June Dinner

Eat, Drink, Applaud

Saturday, June 11, 2011
5:00 pm—9:00 pm

The Annual Dinner is always a good time. The awards for the Wrentit Club’s first year will be handed out, and other honors and treats will be bestowed. The newly elected slate of officers will be presented. Enjoy free-flowing beer and wine at 5:00, and a delicious catered meal at six. You may bring 5 minutes’ worth of JPEG or PowerPoint images for the slide show. The venue, as usual, is Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Tickets are $20 per person. Send checks payable to PAS by June 3 to "June Dinner” at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (address below). Questions? email graceysw@earthlink.net.

September Program

Fall Birds to Watch For
Wednesday, September 21, 2011
Jon Fisher & Mickey Long

There could be a Tennessee Warbler mixed in with those Orange-crowned Warblers, or a Rusty Blackbird in that flock of Red-winged and Brewer’s. Perhaps a Swamp Sparrow is lurking among the Song Sparrows at the edge of that pond, or a Lesser Yellowlegs may be feeding in the shallows with the more common Greaters.

When birding, it’s always a big advantage to be aware of potential rarities and what it is that makes them different from our more common species before we encounter them. Mickey and Jon will take a look at when and where these rare birds occur and also give you tips on how to identify them as well as similar-looking common species.

October Program

A Very Big Year
Wednesday, October 19, 2011
Sandy Komito

A Big Year is a competition among birders to see who can see or hear the largest number of species of birds within a specific geographic area.

In 1998, three different birders—Sandy Komito, Al Levantin, and Greg Miller—chased Komito’s record of 721 North American birds species. In the end Sandy Komito kept the record, listing an astonishing 745 birds, a record many in the birding community believe might never be broken.

Join us this evening to hear Sandy Komito, a celebrity in the bird watching community, regale us with anecdotes of his victory as well as gain insight in how to plan for your own big year. We will also be treated to photographs of many of the rarities that he was fortunate to observe.

In This Issue

Conservation 2
John’s Corner 2
Sightings, Birdathon 3
Field Trips 4
Calendar 5
Announcements 7
New Members 8
Sediment Management: A County Dilemma

I know the title of this article may not inspire you to keep reading, but nonetheless, this problem is very real and has serious environmental consequences. What is the problem? For 100 years, LA County has been managing debris basins in places like La Tuna Canyon and Hahamongna Watershed Park. These debris basins prevent mud, dirt, and sand from flooding homes by blocking the flow of these materials from the mountains and foothills. Once a basin has debris behind it, the County cleans it out and then has to find a place for the sediment. What’s the problem? The County is running out of places to put the dirt, mud and rocks. This is why, in part, they bulldozed 11 acres of oak and sycamore woodlands in Arcadia last January.

Because the County Department of Public Works has run out of places to dump this sediment, and because they clearly need a new paradigm, they have convened a group of folks to tackle this issue. This group includes members of the DPW, engineers and watershed experts from other cities and other counties, and believe it or not, four local environmentalists. As a member of this group, which has the incredibly sexy name of the Sediment Management Advisory Working Group, I urge you to let me know if you have any concerns or ideas for how to manage this problem. This is a rare opportunity to have a voice in how the County does business. We need to do what we can to protect places like Hahamongna Watershed Park and La Tuna Canyon.

Laura Garrett

Rubio Canyon Preserved Forever

Thanks to generous grants from the Wildlife Conservation Board, Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates, the Pasadena Audubon Society, Audubon California (the Jay J. and Sigrid E. Wimberly Fund), and donors like you, the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy has preserved Rubio Canyon for future generations. Located west of Eaton Canyon, this lovely canyon is home to several waterfalls and trails. Because of your generosity, these trails can be restored so the public can once again enjoy the beauty of all of Rubio Canyon. The Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy thanks you and looks forward to a long and productive partnership with the Pasadena Audubon Society. If you are interested in becoming a docent at Rubio Canyon, please contact Executive Director John Howell at johnhowell@arroyosfoothills.org or 626.796.0118.

Laura Garrett

Birding 101

Wednesday, July 13, 20, 27, 2011
7:00 pm
(plus field trips 7/16 & 7/23)

Birding provides enjoyment and challenge throughout life. Birding gets you outdoors on your street or around the world. Birding increases your ability to observe and appreciate the world around you. And finally, Birding is gosh darn fun! So, why put off learning how to be a better birder any longer?

This class is designed for beginners, but all are welcome. We will cover identification, optics, field guides, note-taking, habitats, birding ethics, and many other topics. Class size is limited, so don’t delay!

Location of the class and field trips will be sent to the class participants.

Cost: $40 for Pasadena Audubon members, $60 for non-members (which will include membership). This fee will cover all three classes and two field trips. Payment is payable to “Pasadena Audubon Society” and is due at the first class session.

Leaders: Ron Cyger and Mark Scheel. For questions or to make reservations, contact Birding101@pasadenaaudubon.org.

Sponsored by Pasadena Audubon Society and Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

Sponsor a Species

The Breeding Bird Atlas for Los Angeles County is almost out! You can support this effort by "adopting" one of the species in the Atlas for a donation of $100.

Order through Los Angeles Audubon's website. Go to www.losangelesaudubon.org, click on "Online Nature Store", then on "Sponsor a breeding bird species". Or call Audubon House (323-876-0202), or send your check for $100 to Los Angeles Audubon (P. O. Box 931057, Los Angeles, CA 90093-1057).
The Big Sit
April 23, 2011
My Birdathon team did a Big Sit, which is just what it sounds like: we sat (and stood) for four hours to see what could be seen from one location. We saw and heard a total of 48 species of birds.

We began at the very civilized hour of 7:30 am (as opposed to midnight at Piute Ponds wa-a-a-a-ay out in the Antelope Valley). Our team (Mickey Long, Judy Bass, Liz Cordero, Grace Wong, Celia Lowenthal, Mark Hunter, Remie and Sebastian, plus me) met at Legg Lakes at Whittier Narrows, right between the south and middle lakes.

Dozens of Great Blue Herons and Double-crested Cormorants were flying by and sitting on nests (one cormorant flew by with nesting material that was as long as the bird!), and families of Canada Geese trundled by. We saw plenty of other species, including a pair of American White Pelicans circling overhead and a trio of Caspian Terns. Great-tailed Grackles whistled and continued on page 6

Irritable Owl Syndrome
April 23, 2011
Birdathon team "Irritable Owl Syndrome" was: Jon Feenstra, John Garrett, Mark Scheel, and Janet Scheel.
We had a very relaxing day. We drank our coffee and ate strawberries, chips, chocolate, and ice cream. We even took a nap.
Oh, and did I mention that we did this while dashing around L.A. County, from Piute Ponds at midnight to Rancho Palos Verdes at 8:00 pm, along a 400-mile twisted route that covered many habitats and over 40 planned (and timed) stops for key birds. When we reached 160 species by the time we left the Antelope Valley at 12:30 pm, we realized we were heading for a high total. When all was said and done, we ended with 204 species for the day.
Best bird: Semipalmated Sandpiper at Piute Ponds
Worst missed bird: (Tie): Cedar Waxwing, Forster's Tern
Best spotting:
- John: Flyover Tricolored Blackbird at Piute Ponds
- Janet: Perched White-tailed Kite at Malibu Creek
- Jon: Burrowing Owl in the Antelope Valley
- Mark: Bank Swallow at Piute Ponds
Best bird directions: "See that old lady standing there with the pink floral skirt? Look between her legs and there's a Ring-necked Duck."
Worst comment by a passerby: "What are you doing, watching nude sunbathers?"

Mark Scheel

America's Birdiest County
April 22-24, 2011
Lance Benner, a PAS trip leader, has handled the compilation of the ABC competition for many years. He reports that Los Angeles County won this competition in 2010 (with 271 species), 2009 (264), 2008 (255), 2007 (272), and 2006 (265). In earlier years we were usually defeated by Monterey or San Diego Counties, or sometimes both.

This year, with the ABC held on the same weekend as Birdathon, we are headed to likely victory with a species count of 277 (a few additional species had to be rejected for lack of documentation.) Not all counties nationwide have submitted their data yet but L.A., with its best number ever, will be pretty hard to beat. Congratulations to a group of birders who are getting ever more talented and smarter at finding these rarities!

Species that were found this year, but never before in the history of the competition, include: Greater Scaup (Quail Lake), Black-footed Albatross (San Clemente Island), Dusky-capped Flycatcher (Bell Gardens Veteran Park), Northern Parula (Creek Park, La Mirada), Chestnut-sided Warbler (Legg Lake), Harris's Sparrow (Palos Verdes Peninsula), and Evening Grosbeak (Blue Ridge Campground, San Gabriel Mountains). So there are some pretty exceptional birds out there in pretty ordinary locations.

A much more detailed account of the ABC competition can be found on the PAS web site at www.pasadenaaudubon.org/abc_results

Hahamongna This Spring
Hahamongna has been productive, as usual, this spring. In April, Lance Benner's field trip found 52 species, including both Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, and both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk. Other notables included Hooded Merganser and Peregrine Falcon. Nesting and mating species were numerous.

Ron Cyger's May trip found 41 species, including Blue Grosbeak and Western Tanager. In between the regular trips, Darren Dowell found White-faced Ibis and Solitary Sandpiper.
On May 14 there was a special Hahamongna outing. Members of the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society, in Pasadena for a meeting, toured Hahamongna with Ron Cyger, John Garrett, and Jeff Chapman. It was an odd day for May: rainy at first and then sunny, windy, and cool. Western Tanagers abounded; a few nesting Cliff Swallows put on a show at the dam; our routine Red-crowned Parrots passing overhead drew some exclamations of surprise from the out-of-towners. They ended up with 54 species and an appreciation of this wild gem in an otherwise urban Pasadena.
**Field Trips**

**Throop Peak**
Sunday, June 19, 2011
8:00 am — 2:00 pm

Join us as we explore one of the highest altitude trails in the San Gabriel Mountains during the peak time of year for montane bird activity. This trip will hike at a leisurely pace to the summit of Throop Peak (elevation: about 9100 feet) as we search for montane specialties such as Williamson’s Sapsucker, Townsend’s Solitaire, Clark’s Nutcracker, Dusky Flycatcher, White-headed Woodpecker, Red Crossbill, Cassin’s Finch, and other montane species.

Meet at Dawson Saddle at mile 69.6 on the Angeles Crest Highway. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen, bug repellant, a coat, sturdy shoes, and an Adventure Pass. The hike is about 5 miles long, some sections are steep, and all of it is at altitudes in excess of 7900 feet.

Please carpool and plan for about 90 minutes to drive up from Pasadena (presuming Angeles Crest is open — watch the Yahoo group for announcements close to the trip date.)

*Lance Benner*

**Piute Ponds**
Saturday, August 6, 2011

The main focus of this trip will be to observe shorebirds at the Piute Ponds and other west Mojave “hot spots” (literally and figuratively) in the Antelope Valley of northern Los Angeles County. Thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage at these isolated wetlands during their southbound migration and we will be there to meet them. Baird’s Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper are likely possibilities. In addition to shorebirds (if this weren’t enough), the surrounding desert can produce Prairie Falcon, LeConte’s Thrasher, and lots of Horned Larks and Sage Sparrows.

*Note: 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*

**Los Angeles River**
Saturday, August 20, 2011
7:00 am — noon

The Los Angeles River remains the best place in coastal Los Angeles County to see a great variety of shorebirds. Join us for a casual walk up the Los Angeles River to see what we can find. We can expect to see good numbers of returning sandpipers and may even be able to find a rarity. A few Solitary Sandpipers, Baird’s Sandpipers and dowitchers should be in and we could even find a Semi-palmated Sandpiper or something even more unexpected.

We will start at Willow Street in Long Beach and work our way up the River and finish at the recently restored Dominguez Gap wetland. Meet at the bike path entrance along De Forrest Avenue. Take the Willow Street exit east off the 710 Freeway and turn north at Golden Avenue just east of the River. Take an immediate left on 26th and proceed to De Forest and the bike path entrance.

*Jon Fisher*

**Huntington Beach Central Park**
Saturday, September 24, 2011

*Full details in the September Wrentit*

**Hahamongna Monthly Walk**
Saturday, September 3, 2011
(no walks June thru August)
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 Hahamongna, and park by the ballfield.

*Ron Cyger*

**Huntington Library Monthly Walk**
Sunday, June 26, 2011
Sunday September 25, 2011
(no walks in July, August)
8:00 am – 11:00 am

A special benefit for PAS members is the chance to bird the Huntington Library grounds. Reservations required; limit 15 participants. You may bring one non-member guest, space permitting. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible.

Contact Elaine MacPherson by email (preferred), putting “Huntington” in the subject line to avoid inadvertent deletion, or by phone.
### June 2011

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<td>Field Trip</td>
<td>Mt. Pinos</td>
<td>Larry Johnson, Ron Cyger</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Sat</td>
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<td><strong>Annual Dinner!</strong></td>
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<td>Hill Penfold</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Magpie Study Group</td>
<td>Descanso Gardens</td>
<td>Madeline West &amp; Sid Heyman</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
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*(PAS members only)*

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<td>Birding 101</td>
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<td>Field Trip</td>
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<td>Field Trip</td>
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<td>Elaine MacPherson</td>
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*(PAS members only)*

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*Trip Leader Information*

- **Mark Scheel (Chair)**: (626) 355-8707  
  SCHEEL@TAPIR.CALTECH.EDU

- **Larry Allen**: (626) 288-2701  
  LARRYALLEN@EARLYMUSICLA.ORG

- **Lance Benner**: (626) 791-1187  
  LBENNER@CHARTER.NET

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

- **Kathi Ellsworth**: (626) 564-0652  
  PANDIONSKY@YAHOO.COM

- **Jon Feenstra**: (626) 792-4346  
  FEENSTRA@ALUMNICALTECH.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  
  BIRDERGRL@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
Hansen Dam Harriers  
April 23, 2011

The Hansen Harriers had a good morning and a slow/hot/crowded afternoon.

We began the morning with a dozen species just in the parking lot at Hansen Dam. Our first bird was a singing Black-headed Grosbeak, a very musical way to start the day.

The first 50 birds were easy. Yellow Warblers and Least Bell’s Vireos seemed to be everywhere! We had a singing Yellow-breasted Chat on a tall stump that gave us quite a thrill (is this really a warbler?)

While we missed the Pine Warbler and Blue Grosbeaks, we did have four Long-billed Curlews flying out from a recently mowed field! As the day warmed, the birds quit down, but we had a spectacular kettle of ravens and hawks stretching up to the clouds. At lunch we still hadn’t found any herons or egrets. We finally tracked down a Green Heron and one member found a Snowy (thanks E.J.). We finished with a couple of Bullock’s Orioles flitting through the trees.

All told we had 72 species for the day, but the fun(?) wasn’t finished. There was a HUGE party going on when we returned to the cars and we could barely squeeze out of the parking lot!

Thanks to all the donors and participants for a great day!

Ron Cyger

A Day Without Cars  
April 23, 2011

The car-less (but not careless) team of Brendan Crill and myself had a good day, from Great-horned Owl to Lesser Nighthawk. We started with the Mt. Wilson Toll Road to a little past Henninger Flat, lingered in Eaton Canyon, then visited the Arboretum, Peck Water Conservation Park, Santa Fe Dam, and San Gabriel River nearing the
John’s Corner, continued from p. 2

Efforts for young people—many local chapters are already very influential in this field, and there are other such projects as the summer programs at Deb’s Park, and the Audubon Yes! and Snowy Plover education programs. Nationwide education efforts aside from Citizen Science projects are uncommon—and of course not every school participates in Citizen Science projects.

There are also ways to attract the already-existing alliance of hardcore young birders. They swarm to opportunities to meet up with other young birders in the field and compete with each other. Gathering this crowd to Audubon would benefit both communities, and help with our larger goal of bird conservation.

John Garrett

Day Without Cars, cont. from p. 6

Foothills. The species total was 118 (eBird) / about 115 (ABA) -- we're taking the eBird list! The highlights were 13 Hermit Warblers on the day (including one in Eaton Canyon northwest of the Nature Center), 10 total warbler species (the most common ones), unexpectedly uncommon Common Poorwills, a somewhat confused White-faced Ibis at Peck Park, and the complete absence of flat tires.

We appreciate the donations from our sponsors, and we only wish we could have put a bigger hurt on your pocketbook!

Darren 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, June 21, 2011
Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Meet in the parking lot
No meetings in July or August
Details about fall meetings will be in the September Wrentit

Donations to PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Harlean Carroll, Denise Castillo, Karen Mateer, Alex Strong, Chrystal Watson. 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

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

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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

Field trips, continued from p. 4

Mt. Piños & Environ

Sunday, June 5, 2011
7:30 am — early afternoon

Mt. Piños is one of the best places in Southern California to enjoy a wide variety of montane birds. We'll hear singing Yellow-rumped Warblers along with many other species of warblers, thrushes, raptors, woodpeckers, flycatchers and finches. We will visit Iris Meadows and several other nearby areas.

Take the Golden State Freeway (I-5) north to the Frasier Park turnoff and continue west for about 5 miles to the small city park in Frasier Park and take a left at the only stop sign into the park. We will meet at the park. Don’t forget lunch, water and sunblock.

Larry Johnson and Ron Cyger
**Pasadena Audubon Society Board**

President: Will Pulmer  (626) 798-1606
Vice-President: Norm Arnheim  (626) 405-0844
Secretary: Kathi Ellsworth  (626) 524-0652
Treasurer: Grace Wong  (626) 798-6500
Members at large: Bev McKenzie, John Garrett, Susan Gilliland, Mary Jane Macy, Lance Benner

Auditor: Eileen Burton  (626) 585-9076
Conservation: Laura Garrett  (626) 564-1890
Field Trips: Mark Schell  (626) 355-8707
Hospitality: Linda Moore  (818) 541-0819
Programs: Lew Hastings  (626) 710-8264
Magpie Bird Study Group: Madeline West  (626) 574-0429
CBC Coordinator: Jon Fisher  (818) 544-5009
Membership: Lois Fulmer  (626) 798-1606

Publicity: Deni Sienott  (626) 233-4128
Website: Janet Schell  (626) 355-8707
Education: Ron Cyger  (626) 449-3625

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

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**Pasadena Audubon Society**

1750 N. Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107

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**New Members**

ALTADEANA: Amy Kern, Jenny Lerew; ARCADIA: Joann Bloomquist, P.A. Giuffrida; BERKELEY: John Sutake; DUARTE: Therese Carpenter; LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE: Karen Perper, LOS ANGELES: Marina Bchtikian, James Hildebrandt, May Ong; MONROVIA: Sean Hewitt, Hans & Lisabet Nepf, Beatrich Schwarz; NORTH HILLS: Dorene Robins; PASADENA: Caroline Barry, Elizabeth Calleton, Katherine Clark, Christina Gilman, David Hurst, Cheri Langdell, Nancy Martinez, Karen Reynolds, Joanne Sasaki, Geraldine Silver, Elsie Wu; ROSEMEAD: Diana Scharf; SAN GABRIEL: Margarita Flores, Ellen Meehan, Dan Shoden; SAN MARINO: Charles Bradford; SANTA ANA: Kathleen Crowther; SIERRA MADRE: Lynne Mally; SOUTH PASADENA: Safford Chamberlain; TEMPLE CITY: Elizabeth Lampton, Judi Romine, Margaret Stearns; VAN NUYS: Candice Byers

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**Birdathon, with Furniture**

The Big Sit, one of the several teams who participated in Birdathon fundraising, demonstrates their relaxed yet intense pursuit of species counts at Whittier Narrows. Read the teams' stories starting on page 3.