



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 54 – No. 1

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

January-February 2006

January Program

U.S. Forest Service Celebrates 100 with “The Greatest Good”

Steve Segreto
January 18, 2006

The Forest Service’s centennial film frames the epic story of the struggle to manage a nation’s resources amid global change. “The Greatest Good” takes the audience on a journey into the heart of a story as compelling as it is uniquely American – a story of courage and tragedy, enormous progress and bitter conflict.

Visionary foresters Gifford Pinchot and Aldo Leopold shaped the debate for a hundred years. Their journey from the “wise use” of resources to the idea of a “land ethic” has defined the evolution of the Forest Service.

Steve Segreto has a degree in wildlife biology (main area of study is Bighorn Sheep) and is currently an educator/naturalist with the U.S. Forest Service. He teaches youngsters about the forest wildlife and early California history. On weekends he leads adult naturalist programs in the San Gabriel Mountains.

General Meetings held at:

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

President’s Perch

The big event in November was our Birdfest at Eaton Canyon, sponsored by PAS and Eaton Canyon Nature Center. I hope you were able to attend because it was a lot of fun! The main purpose of the Birdfest was to raise money for PAS to help pay for publishing *The Wrentit*, insurance and other necessities. Thanks to the great work by the Birdfest Committee, the staff at Eaton Canyon, dedicated volunteers too numerous to mention, and the beautiful weather, Birdfest was a complete success! We plan to do it again, probably in 2007. For 2006, we will try a

February Program

What Research on Cowbirds Tells Us:

*Evolution, Animal Behavior,
Endangered Songbirds*
Steve Rothstein
Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Parasitic birds, such as cowbirds and cuckoos, and their hosts have long been subjects of great interest to biologists, especially those concerned with behavior, physiology and evolution. This talk will explore some of the research on parasitic birds such as their co-evolution with hosts and vocal development and song dialects in cowbirds. He will also address the extent to which cowbirds threaten the survival of host species and whether or not they should be killed off to aid host species, as is widely done in California.

Stephen Rothstein, Ph.D., has been a Professor of Zoology at UC Santa Barbara since 1972. He teaches courses in vertebrate biology, animal behavior, evolution and conservation. He has also worked extensively with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Forest Service to assess the extent to which cowbirds threaten the survival of other songbird species and to enhance recovery efforts for endangered species impacted by cowbirds.

more basic birding class that would be for people who are interested in how to identify a bird and what equipment to use. The next day a bird walk would be provided to test their skills.

As I write this, Lois and I are getting ready for the Christmas Bird Count & Dinner, followed by the Fulmer family reunion on 12/25. I hope you are having a very merry Christmas Season and have a Happy New Year.

Will

March Program

Seabirds and Marine Mammals of the Southern California Bight

Todd McGrath
Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Put on your rain jacket, take your seasickness medication and join veteran pelagic trip leader Todd McGrath for a journey to see some of the remarkable seabirds and marine mammals that call the waters off southern California home. As part of this journey we will see how the ocean topography and currents in the Southern California Bight combine to provide the conditions for marine life to flourish. We will also examine some of the life histories of these fascinating birds and mammals.

Todd McGrath has spent nearly 200 days at sea off California, and regularly leads pelagic trips off both coasts of the United States. His interest in seabirds has taken him to Mexico, South America, Australia, South Africa, and Antarctica. When not out to sea, he can usually be found birding somewhere in southern California, or spending time with his wife Pamela and their two daughters, Katelyn and Sarah. He serves on the board of directors for Audubon California and is a regular leader on LAAS pelagic trips.

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Conservation

Salton Sea Update

The Salton Sea Authority is currently holding hearings in the area around the Sea to gather comments and reactions to their current plan (see map).

Basically, they are proposing to develop new development areas along the shoreline in hopes of generating tax revenues that will fund the Sea's restoration.

The Salton Sea Coalition (of which Audubon California and PAS are members) has raised several concerns about this plan and it's impact on the existing habitat.

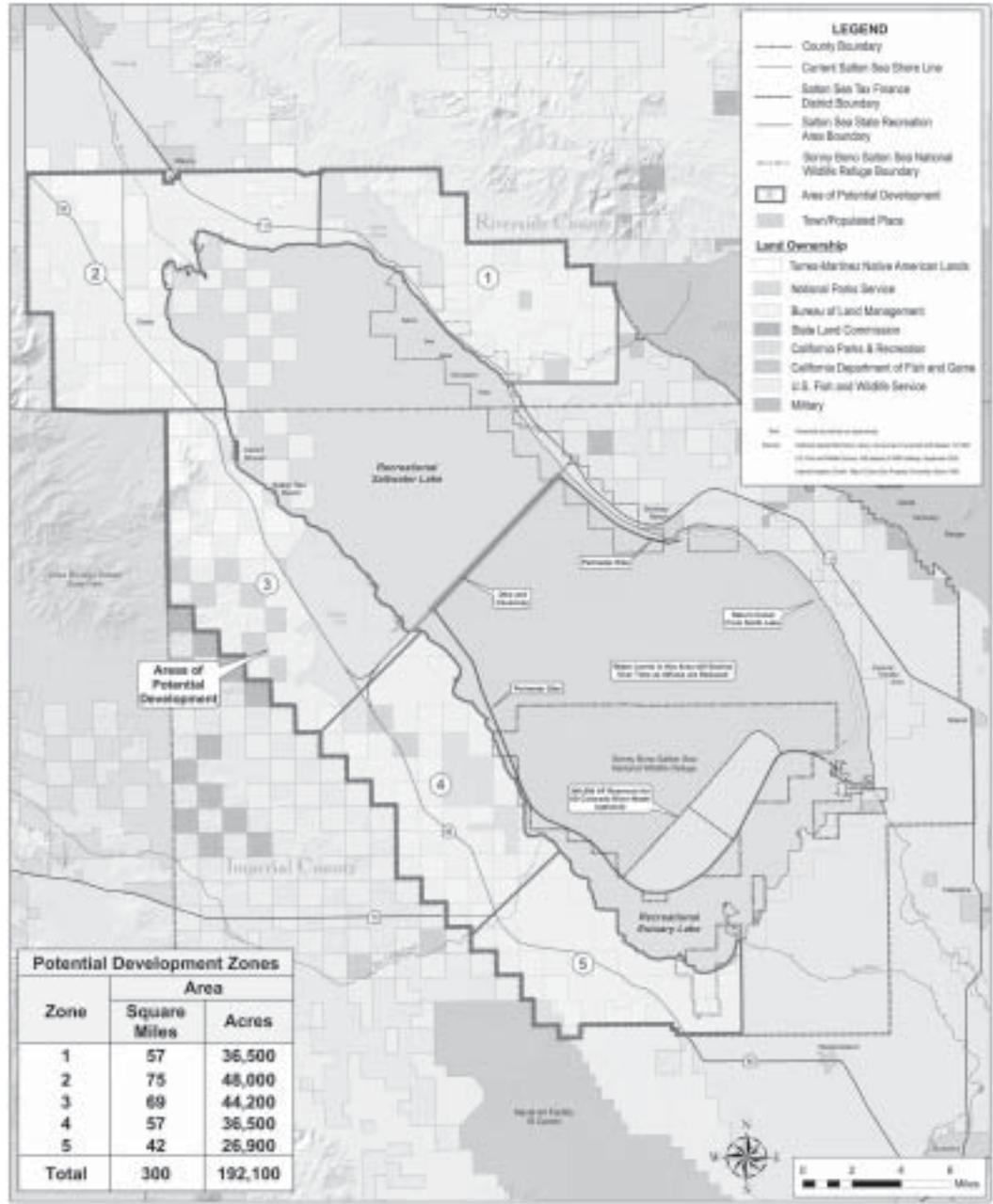
In a letter to Mr. Ronald J. Enzweiler, Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority, opposing the present plan they wrote,

"We are writing on behalf of the diverse members of the Salton Sea Coalition to express our opposition to the Salton Sea Authority's Plan for Salton Sea Restoration and Revitalization (SSA Plan). Although the Coalition strongly supports the goal of increasing local economic opportunities, it does not believe the SSA Plan will provide for balanced long-term economic development that is also compatible with a healthy environment. Not only does SSA Plan fail to meet the environmental and public health requirements for restoration under Quantification Settlement Agreement legislation, it also appears to be inconsistent with basic state and federal environmental statutes.

"In the past, the Coalition has worked with the Salton Sea Authority to promote both environmental and economic benefits through restoration. The Authority now appears to have decided to promote development around the Sea, while leaving critical public health, habitat and economic sustainability issues for other entities to address, decades into the future.

"In the spirit of our past partnership with the Authority, the Coalition will make every effort to work with the Authority to address our concerns. Until these issues are addressed, however, the Coalition opposes the SSA Plan for the reasons stated below.

- **"The Authority's Alternative Fails to Address Air Quality.** The public health threat posed by a smaller Sea is enormous, yet the Authority no longer includes air quality mitigation



- in its restoration objectives.
- **"The Authority's Alternative Fails to Protect Habitat.** Both state and federal law require the maximum feasible protection of fish and wildlife and the habitat upon which they depend as part of restoration. The SSA Plan does not attempt to meet, and falls far short of, this requirement. Instead, it focuses exclusively on infrastructure, development and recreation opportunities.
- **"The SSA Plan is Not Economically Defensible.** Although the Coalition strongly supports local economic development, that development should be sustainable over the long-term as well as consistent with the air quality, water quality and habitat

goals of the restoration legislation. ...We encourage the Authority to support more environmentally sustainable development that would provide much more lasting economic opportunities for the local economy." **For more information or to get copies of the planning documents, see [HTTP://WWW.SALTONSEA.CA.GOV/](http://www.saltonsea.ca.gov/)**

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/)

Birdfest Results

On Saturday, November 5th, we held our first ever Birdfest at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. It was a beautiful day and at 7:00 am, volunteers (about 25 of us) arrived to set up the signs, tables and booths for the vendors. By 8:30 am, the Birdfest was in full swing. Indoors there were college-level birding classes. Outdoors there were booths of fine art (artists Ivett Garay and Andrew Birch), bird books, bird house building (Home Depot), good binoculars & scopes (Eagle Optics), and even facepainting (Roots & Shoots). The Birdfest was educational for the 60 plus who signed up for classes, fun for the general public, and profitable as a fundraiser for PAS.

The next day (Sunday), we followed up with birdwalks lead by some of the top birders in this area. They spotted 123 species in total – not bad for this time of year.

The Birdfest netted PAS \$5,000, which will be used in 2006 to fund our operations and projects. Many thanks to the Birdfest Committee, the Eaton Canyon staff, and all of the volunteers that made this event a success.

Will Fulmer

Endangered Species Act Under Attack!

(Excerpt from letter by Claudia Eyzaguirre, Chapter Coordinator, Audubon California)

On September 29, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to dismantle the Endangered Species Act. After 30 years of serving as the nation's premier safety net for animals and plants on the verge of extinction, the Endangered Species Act itself is threatened.

The attack on the ESA is lead by U.S. Representative Richard Pombo (R-Tracy). He is the author of "extinction bill" HR 3824, deceptively titled the "Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act". The bill will: Eliminate habitat protections; repeal protections against hazardous pesticides; politicize scientific decision-making; eliminate the vital check and balance of consultation; require taxpayers to pay developers, oil & gas companies, and other industries for complying with the law. Pombo represents a small slice of greedy developers and resource extraction-based industries who want to open up public land to profit.

The ESA is one of the most admired laws, with an 86% approval rating from Americans. HR3824 now rests on the Senate floor in the Wilderness Subcommittee chaired by Senator Lincoln Chafee (R-RI), who has a strong environmental record. It is up to our Senators to prevent anti-conservation legislation from being passed.

The Birthing of a Birdfest

In December 2004, a dedicated core of five people met to explore the possibility of presenting a bird fair to raise funds for Pasadena Audubon and co-sponsored by Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Those five, Ron Cyger, Peggy Ogata and Brian Tomikawa from PAS and Mickey Long and Judy Bass from PAS and ECNC, ended up doing a lion's share of the planning of this project. Later, many others pitched in including Susan & Frank Gilliland, Mei Kwan, Laura Garrett, Jon Feenstra, Karen Mateer, Elaine MacPherson, Will Fulmer and Lynn Peckham.

Eleven months later on November 5, 2005, Birdfest was a success!! You may think we're biased, but nearly all of our evaluation forms were positive. There are a couple of negative ones but if you don't get those few your results aren't reliable. What did people like best about Birdfest? Everything! "Variety & excellent organization"; "Quality presentations & the wonderful adventure in search of owls"; "The number of children involved"; "The hands-on workshops...the treats [food]"; "Good selection of topics & speakers". We've also received lots of personal congratulations and positive comments.

There were many Birdfest highlights.

By the Numbers

At the field trips for the Pasadena Birdfest, we logged 123 species for the two days! The field trips covered most of the habitats in our area and the most wide-spread species that were seen on six trips were:

Northern Flicker
Black Phoebe
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Spotted Towhee, and
White-crowned Sparrow.

Get involved! Write a letter to Senator Diane Feinstein, U.S. Senate, One Post Street, Suite 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104. For more info contact Audubon California Chapter Coordinator Claudia Eyzaguirre at CEYZAGUIRRE@AUDUBON.ORG or for more information go to [HTTP://WWW.AUDUBON.ORG/NEWS/PRESS_RELEASES/ENDANGERED_SPECIES_BILL_09-30-05.HTML](http://www.audubon.org/news/press_releases/ENDANGERED_SPECIES_BILL_09-30-05.HTML).

In the plenary session, Kimball Garrett's presentation, "Historical Changes in the San Gabriel Valley Birdlife" painted a picture of how birdlife has been altered by human development. All of the workshops were well-attended. Jon Fisher's "Fall Migrant Identification" was timed perfectly. Lance Benner's "Owls", Mary Freeman's "Birding by Ear", Michael Klein's "Butterflies", were all full before November 5.

Our nature fair of vendors and non-profit exhibitors was praised for its diversity. Many people "oohed & ahed" at the live Red-tail Hawk, Kestrel and Great Horned Owl brought by the San Dimas Nature Center. It was a great opportunity to see these beautiful creatures uncaged. And both Mt. Baldy and ECNC had booths dispensing information about their nature centers.

Our list of volunteers, besides those mentioned above, is long and there isn't enough space to mention them all. However, our thanks and congratulations to each of them for their work. The quality & quantity of volunteers were key to our success. I said, "It takes a village to raise a Birdfest." And it did!

Another Birdfest is planned for 2007. We have something else in the works for 2006, however, so keep tuned!

Brian Tomikawa

There were a number of species logged in five locations, including
Nuttall's Woodpecker
Bushtits
Hermit Thrushes
Northern Mockingbirds
Cedar Waxwings
California Towhees
House Finches, and
Lesser Goldfinches

Ron Cyger



"The woodpecker may have to go."

Birdfest Trip Reports

Whittier Narrows Natural Area/Recreation Area

The November 6th Birdfest Field Trip to Whittier Narrows Natural Area/Recreation Area provided good diversity of birds and a couple of rarities for the seven participants. We walked from the Nature Center parking lot through the main sanctuary and to the San Gabriel River near the dam.

An Osprey cruised down the river halfway along our walk and later was seen with it's piscine breakfast. Allen's Hummingbirds outnumbered the Anna's (which now happens regularly) and Purple Finches were found in small flocks to compare with House Finches.

Larry Allen helped us pin down a cooperative Western Kingbird, especially after a nearby Cassin's Kingbird flew in to share the power pole wire near the Mitigation Lakes Area. This is a very late record for a Western which should be well south of the border. None of the indigenous Cardinals made themselves known to us but we did get up to seven Phainopeplas and a number of Western Bluebirds.

We finished our morning with excellent looks at the brilliant male Vermilion Flycatcher, staked out at the West end of Rush, off Rosemead Blvd. since mid-October. Our list for the day totaled 51 species with the inclusion of a flock of Canary-winged Parakeets (heard) and Red-crowned Parrots.M

Mickey Long

Birding by Ear

My class on Birding by Ear was well received by the participants at the Pasadena Birdfest. For two hours I lectured giving tips on how to go about birding by ear, with the last hour dedicated to listening to and learning bird sound recordings with accompanying slides.

Sunday morning I took the field trip participants for a three hour walk around the Eaton Canyon Nature Center grounds, finding the most activity around the amphitheater. The participants said they have now added a new dimension to their birding by tuning in to bird calls in the field. Not only did we learn the familiar "Oaxaca" call of the California Quail and the bouncing ball song of the Wrentit, they also learned the calls of the American and Lesser Goldfinch and more. And as an added bonus, I was able to teach them the raspy mewling call of the Hermit Thrush.

We were also treated to an active bathing session at the pond by Mourning Doves, White-crowned Sparrows and

spectacular Purple Finches, both male and female. Another bird experience came as we rescued a California Thrasher that seemed incapable of flying. Nick and I cornered it and Nick caught the thrasher in his hands. We had a great look at this awesome beautiful bird in the hand. A participant was so kind as to take it to the Pasadena Humane Society for rehab.

I enjoyed participating in the first ever Pasadena Birdfest and I'm glad the participants in my class walked away with the beginnings of a new and powerful tool for birding – birding by ear. Remember, leave no chip unturned! Thanks to the coordinators of this great and successful event!

Happy Birding!

Mary Freeman

Huntington Gardens

Sometimes a field trip can be notable for what was not seen, rather than what was! Our group had four varyingly seasoned birders and one enthusiastic beginner. After glibly promising the sight and sound of the endemic Red-whiskered Bulbuls that are ALWAYS present, we never saw or heard one in any of the sections we covered. Unless they were all hiding out in the Mausoleum, they must have decided to pull up stakes and go to the Arboretum for the day.

The usual assortment of residents were rounded out with the increasing number of Winter visitors. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Black Phoebes were omnipresent and very vocal. One of a frenetic group of kinglets bouncing around in the desert garden had every single one of his little red crown feathers erect and spread out for maximum display. Nearby, an adult Golden-crowned Sparrow mingling with a few White-crowns was a treat.

The Yellow-chevroned Parakeets were more obliging than usual, feeding on the pods of a small "floss" tree so we didn't have to crane our necks to see them. Some parakeet feathers were shown and the uniqueness of most green plumage was explained as a combination of yellow pigmented color and blue structural color.

We enjoyed our access privileges to the untamed western areas that are unavailable to the public, but no special avian delights were present this time. A vote was taken to spend a bit of time in the new conservatory at the end of the trip. It's a wonderful place for all frustrated "lab rats" yearning to do a bit of science. I had fun playing with a flytrap.

What a fabulous weekend and many thanks to everyone who helped make our Birdfest weekend such a memorable debut.

Elaine MacPherson

Then There Were OWLS!!

On Saturday night, ten intrepid people joined me for some owling in the San Gabriel Mountains as part of the Pasadena Birdfest.

Here's what we found: two Great Horned Owls, five Western Screech Owls, and one Northern Saw-whet Owl. We got extensive looks at a perched Western Screech Owl at a range of less than 30 feet. Prior to seeing that bird, we heard three screechowls calling around us nearly simultaneously. We also got several glimpses of the Saw-whet Owl as it flew across the road and between trees. The Great Horned Owls were much farther away, and as a result, we didn't see them. Everyone also got a brief tour of the night sky and very nice looks at Venus, the crescent Moon, and Mars.

Thanks to everyone who attended the owl talk on Saturday afternoon, the owling trip on Saturday night, and to the friendly folks at Pasadena Audubon for organizing the festival.

Lance Benner

Santa Fe Dam

Following a great Saturday of Pasadena Birdfest activities we enjoyed a Sunday (11/7) morning field trip to Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale. Fifty-fove species were recorded along our circuit that covered the south edge of the lake, the east edge of the willow forest, and the brushy lands in between. The presence of a dog show certainly prevented our full inspection of the park, but we did all right with what we had. No rarities, but several locally interesting species nonetheless.

The wintering flock of Cassin's Kingbirds remains conspicuous and noisy, numbering many tens of birds. Thanks to the wealth of exotic fruit-bearing trees, of course. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher(s) that have spent the last several winters with the kingbirds were not seen. We had an excellent study of Cackling Goose with two present, along with 4 Greater White-fronted Geese, in the large flock of grotesque, swollen domestic geese.

Two Osprey and a pair of Belted Kingfishers were periodically engaged in their own domestic spats over the water. Out in the western brushy area we were not able to scare up any shrikes, but we found a couple of Rock Wrens. We also had the morning's educational supplement by sifting through some cooperative groups of Savannah, White-crowned, and Lincoln's Sparrows.



Jon Feenstra

Field Trips

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, January 7, 2006

Saturday, February 4, (see Peck Rd. trip)

Saturday, March 4, 2006

8:00 am – noon

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

Exit the 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

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, January 15, 2006

Sunday, February 19, 2006

Sunday, March 19, 2006

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

Huntington Library

Birdwalks (PAS Members only)

Sunday, January 22, 2006

Sunday, February 26, 2006

Sunday, March 26, 2006

8:00 am – 11:00 am

Thanks to the persistent efforts of several members, and especially Huntington curator Dan Lewis, we offer walks on the fourth Sunday of the month. Attendance is by reservation only and is limited to 15 PAS members. (*Your membership is current, isn't it? If not see the Application Form on Page 9 or on our website.*) 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! 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 & Dan Lewis

Peck Road Park, Livingstone-Graham Reservoir

Saturday, February 4, 2006

7:30 – 11:00 a.m.

For those not familiar with these areas, Peck Road Park contains a two-section lake and willow forest that is usually loaded with cormorants, ducks, grebes, gulls, egrets, and other water birds as well as occasional wintering warblers, flycatchers, and other interesting passerines. The Livingstone-Graham Reservoir draws hundreds of ducks and gulls. Both places attract raptors, including Red-tails, TVs, Osprey, falcons, and accipiters. This is an excellent trip for beginners as well as veteran birders.

We'll meet at the parking lot in Peck Road Park. To reach the park entrance, go south from the 210 Freeway on Myrtle Ave. in Monrovia, which becomes Peck Rd. The entrance is on the right side just past Clarke Ave. (about two miles south of the freeway).

Ed Stonick

Santa Fe Dam

Saturday, January 14, 2006

8:00 am – ?

Join Jon Feenstra on his last official Pasadena Audubon field trip as he stumps around Santa Fe Dam for wintering goodies. Every year this vast flood basin hosts a nice collection of waterfowl and chaparral birds, which are nearly always joined by some unusual species from afar. Flocks of Cassin's Kingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, and American Robins regularly spend the winter feeding on the dense berry trees. Both Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Gray Flycatcher have been reported this year, as have Cackling and Greater White-fronted Geese. Let's get to it.

The entrance to the park is on the north side of Arrow Hwy. two blocks west of Irwindale Ave. in Irwindale. Meet at 8:00 am in the lot at the east end of the lake (first one as you drive in). There is an entrance fee of \$7.

Jon Feenstra

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary/UpperNewport Bay

Saturday, February 18, 2006

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine boasts 300 acres of freshwater wetlands filled with a variety of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. We will walk the trails around the ponds at the Sanctuary, and then move on to nearby Upper Newport Bay, the largest estuary in southern California, where last year we had great looks at Clapper Rails and Eurasian Wigeons.

To get to the Sanctuary: 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 free parking lot for Audubon House, where we will meet. Scopes are useful.

Mark Scheel

Piute Ponds

Saturday, March 11, 2006

7:00 am – Full day

When is the best time to bird Piute Ponds? Anytime! The ponds are located at the extreme north end of Los Angeles County on Edwards Air Force Base and require a permit to bird. We should see a good array of later winter and early spring migrants along with the great resident birds.

Bring a scope, food and water and meet at 7:00 am at the Park & Ride on Avenue S in Palmdale (off the 14 Freeway, about 1:15 minutes away from Pasadena. We will form carpools and go from there. Dress warm and be prepared for a full day of birding. For info contact co-leaders.

Larry Allen and Ron Cyger

**Audubon California Chapter Assembly
Asilomar Conference Center
Pacific Grove, CA
March 19-21, 2006**

For details: Claudio Eyzaguirre (510)
601-1866x3 or [WWW.CA.AUDUBON.ORG/
CHAPTERS.HTML](http://WWW.CA.AUDUBON.ORG/CHAPTERS.HTML)

Magpie Bird Study Group

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



**Tuesday, January 17, 2006 – Bonelli Park
Tuesday, February 21, 2006 – Bette Davis Picnic Area
Tuesday, March 21, 2006 – ECNC**

Contact leaders for directions.

*Sid Heyman
Madeline West*

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

January 2006

| Date | Day | Time | Event | Location | Leader * |
|-------|---------|---------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 7 | Sat | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Hahamongna Watershed Park | Ron Cyger |
| 11 | Wed | 7:30 pm | Board Meeting | Pasadena Presbyterian Church | 585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison) |
| 14 | Sat | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Santa Fe Dam | Jon Feenstra |
| 15 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Hill Penfold |
| 17 | Tu | 9:00 am | Magpie Group | Bonelli Park | Sid Heyman & Madeline West |
| 18 | Wed | 7:00 pm | General Meeting | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Program: US Forest Service Centennial |
| 22 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i> | Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis |
| 28/29 | All Day | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Salton Sea | Ron Cyger |

February 2006

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|----|-----|---------|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 4 | Sat | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Peck Road Park | Ed Stonick |
| 9 | Wed | 7:30 pm | Board Meeting | Pasadena Presbyterian Church | 585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison) |
| 11 | Sat | 8:00 am | Field Trip | San Jacinto Wildlife Area | Lance Benner |
| 15 | Wed | 7:00 pm | General Meeting | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Program: All about Cowbirds |
| 18 | Sat | 8:00 am | Field Trip | San Joaquin/Upper Newport | Mark Scheel |
| 19 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Hill Penfold |
| 21 | Tu | 9:00 am | Magpie Group | Bette Davis Picnic Area | Sid Heyman & Madeline West |
| 26 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i> | Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis |

March 2006

| | | | | | |
|----|-----|---------|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 4 | Sat | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Hahamongna Watershed Park | Lois & Will Fulmer |
| 9 | Wed | 7:30 pm | Board Meeting | Pasadena Presbyterian Church | 585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison) |
| 11 | Sat | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Piute Ponds | Larry Allen & Ron Cyger |
| 15 | Wed | 7:00 pm | General Meeting | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Program: Southern California Bight |
| 18 | Sat | TBA | Field Trip | Owling in the San Gabriels | Lance Benner |
| 19 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Hill Penfold |
| 21 | Tu | 9:00 am | Magpie Group | ECNC | Sid Heyman & Madeline West |
| 26 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip | Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i> | Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis |

***Trip Leader Information**

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mark Scheel (Chair) | (626) 355-3938 | SCHEEL@TAPIR.CALTECH.EDU |
| Larry Allen | (323) 221-2022 | LARRYALLEN@EARLYMUSICLA.ORG |
| Lance Benner | (626) 791-1187 | LBENNER@CHARTER.NET |
| Ron Cyger | (626) 449-3625 <i>(before 9 pm)</i> | RON@CYGER.ORG <i>(preferred)</i> |
| Jon Feenstra | (626) 792-4346 | FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU |
| Nick & Mary Freeman | (818) 247-6172 | MNFREEMAN@EARTHLINK.NET |
| Sid Heyman | (626) 571-5991 | |
| Dan Lewis | (626) 398-4805 | DANOLEWIS@EARTHLINK.NET |
| Elaine MacPherson | (626) 355-9412 | BIRDERGRRL@AOL.COM |
| Hill Penfold | (626) 352-4954 | HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM |
| Ed Stonick | (626) 796-0595 | STONICKS@EARTHLINK.NET |
| Madeline West | (626) 574-0429 | WEST266@ADELPHIA.NET |

More Bobcats – with four legs

Despite Mark Hunter’s yellow variety, there are Bobcats in our environs with four legs and a tail.

Bob and Jane Stavert emailed seeing one walking down their street a few months ago. It appeared again recently, resulting in one neighbor calling Animal Control (no response) and three police cars responding, officers promising one and all that they wouldn’t shoot the cat. Bob thinks it got away!

This prompted Lance Benner to mention he often sees Bobcats ar around JPL’s east parking lot and not long ago had a “close encounter” when one stopped about ten feet from him, then ambled into the brush causing various California Towhees, Bewick’s Wrens and Northern Mockingbirds to squawk loudly.

Lois and Will Fulmer have seen a couple up around Descanso Gardens on occasion. One they saw was sleeping in a tree. They sure beat the yellow ones with engines.

photos by Bob Stavert



Coming Events

February 9-12, 2006

10th Annual San Diego Bird Festival at Marina Village on Mission Bay.

Details: Visit SDAS web site at WWW.SANDIEGOAUDUBON.ORG/BIRDFEST.HTM for information, registration and to request a program. Or you may call (619) 682-7200. Trips include Baja California, Anza Borrego Desert, Cuyamaca Mountains, Pelagic trips, and San Diego’s renowned beaches and wetlands. Friday night mixer and Saturday night banquet with Pete Dunne as featured speaker.

February 17-20, 2006

Ninth Great Backyard Birdcount

Sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Science Division of Audubon.

Location: Your choice, but one location only. Count highest number of each bird species you see at one time. Report numbers to:

WWW.BIRDSOURCE.ORG/GBBC

Cornell computers convert your sightings into maps, lists and charts you can view online within minutes.

Saturday, March 25, 2006

Sparrow Identification Lecture. Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett.

Location: ECNC

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Details: Send SASE and \$30 with phone & e-mail to LA Audubon Society to reserve. Check

WWW.LAAUDUBON.ORG for more lecture details and mailing address.

Become a Chapter-only Member of PAS

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

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

Currently, we have about 150 chapter-only members as well as several generous donors. We thank you all for your support!

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Donor’s address for gift membership:

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Yearly Membership for Individual or Family

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

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

[] \$15 Senior/Full-time Student

Donation [] _____

Make checks payable and mail to:

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

Kid's Corner How to Attract Birds into Your Backyard

Over the past four years that I have been a birder, I have learned many great tips on how to attract birds into our backyard. Although I live on a suburban street in an urban neighborhood, I have identified over 70 species in and from our yard. Some of the rarer ones, such as Plumbeous Vireo, Double-crested Cormorant (flying overhead), Slate-colored Fox Sparrow, Hermit Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Calliope Hummingbird, might have just shown up out of pure chance, but many of them come because of what we provide.

Now I will share some information about attracting birds into your backyard. The first part is about plants, and the next *Wrennit* will feature birdhouses, feeders, and water.

Part 1: Plants

Obviously, these are important in

many ways. They provide food, shelter, and a place to nest. Plant native plants when possible, and more native birds will come to your yard. Coffeeberry is one of the best, although it can be a little tricky to keep alive. Just don't overwater it. It attracts Band-tailed Pigeons, Spotted Towhees, and many more. For hummingbirds, any kind of colorful, tubular flower will do the trick, including sage and monkeyflower. Most natives can be found at Theodore Payne, in Sunland.

For trees, Oak and Sycamore are best. Oaks attract Acorn Woodpeckers, thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Warbling Vireos, Bushtits, and migrating species of warblers. They also provide a good shelter from any local Cooper's Hawks. If you leave the foliage on the ground underneath and you scatter seeds on them you may attract ground-feeding sparrows like towhees, White-crowned Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos.

Sycamores are well-known to be the favorite tree for orioles, and they also

attract other brightly colored species like parrots, Cedar Waxwings, tanagers, grosbeaks, warblers, and finches. Cooper's Hawks like to perch at their tops to scan for Mourning Doves.

Liquidambar Trees, although non-native, are a favorite of Lesser Goldfinches as well as other kinds of finches. Palm trees, exotic except for *Washingtonia*, are great for nesting Acorn Woodpeckers, Red-crowned Parrots and Yellow-chevroned Parakeets and Cedar Waxwings like to roost in them.

Whether you plant natives or exotics, try to avoid using pesticides so that warblers will have enough aphids to eat. Keeping trees and shrubs bushy provides hiding places, and pruning trees in the fall will not interfere with nesting birds. Using tips like these are what get all the birds into our backyard, but attracting birds needs more than plants...

...To be continued

New Members

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

Alhambra: Gladys Ballenger, Carlos Martinez, Mike Morgan; **Altadena:** H. Brewington, Jean Burden, Hitoshi Jameshima, Don Lehman, Doris Pankow, Nancy Romero, Diane Skinner, Sinton Stranger, Diane Walter, Laura Webb; **Arcadia:** Kermit Ferguson, John Foley, Pamela Greene, M.G. MacDougall, Stuart Warren,

Hazel Williams; **Bellflower:** Ping Pfeffer; **Duarte:** Herb Lehman, Liz Newnan, Nancy Salem; **La Cañada:** Ewald Heer, Laleh Lourie, Rita Speck; **Los Angeles:** Jennifer Jones, Todd Newell, Nancy Ann Stoner; **Monterey Park:** Robert Shishima; **Pasadena:** Susan Kosar Beery, Ed Bunting, Susan Campo, Susan Daniels, Elizabeth Davis, Cathy Dobbins, Marc Errico, Susan Frank, Danielle Freer, Scott Geyer, Vivian Hamm, Sharon Kokenes, Patricia Korbel, Jack Levy, Chris Newman, Carol Ouimette, Jeff Powell, Anke Rice, Stan

Richmond, Hana Svitek, Frank Van Joolen; **San Dimas:** Kathi Ellsworth; **San Gabriel:** Lily Luong, Avelina Miller, Susana Williams; **San Marino:** Richard Cooper, Thomas Gray, I. Zuckerman; **Sierra Madre:** Michelle Boyyer, Margaret Davis, Shirley Harris, Carol Imaguchi; **South Pasadena:** Matt Carless, Barbara Haig, Evelyn McCormick, Carmelo Sabatella; **Temple City:** Mary Lubbock, Mercedes Murdock; **Tujunga:** Hill Penfold; **Upland:** Dawn Hutchinson; **Paradise Valley, AZ:** Andréé Tarby;

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