



Drawing by
Guy Coleleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 58 — No. 1

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

January - February 2010

January Program

Chaparral, Wrentits, and Grizzlies

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Richard W. Halsey

Of all the distinct, natural communities in California, only one is found throughout and only one can be said to represent the state's most characteristic wilderness: the chaparral. Join us as we explore the chaparral's unique natural history, discuss its highly territorial bird populations, reveal the truth concerning its many myths and surprising mysteries, investigate how it will recover from the Station fire, and why it represents such a vital link to nature for all Californians.

Richard W. Halsey is a chaparral ecologist, author, and director of The California Chaparral Field Institute. He taught biology for over thirty years in both public and private schools and was honored as Teacher of the Year for San Diego City Schools in 1991.

February Program

Palms to Pines Birding and Nature Trail

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Kurt Leuschner

A new map listing ten birding hot spots in the Coachella Valley and surrounding mountains has just been published. Kurt Leuschner, Associate Professor of Natural Resources at College of the Desert in Palm Desert, completed this project during a recent sabbatical.

Each stop is within an easy drive of the trail's starting point at the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center in Palm Desert (phone 760-862-9984). The map details directions and contact information, a list of habitats and signature bird species, wildlife viewing opportunities, and other pertinent information.

Come to the February meeting and learn more about this diverse and beautiful area from an expert naturalist with experience across the U.S. and around the world. Copies of the map will be available at the meeting.

March Program

Nerds and Birds

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

John Garrett

Due to a generous grant from the Pasadena Audubon Society, 16-year-old John Garrett was able to attend the American Birding Association's 2009 Young Birder Conference. Based in San Diego, California, he naturally didn't see very many life birds, although that wasn't the purpose of the conference anyway. Besides meeting new fellow teenage bird-nerds, he had the opportunity to visit parts of the state he hadn't (or at least not very often) before, improve his feeble sketching skills, and learn about what it means to be a young birder in this generation. Come join John as he relates his unique experiences from a unique conference!

**General Meetings Held At
Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 N Altadena Drive
Pasadena CA
Social 7:00 pm, Program 7:30 pm**

President's Perch

Good News! Beginning 2010, PAS will be able to award cash grants to individuals and organizations that support birding, education and habitat conservation. Until recently, we did not have a source of funds for a formal support program. Then, in 2006, we received a large bequest, and currently a large living trust bequest is being released to PAS — for a grand total of \$800,000. Our Board of Directors has decided to put bequest funds in a separate account and use

the interest generated to fund a formal grants program. The Board voted to begin the 2010 Grant Program with a funding of \$4,000.

Full details on the 2010 Grant Program are in this issue on page 6, and can also be viewed on our website (www.pasadenaaudubon.org). What a great way to start the New Year!

Will

In This Issue

Conservation	2
Trip Reports	3
Field Trips	4
Calendar	5
Grants Policy	6
Announcements	7
New Members	8
John's Corner	8

Conservation and Education

Hahamongna Watch

Winter is waterfowl season in Hahamongna — it rains, the stream flows, the dam creates a temporary estuary. Bufflehead and wood duck join the mallard; egrets lope up and down the basin. But on the wet weekend of December 12 the stream is a ferocious tirade hurtling to the dam, and the short storm in October yields an eight foot silt bed at the dam and a dark trail throughout the basin. This will not be a normal year.

In 2009 some of the more observable fauna in the basin fared well. Helped by the City not mowing the slopes and spreading basins in April, coyotes increased, and three broods of quail hatched south of Johnson Field. Not the populations of the early '90s, when there were about 250 quail in the basin and coyotes ruled. The dam rehab in the mid '90s and grading to the north segmented the habitat and wildlife suffered. A decade of moderate neglect and natural restoration has triggered a small recovery. Will it last? Not if the City implements all projects under the Hahamongna Park Plan (HWP) approved under the Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) in 2003 — the willow habitat south of Oak Grove will go for a seasonal flood control pool, east of Oak Grove will be filled for a playing field, and to the north, more spreading basins. Mitigation will be segments of habitat restoration not large enough to support wildlife.

Is all lost? No. In 2003, the west Altadena and Pasadena community had all the projects for the east side pulled after the MEIR was approved -- playing fields, road widening, parking lots. There is a challenge to the newly planned expansion of the Windsor parking lot — due to be “demolished” under the MEIR and restored to habitat. The HWP Commission will hold a meeting to address concerns in mid-January. Pressure on the west

side of the park meant plans for an access road into the Annex (the old MWD property) were scrapped, but final recommendations remain unclear. Staff proposals for the Annex go to Council on January 25.

In all this there is an important role for PAS to play as chroniclers of the ignored constituent in the basin — the wildlife. Building awareness of Hahamongna's diversity so close to an urban center is vital. The HWP Park Plan frequently mentions “habitat and recreation”, never “habitat and wildlife”. The Department of Fish and Game code states: “A project that causes any disturbance to the habitat on which fish and wildlife may depend... is considered to have an effect”.

The best way to learn more is to add your name to the City's distribution list for Hahamongna. Send an e-mail to Rosa Laveaga (Hahamongna Park Director): rlaveaga@cityofpasadena.net, and visit www.cityofpasadena.net/publicworks/pnr/arroyoseco.

Hugh Bowles, hsbowles@yahoo.com

Open Space and Conservation Element

The City of Pasadena is revising its General Plan. As part of that process, the City needs a new Open Space and Conservation Element. I am a member of the Committee appointed to write this element, and our work is humming right along. In May 2008, we began our process by having many speakers who shared their expertise and suggestions with us. We have also heard from many members of the public who have shared their ideas and concerns with us. We have taken surveys, met with community groups, and had two public events to get feedback and input from the community, and most people who spoke out want more Open Space in Pasadena and they want the City to provide more leadership regarding Conservation. We also wrote drafts of a Vision Statement and Core Principles, which are printed below. Now, we begin the task of brainstorming and prioritizing policies to guide our work of drafting the Element itself. In other words, we need to

decide what our priorities and policies will be. We plan to have a public workshop in late March or early April to get more feedback from the public on these policies and priorities; please stay tuned for more information. We really do need your feedback. The City needs to hear from people who value open space and conservation (check out our first Core Principle!) If you like our Vision Statement and Core Principles, be ready to tell that to the City Council! If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to receive notice of public meetings, please contact me.

Vision Statement (draft):

Pasadena treasures, protects, restores, and expands its natural open space and exemplifies innovative and effective natural resource stewardship and conservation.

Core principles (draft):

Pasadena keeps conservation of natural resources and open space opportunities at the center of all city decision-making.

Pasadena recognizes and values the environmental, social, and economic benefits provided by open space and natural resources.

Pasadena provides equitable access to open space resources for all residents in all neighborhoods.

Pasadena cooperates as a community to conserve natural resources and to preserve open space.

Pasadena partners with other public and private entities to meet conservation and open space goals.

Pasadena leads and educates the community on resource conservation and open space protection.

Pasadena advocates and develops connectivity between its open space resources and surrounding communities.

Pasadena adopts innovative technologies and techniques to improve its conservation programs and policies.

Pasadena implements this element in an open and transparent manner.

Pasadena is accountable for the timely, effective, and measurable implementation of this element.

Pasadena meets and exceeds the 2005 United Nations Urban Environmental Accords.

Laura Garrett, (626) 564-1890

Trip Reports

**North Slope San Gabriels
November 14, 2009**

We had a great time and a beautiful, windless day on what turned out to be the "woodpecker trip". Several Lewis's Woodpeckers were at Jackson Lake and along the road nearby; we counted 6 at once, and there were probably more. Also at Jackson Lake were a female Williamson's Sapsucker and a Red-breasted Sapsucker, as well as many Acorn Woodpeckers. Valyermo Post Office hosted several Northern Flickers and Ladder-backed and Nutall's Woodpeckers. White-headed Woodpeckers were at Grassy Hollow, St. Andrew's Abbey, and near Jackson Lake. At St. Andrew's Abbey we had good looks at a hybrid Red-breasted/Red-naped Sapsucker. And finally, leaving St. Andrew's Abbey at the end of the trip we saw a Downy Woodpecker, which made 9.5 woodpecker species (counting the hybrid as 0.5) for the day.

And yes, there were other birds besides woodpeckers. Highlights included a Common Loon at Lake Palmdale, 10 Golden-Crowned Sparrows and 36 American White Pelicans (flyover) at Jackson Lake, and Brown Creeper at Grassy Hollow. And last but not least, we had an unscheduled stop prompted by Mountain Bluebirds flying over the road; following the bluebirds also led us to a Rock Wren and a few Black-throated Sparrows. We had a total of 83.5 species for the trip.

Mark and Janet Scheel

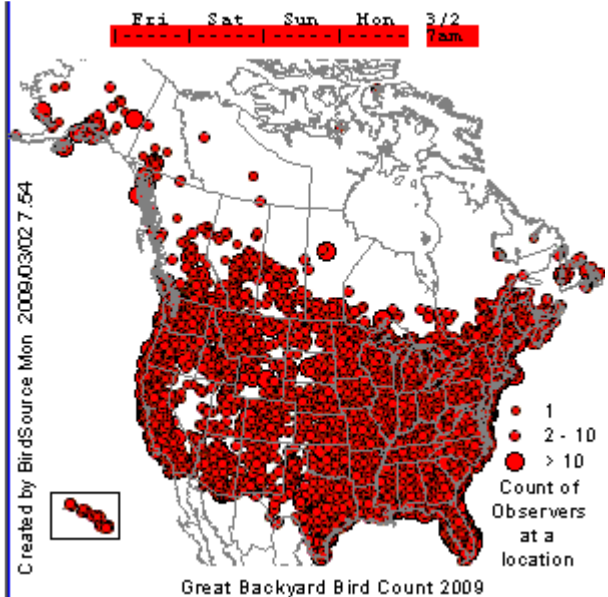
Great Backyard Bird Count!

February 12—15, 2010

This is year 13 for the huge event that gets both avid birders and ordinary folks involved in conservation and recreation. By keeping it to a short time period Cornell University and the Audubon Society have been successful in getting very large numbers of participants. For many people the GBBC is their first organized birding activity.

The GBBC has been a gold mine of information for scientists who are trying to determine the impact of climate change on native bird populations. Recent counts show dramatic northward shifts for some winter residents. It would be impossible to get such comprehensive data across the entire continent without the participation of so many volunteers.

You can get an excellent start on involving yourself, or your friends and neighbors, by **visiting the GBBC website at www.birdcount.org**. The website has photos from last year's count, a game, and other materials, including a downloadable PowerPoint presentation, a voice narrated tutorial, and regional bird lists. There are many suggestions for including birding into other activities such as a neighborhood potluck or winter sports festival. If you're a teacher (or know one), there are special resources for educators on the web site.



Central Nevada, anyone?
North America (at least the less-frigid portion) was well-covered by the 2009 GBBC. Almost 100,000 count reports were submitted.

2009 Christmas Bird Count Warmly Received

Quick note as we go to press: Stunning weather, balmy temperatures, crystal-clear skies...and a Wood Stork. About 160 species (best guess on the evening of the count dinner.) Full details in the March issue!

The Wrentit Club!

Pasadena Audubon Society is promoting eBird and the new "Wrentit Club." The idea is simple: Identify as many species of bird in Los Angeles County for the calendar year 2010 as you can. Then, submit your year-list to WrentitClub@PasadenaAudubon.org. Sound easy so far?

After all the lists are submitted, we will tally and award the following:

- 50 - 99 The Finches
- 100 - 149 The Rails
- 150 - 199 The Vireos
- 200 - 249 The Owls
- 250+ The Wrentit Club



We will list your total and award on a perpetual list/board. Feel daunted? Don't! Our field trips will indicate if they count towards your Wrentit Club total (look for the "WC" icon!) and you are invited to contact John Garrett, Mark Scheel, or Ron Cyger for tips and recommendations.

So, beginning January 1, 2010, begin tallying! Use of eBird is not required. But, if you use eBird (www.eBird.org) to enter your bird lists, it will automatically generate your year list for LA County, help researchers study population trends, and gain you brownie points.

Ron Cyger

Field Trips

Northwest L.A. County Saturday, January 16, 2010

7:30 am — 2:00 pm

On this trip we'll be exploring the frozen tundra: some of the most interesting yet least visited areas of Los Angeles County. The western end of the Antelope Valley in the northwestern corner of L.A. County is a diverse composite of reservoirs, desert vegetation, and agricultural expanse. The lakes and ponds are used by large numbers of diving ducks and occasionally get visited by Bald Eagles and interesting waterbirds. Quail Lake might possibly have the highest probability of rarities found per birder visit of any place in the County. The west Antelope Valley farm fields are reliable for Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, and Ferruginous Hawk. They can also sometimes have a flock of Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebirds, or a longspur or two. We'll be out there for all these things.

Meet in the parking lot at the west end of Quail Lake (about 2 miles east of I-5 on the north side of Hwy 138) at 7:30 AM. It's a long drive, so don't even think about driving alone. Bring a scope, snacks, and dress for cold and windy conditions

Jon Feenstra

Bolsa Chica

Saturday, January 23, 2010

7:30 am — noon

Welcome to the new, improved Bolsa Chica! Since the new channel was cut from the south end of the wetlands to the open sea, the resulting tidal flows have caused an explosion of life that exceeded even the expectations of the conservationists who planned the new environment. We will see a full assortment of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and much more.

The reserve parking lot can be accessed only from northbound Pacific Coast Highway. Take the 405 freeway south to Goldenwest Ave., then Goldenwest south to Pacific Coast Highway, then right (north) a little over two miles to the reserve parking lot on the right. Bring a scope and a camera if you have one.

Mark and Janet Scheel

Bonelli Park

Saturday, January 30, 2010

7:30 am — noon

Attractive Bonelli Park offers both a natural and man-made habitats including a large reservoir. We'll have the opportunity to see a good mix of land and water birds. A variety of waterfowl can be found here and herons, egrets and gulls are always present in winter.

Sparrows and juncos are in the brushy areas and on the lawns. With luck we may see a Bald Eagle. Cactus Wrens are

resident.

Take the 210 east, then south on the transition towards the 57 and 10 Freeways. Exit at Via Verde and go left, then make a quick left into the Park and Ride lot. From here we can carpool into the park to minimize the per vehicle entry fees. A spotting scope is helpful.

Jon Fisher

Salton Sea

Sat.-Sun., February 6-7, 2010

All day

The Salton Sea is one of the premier birding sites in North America! We usually find over 100 species for the weekend and over the years we have seen the following number of species: 27 geese & ducks, 13 hawks, 15 waders, 8 gulls, 6 terns, 11 flycatchers, 10 warblers and 16 sparrows.

We will bird all day Saturday and a half day on Sunday, heading home after lunch. This trip is only for Pasadena Audubon members and is limited to 12. (What!? Not a member yet? Down-load an application from our website and send it in today!) To reserve a spot on the trip and get accommodation information and meeting location/times, please email (highly preferable) or call the trip leader.

Ron Cyger

More trips on page 7!

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Sunday, February 21, 2010

Sunday, March 21, 2010

8:00 am — 11:00 am

Pasadena Audubon and Eaton Canyon Nature Center are cosponsoring monthly walks at Eaton Canyon. The walks are led by Hill Penfold, who has been leading them at ECNC for many years. Hill is wonderful with birders of all levels and Eaton Canyon is one of the best locations to learn the birds of the Pasadena area.

The walks are held on the third Sunday of each month. Meet at the flagpole: bring water, binoculars, hats, but no dogs.

Hill Penfold

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, January 2, 2010

Saturday, March 6, 2010

(February walk is at Legg Lake)

7:30 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 north 210 at Berkshire and make a right, then a left at Oak Grove. The Hahamongna Watershed Park entrance is on the right at the next stop light. Take the first left after entering Hahagmongna, and park by the ballfield.

Ron Cyger

Huntington Library Monthly Walk

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Sunday, February 28, 2010

Sunday, March 28, 2010

8:00 am — 11:00 am

A special benefit for Pasadena Audubon Society members is the chance to bird the Huntington Library grounds. Attendance is by reservation only and limited to 15 participants. Members may bring one non-member guest, space permitting. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible.

Contact Elaine by email (preferred), putting "Huntington" in the subject line to avoid inadvertent deletion or by phone.

Elaine MacPherson

Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by February 1st



= Wrentit Club!

January 2010

2	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
6	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
16	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Northwest L.A. County	Jon Feenstra
17	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
20	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Chaparral Surprises
23	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Bolsa Chica	Mark & Janet Scheel
24	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson
			<i>(PAS members only)</i>		
30	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Bonelli Park	Jon Fisher

February 2010

3	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
6	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Legg Lake/Peck Road	Ed Stonick
6-7	Sat	All day	Field Trip	Salton Sea	Ron Cyger
16	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Whittier Narrows	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
17	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Palms to Pines
20	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	San Gabriel River	Jon Fisher
21	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
28	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson
			<i>(PAS members only)</i>		

March 2010

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader*
3	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
6	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
16	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Santa Fe Dam	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
17	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Young Birders
20	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Bird Banding, Malibu	Walt Sakai
21	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sat	5:00 pm	Field Trip	Mountain Owling	Lance Benner
28	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson
			<i>(PAS members only)</i>		

* Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (Chair)	(626) 355-8707	SCHEEL@TAPIR.CALTECH.EDU
Larry Allen	(323) 288-2701	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>
Kathi Ellsworth	(626) 564-0652	PANDIONSKY@YAHOO.COM
Jon Feenstra	(626) 792-4346	FEENSTRA@ALUMNI.CALTECH.EDU
Jon Fisher	(818) 800-2776	JONF60@HOTMAIL.COM
Nick & Mary Freeman	(818) 247-6172	MNFREEMAN@EARTHLINK.NET
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	
Mickey Long	(626) 398-5420	MLONGBIRD@CHARTER.NET
Elaine MacPherson	(626) 355-9412	BIRDERGRRL@AOL.COM
Hill Penfold	(626) 352-4954	HPENFOLD@GMAIL.COM
Mike San Miguel	(626) 355-5058	SANMIGBIRD@AOL.COM
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	STONICKS@EARTHLINK.NET
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	WEST266@ADELPHIA.NET

PAS GRANTS, DONATIONS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS POLICY

Pasadena Audubon Society (PAS) is a non-profit corporation whose mission is “to bring the excitement of birds to our community through birding, education and conservation.” To help accomplish this goal PAS awards grants, scholarships and makes donations to other organizations, groups and individuals. The purpose of this document is to outline the policies and procedures PAS will follow in making both unsolicited donations and handling request for donations to support various facilities, organizations or causes. The procedure below is designed to make this process fair and accountable to the membership and clearly defined. PAS will carry out a yearly review of this grant program and vote each year on whether or not to renew the program for the following year.

Three categories of requests for funds will be considered by PAS

- SCHOLARSHIPS TO HELP SUPPORT PASADENA AREA BIRDERS, TEACHERS, AND OTHERS TO ATTEND CONFERENCES, CLASSES, WORKSHOPS OR TO STUDY ORNITHOLOGY.
- RESEARCH GRANTS FOR COLLECTING DATA ON BIRDS, BIRDING, HABITAT CONSERVATION, AND EDUCATION. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BUT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED.
- GRANTS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS FOR GENERAL SUPPORT TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE MISSIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF PAS.

Application process

Applications for Scholarships, Research Grants, or Grants to Organizations must be submitted to the PAS Board by email to the Chair of Grant Committee at grants@pasadenaaudubon.org.

PAS will announce the availability of funds at the September and February General meetings and in the Sept./Oct and Jan./Feb Wrentit issues and by posting a notice on the Pasadena Audubon Society Website. The total amount of money available will be specified in these announcements.

There will be two review periods each year and applications are due on October 15th and March 15th. PAS will notify the applicants about the Board’s decision within two months from the date applications are due.

Each application must contain the following information:

- A very brief statement (less than 200 words) of the proposed request.
- A detailed description of the request. This must include each of the following items:
 - Why the project was chosen and its significance (1 page limit)
 - A description of what the applicant has already achieved toward this goal, if anything (1 page limit)
 - The specific request (2 page limit)
 - A budget statement indicating how the funds would be spent and a justification of these expenditures. (2 page limit)
 - A resume of the individual applicant or applicant organization clearly indicating the specific individual that is to be held accountable for the proper expenditure of the funds. (1 page limit)
- An appendix for other relevant materials that may or may not be considered by the Board

Review of requests

The Chair will send an electronic copy to the members of the grants committee. The committee (composed of at least two Board members with the option of sending out confidential copies of this request to obtain an expert opinion if necessary) will render a recommendation in enough time so that one week prior to the upcoming Board meeting the committee chair will email its decision the Board. At the Board meeting a representative of the committee will present the request to the board at which time the Board will vote on the request. Requests will either be approved for the amount of funds requested, approved but at a different level of funding, deferred if additional information is required to reach a decision, or not approved. All votes will require a quorum of Board members and the final decision will be based on a majority vote

Conflict of interests in reviewing requests

All stages of the grant review process will be conducted under the conflict of interest rules described below.

There are several bases for a conflict of interest: employment, financial benefit, personal relationships, professional relationships, or other interests. Any one condition will serve to disqualify a Board member or any other individual from being present during the review of an application or proposal. A conflict of interest may be real or apparent; however the appearance of a conflict is sufficient for any individual to be disqualified from participating in the review process. If a Board member or any other person wishes to make her/his feelings known about a particular project but there is a potential conflict then a letter addressed to the Board will be considered during the review meeting. All reviewing Board members must maintain the confidentiality of the proceedings and associated materials and not disclose to any other individual any matter or information related to the review proceedings.

Disbursement of funds

Upon approval, funding will be made according to the requirements of the particular project and availability of funds.

Grantee’s reporting requirements

All funding recipients must complete a final written report. A maximum of three pages will be accepted. Some projects may be funded in installments. If this is the case an interim report must be filed to obtain the next installment. We will consider only one grant to any person/group at a time.

Field Trips, continued

Legg Lake & Peck Road Park

Saturday, February 6, 2010

7:30 am — 11:30 am

This trip will cover several consistently good lake and park birding areas. Legg Lake has lots of water and scattered trees and has produced good waterfowl numbers and varieties as well as an impressive list of migrants and wintering birds. Peck Road Park contains a huge hourglass-shaped lake that often hosts a wide variety of water birds, including grebes, ducks, gulls, terns, egrets, and shorebirds. Time permitting; we'll include the Livingstone/Graham Reservoir, which usually contains hundreds of ducks and gulls. There are almost always one or two Ospreys present. Other raptors are often seen at all these locations.

Meet in the Santa Anita Ave. parking lot, closest to the 60 freeway. Take the Santa Anita exit and turn south from the off-ramp (going south). The lake and parking lot will be on your right.

Ed Stonick

San Gabriel River

Saturday, February 20, 2009

7:30 am — noon

The San Gabriel River has great birding potential—as long as there is water in it. This is usually the case in winter so we should find quite a few birds. Ducks, herons, egrets, shorebirds as well as Peregrine Falcon, osprey and many others are likely to be seen. Introduced Eurasian Collared-Doves are a certainty. We'll bird the spreading basins in Pico Rivera and the river itself adjacent to the ponds.

Take the 210 Freeway to the 605 Freeway south. Exit at Whittier Blvd and go west. Turn left on Passons and then left on Mines. Go to the end and park. We'll meet here at 7:30 am and bird until about noon.

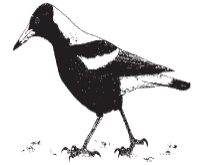
Jon Fisher

March field trips are in the calendar on page 5. Details will be in the March *Wrentit*.

New Members, continued

George & Betsy Holmes; Selma Holo; William Jennings; Victoria Kuhl; M. Low; E. Rushers; Nancy Salvador; Carol Shelton; L. Smith; Delia Swanner; Rofelio Whyte; Dr. & Mrs. H. Zoff; **ROSEMEAD:** Annie Chen; **SAN GABRIEL:** Christina Banuelos; Leo Hermes; Marie Moore; **SAN MARINO:** William Carr; John McClurg; David Poust; Dhruva Roy; **SIERRA MADRE:** Chuck Aoki; Jean & Ron Coleman; Judith Everett; Donald Faxon; John French; Hik Khoe; Diane Leiker; Susan Randman; **SOUTH PASADENA:** John Larson; Monica Quezada; Helen Young; **TEMPLE CITY:** Robert Mayne; **BENBOW, TX:** Carolyn Dowell

Magpie Bird Study Group



The group meets the third

Tuesday of each month. We bird

9:00 am to about 11:30 am, have a sack lunch, and have a short business meeting. *All PAS members welcome!*

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Eaton Canyon Nature Center
Meet by the flagpole

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Whittier Narrows
Meet at the Nature Center

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Santa Fe Dam
Meet at the Nature Center

Donations to PAS

Carl Byker, Denise Castillo, Kirk Dawson, Gayle Hackamack, Sue Horton, Beverly McKenzie, Linda Smith, Bob Stull and Chrystal Watson have recently made donations to our chapter. **Thank you!**

Become a Chapter-only Member of PAS

Local chapters of the National Audubon Society, such as Pasadena Audubon, receive only a small share of NAS membership dues. In order to finance our programs and services, including publication of *The Wrentit*, PAS offers Chapter-only memberships.

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

Chapter-only Membership Application

Name Phone
Address
City State ZIP
Email

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

Name Phone
Address
City State ZIP

Yearly dues:

- \$20 (regular) \$15 (senior, or full-time student)
- \$35 (T-shirt or Birding Guide, plus a PAS pin)
- \$_____ (donation)

Make checks payable to, and mail to:

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

Pasadena Audubon Society Board

President Will Fulmer (626) 798-1606
 Vice-President Norm Arnheim (626) 405-0844
 Secretary Kathi Ellsworth (626) 524-0652
 Treasurer (open)

Members at large: Bev McKenzie, John Garrett, Susan Gilliland, Peggy Ogata

Auditor Eileen Burton (626) 585-9076
 Conservation Laura Garrett (626) 564-1890
 Field Trips Mark Scheel (626) 355-8707
 Hospitality Mary Jane Macy (626) 355-7678
 Programs Ron Cyger (626) 449-3625
 Magpie Bird Study Group Madeline West (626) 574-0429
 Sid Heyman (626) 571-5991
 Jon Fisher (818) 544-5009
 Lois Fulmer (626) 798-1606

Publicity (open)
 Website Janet Scheel (626) 355-8707
 Education (open)

The Wrentit is published by the Pasadena Audubon Society
 1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, CA, 91107
 WWW.PASADENAAUDUBON.ORG

Editor Mark Hunter (818) 957-5044
 Printing Pasadena Print Stop (626) 577-0510
 Wrentit Mailing Alex Strong (626) 799-3364
 Pasadena Audubon Society Chapter only—\$20. Wrentit subscription only—1 year \$10. National Audubon Society membership fees—\$35. National members receive Audubon magazine and The Wrentit. Messages or queries for Pasadena Audubon may be left at (626) 355-9412. For change of NAS address call: (800) 274-4201.

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

DATED MATERIAL

Non-profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 No. 1880
 Pasadena, CA



Printed on
 50% recycled paper

John's Corner

Have you ever found a dead bird? Have you ever wondered what to do when you find a dead bird? My answer to both would be 'yes', and to the first question I would add 'multiple times'. While we usually don't see them as often as live birds, due to the quickness of decomposers, dead birds can be found almost anywhere, from roadsides to oil spills, backyard windows to refrigerators. Sometimes, fairly odd birds can be found decaying – for example, I once saw a Sora on my street here in Pasadena. On a more extreme scale, 'megas' like Streaked Shearwater and Lesser Frigatebird have

turned up...in Wyoming!

Now for the second question – what to do when you find a dead bird? One answer could be to just let it decay there, and usually that's what happens. Another choice would be to donate the specimen to the natural history museum, if the specimen is fresh. There, the bird will be preserved, ideally until the end of time. Once, specimens preserved in a museum collection was the only acceptable method of documenting any birds (or any organism, for that matter). With the advent of photography, especially digital, that method is diminishing significantly. However, the specimen collections

themselves remain, and many birds found dead from road- and window-kills (and some traditional collecting) are preserved there. Some museum collections are impressively massive, and our Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County ornithological research collection holds over 115,000 specimens of 5,400 species. A tour of the collections is always educational and fascinating to me, and specimens can be highly valuable to scientists.

For a year I've been one of the volunteers who prepares these specimens. Next issue, I'll talk more about that.

John Garrett

New Members

ALHAMBRA: Olivia Armstrong; Sampson; **ALTADENA:** Shannon Acedo; Thomas Cox; Turner Johnson; Athena Meltzer; Kenneth Meyer; Shant Neshanian; The Oliver

Boys; Lori Paul & Robert Staehle; **ARCADIA:** Alice Brodhead; Gloria Carrillo; Anna Greenhaigh; Norman Juarez; Barbara Kramarz; Alex Liu; Alex Malinowski; Anny Xiang; **DUARTE:** Margaret Fillion; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** James Bungarte; S.C. Steinberg; Cynthia

White; Robert Young; **MONROVIA:** Jan Muetting; Joel Quick; Kenneth Ridenour; **MONTEREY PARK:** Joseph Barrios; **PASADENA:** Constance Brines; Benjamin Broudy; Kathleen Busher; Marilyn Garcia; Brian Guth; ...continued on page 7