



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 53 – No. 2

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

March-April 2005

March Program

Important Bird Areas of California

By Daniel S. Cooper
March 16, 2005

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

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

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

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

President's Perch

People are always asking you to give. Be it your place of worship, your school district, or even your Audubon society. But let's talk about a different kind of giving.

We have learned from an early age that you get out of something what you put into it. To get the most out of Pasadena Audubon Society, you need to contribute. Some give by leading field trips, by bringing coffee to meetings, or by writing grant applications. All of these contributions make for a stronger community and a place that I want to live.

How can you give? PAS offers many opportunities, from providing cookies at meetings to coordinating activities for

April Program

Owls of Los Angeles County: Their Status and Distribution

Lance Benner
April 20, 2005

Eleven species of owls have been recorded in Los Angeles County and nine species breed here. Pasadena Audubon member Lance Benner will present an overview of owl biology, the amazing adaptations that enable them to survive, and descriptions, images, and recordings of each species. He will describe the geographic distribution of each species using results from *The Los Angeles Breeding Bird Atlas* (to which he contributed owl observations) and give specific locations where each species has been recorded. The *Atlas* is currently in preparation.

Lance is an astronomer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he specializes in radar imaging of near-Earth asteroids. His research involves frequent trips to the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, where he often hears the gentle trilling and maniacal "laughter" of Puerto Rican Screech Owls.

This talk is a prelude to the PAS owling field trip Lance will lead on May 14. See *Owling the San Gabriel Mountains*, page 5.

our upcoming bird festival. On a community level, you can attend city and county board meetings on behalf of PAS and fight for habitat conservation and restoration. On the national level, how about participating in the *BIRDATHON* during April or May? See details on page 7.

So, do you want to get something out of PAS?

May Program

The Chicken Genome - What Is It and What Does It Mean?

Norman Arnheim
Wednesday, May 18, 2005

In December 2004 the first draft of the chicken genome was published. This work was part of the human genome project. Why the chicken? What does the chicken have to do with the human genome? Why does government and industry think the genome project is so important? (And what exactly is a genome?) We will discover answers to these questions and see why this research is of special interest to birders.

Norman Arnheim is a Professor of Molecular and Computational Biology at USC and Vice President of PAS.

Personal Ad

Volunteer Opportunities Available Pasadena Bird Festival

Fundraisers
Sales Persons
Trip Leaders
Workshop Coordinators
Helpers of all kinds

Contact: Brian Tomikawa
(323) 223-7787

TOMIKAWA@PACBELL.NET

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Conservation

ConocoPhillips Abandons Group that Lobbies for Drilling in Arctic Refuge

ConocoPhillips has become the latest Coil company to pull out of a lobbying group called Arctic Power, which was created to pressure lawmakers into drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The revelation indicates a lessening of corporate interest in plans to push for drilling. BP/Amoco and Chevron Texas had formerly removed themselves from the group, but ExxonMobil remains a member. Despite what appears to be wavering corporate interest, and recent polls that indicate that the majority of Americans are opposed to drilling the refuge, leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate appear poised to push harder than ever for getting the refuge, the remaining five percent of land on Alaska's North Slope that isn't already open to drilling.

Are Sandhill Cranes Being Grounded by Vineyards?

Biologists, including California Department of Fish and Game scientists, are concerned that the rapid conversion of open space in the Central Valley to vineyards and housing development is putting Sandhill Cranes at risk. The valley is the wintering grounds for the imperiled crane. Standing nearly six feet, with a seven-foot wingspan, Sandhill Cranes are popular birds in the valley,

viewed and loved by thousands. But biologists are concerned that the loss of habitat is causing cranes to be crowded into smaller wintering areas and reducing feeding opportunities.



Aerial Gunning of Alaska Wolves

Alaska-based biologist, Dr. Victor Van Ballenberghe, has drafted a report, supported by 123 scientists and academic wildlife professionals, which states that Alaska's current program of killing wolves from the air is scientifically flawed. Along with the report, the scientists sent a letter stating their opposition to Alaska Gov. Frank Markowski and the Alaska Board of Game. By January 19, 63 wolves had been killed by aerial gunners this season and hundreds more will die. You can view a video about aerial hunting of wolves (CAUTION: it's fairly graphic) and sign a petition to Gov. Markowski at WWW.WOLFCAMPAIGN.ORG

Defenders of Wildlife

The "California Friendly™ Landscape" Workshop

Pasadena Water & Power in conjunction with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), and its affiliated family of Southern California Water Agencies, are offering *FREE* educational classes to help customers better understand water conservation, landscape design, irrigation, and other relevant topics.

You don't need to use lots of water to enjoy a beautiful garden!

Learn from the experts how to plan, develop, and create beautiful residential landscaping using drought-tolerant and native plants. Help conserve our precious water resources and build a legacy for your home's future.

California Friendly™ Workshops are free and open to all PWP water customers. Previously a four-part series, the classes have now been condensed into one four-hour session.

Where:

Eaton Canyon Nature Center,
1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena

When: Saturday, April 9 – 8 am to noon
Saturday, May 21 – 8 am to noon

Please reserve your class dates at least three weeks in advance by calling the PWP Answerline at (626) 744-6970.

Donation's Update

As of January 31, 2005, PAS has received \$1,165 in donations. We want to thank the following PAS donors for their generous support during the month of January. *And, remember, it's not too late to send in a donation.*

Betty Cole & Art Mack
Joan Franco
Lois & Will Fulmer
James & Laura Garrett
John Garrett
Rayma Harrison
Don & Scarlett Hibner
Muriel Horacek
Elaine Macpherson
Ninarose Mayer
Bev McKenzie
John & Margaret Odell
Jean O'Hagan
Lois M. Tandy
Joan Zukoski

Dr. Robert Ridgely *The Changing Face of Conservation of Neotropical Birds*

Saturday, March 19, 2005, 7:00 pm

Los Angeles County
Museum of Natural History Auditorium
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90007

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

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

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

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

Get Up-To-The-Moment Local Bird News

Join the PAS ListServe
[HTTP://GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/PASADENAUDUBON/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PASADENAUDUBON/)

2004 Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Christmas Count

It's been nearly a month since the count as I write this. Just yesterday I finished putting all the numbers together. Now that all the data is in, the species total stands at a very respectable 154. While last year's count was hampered by afternoon rain, this year's afternoon was really too warm. Still it's better to have too much sun than rain. We were fortunate to have over forty counters this year and good coverage of all areas, both of which had an impact on the success of the count.

Let's dig into the numbers and highlights for the 2004 count...

Each year I'm interested to see how many species were represented by just one individual. This year the number of one-only species was fifteen. Without them, we would be at an unremarkable 139. And each year I ask the same question... how many other "one" birds did we miss spotting by a few minutes or a few yards?

Amazingly, only one Green Heron was recorded on the entire count. This must be due in part to the somewhat secretive nature of this species, but a single individual for the entire count is astounding. Several other difficult-to-find species were reported in low numbers. Take the single Costa's Hummingbird, the two Hutton's Vireos, or the thirteen California Quail. There are no doubt dozens of Hutton's Vireos and a handful of Costa's Hummingbirds within the circle. There also must be hundreds of California Quail. This illustrates one of the limitations of the CBC – the difficulty of accurately counting certain species – a factor to consider when evaluating the data.

Three Hooded Mergansers at Legg Lake this year were a nice find. A single Common Goldeneye was on San Jose Creek just east of the San Gabriel River where several have been spending the winter. Rounding out the waterfowl of note was a Eurasian Wigeon at Almanson Park in Alhambra and a much-debated Ross's Goose on the San Gabriel River.

In the raptor category, White-tailed Kites were missed altogether but two uncommon Northern Harriers were noted. Three Merlin were also recorded. Thirty years ago, Merlin were "red letter birds" and it's great to see they have rebounded so well.

A mere five Least Sandpipers on the count indicates how dependent this species is on the availability of suitable habitat, which varies greatly from year to year. Wilson's Snipe (formerly Common Snipe) were missed on the count. Usually a few are present along the San Gabriel River, but this species is often difficult to find.

Want to talk about gulls? 263 Western Gulls were counted this year. Add to that three Thayer's Gulls, twelve Glaucous-winged Gulls and eight Herring Gulls, most from the Livingston-Graham Quarry and along the San Gabriel River. The variety and number of gulls

this year was surprising. Western Gulls have been pushing farther inland on the coastal plain for some time, so larger numbers are to be expected. Still, it wasn't until 1999 that they began to appear regularly on the count.

Of course there were plenty of Mourning Doves and Band-tailed Pigeons on the count, but imagine missing Spotted Dove on count day. We did have one reported for the count week period. Not too many years ago, this species was *common* in most residential areas. When one thinks of Pasadena area birding, the many parrots and parakeets that now reside here often come to mind.

This year we had Red-crowned Parrots (558), Lilac-crowned Parrots (2), Yellow-headed Parrots (2), Yellow-chevroned Parakeets (97) and Mitred Parakeets (100). Though none of these species occur here naturally, it's undeniable that they continue to be successful in the San Gabriel Valley.

In addition to about a dozen Great Horned Owls, four Western Screech-Owls were found this year in the foothill canyons. Another good find was a Northern Pygmy-Owl in Big Santa Anita Canyon.

It was a good year for woodpeckers. In addition to all the usual suspects, Mt. Wilson produced a male Williamson's Sapsucker and several Hairy Woodpeckers. Both Mt. Wilson and Henninger Flat reported White-headed Woodpeckers. There were two Red-breasted Sapsuckers on the count, but none of the scarcer Red-naped.

Flycatchers of note included both a Pacific-slope and a Hammond's/Dusky at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino and a Gray Flycatcher at Peck Pit in Arcadia. Another Gray Flycatcher has been at Oak Grove Park/Hahamongna, but was missed on count day.

Wintering populations of Loggerhead Shrikes on the coastal plain continue at low numbers following a precipitous decline over the last two decades. Only two birds were reported this year on the Pasadena count. That's well down from counts averaging ten birds within the last decade. A single Plumbeous Vireo turned up at Resurrection Cemetery in Monterey Park this year. This species has been regular on the count for the last decade. Two Red-whiskered Bulbuls were also found at the cemetery and two more were in Montebello.

Four Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen along the San Gabriel River. These swallows are rare in our area in winter, but have been regular on the count (though not quite annual) over the past 15 years.

With widespread reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the lowlands this year, it's surprising that only one was seen on the count. Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were a nice find at Henninger Flat as this species is unusual on the count. A pair of California Gnatcatchers in the Montebello Hills was another highlight.

A few remnant populations persist in our inland valleys where patches of habitat still survive.

There weren't many warblers of note, with four Black-throated Gray and two Wilson's the most interesting (though expected) ones encountered. Three Mountain Bluebirds at Santa Fe Dam were unusual, but were at a location where this species has been recorded on the count before.

A single Western Tanager was less than expected, though this species does seem to be declining as a wintering bird in the count circle. In the past, small numbers have been recorded at both the Arboretum and the Huntington. Seven Western Tanagers were recorded as recently as 1998.

Two Savannah Sparrows on the entire count shows how dependent they are on the availability of open grassy habitat and also that they're easily overlooked. A single Fox Sparrow was recorded at Mt. Wilson. There must be many of these birds present but locating them is problematic. Thirty-nine Fox Sparrows were counted in 2002, so actual numbers probably fluctuate as well. A good find at Eaton Canyon was a White-throated Sparrow near the Nature Center. This is probably the same bird that wintered there last year.

The 155 Great-tailed Grackles found on count day were certainly difficult to overlook. This species is at the opposite end of the scale from "secretive". This is the highest count by far since 1999.

Pine Siskins and Purple Finches were in somewhat low numbers with 20 and 34 recorded, respectively. Numbers fluctuate widely from year to year with recent counts ranging from less than five to well over one hundred for both species.

Notable misses were two exotics: Red Bishop and Nutmeg Mannikin. Though not as conspicuous in winter as they are in spring and summer, there are usually a few lurking around favored grassy areas in our local flood control basins.

This was a very satisfying count. We found a few rarities and surprises, and we also had a great turnout of counters in the field and at the post count dinner. It's always an exciting day, but over all too quickly. A big thanks to everyone who participated and gathered all the data – it couldn't happen without your hard work. Be sure to mark your calendar for the next count – December 17, 2005.

If you're interested in the current and past count results, go to [HTTP://WWW.AUDUBON.ORG/BIRD/CBC/](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/) and have a look. Our count code is CAPS. The data goes back nearly 60 years now.

Jon L Fisher



Where To Bird

The weekend of January 29th was the annual Pasadena Audubon Salton Sea trip led by Ron Cyger. We had a wonderful time with over 100 species. Unfortunately, not everyone got a chance to go on this trip and they really missed out.

My recommendation – go anyway! Regardless of your ability, the Salton Sea is a guaranteed blast at any time of year. All you need is an Imperial County map (available at AAA), binoculars, a scope (recommended), and water (gallons if it's summer). When I go there on my own, I usually start at dawn at the Wister Unit off Rt. 111 north of Niland. I bird the nature trail for songbirds, then drive south along Davis Road periodically checking the marshy impoundments on both sides of the street. Several roads also access the Sea to the west and provide great lookouts into more marshland. From the end of Davis I like to stay as close to the sea as possible (depending on the available roads) and work my way to Obsidian Butte. Spots along the Sea are reliable for the summer specialties and loads of waterfowl in winter.

After that, a trip to the Finney/Ramer Lake complex is often rewarding. And, of course, don't forget about the agricultural fields that cover the Imperial Valley. Many birds work these fields and you could easily bump into a flock of several hundred ibis or Long-billed Curlew. Obviously, I've left a lot out, but this is a good start for any time of year. The Salton Sea has so much to offer a birder it would take a week straight of dawn-til-dusk birding just to scratch the surface.

Jon Feenstra

Pasadena Audubon Bird Jamboree

The ordeal of hatching an idea...

Plans are underway for a bird festival, but just barely. The proposed Pasadena Bird Jamboree (PBJ) is penciled in for Saturday, November 5, 2005 (lectures & fair) & Sunday, November 6 (field trips).

Mickey Long, venerated director of the ECNC (Eaton Canyon Nature Center), proposed that Pasadena Audubon sponsor a bird festival at the ECNC. He felt the site was ideal to do a fund-raiser to promote birding – an educational fair about birds. When I heard the idea mentioned at a PAS Board Meeting, I thought of bird festivals that I have seen promoted in various magazines. I had never been to a bird festival and although I didn't know it at the time, neither had Mickey. I volunteered to look into the idea for the Board. I decided to start with a survey on the PAS email group mailings (Yahoo!Groups).

"Pasadena Audubon is looking into doing a bird festival in cooperation

Field Trip Reports



Photos by Ron Cyger



Photo by Jon Feenstra

Salton Sea

January 29 – 30, 2005.

What a way to start the year! We drove out of Brawley at dawn and headed up the Salton Sink to the Wister Unit where we picked up three American Redstarts along with eight species of duck, many waders and even a woodpecker. Heading south we singled out our first of seven Peregrine Falcons for the weekend. We also had a Lesser Yellowlegs, plovers, and kestrels.

Near the SBSSNWRHQ (Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters) we spotted a flamingo! There are actually seven at the sea of two different species. This was probably a Chilean. We had hundreds of Snow Geese and about six Ross's Geese along with three blue-phase Snows.

with the Eaton Canyon Nature Center – they offer birding and nature workshops/talks, birding field trips, and food. They also offer birding and nature products vendors a place to display and sell their wares. I would like to survey what the members feel about this idea."

The idea got a half dozen positive responses. In one reply, Jane Strong questioned the idea, asking "What rare birds does this area have to offer?" After getting rebuttals to this, Jane concluded, "I can see it now, Birding from Condors to Calliopes, the largest North American bird to the smallest. Or Parrots to Spotted Doves, the loudest to the softest."

This resulted in a declaration that we were going to have a bird festival. At the November 2004 Board Meeting a motion was carried that a festival committee would be created. A separate email group, PasadenaBirdFest, was created on Yahoo! Groups to facilitate discussion of the festival without clogging the regular bird line. I arranged with Mickey for the meetings to be scheduled the first Tuesday of the month at ECNC. On December 4, I

In Calipatria we picked up five species of dove (Common Ground, Ruddy Ground, Mourning, Inca, and Eurasian Collared). After stopping for a Lapland Longspur, we rushed over to watch the sunset at the southern tip of the sea. At dinner that night we identified four kinds of *cerveza*.

The next morning Jon's great ID skills helped us identify a Laughing Gull and we had a brief glimpse of a Bank Swallow along with four other species of swallow. We picked up a Caspian Tern on a bathroom break, and then headed up to Finney Lake where Michael's hawk-eye found a Lesser Nighthawk for us. All totaled we counted 112 different species for the trip. What a great way to start our year lists!

Ron Cyger

was disappointed when only five people, including myself and Mickey, met for the first meeting. Ron Cyger was encouraging, saying for a volunteer group this was a good showing; we may have to have a scaled-down version of the festival; it would be a learning experience. We decided on the dates of the festival and put together a skeleton schedule. But we knew we needed more support from the rest of the group to be successful. At the second meeting, the same five people assembled and expanded the program. It was decided that an email appeal would be made to the group as a whole and if more people did not volunteer to assist with the festival by the next meeting that it should be declared dead in the water. On January 18, Ron reported the entire PAS Board volunteered for the jamboree and Jon Feenstra agreed to coordinate any field trips. It looks like were still moving but to paraphrase Hillary Clinton, "It takes a village to raise a festival."

Brian Tomikawa
(323) 223-7787

Field Trips

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, March 5, 2005

Saturday, April 2, 2005

Saturday, May 7, 2005

8:00 am – noon

This is monthly bird walk is for birders of all ages and experience. A good variety of birds should be in residence.

Exit the northbound 210 Freeway at Berkshire and make a right, then a left at the light. The park entrance is on the right at the next stop light. Take the first left after entering Hahamongna Watershed Park and park by the ballfield.

Ron Cyger

Piute Ponds/Antelope Valley

Saturday, March 19, 2005

8:00 am – noon

The Piute Ponds are an extensive marshland isolated in the western Mojave Desert. Waterfowl, waders, and other marsh birds are present here in staggering numbers every winter. In addition, a target bird on this trip will be LeConte's Thrasher, a shy and local resident of the Antelope Valley.

We'll begin by searching for this bird in the open brush land near Palmdale before heading north to the Piute Ponds. We may also likely spend some time at Apollo Park to look for early migrating song birds.

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

Jon Feenstra

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Sunday, April 17, 2005

Sunday, May 15, 2005

8:00 am – noon

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

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

Hill Penfold

Huntington Library

Birdwalks (PAS Members only)

Sunday, March 27, 2005

Sunday, April 24, 2005

Sunday, May 22, 2005

8:00 am – 11:00 am

A new bonus for Pasadena Audubon Society members is the chance to sign up for

birdwalks on the beautiful Huntington Library grounds. Your membership is current, isn't it? If not see the Application Form on Page 7 or on our website.

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

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

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

Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

Red Box Bird Hike

Note: Change in Location

April 9, 2005

7:30 am – noon

This is a four-hour hike down to the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. We should see lots of activity as the birds stake out territory and attract mates. This area has confirmed nesting for hummingbirds, flycatchers, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches, gnatcatchers, bluebirds, and grosbeaks, to name a few.

Meet at the Red Box parking lot. Directions: Take Angeles Crest North from La Canada about eight miles to the intersection with the road leading to Mt. Wilson. This intersection is Red Box (look for the red box on the right). Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring plenty of water, bug repellent and sun screen. Use of the Adventure Pass is up to you.

Ron Cyger

Hansen Dam

Saturday, April 23, 2005

7:30 am – 1:00 pm

The Hansen Dam area contains a wide variety of great birding habitats, including one of the largest and best lowland riparian areas in Los Angeles County. Specialty birds include breeding Blue Grosbeaks, Bell's Vireos, and Yellow-breasted Chats. The lake attracts many kinds of water and marsh birds. In late spring, the willow forest can often be flooded with migrating warblers and other species.

To reach the Hansen Dam area, exit 210 (Foothill) Freeway at Osborne Street in Lake View Terrace. At the end of the off ramp turn west on Foothill Blvd. Go about 100 yards and turn left into the Hansen Dam Sports Center parking lot. We'll be walking a fair distance, however, it's all flat and easy. Bring water and snacks.

Ed Stonick

Owling San Gabriel Mountains

Saturday, May 14, 2005

6:00 pm – midnight

Six species of owls breed in the San Gabriel Mountains. This trip will start in the early evening at Buckhorn Campground, where we'll look for diurnal montane species and Northern Pygmy Owl while it's light, and then look for Flammulated, Northern Saw-whet, Western Screech, and Great Horned Owls after it gets dark. Common Poorwill is also possible, and if we're cosmically lucky, we may find a Spotted Owl.

Take the Angeles Crest Highway (California route 2) east from 210 in La Cañada for about one hour to the large turnout at the Buckhorn campground exit (about one mile east of the entrance), where we'll meet at 6:00 pm. Limited to 15 people. Please email or call Lance to reserve a spot.

Lance Benner

Big Morongo Wildlife Preserve

Saturday, May 21, 2005

7:30 am – early afternoon

We'll be searching for breeding desert and oasis birds such as Brown-crested and Vermilion Flycatchers, Summer Tanager, Scott's and Hooded Orioles, Yellow-breasted Chat and probable migrating Empidonax flycatchers.

Take the 10 Fwy. east about 17 miles past Banning to Hwy. 62 N. Pass through the town of Morongo Valley, take a right on East Dr., then a left into the preserve. Bring lunch, water and sun block. Desert Hot Springs offers the nearest accommodations. Meet in the parking lot.

Nick & Mary Freeman

Magpie Bird Study Group



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

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Debs Park

Meet in the parking lot of Audubon Center at Debs Park, 4700 North Griffin Ave., Los Angeles.

Tuesday, April 18, 2005

Rancho Santa Ana

Meet in the parking lot, 1500 North College Ave., Claremont.

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

Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by April 2nd

March 2005

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

April 2005

2	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
9	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Red Box Bird Hike (New Location)	Ron Cyger
14	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasa Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
17	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Rancho Santa Ana	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
20	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Owls of LA County
23	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hansen Dam	Ed Stonick
24	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis
30	Sat	All Day	Field Trip	BIRDATHON	<i>See page 7 for details</i>

May 2005

1	Sun	All Day	Field Trip	BIRDATHON	<i>See page 7 for details</i>
7	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
7/8	S/S	All Day	Field Trip	BIRDATHON	<i>See page 7 for details</i>
12	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
14	Sat	6:00 pm	Field Trip	Owling the San Gabriel Mountains	Lance Benner
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Arcadia Arboretum	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
18	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: The Chicken Genome
21	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Big Morongo	Nick & Mary Freeman
22	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Dan Lewis & Elaine MacPherson

Mark Your Calendar June 25, 2005 PAS Annual Dinner

***Trip Leader Information**

John Feenstra (Chair)	(626) 792-4346	FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU
Larry Allen	(323) 221-2022	LARRYALLEN@EARLYMUSICLA.ORG
Lance Benner	(626) 791-1187	LBENNER@CHARTER.NET
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625 (<i>before 9 pm</i>)	RON@CYGER.ORG (<i>preferred</i>)
Josh Engel	(909) 990-9203	JENGEL5230@YAHOO.COM
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Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	
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Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	MADEBILL@EARTHLINK.NET

Pasadena Audubon Society
BIRDATHON 2005

You have a choice to bird one of these days:

Saturday, April 30, Sunday, May 1, Saturday, May 7, or Sunday, May 9, 2005

Pasadena Audubon Society has two fundraising drives a year, the *BIRDATHON* in Spring and the Appeal in the Winter. The appeal is directed towards you as members of PAS, but *BIRDATHON* is geared towards others. *BIRDATHON* gives every member a chance to help non-birders become aware of birds and habitat. When they read about *BIRDATHON* in the paper or see it on the news, they can say "I supported." So, please, participate! Collect pledges (lots of small amounts work just as well as a few large pledges – that's our top money-producer John Garrett's strategy) and allow everyone to help PAS. Start getting your pledges now and after the *BIRDATHON*, give each of your sponsors a list of your total species. They'll love it and love the fact that they contributed to *BIRDATHON*'s success!

Turn in the form with pledge money you collect, along with your species list

BY JUNE 1, 2005 to:

Pasadena Audubon Society **BIRDATHON 2005**

c/o Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107

Results will be announced at the Annual Dinner on June 25

Name: _____	Species _____
Street Address: _____	Count: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone, Day: _____ Night: _____	Total \$ _____
Chapter: _____ Pasadena Audubon Society	

Please print clearly – Make checks payable to: PASADENA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Sponsor's Name	Address	Phone Number	Pledge Per Species	Gift	Corporate Match?	Paid
TOTALS						

Become A Chapter Member of Pasadena Audubon Society

The National Audubon Society will soon eliminate the share of NAS membership dues returned to local chapters. The chapters have been encouraged to offer Chapter Only memberships.

Please fill out the application below. A PAS membership of \$35 or more, entitles you to a Pasadena Audubon Society tee shirt and pin. You can pick them up at any of our general meetings!

Pasadena Audubon Society is a 501 (c) (3) corporation, which entitles you to deduct your contributions on your federal and state tax returns.

Membership Application

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Donor's address for gift membership:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Yearly Membership for Individual or Family

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

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

\$15 Senior/Full-time Student

Donation _____

Make checks payable and mail to:

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

Kid's Corner

Editor: John and his family went birding in England. Here's part 2 of his report.

Titchwell Marsh

Apparently, the commonest shorebirds at Titchwell were Dunlins and Curlew Sandpipers, but unfortunately, I didn't know the differences between them. Luckily, a young twitcher named Martin (the Jon Feenstra of Titchwell) helped us. He told us that the Dunlins were the smaller, browner, and more spotted ones, while the Curlew Sandpipers were the larger, smoother-looking ones, with a very light tinge of yellow-pink, and a slightly longer bill. This information was very helpful to us.

Martin helped in other ways, too. When someone found a Little Stint, his description made it incredibly easy to spot amongst the Dunlins. Then, some birders

identified some godwits as Bar-tailed. But when they left, Martin approached us and said, "Now let me tell you what those *really* were." He said that Bar-tailed Godwits normally stay much closer to the ocean than these individuals, so therefore, these must be Black-tailed Godwits.

We thanked Martin, said farewell, and went off to the next hide, where we saw more good birds, including an Egyptian Goose (an exotic in England, too), a gigantic flock of Eurasian Oystercatchers, some Pied Avocets, several Black-headed Gulls, and of course, Dunlins and Curlew Sandpipers. But the very best bird we saw at Titchwell was *the* Black-winged Stilt. Ever since August 1993, a Black-winged Stilt named Sammy has been a well-known resident at Titchwell Marsh. According to the people at the Nature Center, over 750,000 people have seen him, and Sammy

even gets Christmas cards!

Soon Martin came along, and after twitching awhile together, we had seen several Common Redshanks, Common Ringed Plovers and a Ruddy Turnstone. We then left the hide and headed towards the beach. On our way, we saw plenty of interesting animals, including my first wild eels (the gulls adore them), a Common Greenshank, and, as we were closer to the sea, a Bar-tailed Godwit. On the seashore, we saw two of the astonishingly huge Great Black-backed Gulls. That was wonderful, as was the mini-raft of Common Eider that Martin spotted swimming halfway out to the horizon.

That was a fantastic day for the five of us. I got 31 lifebirds in one day, but we couldn't have seen and identified nearly as many birds as we did if it weren't

John F. Garrett

New Members

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

ALHAMBRA: Dolores Bravo, C. Jones, Virginia Rockenbach; **ALTADENA:** Carol Kinat, Guy & Rhonni Hallman, Betsy Rotunno, Claudia Schmitt, John Zoraster; **ARCADIA:** Douglas Bowers, Pauline Eilau, Jeane Kelley; **AZUSA:** Michael Seibert, Betty Thomas; **LA CANADA:** John Angier, Sonna Bell, Gaylin Schultz; **LA CRESCENTA:** Kimberly Toal; **LOS ANGELES:** Romaine Ahlstrom, Mary Goldman; **MONROVIA:** Sanders family,

James Slawson, Jane Tawel, Candice Vinci; **MONTEREY PARK:** Jane Cost, Bethel & Charles Webster; **PASADENA:** Anna Arnheim, Salwa Barsoum, Anne Caiger, Sharon Calkin, Nancy Cross, Elizabeth Currer, Tom, Esch, Juanita Fagg, the Hadley family, Sandra Jorczak, Richard Joslyn, Sanderina Kaptejn, Diana Koenigsberg, Cynthia Kurtz, Rebecca Kuzins, Vikki Mumford, Bill Myers, Dennis Puckett, E.J. Remson, Flora Rosenthal, Ralph Setian, Stanley Sheinkopf, Doug Smith, Kathleen Smith, Palani-Nidhi Velusamy, David Waller; **ROSEMead:** Alice Kaneshiro, N.B. Smith; **SAN GABRIEL:** Tony Mendoza; **SAN MARINO:** Ruthie Butz, Elizabeth

Hutter, Miller; **SANTA MONICA:** Patricia Cross; **SIERRA MADRE:** Karen Brumer, Kathy Foresta, Mark & Janet Scheel; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Mary Le Beau, Louis Laudermilk, Betty Cole & Art Mack, Arleen Murray; **COEUR D'ALENE, ID:** Zella Bloxom.

PAS on the WEB

Website

[HTTP://WWW.PASADENAAUDUBON.ORG](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)

ListServe

[HTTP://GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/PASADENAAUDUBON/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PASADENAAUDUBON/)

Pasadena Audubon Society Board

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Treasurer	Will Fulmer	(626) 798-1606

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Eileen Burton, Mark Hunter, Dan Lewis

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Pasadena Audubon Society

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