

Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

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Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Founded 1904

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

June 2019 - August 2019

California Scrub-Jay

The raspy “jree!” of the California Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) is a sound familiar to all of us who have lived in the San Gabriel Valley for any length of time. In fact, California Scrub-Jays can be found from Calexico to Crescent City. As members of the Corvid family, which includes crows, nut-crackers and magpies, they are known for being intelligent and boisterous.

The California Scrub-Jay is large, about 11 inches to 12 inches. It is cloaked in blue with a white breast and belly and a gray collar. It ranges from British Columbia to Southern California where it lives in urban areas and will gladly swoop triumphantly to your feeder, unleash a few “jrees!” and make off with a peanut or a Frito. The California Scrub-Jay used to be lumped in with the Island, Woodhouse’s and Florida Scrub-Jays but was then split into its own species.

The jay has interesting behavior due to its intelligence. An individual caches its food to eat it later, but it moves its cache when it thinks that another bird might suspect where the old cache was. This supports the theory that these birds can reason and plan for the future. You can see them perched high on the tops of trees and wires to serve as lookouts. California Scrub-Jays favor open habitats, oak woodlands, chaparral and suburban neighborhoods. They live in lower elevations unlike their cousins the Steller’s Jay. California Scrub-Jays forage in groups or pairs eating lizards, frogs, eggs, the young of other birds, insects, and in winter grains, nuts and berries. They are not shy of humans and can be hand fed! They are fun to watch if they come to your feeder as well.



California Scrub-Jay

© Javier Vazquez

Wolfgang Matthies, age 13

President’s Perch

What do the following names have in common? California Scrub-Jay, Guadalupe Murrelet & Scripps’s Murrelet, and Laura Solomon.

If you guessed that they are all names that have recently changed, you’d be correct! In 2016, the Western Scrub-Jay was split into the California Scrub-Jay (one hopes that this did not offend the birds that live in Oregon and Washington) and the Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay. If you’ve ever seen both species, you can perhaps see how this makes sense, as the blue of the California Scrub-Jay is much richer and darker than its paler, greyer counterpart. They do hybridize, but only rarely in the small area where their ranges overlap in Nevada. So for me, this change makes sense and it is easy to remember.

Likewise with the splitting of Xantus’s Murrelet into Guadalupe Murrelet and Scripps’s Murrelet in 2012. Besides getting rid of a name I could never figure out how to pronounce, the split makes sense because, according to the American Ornithologists’ Union, the two species do not interbreed, and they have different facial patterns, bill shapes, vocalizations and genetics. The Guadalupe Murrelet mostly nests on (surprise!) Guadalupe Island while the Scripps’s Murrelet mostly nests on our Channel Islands and on islands off the coast of Baja California. In fact, I’m not sure why the Scripps’s Murrelet is not named the Santa Barbara Murrelet because its largest nesting colony is on the Channel Island of that name. And I’m not sure why it’s named Scripps. Is it for the philanthropist Scripps who funded the Institute in La Jolla? I couldn’t find out. But cool name change nonetheless.

The last name change I’ve listed above is very personal. On April 27, I married Gavin Solomon and so became Laura Solomon. I know I didn’t have to change my name, but it felt like the right thing to do. Like the name changes above, it might be hard for some people to remember, but for me it’s logical because I changed my name from Bacon-Shone to Garrett when I first married in 1985, and so now I’m changing it again. And I think that’s pretty cool.

We’re Pasadena Audubon, and we know that change is both inevitable and constant!

Laura Solomon

MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS: UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June Dinner - Save the Date

Saturday, June 8, 2019

6:00 pm-9:00 pm



The PAS fiscal year starts July 1 and ends June 30 each year. Come celebrate another very successful year of our chapter reaching out to the community, defending our local habitat and supporting outstanding birders. The dinner features delicious catered food from Stonefire Grill, complimentary beer and wine, beverages, great conversation, a book sale and a chance to meet the slate of officers who will govern the chapter in the next fiscal year. Bring your bird photos on a USB drive (limit: five minutes' worth) for viewing by your fellow members. Dinner is \$30.00 per person. Please RSVP by June 3rd to reserve your spots. Send a check to PAS attention: June Dinner, 1750 North Altadena Drive, Pasadena, CA, 91107, or pay online on our website. Volunteers are welcome to bring their favorite dessert.

We will need volunteers for the Bird Friendly coffee, tea and lemon-water stations as well as a couple of people to tend the wine and beer bar on the patio. To get more information or to volunteer, contact Hospitality Chair, Doug Farr. (818) 957-0845.

Don't wait until the last minute – Last year we had to turn people away!

Mickey And Jon's Bird Id Quiz

Wednesday, September 18, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm



We'll usher in our fall season of meetings with Mickey Long and Jon Fisher hosting a fast-paced evening of bird identification puzzlers.

This year we will repeat our 'stump the experts' fun with a panel of PAS's birding celebrities. Get ready for fall migration by honing your ID skills and having some laughs along the way.



Bush Tit

© David Newsom



California Quail

© Mickey Long



Juvenile Mockingbird © Mickey Long

Monthly chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (1750 N. Altadena Drive in Pasadena). Refreshments and socializing begin at 7:00 pm and programs are presented from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Programs for youth begin at 6:45 pm

CONSERVATION

Advocating for our Birds

May 7th, I attended Audubon California's Advocacy Day at our state capitol as the representative of Pasadena Audubon Society. I'll admit I was nervous. I had never attended any type of advocacy event, nor had I ever tried to persuade any legislative member of anything. But Audubon California supported us with packets with explanations of the legislative priorities, tips for successful meetings with our legislators, schedules and a staff member to guide us through the Capitol.

We advocated for migratory bird and endangered species protection (AB 454, SB1), plastic reduction (AB 1080, SB54) and equity in access to environmental education (AB 556, AB 209, AB1300). We also promoted the use of the State's budget for climate change adaptation and investment in renewable resources. I met with aides from the offices of Senator Anthony Portantino and Assemblymember Chris Holden, as well as Assemblymember Laura Friedman herself. They were already in our corner and have a great track record of voting in favor of environmentally-friendly legislation.

I left Sacramento feeling empowered with a better understanding of our state government and the diligence of my elected representatives. And in meeting with members of other Audubon chapters at the state capitol I learned that, like any good flock, we're stronger together.

What can you do? AB1788, the bill that would ban most uses of "second-generation" rodenticides (rat poison), just passed the State Assembly and is making its way through the State Senate. Please call your senator and express support for this bill. You will help save many important predators, including hawks and owls, from agonizing deaths. Don't know who your senator is? For most of us, he's Anthony Portantino at (916) 319-2041. The same bill is working its way through the Assembly as AB 1080, so call your Assembly member, too. You can find out who represents you, and how to contact them, at <http://find-yourrep.legislature.ca.gov>

This is the last issue of the newsletter until September, but important developments will continue in Hahamongna Watershed Park throughout the summer. Stay up to date by browsing savehahamongna.org or the Save Hahamongna! group on Facebook.

Taylor Paez reporting on Advocacy Day
and Mark Hunter, Conservation Chair.

A BIRD FROM AFAR

Taiwan: An Island Loaded with Endemics

Whenever the topic of island endemic bird communities comes up, the most popular places that are usually discussed are either the Galapagos, Papua New Guinea, or our more local Hawaiian Islands. I'm excited to highlight some of the endemics that I saw while on a recent trip to Taiwan, an island that should receive more attention for its biota than it does!

I spent about a week up in the mid-high elevation mountains in central Taiwan, specifically at the Dasyueshan National Forest Recreation Area. Sitting at 7000 feet and above, the ecosystem is a temperate rainforest with mild temperatures and a lot of precipitation (supposedly the wettest part of the country).



Collared-Bush Robin

Before I get into some of the endemics that I saw, I must highlight some important people that I met and connected with while up in the mountains. During the second night of my stay, I happened to meet three other local birders while we were looking for nocturnal creatures. After chatting some about our shared interests, they were generous enough to offer to bring me along with them on their birding excursions over the next few days! It's safe to say that my time in the mountains wouldn't have been so successful, in terms of the number of species seen, without their help!

After a week of birding at Dasyueshan, my bird list totaled to 48 species, with almost 20 of them being endemic to Taiwan! Included in these endemics are some of the most sought-after in the country. The brilliant Mikado Pheasant (*Syrnaticus mikado*), whose name in mandarin translates to "Emperor's Pheasant", is featured on Taiwan's thousand-dollar bill. I saw both male and female foraging in an open grass clearing behind a restroom, which turned out to be a very popular spot for birders and photographers alike. Other birds that showed up to forage at this spot include the Taiwan Rosefinch (*Carpodacus formosanus*) and the Collared Bush Robin (*Tarsiger johnstoniae*).



Mikado Pheasant

Another prized bird of this area is the Flamecrest (*Regulus goodfellowi*), which belongs to the same genus as our North American Kinglets! There were literally lines of cameras ready and waiting for the bird to show up and flash its flame-colored crest. I think I count myself lucky for seeing its crest on display, as my new birder friends mentioned it was their first time seeing it after making several trips to Dasyueshan.



Collared Pygmy Owl

Even at the very end of the trip, while heading down the mountain, I picked up some special birds. One of these birds I saw only because there were several photographers set up along the side of the road. They were taking pictures of the tiny Collared Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium brodiei*), which was vocalizing on an open branch. Although not an endemic, the pygmy owl was a very nice sight, especially since I have yet to see our local Northern Pygmy Owl. The very last endemic that I saw was a female Swinhoe's Pheasant (*Lophura swinhoii*) darting across the road halfway down the mountain. To sum it all up, my time spent up the mountain was fantastic and full of special birds and served as a great getaway from my usual responsibilities since I was practically cut-off from most forms of communication.



Taiwan Birder Friends

Story and photos by Austin H. Xu

Coastal Cleanup Day is September 21st.

Mark your calendars for this great community event. Pasadena Audubon will be pitching in at the Arroyo Seco. Every piece of trash we remove is one thing less that will end up in the ocean.

For more information contact Lois Brunet, lbrunet@pasadenaaudubon.org
Hope you can join us.

Readers, if there's a Bird from Afar that you saw and loved, we'd love to hear about it.

Send your text and photos to the Editor at pas.wrentit@gmail.com.



FIELD TRIPS & MONTHLY BIRD WALKS

Chilao Visitor Center

Saturday June 8 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Chilao, 26.5 miles north of the I-210, is a good place to see woodpeckers, and we often see four or more species on a walk. Mountain Quail are somewhat elusive but still seen or heard half the time. Also expect Purple Finches, Steller's Jays, Dark-eyed Juncos and several species of nuthatches and others totalling about 30 species during the two-hour walk.

Hill Penfold

Note: Angeles Crest Highway may still be closed near Mt. Wilson Road. If so, there is a detour which takes you from Angeles Crest Highway down Angeles Forest Highway, to Upper Big Tujunga Canyon Road, and then reconnects to Angeles Crest Highway; this detour adds approximately 15 minutes of driving time.

Black Swifts and Lesser Nighthawks

Saturday, June 29, late afternoon/evening

So enigmatic was this species that up until 2012 ornithologists still had no idea where the Black Swift wintered. We will seek out these aerial acrobats at Claremont Wilderness Park, the only reliable spot in L.A. County to find this most mysterious of birds.

The swifts are best looked for late in the day. And so we will spend a couple of pre-dusk hours seeking them out. On our return towards Pasadena, we will make a sundown stop in Duarte to look for Lesser Nighthawks.

Please email Luke Tiller at luketiller@gmail.com to reserve a spot and to receive directions on where and when to meet.

Luke Tiller

Summertime Blue(s) Ridge

Saturday, July 27th, 8:00 am-midday

Escape the heat of summer as we head to the east end of the San Gabriels. We'll explore the picturesque Blue Ridge Campground and check feeders at Grassy Hollow. Targets will be higher elevation specialties like White-headed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, Green-tailed Towhee, Williamson's Sapsucker and Dusky Flycatcher. We will also keep our eyes open for butterflies including the rare and highly localized Veined Blue. Perhaps we'll even find a few early southbound migrant birds too.

Please email Luke Tiller at luketiller@gmail.com to reserve a spot and to receive directions on where and when to meet.

Luke Tiller

Lower L.A. River

Saturday, August 3, 8:00 am - noon

August is about the peak of shorebird migration as wintering birds return and transients pass through. Be prepared for anything, but if your shorebird ID skills are rusty, we will spend as much time as is necessary on the more common species to get everyone comfortable with them.

Take the 710 (Long Beach) Fwy south to the Willow Street offramp; head east across the L.A. River and take the first left on Golden Ave., the first left again on 26th. Follow

26th past the pump station onto DeForest Ave. Park near the river access by the bridge. Meet the group along the river at 8:00 am. We will bird until noon and may visit Dominguez Gap Wetlands if time permits.

Larry Allen

Piute Ponds & Vicinity

Sunday, September 8 6:30 am -- early afternoon

By September, southbound migration will be in full swing. Join us at the Piute Ponds, a wetland oasis in the desert, where every year thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage on their way south. We should find over a dozen shorebird species, and we may see Baird's or Pectoral Sandpipers. We will also look for desert birds such as

Bell's Sparrow and we have a chance for LeConte's Thrasher. After Piute Ponds, we will visit nearby Apollo Park, where we will look for migrating songbirds such as warblers and flycatchers. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

Mark Scheel, Dessi Sieburth

Note: Piute Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base, which has restricted entry. Space is limited, and Edwards needs advanced notice of participants, so it helps to sign up early. Please email Mark Scheel if you would like to attend. We will be meeting in the northern Antelope Valley at 6:30am; the meeting place will be arranged.

Peck Road Water Conservation Park

**First Saturday of the month, March to November
7:30 am - 10:30 am**

For the time being, the walk on the first Saturday of the month from spring through fall will be at Peck Road Water Conservation Park, which boasts a high species count (250+ over the years) due to its combination of lake, landscaped park, riparian and weedy habitats. This walk will start with easier terrain in the main park area, then may visit some of the areas within Peck that are more distant or more difficult to access later on. Depending on the season, we'll look for ducks, gulls, shorebirds, hawks, warblers, sparrows, exotic species and/or other passerines. Meet in the main parking lot off Peck Road in Arcadia (at the boundary with El Monte). The leader will bring one scope, and it would be helpful to have one or two more.

Darren Dowell

Magpie Bird Study Group

**Third Tuesday of most months
9:00 am until about noon**

June 18, Descanso Gardens. Meet at the entrance.

Sept. 17, Legg Lakes. Meet in the Santa Anita parking lot.

We bird until 11:30 and then have a sack lunch and a short meeting. All PAS members welcome! No walks in July and August.

Julia Ray, Sid Heyman

L.A. County Arboretum

Second Saturday of every month 8:00 am - 10:00 am

This easy walk is for birders of all ages and experience levels. Meet on the steps leading to the entrance of the Arboretum. Admission is \$5 – free for members of the Arboretum or Audubon, and free for children under twelve.

Katy Mann

FIELD TRIPS & MONTHLY BIRD WALKS

Eaton Canyon

Third Sunday of every month

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 Eaton Canyon for many years. This is a wonderful walk for birders of all levels. 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

Fourth Sunday of every month, except for July and August

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 nonmember guest, space permitting. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible.

To reserve contact Mark at
mark.hunter@pasadenaaudubon.org

Mark Hunter

CLASSES - BIRDING 101

Sponsored by Pasadena Audubon Society and Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Class Description:

Birding provides enjoyment and challenge throughout life, getting you outdoors on your street or around the world, and it's a great cocktail party topic! This is a great opportunity to explore the world of Birding in a structured, classroom environment. This class is designed for beginners, but all are welcome. We will cover the basics of identification (sight, sound, behavior), optics, field guides, habitats, birding ethics and many other topics. Our goals are to help class participants become familiar with local birds and to be comfortable on birding field trips. Class size is limited so don't delay!

Information:

Classroom sessions: Tuesdays, July 9, 16, and 23, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Field trips: Saturdays, July 13 and 20, early morning to about noon.

Participants should plan on attending all classes and field trips.

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

Cost: \$75 for Pasadena Audubon members, \$100 for non-members (but, will include membership in Pasadena Audubon Society). 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 (scholarships are available for Young Birders Club members who are accompanied by a paying parent/responsible adult).

Leaders: Ron Cyger and Mark Scheel

YOUNG BIRDERS

Congratulations Dessi!

April 2019 Youth Conservationist of the Year Award

"Sixteen year old birder and conservationist Dessi's mission is to protect wild birds and their habitat. Despite his tender age he has been a real force in this endeavor, involved in research and teaching. He has written 40 articles on birds, bird habitat and bird conservation for various organizations including the Los Angeles and Pasadena Audubon newsletters, his local newspaper, The Bluebird Journal, The American Birding Association Young Birders website, the Auk Blog and the National Birding Magazine and The John Muir Association" (as seen in April 22, 2019, John Muir Association website). To see the article go to: <https://johnmuirassociation.org/php/conserv-award.php>



The Young Birder Club

Young people interested in birds and nature are welcome to join the Club with their parent. Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month from September through May (though not December). Meeting convenes at 6:45pm in Classroom 1 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

To learn more about the Club please contact Susan Gilliland at gillilandsusan@gmail.com, and see our website: <http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org/youngbirders>

CALENDAR

June 2019

1	Sat 7:30 am	Field trip	WC	Peck Rd. Water Conserv. Park	Darren Dowell
2	Sun 8:00 am	Clean Up	WC	Peck Rd. Water Conserv. Park	Lois Brunet
2	Sun 7:30 am	Field trip	WC	Throop Peak	Lance Benner
5	Wed 7:30 pm	Board meeting		Eaton Canyon	Laura Solomon
8	Sat 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	County Arboretum	Katy Mann
8	Sat 6:00 pm	Chapter dinner		Eaton Canyon	
8	Sat 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Chilao Vistor Center	Hill Penfold
12	Wed 5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Sena on Myrtle	L. Tiller, C. Hamilton, D.Bell
16	Sun 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Eaton Canyon	Hill Penfold
18	Tue 9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Descanso Gardens	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
23	Sun 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter
29	Sat afternoon	Field trip	WC	Claremont Wilderness Park	Luke Tiller

July 2019

6	Sat 7:30 am	Field trip	WC	Peck Rd. Water Conserv. Park	Darren Dowell
9	Tues 7:00 pm	Birding 101		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Mark Scheel, Ron Cyger
10	Wed 5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Sena on Myrtle	L. Tiller, C. Hamilton, D.Bell
13	Sat 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	L.A. County Arboretum	Katy Mann
16	Tues 7:00 pm	Birding 101		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Mark Scheel, Ron Cyger
21	Sun 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
23	Tue 7:00 pm	Birding 101		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Mark Scheel, Ron Cyger
27	Sat 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Blue Ridge	Luke Tiller

August 2019

3	Sat 7:30 am	Field trip	WC	Peck Rd. Water Conserv. Park	Darren Dowell
3	Sat 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Lower L.A. River	Larry Allen
10	Sat 7:39 am	Field trip	WC	County Arboretum	Katy Mann
14	Wed 5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Sena on Myrtle	L. Tiller, C. Hamilton, D.Bell
18	Sun 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
22	Thur 7:00 pm	Movie night		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	

September 2019

4	Wed 7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Laura Solomon
7	Sat 7:30 am	Field trip	WC	Peck Rd. Water Conserv. Park	Darren Dowell
8	Sun 6:30 am	Field trip	WC	Piute Ponds	Mark Scheel, Dessi Sieburth
11	Wed 5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Sena on Myrtle	L. Tiller, C. Hamilton, D.Bell
14	Sat 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	County Arboretum	Katy Mann
15	Sun 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tues 9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Legg Lakes	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
18	Wed 7:00 pm	General meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Mickey Long & Jon Fisher
21	Sat 8:00 am	Clean Up	WC	Arroyo Seco	Lois Brunet
22	Sun 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter
28	Sat 7:00 am	Field trip	WC	Warblerama	Mark & Janet Scheel

WC Wrentit Club

The Wrentit Club is a special distinction for members who've seen 250 birds or more in L.A. County within the calendar year. The field trips designated WC are within

L.A. County. Any birds seen on these trips count towards the Wrentit Club distinction. See our website for a listing of current and past members. Good birding!



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Having been raised in northern Illinois and seeing flocks of geese and ducks flying overhead every year I was used to observing large amounts of birds during migration seasons. I was spoiled.

Since starting birding a few years ago with Pasadena Audubon Society one of the places I find most fascinating and which is similar to the birding I did as a kid is the Kern National Wildlife Refuge northwest of Bakersfield. It is about a two hour and twenty-minute drive from L.A. and we usually do it in one day. At most there will only be one or two other cars on the tour. For birders there is Auto Route One on the south side and Auto Route Two on the north side which is a bit shorter. Occasionally we will add Pixley National Wildlife Refuge but this is a stretch to do in one day. Pixley is not birdy sometimes as there may not be any water.

The beauty of Kern is the mass variety of birds. Not only do you have all the water birds such as the ubiquitous American Coots, teals and ducks but you also see Harriers, Yellow Headed and the endangered Tri-colored Blackbirds and numerous shorebirds as well. You should be sure and call the Refuge to verify that it is open as well as to avoid hunting season. Hunting season usually runs from mid-October to late January but you must call to verify the exact dates. If you bird within two weeks of the end of hunting season the birds are skittish and they will be over one hundred yards from the road. The address of the Refuge is 10811 Corcoran Rd, McFarland, CA 93250 and their number is 661-725-2767. I plan to lead a trip in October so be sure to watch for a writeup in the September issue of the Wrenit.

Doug Farr

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Native Plant Garden and Outdoor Classroom at Washington STEM Elementary

Pasadena Audubon is excited to announce that we have been awarded some grant funding from the Plants for Birds Burke Grant program in order to create a native plant garden and outdoor classroom at Washington STEM Elementary Magnet School. Pasadena Audubon piloted our Bird Science Program at Jackson and Washington elementary schools this year. We provided classroom lessons on birds along with a three hour field trip to 320 kids.

While working with Ms. Jodie West, STEM teacher at Washington, she mentioned that they have a wonderful undeveloped space for a native plant garden and outdoor classroom. We decided to apply for the grant and got it! Jesse Chang, with California Native Plant Society, has developed a beautiful garden design that incorporates rain garden elements, with a wide variety of pollinator and bird friendly native plants. There will be a seating area and signage, as well as a solar powered fountain. We have been brainstorming with the teachers about ways to engage the students by having them create signage and build nesting boxes, for example.

The master plan calls for doing the prep work over the summer and then planting in the fall. Please email Lois Brunet lbrunet@pasadenaudubon.org to get on our volunteer list. It's a big project and it will take a village. We hope you'll join us in creating this wonderful outdoor space, which will be a natural extension of our very successful Bird Science Program.

Thank you to our generous Donors!

ORIOLE (\$100-\$249): Douglas Farr, Joan Probst, Frank & Susan Gilliland, Jane Glicksman, Judith Hwa, Nancy Lelieur, Heather Sabin, Grace Y Wong, Kathy Degner, Pamela Dong, Jeanene Maclean, Beth And Steven Roth, Jeffrey Scott, Henry & Loretta Selinger, Deni Sinnott

WARBLER (\$5-\$99): Brendan Crill, Taylor Beia, Lois Brunet, Alan & Margo Cambey, Alfredo & Diane Cuellar, Janice Vanselow, Merryl Edelstein, Mickey And Jan Long, Scarlett Hibner, Mark Verillo, Margaret Thompson Aghili, Mako Koiwai, Ira Blitz, Mihaela Campan, Debbie Chaiboonma, Ann Hansen, Gautham Jayaram, Michael Karon, Marcus King, Tracy Leach, Ben Liou, Rodrick Lord, Elvira Munoz, Viveca Sapin, Cindy Shilkret, Carol Smith, Yvonne Tsai, Becky Waters, David Dowell, Deborah Y Nakamoto, Maggie Lambka, Lisa Fowler Farrell, Christopher Jackson, Deirdre Kessler, Michele Nealon, Dianne Bougher, Trisha Gurfuss, Leslie Mylius, Christina Salazar, Jan Adams, Janet Adams, Kym Buzdygon, Mary K.B. Carter, Carol & Daniel Godinez, Candace Gunther, Linda Haneline, Donna Hicko, Steve Sarner, Kathy Sharum, Linda Sivyver-Foley, Christina Vanhoof, Jackie Vasquez, Valasek Steve, Genevieve Beauvais, Nathalie Beia, Fawn Bowden, Barton Caplan, Argel Dionio, Merryl Edelstein, Grace Franklin, Gabriel Graham, Nadine Ishizu, Susan Kimura, Michelle Kuczma, Sonia Lent, Bev Long, Cecilia Lowenthal, Robert Marsh, Brendan McGowan, Kerrie Pellon, Sabrena Pitcher, Susan Quinn, Richard Redman, Karen Suarez, Camille Vettraino

We thank the following who made donations in honor of Laura and Gavin's wedding. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

Monica Abundiz, Frederic Bacon Shone, Heather Bacon-Shone, John Bacon-Shone, Robin Bacon-Shone, Tim Brick, Lois Brunet, Lois Brunet, Laura Dahl, Kathy Degner, Paul Dodwell, Linda Evans, Margaret Pumpelly Finnegan, Frank & Susan Gilliland, Jane Glicksman, Cam Goldman, Samantha Henderson, Melissa Herr, Karla Berglund Hughes, Mark Hunter, Emelyn A. Judge, Susan Kasenow, David Kauper, Paula Kelly, Joanne Kennedy, Betsy Wheeler Kollgaard, Daniel Lambert, Alan Lamson, Elaine MacPherson, Laura Floom Manning, Lianna Manukyan, Gabi McLean, Marc Meredith, Leslie Mylius, Karen Peach, Cynthia Petrisky-Lopez, Dena Pitts, Cecilia Rogers, Elizabeth Beerman Rothbart, Susan Russell, Jazmin Sapphire, Janet & Mark Scheel, Susan Schwartz, Deni Sinnott, Beth Snowden-Ifft, Laura Solomon, Diane Tarasovis Stokes, Dan Stormont, Karen K. Suarez, Jennifer Waters, Dave Weeshoff

BIRDATHON 2019: THE WINNING STREAK CONTINUES

The Green Team-156 species

For 2019, the Pasadena Audubon Birdathon “Green Team” was Naresh Satyan and Darren Dowell, with Christopher Stevenson joining for the Friday afternoon/evening San Gabriel Valley segment. We aimed to find as many species as possible in 24 hours, traveling mostly by public transportation, bike and foot. We started counting at 8:45 am Friday in Manhattan Beach and ended at 8:45 am Saturday around 4000 ft. elevation in the San Gabriels above Altadena. We traveled the longest distances by train (Gold, Green and Expo Lines) and bus (Silver Line and Foothill Transit). But we also logged 40+ miles by bike and almost 10 miles by foot. To begin the mountain segment early Saturday, we did use cars to travel the three miles from Pasadena to Cobb Estate in the dark, before the buses have service in that area, but then we paid penance for use of cars by climbing the firebreak up to Mt. Lowe Road -- 1000 foot elevation gain in 0.6 miles of trail.

This route, some timely bird spotting and more than a little luck produced a total of 156 species. (We are using eBird counting rules: yes on Egyptian Goose, Indian Peafowl and Northern Cardinal, but no on Muscovy Duck.)

We had two overall highlights. First was the serene bike ride along the ocean, from Manhattan Beach to Marina Del Rey, on Friday morning. This was the furthest the Green Team has yet ventured from Pasadena, and it brought many first-time species for the team. Second was the “bird migration superhighway” in evidence from our vantage point in the mountains Saturday morning. We climbed out of the basin fog at about 3000 feet just before sunrise, and for the next two hours we saw hundreds of birds streaming by, southeast to northwest -- hundreds of warblers; dozens of Western Kingbirds, Cedar Waxwings and Lazuli Buntings; joined by Western Tanagers, Warbling Vireos and Orioles.

We didn’t find any rare birds, but we were excited to encounter: Eight Snowy Plovers in their sharp spring plumage near the Dockweiler Beach enclosure, a Wandering Tattler on the Marina Del Rey jetty, Bonaparte’s Gulls and Blue-Winged Teal in Ballona Creek, a singing Northern Cardinal in the Whittier Narrows area, a Green Heron flying by at Legg Lake as if conjured by our mention of the species, Forster’s Terns at Legg Lake and Santa Fe Dam, a brief appearance of a Lesser Nighthawk by the Encanto Park bridge, a number of last-hour montane and migrant species and Hermit Warblers at both our first (Sand Dune Park) and last (Mt. Lowe Road) locations.

We much appreciate the generous donations to Pasadena Audubon by our sponsors -- and it’s still not too late! -- and we’re already thinking about next year.



Sunrise view for the Green Team, overlooking Sierra Saddle/Mt. Lowe Road, with warblers whizzing by.

The LadyBirders-81 species

The team: Kathy Degner, Deni Sinnott, Carolyn Murphy, Taylor Paez, Grace Wong, Pam Dong, Katie Porter, Yvonne Tsai, Jane Glicksman, Lois Brunet.

This year’s team was ten strong and ranged in age from under 30 to over 70!! We started at Peck Road, a favorite spot, where we had hit an amazing 72 species last year. This year has been strange with lots of winter rain and many bits of habitat around the lakes were washed out. We only got



The LadyBirders

BIRDATHON 2019 RESULTS

to 52 species in over 3 hours of birding, a little disappointing. The highlights were Black-chinned hummingbirds, several very colorful Bullock's Orioles and Least Bell's Vireos, which are endangered. These were loud and heard by all, but only seen by a few.

We then headed to Legg Lake where we saw 43 species, 18 of which were new. The highlight there was a Great Horned Owl family, both parents and a very fluffy owlet were in plain view, observing us from the upper branches of a pine. There were also nesting Cormorants and Great Blue Herons.

Finally we headed to Whittier Narrows Nature Center, only a five minutes away, but offering very different habitat. It was almost 2 pm, and the team was down to four, but we trudged on and were welcomed by young House Wrens who were very active in the trees in front of the Nature Center. We added a 11 more new species in about 40 minutes, ending up at 81!

As is now traditional, we finished at Mijares, with half the team around two pitchers of margaritas. Good times! Donations are still rolling in...



Great-horned Owl

©Lois Brunet



Pacific-slope Flycatcher

©Lois Brunet

Team Audu-bikes-82 Species (Calvin Bonn, age 12)

Early Sunday, April 28th, our team was up, planning an ambitious 35-mile bike ride to achieve our goal of seeing 75 species of birds in a day. Little did we know what an amazing day that it was going to become!

Mom and I started off the morning by taking our local bike path to get to Franklin Park and my middle school. On the way we saw Northern Mockingbirds and a California Scrub-jay. At my school, we found all of our target birds – Brewer's Blackbirds, Red-tailed Hawk and Cassin's Kingbird, plus Hooded Orioles nesting in the cemetery across the street. At Franklin Park, we found ourselves in a migration wave finding lots of Hermit Warblers and a Black-throated Gray Warbler, but unfortunately not finding the nesting Cooper's Hawks, even though we knew they were around. As it turned out, all of our stops were full of migrants, which gave us several bonus species for the day. We arrived at Columbia Park a little bit behind schedule, but the birding picked up here, where we saw Western Bluebirds, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Townsend's Warblers, Western Tanagers and a rare Palm Warbler! Madrona Marsh was the highlight of the day, where we saw marsh birds like Canada Geese with goslings, Killdeer, Gadwall, a Sora, Red-winged Blackbirds everywhere and migrants like Lazuli Buntings and Black-headed Grosbeaks, Yellow Warblers, Wilson's Warblers and Common Yellowthroats.



Calvin

After Madrona, we had found an almost complete sweep of all the possible migrants, and found ourselves a problem: after you have seen all of the usual birds, where else is there to go? I had a lot of stops planned before we got to the coast in order to try and see as many migrants as possible, but I was unsure whether or not we should continue with this plan. We decided that it was worth it and in short order covered Wilderness Park (flyover Double-crested Cormorant), Henrietta Basin (Black-crowned Night-heron) and Entradero Park (Pacific-slope Flycatcher). We had a picnic at Entradero, where we met up with our other half. After Mom and Dad traded off and my sister Sama tagged along, we headed to the coast. We biked along the Strand to get to Sand Dune Park, stopping briefly at the Manhattan Beach Pier and seeing species such as California Gull and Elegant Tern. At Sand Dune Park, migration was in full swing, where we saw tons of migrants in beautiful detail, but the only new birds there were Western Kingbirds and a singing Dark-eyed Junco. We left Sama to play on the sand dune with Mom, while Dad and I biked along the Strand to get to Playa Del Rey and the Ballona Wetlands. While we planned to bike straight to the Dockweiler snowy plover enclosure, that plan was abandoned after a feeding

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BIRDATHON 2019 RESULTS

(Continued from page 9)

frenzy offshore, several shorebirds (Whimbrel, Willet, Sanderling), a flock of Brown Pelicans, and finding the Dockweiler Surf Scoter flock. By the time we actually got to the snowy plover enclosure, there were no plovers to be found. That didn't stop us though and we headed on, undeterred.

Arriving at Del Rey Jetties and Ballona Creek, we found the jetties to have no birds on them, but Caspian Terns were calling loudly overhead and the breakwater was full of gulls, pelicans and cormorants. At Del Rey Lagoon, we found a



Canada Goose



American Goldfinch

calling Belted

Kingfisher, broadcasting its loud rattle across the pond. We headed to Ballona Freshwater Marsh and found Pied-billed Grebes with babies, Black-necked Stilts and lots of Ruddy Ducks.

We biked the long bike ride back to Redondo Beach without seeing any new birds, but racing the sun for the last little bits of light to get home.

It was an awesome day, with 82 bird species seen and \$245 raised! I always look forward to Birdathon for the chance to see as many species as possible, but also because it gets me out birding so that I have the opportunity to observe many species that I wouldn't see otherwise. I can't wait for Birdathon next year.

Team Adriana-35 Species

Team Adriana (Adriana and her mom) spent last Saturday here in the SGV visiting five locations and finding 35 bird species — 11 more than last year! Locations included: Home (1), Almansor Park, Alhambra (9); the Huntington Library & Gardens, San Marino (7); the Arboretum parking lot, Arcadia (1); and Whittier Narrows, South El Monte (17).

We could have found more, but got distracted for a few hours by a plant sale at the Huntington, so it slowed us down!



Acorn Woodpecker



Western Bluebird

Birdathon has raised over \$3,400 for our programs. Thanks to all of the birders and their supporters for making this another successful birdathon year!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summertime is Movie time!

We'll be teaming up with the San Gabriel Mountain chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Eaton Canyon Nature Center for a screening of Dr. Doug Tallamy's, "Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home." This is 90-minute environmental documentary focused on showing how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. This free screening will take place at Eaton Canyon at 7 pm on August 22nd.

Viva Volunteers!

Our volunteer thank you party was held May 5, 2019, and hosted by our Publicity Chair and Past President, Deni Sinnott, and our volunteer cinematographer, Mako Koiwai, at their lovely home in South Pasadena. We had a great turn-out and enjoyed some delicious tacos and margaritas together.



Happy diners, pictured from left: Leslie Mylius, Kathy Degner, Jane Glicksman (standing), Susan Campisi, Jonathan Treffkorn and Taylor Paez.

The PAS Board Needs YOU!

The PAS Board will be accepting applications for the position of Development Chair. If you have experience in or an interest in fundraising and the ability to cultivate and maintain relationships to support charitable contributions we want to hear from you! Please contact Board President Laura Solomon at purplecow@jps.net for more information.

Trip Leaders

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Election Results

Laura Solomon (formerly Garrett), Darren Dowell and Ira Blitz were re-elected as President, Vice President and Secretary, respectively. Newly elected Treasurer Janet Scheel will begin her term on July 1st, as outgoing Treasurer Eileen Burton steps down. Thank you, Eileen, for your service!

Birds 'n Beers

Good food, good beverages, and good bird talk at this casual monthly gathering led by Luke Tiller, Catherine Hamilton and David Bell. Everyone is welcome! 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, the second Wednesday of each month, at Sena on Myrtle: 409 S. Myrtle Ave, Monrovia

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See chapter-only dues on previous page.

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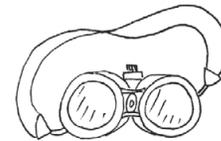
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**Welcome to our New Members**

ALHAMBRA: Joie Delagach; ALTADENA: Patricia Hanson, Tony Kochinas, Roslyn Witt, Adeline Yi; ARCADIA: Dawn Bellanca; BURBANK: Esther Edber; CLAREMONT: Dan Stobel; DUARTE: Susan Mita; GLENDALE: Olga Roach; LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE: Bill D'Elia; LA VERNE: Michael Morrison; LOS ANGELES: Dianne Bougher, Kurt Grelak, Brigitte Liebowitz, Leslie Mylius, Carol Siu; MONTEREY PARK: Joshua Cloner; PASADENA: Tim Brick, Brenda Galloway, Nancy Freeman, Rodrick Lord, Susan McKellar, Lyle Riggs, Gavin Solomon, Patricia Stark, Tracy Swab, Mitchell Tsai, Maria Vara; SAN GABRIEL: Nancy Goldheimer; SAN MARINO: Thomas Millar; SANTA MONICA: Leticia Kollgaard; SIERRA MADRE: Elizabeth De Kam, Susan Quinn; SOUTH PASADENA: Keith Cameron, Liliana Griego, Jane Stellar, Wendy Stiver, Michael Walker; TUJUNGA: Jim & Lulu Smith; VALENCIA: Mary Munoz; WEST COVINA: Manuel Castaneda