunnier conditions. These beans produce significantly higher yields, and in the case of coffee, account for about 40% of the world's production. But sun-grown cacao and coffee require the use of agrochemicals to protect them from certain fungi and insects and, in the case of cacao fields, are generally not sustainable in the long-term.

Now a tiny percentage of coffee and cacao plants are being grown under the canopy of either a forest or many species of planted trees. Plantations of this kind are being actively promoted by organizations such as the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Conservation International or the National Audubon Society, as a more ecologically sensitive approach to growing these crops. It is also the traditional method of growing these crops. 'Progress' is not a linear march forward, but is more like a drunkard's walk, eventually reaching home (or the ditch).

But why should you care how the beans are grown? 'A bean is a bean, by any other means'. Organic certification is a necessary requirement for participation in the shade-coffee certification programs, so this is better for the workers as well. Accumulating scientific research indicates that shade-grown coffee and cacao plantations support more individuals and species of neotropical and nearctic birds, small mammals, and insects. Such plantations are a better refuge for organisms, than compared to the sun-grown variety, or say, a cattle pasture. So try eating chocolate instead of beef. Drink your coffee, but look for the shade-grown certification. National Audubon has a brand of shade-coffee, certified by the RainForest Alliance. It can be ordered at their website [HTTP://WWW.AUDUBONCOFFEECLUB.COM](http://www.auduboncoffeeclub.com), or by calling 1-800-829-1300. The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center has a shade-coffee certification program. More information about shade-coffee can be found at: [HTTP://NATIONALZOO.SLEDU/CONSERVATIONANDSCIENCE/MIGRATORYBIRDS/](http://nationalzoo.sledu/conservationandscience/migratorybirds/).

*Part II will discuss more about these shade-grown certifications programs and the different types of shade-grown coffee.*

## Field Trips

### Peck Pit

**Saturday, January 1, 2005**

**8:00 am – noon**

This field trip is in lieu of the regular Hahamongna Monthly Walk.

Take 210 Fwy to Myrtle Ave, go south. Entrance to park is first right after Clark Ave, traffic light.

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

### Perris Lake, San Jacinto Wildlife Area

**Saturday, January 15, 2005**

**8:00 am – 3:00 pm**

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 and Tufted Duck.

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**

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

### Huntington Library

**Birdwalks (PAS Members only)**

**Sunday, January 23, 2005**

**8:00 am – 11:00 am**

A new bonus for Pasadena Audubon Society members is the chance to sign up for birdwalks on the beautiful Huntington Library grounds. Your membership is current, isn't it? If not see the Application

Form on Page 7 or on our website.

Thanks to the persistent efforts of several members and especially Huntington curator Dan Lewis, we are scheduling walks for the fourth Sunday of the month. Attendance is by reservation only and limited to 15 people. There will be chances to see some of the "back country" areas.

Contact Elaine MacPherson by email (preferred) or phone. Please put Huntington in your subject line so you don't get deleted! We know that many of you will want to come, so don't delay and be understanding as we start this new project.

Note: Reservations will be taken only for the month you call or write. No advance reservations. Elaine and Dan will co-lead and other leaders may also participate.

*Elaine MacPherson BIRDERGRRLL@AOL.COM  
(626) 355-9412*

### Salton Sea (PAS Members only) 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 RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred)  
(626) 449-3625 (before 9:00 pm)*

### Hahamongna Monthly Walk Saturday, February 5, 2005

**8:00 am – noon**

This is monthly bird walk is for birders of all ages and experience. A good variety of birds 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)*

### Santa Fe Dam

**Saturday, February 12, 2005**

**8:00 am – noon**

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.

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*

### Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

**Sunday, February 20, 2005**

**8:00 am – noon**

*See January 16, 2005 for details.*

### San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

**Sunday, February 20, 2005**

**8:00 am – afternoon**

This location boasts 300 acres of freshwater wetlands filled with a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders. In the morning we will walk the trails that pass among the ponds in the Sanctuary. Bring a lunch if you want to continue birding in the afternoon; we can check out nearby locations such as Crystal Cove State Park or Upper Newport Bay.

From the southbound 405 freeway in Irvine, exit south on Jamboree. Turn left at the first stop light (Michelson), then turn right at the third stop light (Riparian View). Continue on Riparian View past the water reclamation facility. Signs will direct you to turn right down a short hill to the parking lot for Audubon House, where we will meet. Bring a scope if you have one.

*Mark Scheel SCHEEL@TAPIR.CALTECH.EDU  
(626) 355-3938*

### Huntington Library

**Birdwalks (PAS Members only)**

**Sunday, February 27, 2005**

**8:00 am – 11:00 am**

### Hahamongna Monthly Walk

**Saturday, March 5, 2005**

**8:00 am – noon**

*See February 5, 2005 for details.*

### Piute Ponds/Antelope Valley

**Saturday, March 19, 2005**

**8:00 am – noon**

The Piute Ponds are an extensive marshland isolated in the western Mojave Desert. Waterfowl, waders, and other marsh birds are present here in staggering numbers every winter. In addition, a target bird on this trip will be LeConte's Thrasher, a shy and local resident of the Antelope Valley. We'll begin by searching for this bird in the open brush land near Palmdale before heading north to the Piute Ponds. We may also likely spend some time at Apollo Park to look for early migrating song birds.

The Piute Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base which has restricted entry. Please notify me via email if you would like to attend. The meeting place and time will be arranged.

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

Calendar
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Submit material for the next Wrentit by **February 1st**

**January 2005**

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader *
1	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Peck Pit	Ed Stonick
13	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (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	Field Trip	Magpie Group	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Salton Sea
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Birdwalks <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Dan Lewis & Elaine MacPherson
29/30	S/S	TBA	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	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
12	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Santa Fe Dam	Jon Feenstra
15	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Chino Airport	Sid Heyman Madeline West
16	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: The Good, the Bad, and the Unwanted
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold Nature Center
	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	San Joaquin Wildlife Area	Mark Scheel
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Birdwalks <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Dan Lewis & Elaine MacPherson

**March 2005**

5	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
10	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
15	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Debs Park	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
16	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: <i>Important Bird Areas of California</i>
19	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Piute Ponds/Antelope Valley	Jon Feenstra
		<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Fundraiser</b>	<b>LACo Natural History Museum</b>	<b>Dr. Ridgely in Southern California</b>
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Birdwalks <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Dan Lewis & Elaine MacPherson

**April 2005**

2	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
9	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Morongo Valley	Ron Cyger
14	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasa Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
16	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hansen Dam	Ed Stonick
17	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	TBA	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
20	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: TBA

**\*Trip Leader Information**

<b>John Feenstra (Chair)</b>	<b>(626) 792-4346</b>	<b>FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU</b>
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	
Dan Lewis	(626) 398-4805	DANOLEWIS@EARTHLINK.NET
Elaine MacPhearson	(626) 355-9412	BIRDERGRRL@AOL.COM
Hill Penfold	(626) 352-4954	HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM
Mark Scheel	(626) 355-3938	SCHEEL@TAPIR.CALTECH.EDU
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	STONICKS@EARTHLINK.NET
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	MADEBILL@EARTHLINK.NET



## 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, 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.

### Tuesday, February 15, 2005 Chino Airport

Take the 210 east to the 57 South. About 3 miles after you are on the 57 South you should get on the 71 South. Continue east. Get off at the Grand Street exit. Go down Grand, it will become Edison. Take Edison to Euclid, stay on Euclid to Merrill, turn right. We will meet at Flo's Restaurant. For more details on how to get to Flo's, contact Sid Heyman. Do not bring a lunch, as we will eventually eat at Flo's.

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

## Membership Update

We now have 98 PAS-only members. We'd like to thank those of you who have joined and/or renewed as chapter-only members.

We would also like to thank those who have donated to PAS beyond their membership dues, to support our continuing programs. For the period from July through November 2004, we received \$525.00 from these members.

Leonard & Shirley Vogel  
Ron Cyger  
Don & Karen Rogers

## Planned Giving

By remembering Pasadena Audubon Society in your will or other trust documents, you help PAS survive for the long-term and continue to provide a very unique service to the Pasadena area.

Additional information on planned giving will follow in the next *Wrentit*.

## Cornell Class Graduates



Photo by Ron Cyger

Cornell Lab of Ornithology Bird Biology Course graduates. Left to right: Judy Bass, Mary Jane Macy, Karen Brumer, Karen Mateer, Doris Wartman, Ron Cyger, Beverly McKenzie. Not pictured: Jan & Bob Stull.

## 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*

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Donor's address for gift membership:

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

### Yearly Membership for Individual or Family

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

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

[ ] \$15 Senior/Full-time Student

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

Make checks payable and mail to:

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

## Kid's Corner

Editor: John and his family went birding in England. Here's part 1 of his report.

### Titchwell Marsh

From August 27 to September 17, my family and I went on an unforgettable trip to England. Of course, we weren't there entirely

for *twitching* (the English term for serious birding). We were also there because my mom's choir was singing in York Minster, we wanted to visit family, and the sheer joy of being in jolly old England. Even so, we did manage about four days worth of twitching, including one magnificent day at Titchwell Marsh in East Anglia, one of the best twitching spots in Great Britain.

We arrived at Titchwell on 7 September 2004. The path from the parking lot to the Nature Center passed through woods filled with small, chubby, musical Euro-

pean Robins. These woods gave way to an open area filled with twitchers. On our left was marsh so thickly covered that we barely saw any water. Beyond that, far in the distance, were the sandy shores of the North Sea. To our right, we saw more open marshland, with more mud and water visible. However, most astonishing were the hundreds of thousands of shorebirds and geese crowding the area. We were stunned.

After we recovered from our surprise and started twitching, I saw a tall white bird standing amongst the thicker reeds. I thought to myself, "Little Egret!" but I wasn't sure. I asked the closest twitcher, who replied, "Why yes, my boy, you've got yourself a Little Egret, there!" We talked, and just as a Whimbrel landed, he learned that we were Americans, leading him to comment about these Whimbrels' distinctive white rump and wing-patches, which ours in 'The States' don't have. Just

then, a Eurasian Curlew landed, allowing us to see the differences between Whimbrels and Eurasian Curlews in the field.

Soon, my mom asked what all the bird calls in the nearby reeds were. "Oh those?" the twitcher asked, pointing at the reeds. "Those are Bearded Tits." We then talked about Bearded Tits, and about their real name, Bearded Reedling. It's a pity we didn't see any of these colorful birds yet secretive birds. After observing some European Goldfinches, I asked the twitcher, "Are those large shorebirds over there Ruffs?" Yes, they were none other than Ruffs!

We said goodbye to the helpful twitcher, and headed over to the nearest hide, where we got much better views of the shorebirds and geese, most of which were Canadian.

John F. Garrett

## New Members

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

**Altadena:** Norma Flores, Jack McVey, Greg & Dayna Nelson, Susan Quiles; **Altadena:** Jim BrucknerScott Doudrick, Jocelyn Manilay, Hazel Scott; **Arcadia:** Anthony Ha, Patricia Haas, Eleanor Kane;

**Azusa:** Thomas Greaves, Nani Komitas, Roxanne Phillips; **Duarte:** Mrs. George West; **Glendale:** Nick & Mary Freeman;

**La Canada:** Wanda Bills, John Goddard, Steve Synnott & Leslie Nord; **Monrovia:** Mr. & Mrs.

D. Barberie, Adrienne & John Bursill, C. Chamberlain, Kathy Pratt, Brendon Simonds-Sons; **Monterey Park:** Betty Thrasher; **Pasadena:** Lee Cass, Allene Eubanks, Ruby Gardner, Julie Gray, L. Hane, M. Hobbes, Jean Ketcham, Marlyn Lee, Le Roy Martinez, Lisa Mathiessen, Parry, Phyllis Reed, Richard Shubin, Jay Simons, Janet Sporleder, Matthew Stevens; **San Gabriel:** Robert Nafie, Debby Prohlias, V. Ridler, Steven Rudeen, Joan Severa; **San Marino:** Owen Day; **Sierra Madre:** Geoffrey Middlebrook, Martha Mossawir, Sharon & Bill Ramsey, Marilyn Sailor; **South Pasadena:** Mary Kyropoulos, Susan Pastorek, Lenore Rodah, Mike Urlik; **Temple City:** John Andersen

## 2005 San Diego Bird Festival

February 9-13  
Marina Village at Mission Bay Park  
San Diego, CA

For information:  
619-516-0139

or email

INFO@SANDieGONATUREFESTIVALS.ORG.

Web page: HTTP://

WWW.SANDieGONATUREFESTIVALS.ORG/  
BIRDFEST/INDEX.HTM

### Pasadena Audubon Society Board

President	Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625
Vice President	Norm Arnheim	(626) 405-0844
Secretary	Jean O'Hagan	(626) 792-4406
Treasurer	Will Fulmer	(626) 798-1606

### Board Members at Large:

Eileen Burton, John Garrett, Mark Hunter, Dan Lewis

### Committee Chairs

Conservation	Brian Tomikawa	
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Hospitality	Laura Garrett	(626) 564-1890
Programs	Ron Cyger/Bev McKenzie	
Magpie Bird Study Group	Madeline West	(626) 574-0429
	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991

Membership	Lois Fulmer	(626) 798-1606
Publicity	Priya Kumar	(626) 793-8832
	Michael Graesser	(626) 793-8832
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Pasadena, CA 91107

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