



Drawing by  
Guy Coheleach

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Founded 1904

**Pasadena Audubon Society**  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 53 – No. 3

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

May-June 2005

## 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.

#### General Meetings held at:

**Eaton Canyon Nature Center**

**1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena**

7:00 pm Social

7:30 pm Program

## June Program



## Annual Dinner

**Saturday, June 25, 2005**

**6:00 – 10:00 pm**

**Eaton Canyon Nature  
Center**

**Dinner Catered by  
Luciano's**

**Live Entertainment  
Silent Auction  
Election Results**

**See Page 5 for Details**

## September Program

### ID Challenges

Mickey Long & Jon Fisher

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

What was that drab yellowish warbler? Was that greenish bird a kinglet or a Hutton's Vireo? With fall migration well under way, what better time to take a closer look at some ID challenges? Many birds are now in their drab fall or winter plumage. When you add the influx of migrants, birding takes on a new dimension. Beyond this, there are species that can pose identification problems throughout the year.

There's no substitute for repeated study to make identifying birds easier, be it in the field, through books, or at workshops. To that end, we're going to tackle ID problems from the relatively simple to the fairly difficult. The birds will be an assortment of different species. Mickey and Jon will discuss field marks, voice, behavior, habitat, distribution and abundance as aids to identification.

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## President's Perch

Another season draws to an end. The rains have finally stopped and migrants have arrived. Where has Pasadena Audubon been the last year? Well, we traveled in search of birds locally, to neighboring counties and states; we have seen programs on raptors, deserts, and invasive species. Programs have taken us to Alaska and the Salton Sea. We learned why Important Bird Areas are important and this month we'll explore the chicken genome and its significance to birders.

In addition to these regular activities, PAS is currently sponsoring grade-school classes to spend the day at the Audubon Debs Park Center. This gives many children a chance to become familiar with nature and its impact on us. We also still

have a couple of projects in development including the installation of an interpretive trail at the Cobb Estate and the Pasadena BirdFest.

All these things are possible only with your support. Not just monetarily, but by your caring and effort. Caring by realizing the beauty of, and threat to, habitats around us and showing a willingness to do something about it; effort by participating in these projects.

Thank you for supporting PAS.

## Conservation

### Salton Sea Update

The planning for the restoration of the Salton Sea continues on several fronts. Even as I write this brief update, some element will change. The best way to stay up on the issue is to regularly visit the Salton Sea Authority website at [HTTP://WWW.SALTONSEA.CA.GOV/](http://www.saltonsea.ca.gov/).

For the time being, the plan is to reduce the size of the sea by diking off an area in the south end of the sea (*see map*), create wetlands to clean up the flows from the Alamo and New Rivers into the south end of the sea and the White River at the north end. The large island in the southern portion of the sea will become a salt sink, allowing the remaining portion of the Salton Sea to remain less salty. The inflows from the Alamo and New Rivers will flow on either side of this salt sink island toward the north end of the sea. These shoreline flow areas will be a mile or so wide.

The issues facing the Authority are monumental. Some of the key issues are political. The State role overpowers the local authority. The SSA is currently lobbying for the Local Restoration Plan, arguing that local people know what's best. They contend that the State is too far removed and more subject to efforts to let the sea die.

The economics of making the plan work are significant. To finance the current plan the SSA proposes significant developments: 40,000 new houses along with supporting businesses, resorts and casinos in the area surrounding the north shore of the sea.

The Salton Sea Coalition, consisting of major environmental groups, including Audubon, continue to be part of the planning process and advocate for habitat. All agree that a smaller sea with greater incursion of developments is a major problem for habitat. Stay tuned, say involved.

Don Rogers



### Economic Benefits of Nature Highlighted

Economists are increasingly focusing on the economic benefits that the natural world provides, and reveal that the benefits of preservation and conservation frequently outweigh the profits from short-term resource extraction (oil, gas, lumber and others) or conversion (from wetlands or forests). Two recent stories, one in *Outside* magazine, see [HTTP://DENLINES.ORG/033005/5A.HTML](http://DENLINES.ORG/033005/5A.HTML), and the other in the *Chicago Sun-Times* have highlighted this research. As *Auduboners* we must continue to work to promote the total economic value of wildlife and habitat conservation and link that value to incentives for private landowners and others to work towards protecting species.

### Join President Carter to Commemorate a Landmark Conservation Act

President Jimmy Carter will join others for a major celebration for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. The celebration, July 6/7 in Anchorage, commemorates the act, signed in 1980 by President Carter, protecting more than 100 million acres of federal land in Alaska – doubling the amount of the nation's national park and refuge system and tripling the amount of land designated as wilderness. Visit the web site of the Alaska Conservation Foundation, see [HTTP://DENLINES.ORG/033005/7.HTML](http://DENLINES.ORG/033005/7.HTML), to learn more and register for the event.

### Mystic Lake Reappears, Attracts Birds

Every few years after a lot of rain, Mystic Lake, one of the last large ephemeral water bodies in California, reappears in the San Jacinto Valley in Riverside County. The lake has made another appearance this year, filling 3,000 acres of what was once a dusty salt flat with 5 feet of water, and attracting thousands of waterfowl, raptors and other birds. (for the full story see [HTTP://DENLINES.ORG/033005/CA1.HTML](http://DENLINES.ORG/033005/CA1.HTML))

Also see *Field Trip Report for Lake Perris* on page 7.

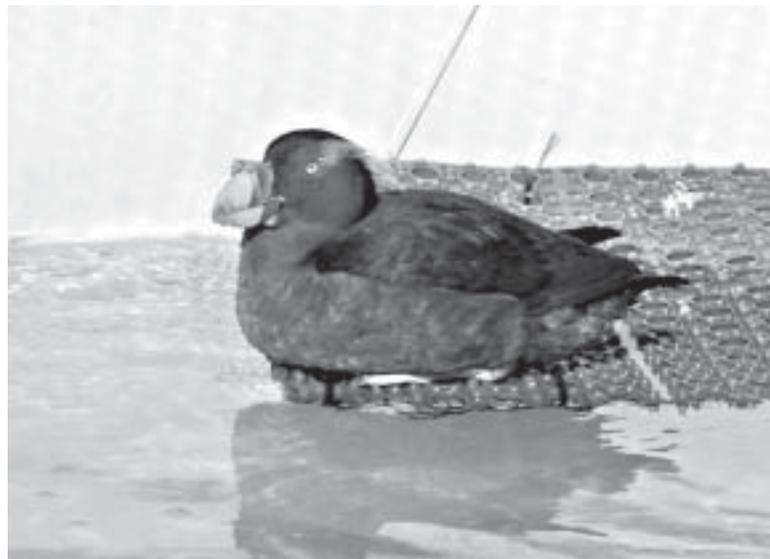
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## International Bird Rescue Research Center

I recently visited the International Bird Rescue Research Center in San Pedro. IBRRC exists because by law oil companies must be well prepared to treat wildlife injured by oil spills. Susan Kaveggia, a volunteer, guided me around the center, which is not open to the public (but we are working on a PAS field trip to IBRRC in the future). It's a fascinating place.

I was a few days too late to see the Laysan Albatross that had recuperated there after being found by a longshoreman on a Korean cargo ship docked in L.A. Amazingly, it was one of the small fraction of albatrosses that are banded, in this case on Midway Island many years earlier. But I did see the Tufted Puffin that was brought in by the crew of an Alaskan oil tanker. Also present were Clark's and Western Grebes, Rhinoceros Auklet, California Gull, Western Gull, Surf Scoter, Red-Breasted Merganser, American White Pelican, and Brown Pelican.

The grebes and a few other birds were victims of the recent mystery oil incidents in the Channel Islands area. But IBRRC treats all kinds of pelagic bird injuries. Many birds in the early stages of treatment must stay in cages in very warm rooms, and need special padding to



Tufted Puffin

photo by Mark Hunter

prevent keel lesions where their breasts would otherwise rub against the cage floor. Later they move to small recovery pools outdoors. Last summer's Brown Pelicans crashing into mirages on Arizona asphalt were treated here; IBRRC has a huge pool/aviary over 90 feet long that allows pelicans to practice short flights. Their flying abilities help the staff assess when to release the birds.

The most unusual injury I saw was a horrifying wound in the center of a Brown

Pelican's breast. Susan told me that it's a regular occurrence when pelicans and sea lions are both feeding in a frenzied manner on baitfish near the surface. A pelican and sea lion will collide and the pelican will suffer a massive accidental bite. Amazingly they often recover. IBRRC showed me much that I had never even imagined about the art and science of treating injured birds.

*Mark Hunter*

## A Few Days With the Birds on Victoria Island, British Columbia

I recently attended the annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History's annual meeting in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, in early April. While there, I of course took time to see what local fauna might wander into focus through my binoculars. On a warm, sunny Friday morning (a rarity in Canada in April!) I took a trip around town. Among

the birds spotted was the Sky Lark, a species that's almost impossible to see anywhere else in North America (unless you're in Alaska's Pribilof Islands, where their presence is more unpredictable – and it's way colder!). Sky Larks are abundant near the airport in Victoria and have a beautiful liquid song, darting and dancing over the fields.

Also seen at a small park in Victoria were the Eurasian Wigeon, with several distinct examples nestled in amongst their cousin the American Wigeon; a Brown Creeper;

and others. A trip to the beach turned up some wonderful sights - a Pelagic Cormorant resting on the rocks, a trio of Black Oystercatchers, and a pair of Black Turnstones right on the water's edge. The Northwestern Crow was also very common in and around Victoria, as were Bald Eagles and Great Blue Herons. If you're ever up in Vancouver, take a trip to Victoria. It's a beautiful place, with great food, lovely buildings, friendly Canadian folk, and great birds!

*Dan Lewis*

## BirdFest Update

### The San Gabriel Valley, a Land of Surprising Diversity

Kimball Garrett and Jon Fisher will speak on birding in the San Gabriel Valley at the morning session of BirdFest 2005, Pasadena Audubon's first bird festival, November 5 and 6 at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Kimball will discuss the changing face of bird life in the recent history of the Valley. Jon will describe birding "hotspots" in Pasadena and the Valley. Field trips on Sunday, November 6, will feature the Valley and its environs, including the diverse ecosystems of mountains, foothills, valley, lakes and

streams led by PAS's intrepid field trip leaders.

Trying to decide which afternoon workshop sessions to attend will be the biggest decision for BirdFest attendees, with a lineup of topics which include: Birding by Ear, Owls and Owl Pellets, Introduction to Butterflies, Creating a Native Plant Bird Garden, Parrots of the San Gabriel Valley, Feathers, Plant Identification for Birders, Rare Bird Reporting, and more. Specialized field trips will follow up the sessions on Birding by Ear, Parrots, and Owling. Space will be limited so sign up early.

BirdFest will offer something for all levels of birders, from beginner to advanced; beginning bird walks will be

conducted on Saturday.

In addition to the workshops, we will have a vendor fair for optics and other birding needs, used book sale, nature fair and educational exhibits.

All of this will not happen by itself. We need **YOU** to make it a reality. It takes a village to raise a bird festival. We need volunteers. Sign up on the Yahoo! Group: [HTTP://GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/PASADENABIRDFEST/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pasadenabirdfest/). Attend the organizing committee meetings: next one to be announced – usually the first Monday or Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm at Eaton Canyon Nature Center – and/or call Brian Tomikawa (Festival organizing committee chairperson) at 323-223-7787.

## My Big Year – A Summary The Salton Sea with Ron Cyger and the PAS

*Note: In January, 2004, Walter Lamb started on an odyssey – he completed a “Big Year” in birding by birding North America (ABA Area). He joined PAS after meeting a group of members birding at the Salton Sea. Following is a summary of part of his year.*

When my wife and I moved to California in the fall of 2001, I didn't know the difference between a House Sparrow and a House Finch. I was amazed by the birds I saw along the Ballona Creek Bike Path — Great Blue Herons, Belted Kingfishers, Black-necked Stilts – and I became intent on seeing all of the other birds in my field guide sooner than later. Two years later, I decided to quit my job and spend an entire year looking at birds across the entire continent. A small but symbolic leg of that journey was the Pasadena Audubon Society's Salton Sea Trip in January 2004.

My year had just hit a speed bump in Northern California. Despite notching my first ever Albatross of any kind (the annual wintering Laysan at Pt. Arena), I missed most of my target birds. As I debated whether to return for a field trip led by distinguished birder Rich Stallcup or to join the LA Audubon Society's trip to the Salton Sea, it never occurred to me that both trips might be full. Fortunately, I noticed at the last minute that PAS also had a Salton Sea trip that same weekend. Too late to get in touch with leader Ron Cyger, I took a chance and drove out into the desert hoping his group would have room for me.

Before sunrise, large gaggles of birders began congregating in the parking lot of the Brawley Inn where Ron anxiously surveyed our large group. I explained that I had crashed the party and was prepared to bird on my own if necessary, but Ron treated me like an expected guest. He gave a quick speech, stressing that cooperation was necessary for the trip to be successful with so many people. We all nodded our assurances, but I could see the doubt in Ron's eyes.

After being strongly encouraged to carpool, Betty Fletcher kindly invited me to ride with her and we headed off to the Wister Unit. Just parking and filling out the self-pay envelopes was a time-consuming affair. Finally we made our way, single-file, into the unit. Ron soon called out “Common Ground Doves” as a pair of birds flushed in front of us. This would have been a life bird for me, but I missed them from the back of the line. How was I ever going to see anything behind this many people? Would I ever get a second

chance at Common Ground Doves? I found myself resenting this huge gaggle of birders before I remembered that I was the one who had showed up uninvited and unannounced. I told myself to stop pouting and to focus on what I did see, not what I didn't. It was something I needed to remind myself of



Reddish Egret

photo by Walter Lamb

throughout the year.

Within a few steps of the doves, someone spotted an American Redstart, and this time we all got excellent looks. I was surprised to see a bird that I associated with eastern woodlands flitting around in the desert heat. New 2004 birds started accumulating quickly. Black-tailed Gnatcatcher and Abert's Towhee made quick appearances and Ron pointed out an immature Yellow-headed Blackbird that had only the slightest yellow patch on its throat. I looked forward to seeing the more brightly colored adults.

We birded all of the usual Salton Sea hotspots: the prison, where a Burrowing Owl exposed only of the top of his head; the headquarters, where we ate lunch and observed Snow and Ross's Geese; and the “Ruddy Ground Dove Pens” on Eddins Road, where we were stood up by the main attraction. Bathroom stops were quite time consuming, with our line being so long that by the time we were finally ready to get back on the road, many of us had to get back in line again.

That evening, Mark and Janet Scheel and I wandered down the alley behind the Inn where Ron said we might find a Great Horned Owl. Ron soon joined us, and sure enough, an owl started returning his calls from one of the palm trees. Soon we saw it silhouetted against the darkening night sky. It was only the second owl I had ever seen in the wild and my first of the year, giving me some confidence that I might find my share of these nocturnal phantoms in the months to come.

That night, we gathered at the Town Pump Steakhouse, giving us a chance to relax after a day of full-throttle birding and providing an opportunity for me to learn about some of my new acquaintan-

ces. Ron explained that Pasadena Audubon didn't charge for its field trips and relied solely on member dues. Then he asked “Are you a member?” All eyes were on me, and I suddenly felt I was being asked by a gangster and his henchman whether I had paid my protection money. I assured Ron I would become a member as soon as I got home, and I was allowed to finish my dinner with unbroken fingers.

Day 2 of the trip began with a failed search for an Anhinga at Fig Lagoon. However, there were plenty of swallows, a Greater White-fronted Goose, and Cattle Egrets in the adjacent field earned their name by riding on the backs of grazing cows. In missing the Anhinga, I did manage to learn more about Double-crested Cormorants, since poor Ron repeatedly had to respond to excited shouts of “Is that it?” with a patient “No, that's another Cormorant.”

Returning to Brawley several of us were treated to a Burrowing Owl on a street curb in El Centro that truly looked like it was waiting for the bus. Searching in vain for a Zone-tailed Hawk in Cattle Call Park, we did find a Vermillion Flycatcher (a female which I first misidentified as a Say's Phoebe) and a Gray Flycatcher before breaking for lunch. Back at the Inn, we said our final goodbyes and I jumped into the bathroom before the long drive back. I expected everyone to have left when I came out, but instead found much of the group still in the parking lot with their binoculars pointed straight up. “What do you have?” I inquired? “Zone-tailed Hawk!” came the response. I looked up to see an exact replica of a Turkey Vulture with a white band on its tail and a yellowish bill in place of a red head. I was doubly lucky that the bird chose to fly straight over the Inn parking lot and also that I came out when I did.

Feeling lucky, the Scheel's and I tried again for the Ruddy Ground-Doves, and when that failed, we sought out a Yellow-footed Gull at Obsidian Butte but were rewarded instead with a beautiful Reddish Egret spotted by Janet. As they moved on, I stayed to photograph this life bird. Soon I was joined by a couple with a gigantic Orion telescope which was ideal for digiscoping. We were in turn joined by a man who claimed to have driven 500 miles to see this bird and was thrilled that we had it in the scope. I was stunned when he leaned over to the eye piece, casually said “Yep, there she is” and got back in his car and was on his way. Throughout the year, I spent a great deal of time studying the amazing birds that I saw, new and old, and I hoped that wouldn't change.

I left the Salton Sea with 24 new year

(see *Big Year*, page 9)



photo by Donald G. Rogers

## Let's Do It Again! – A Big Year and Big Night Out

The Annual Dinner of the Pasadena Audubon Society happens **June 25th, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm, at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center**. Last year's dinner was a sellout. Make sure that you don't miss this one!

This year's featured speaker is our own Jon Feenstra, who will be accepting a unique award commemorating his record number of species for a Big Year in Los Angeles County. Come hear Jon's tales of the ordinary and the extraordinary as he doggedly pursued the new record. And browse the silent auction offering great merchandise, services, and trips!

A plentiful buffet features Italian appetizers and entrees from Luciano's

- Lasagna
  - Pasta with vegetables
    - Eggplant parmigiana
      - Sausage with potatoes, onions and peppers
        - Green salad
          - Fresh bread
            - Coffee or tea
              - Special Dessert
                - No-host beverages

**Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$12.50 for kids. For reservations, specify the number of each and mail your check by June 20th to:**

**Pasadena Audubon Society  
1750 Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91007**

**For questions, contact  
Laura Garrett at [PURPLECOW@JPS.NET](mailto:PURPLECOW@JPS.NET) or (626) 564-1890.**

## Field Trips

### BIRDATHON

**Sunday, May 1 or Saturday, May 7 or Sunday, May 8, 2005 – All Day**

### Butterbredt Springs & Galileo Hills

**Saturday, May 7, 2005  
7:30 am – ?**

These are some of the best migrant traps in the state. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline, but herps have been known to take the cake. Take Hwy 14 past Mojave, continue N on Hwy 14 about 15 miles, then turn left on Jawbone Canyon Road. Meet at the ranger station by the highway. After Butterbredt Springs and Galileo, we will consider other options, as time allows.

Over 2 hrs. driving time from LA, or stay at the Mojave Motel 6 or elsewhere. Lots of driving. Mandatory phone reservation - PAS members only! No drop-ins. 12 max. Bring lunch, sun block.  
*Nick and Mary Freeman.*

### 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*

### Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

**Sunday, May 15, 2005  
8:00 am – noon**

*Summer Start Time 7:00 am*

**Sunday, June 19, 2006**

**Sunday, July, 17, 2005**

**Sunday, August 21, 2005**

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*

### 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 No. 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*

### Huntington Library

**Birdwalks (PAS Members only)**

**Sunday, May 22, 2005**

**Sunday, June 26, 2005**

**Sunday, July 24, 2005**

**Sunday, August 28, 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 9 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*

### Mt. Piños and Environs

**Saturday, June 4, 2005**

**8:00 am – early afternoon**

Mt. Piños is one of the best places in Southern California to enjoy a wide variety of montane birds. Several species of warblers, thrushes, raptors, woodpeckers, flycatchers and finches are usually abundant and easy to find. Williamson's Sapsucker, Calliope Hummingbirds and

Hermit Warblers are target species. We will visit Irish Meadows and several other areas where the birding is usually reliable.

Take the Golden State Freeway (#5) north to the Frasier Park turnoff and continue west for about 5 miles to the small city park on your left. We will meet at the park at 8:00 am. Bring lunch and water.  
*Ron Cyger*

### Santa Barbara County

**Saturday, June 18, 2005**

**7:30 am – 4ish**

Beautiful Santa Barbara County offers beaches, mountains, and coastal lowlands, and has a list of over 470 species of birds. We will look for residents and breeding birds in coastal and inland locations such as Nojoqui Falls Park, Refugio Canyon, Guadalupe Beach Park, and Santa Barbara Harbor. Purple Martin, Yellow-billed Magpie, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee are possible. Bring water and a lunch, and FRS radios if you have them.

Meet at Stowe House in Lake Los Carneros County Park: From U.S. 101 in Goleta, take the Los Carneros Road exit and drive north 0.4 miles to the park entrance on the right next to the fire station. Parking is free in the lot behind the fire station.  
*Mark Scheel*

### Buckhorn Campground

**Saturday, July 9, 2005**

**8:00 am – ?**

Buckhorn Campground is a cool and inviting place in summer. Filled with beautiful stands of tall conifers, there is also some excellent mountain riparian habitat along the stream. There is always a good mix of montane species, including Cassin's and Purple Finches, Nashville and MacGillivray's Warblers, Green-tailed Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Dippers, up to six species of woodpeckers and more. (Flammulated and Spotted Owls have bred here.)

To reach Buckhorn Campground, drive north on the Angeles Crest Highway about 34 miles from La Cañada, ½ mile past beyond the Mt. Waterman ski area. Go through the campground to the hiker's parking area just beyond. There is no fee for this lot. Do not park in the campground. For those interested in camping, sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Owling can be good  
*Ed Stonick*

### Throop Peak

### Angeles National Forest

**Saturday, July 30, 2005**

**8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

At an elevation of 9,138 feet, Throop  
*(see Field Trips, page 7)*

**Field Trips** *(continued)*

Peak is one of the highest mountains in the San Gabriels. A moderate 4-1/2 mile hike to the top takes you through open forests of Jeffrey Pine, White Fir, and Lodgepole Pine near the top. This trip affords excellent views of the north slope high country and distant high desert as well as an opportunity to find high alpine breeding birds such as Williamson's and Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Dusky Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, Violet-green Swallow, all three nuthatches, Yellow-rumped and Wilson's Warblers, Purple and Cassin's Finches, and possible Red Crossbills or Townsend's Solitaires.

To reach the trailhead at Dawson Saddle (mile marker 69.5) drive north on the Angeles Crest Highway about 49 miles from La Cañada. Park in the large clearing north of the road. (It is no longer necessary to have a Forest Service Adventure Pass to park in such areas.)

*Ed Stonick*

**Piute Ponds/Antelope Valley**

**Saturday, August 6, 2005**

**8:00 am – noon**

The southern migration of arctic breeding shorebirds will be well underway and many of these species can be found at the Piute Ponds and other Antelope Valley hot spots. The birds heading south at this time are mostly adults in worn breeding plumage into which a few freshly plumed juveniles may be mixed in. Baird's, Pectoral, and Solitary Sandpipers are seen nearly every year.

*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, 2005**

**8:00 am – noon**

Contact Jon Feenstra for details.

**Butterbredt Springs & Galileo Hills**

**Saturday, September 17, 2005**

**7:30 am – ?**

These are some of the best migrant traps in the state. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline, but herps have been known to take the cake. Take Hwy 14 past Mojave, continue N on Hwy 14 about 15 miles, then turn left on Jawbone Canyon Road. Meet at the ranger station by the highway. After Butterbredt Springs and Galileo, we will consider other options, as time allows.

Over 2 hrs. driving time from LA, or

stay at the Mojave Motel 6 or elsewhere. Lots of driving. Mandatory phone reservation - PAS members only! No drop-ins. 12 max. Bring lunch, sun block.

*Nick and 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, June 21, 2005**  
**Descanso Gardens**

We will meet at the Descanso Gardens entrance at 9:00 am. Following the birding, we will eat our brown bag lunches and have a small business meeting.

At that time, we will decide where we are going in September and October of 2005.

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

**Field Trip Reports**

**Huntington Library Birdwalks**

**February 27, 2005**



*Elaine MacPherson and Dan Lewis leading Members Only bird walk.*

**Lake Perris**

**January 15, 2005**

It was cool and cloudy as we started out at Lake Perris. We scanned the lake from several points and saw at least 1,000 aechmophorous grebes and several Horned Grebes, the first of over 30. In fact, the Horned Grebes nearly outnumbered the Eared Grebes, and at times we saw small groups of six to nine individuals. We picked out several Greater Scaups among the hundred-odd Lessers and saw a few dozen Common Mergansers (all female). There were at least five Ospreys around the lake and numerous Red-tails as well as a few Harriers. On our way to the dam a group of several dozen California

Quail crossed the road, and on our way back a Roadrunner went by and then posed on a large rock for half a minute. In brush near the dam we spotted a dark, singing sparrow which turned out to be a Sage Sparrow (Pacific race).

From there, we drove to Bernasconi Beach on the south end of the lake. We missed the earlier reported Bald Eagle but did manage to find all three goldfinches, including a singing male Lawrence's and an American male that was transitioning to breeding plumage. There were also a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches. Most of the roads near San Jacinto refuge were closed due to flooding, but we were able to view Mystic Lake from the roadside near the golf course on Gilman Springs Rd. It was an incredible sight! Mystic seemed almost as big as Perris! There were thousands of ducks of many species, including small groups of Canvasback and Redheads. A lone Snow Goose was located with a group of Canadians. We ended the day as we began – searching for the Little Gull, but it did not make an appearance this time.

*Ed Stonick*

**Hahamongna**

**April 3, 2005**

The last walk of the season at Hahamongna Watershed Park was a wonderful way to celebrate the arrival of spring. We started with a California Thrasher on a wire proclaiming his availability. Along the way were the usual assortment of park residents, but there were also orioles and robins in the mix. The spring highlight was watching Cliff Swallows building their mud nests at close range. We found Golden-crowned Sparrows but couldn't find any White-crowned Sparrows. Yellow-rumped Warblers were in short supply (but beautiful). Oh, and we saw a Western Tanager, too.

*Ron Cyger*

**HELP WANTED!!**

We are looking for someone to help illustrate our nature trail signs at the Cobb Estate. We already have some excellent flora illustrations, now we need the fauna.

If you, or someone you know, can draw any of the reptiles, birds, mammals or insects found at the Estate, please email Laura Garrett at [PURPLECOW@JPS.NET](mailto:PURPLECOW@JPS.NET).

Calendar
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*Submit material for the next Wrentit by August 1st*

**May 2005**

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader *
1/7/8	S/S	All Day	Field Trip	<i>BIRDATHON</i>	<i>See page 6 for details</i>
7	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Galileo Hills & Butterbredt Springs	Nick & Mary Freeman
12	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
14	Sat	<b>6:00 pm</b>	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

**June 2005**

4	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Mt. Piños	Ron Cyger
9	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
18	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	Santa Barbara County	Mark Scheel
		<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Annual Dinner</b>	<b>Eaton Canyon Nature Center</b>	Program: Jon Feenstra
19	Sun	<b>7:00 am</b>	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Descanso Gardens	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
26	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

**July 2005**

9	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Buckhorn Flat	Ed Stonick
17	Sun	<b>7:00 am</b>	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
24	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis
30	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Throop Peak	Ed Stonick

**August 2005**

6	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Piute Ponds	Jon Feenstra
20	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	LA River	Jon Feenstra
21	Sun	<b>7:00 am</b>	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
28	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

**September 2005**

3	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
8	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
17	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Galileo Hills & Butterbredt Springs	Nick & Mary Freeman
18	Sun	<b>8:00 am</b>	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	TBA	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
21	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: ID Challenges
25	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

**\*Trip Leader Information****John Feenstra (Chair)**

Larry Allen  
Lance Benner  
Ron Cyger  
Josh Engel  
Nick & Mary Freeman  
Sid Heyman  
Dan Lewis  
Elaine MacPhearson  
Hill Penfold  
Mark Scheel  
Ed Stonick  
Madeline West

**(626) 792-4346**

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### Rare Bird Alert

Recently Spotted in the area, the *R. Generosa publica* – subspecies *pasadena auduboni*. Distinguishing characteristics include a generous nature, a giving spirit, dedication to protecting wildlife and our natural resources for years to come, and current membership in Pasadena Audubon Society. This *rara avis* is recognizable by its willingness to take time today to plan for tomorrow. Sound like anything you have seen recently?

Last year, Pasadena Audubon Society celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Wouldn't you like to help ensure another 100 years for PAS? With the diminished financial support available from National Audubon Society, this task becomes more daunting. Our chapter does not have a large endowment or significant savings. We are currently relying on member dues and other donations for most of our operating budget.

You cannot take your money with you but you can decide where you want it to go after you are gone. A bequest in your will or trust is often the most direct way to make a planned gift to Pasadena Audubon Society.

If you are interested in updating your estate plans by including a planned gift to Pasadena Audubon Society, please consult with your attorney. If you would like some further information on planned giving to PAS or for sample wording for your bequest, you may contact PAS member (and estate attorney) Karen L. Mateer, 618 South Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91106. You may reach Karen at (626) 792-8147 or via email at [KMATEER@EARTHLINK.NET](mailto:KMATEER@EARTHLINK.NET).

### 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 this application. 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.

### New Members (continued)

Markowitz, Clive Taylor, Bob Wilken;  
**TEMPLE CITY:** Lillian Castagna, Elizabeth Gause, Evelyn Walpus, Vonne Wang;  
**VALENCIA:** Margo deGrosse; **VALLEY VILLAGE:** Sandra Smith; **VAN NUYS:** Jackie Wollner.

### Big Year (continued)

birds and 12 life birds. I would see all of these birds again throughout 2004, except for Ross's Goose, which I regrettably never spent the time trying to pick out of a flock of Snow Geese once I had it for the year. Despite several return trips to the Salton Sea, and trips to far-off places like Barrow, Alaska, the Dry Tortuga Islands, and Mount Rainier, I still remember this PAS field trip for the much needed confidence boost it provided early in my year and for the great people I met.

I know that some birders frowned on my choice to travel to far off places for rare birds when I still sometimes struggle to distinguish a Hutton's Vireo from a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The truth is, I knew I would only be disciplined enough to get out in the field as much as I did if I had a clearly defined, grand objective. I don't think desire should be constrained by skill in any endeavor and I hope I'm able to have as many humbling experiences in the future as I had this past year.

Walter Lamb

[HTTP://WWW.LIFELIST2004.COM/](http://www.lifelists2004.com/)

### Donations Update

As of March 31, 2005, PAS has received \$1,358 in donations. We want to thank the following donors for their generous support of PAS during February and March:

J. C. Markowitz  
 Peggy Ogata  
 Audrey Parmitter  
 Ellen Rennick  
 Allan Shuey  
 Madeline West

### This & That

- Congratulations to John Garrett. He just won second prize in the American Birding Association's Young Birder of the Year contest, Photography module.
- Rare Bird Sightings – may be reported to Jon Fisher at (818) 544-5009. If you want to know what folks have seen go to [LACoBIRDS@YAHOOGROUPS.COM](mailto:LACoBIRDS@YAHOOGROUPS.COM).

### PAS Officer Elections

The election of officers for Pasadena Audubon Society will be held in May. If you are interested in running for office, please contact Bev McKenzie before May 16, 2005 at (626) 355-9842 or [LBMAC2@EARTHLINK.NET](mailto:LBMAC2@EARTHLINK.NET).

Those running for office will be presented and voted upon at the General Meeting in May. Results will be announced at the Annual Dinner on June 25.

### 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

### My First Pelagic

Last February, I went on my first Pelagic. The leaders were Kimball Garrett, Todd McGrath, and Jon Feenstra, and we were aboard the *R/V Seaworld UCLA*, which left from Marina del Rey. Not only did I get five life birds, I saw many other animals and the scenery was amazing.

Before we left the harbor we saw some interesting species including Mew and Glaucous-winged Gulls, a Common Loon, Brown Pelicans, all 3 cormorants, Sanderlings, Willets, Surfbirds, both turnstones, and two Black Oystercatchers on the rocks. Once out of the harbor, we saw that the ocean was literally flat. Just minutes later, when I was scanning at three o'clock, I realized that what I had assumed was another gull was not. At that moment Todd yelled through the loudspeaker, "Parasitic Jaeger at three o'clock!" Yes!

Todd then spotted some Black-vented Shearwaters flying left near the horizon at about twelve o'clock. They were hard to see at first, but as we got closer they became hard to miss. As we were enjoying the view, someone called, "Phalaropes!" Kimball explained that they were Red Phalaropes, because Red-necked are extremely rare in February. When we passed the phalaropes, Jon pointed out a dark Pomarine Jaeger near the horizon just before it passed out of sight.

We mainly saw Bonaparte's Gulls and black-vents with the occasional Parasitic Jaeger, until we went to the Redondo Canyon. On the way though, I saw my first Minke Whale! At Redondo Canyon, we saw thousands of Black-vented Shearwaters and gulls, and hundreds of Long-beaked Common Dolphins, cormorants, and pelicans in an exhilarating feeding frenzy.

Surprisingly, *two* highly leucistic

(*Note: biological term meaning "white but not albino"*) Black-vented Shearwaters gave some good views! One of them was circling very closely around us, allowing great photo opportunities. I stumbled inside to get my camera, but by the time I returned, it had left. Then we went to an "alcid spot," but we only saw two Rhinoceros Auklets.

Because we didn't see anything else, we left that area. It didn't take long before all the tired and rather disappointed leaders started bragging about better trips that they had been on. In the midst of this my mom, who was still scanning the ocean, yelled, "Hey what's that?" She had spotted a dark shearwater! All the birders started talking at once, but before it flew off we identified it as a Short-tailed Shearwater, my fifth life bird of the trip and #398 overall! It was a great way to end a great day.

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:** Lilia Aceves, Judith Bruckman, Mark Holt, Fariba Kakroudi, Ruth Metter, Julie Reid, Maricela Vazquez, Yvonne Young;  
**ALTADENA:** Carolyn Ash, Barbara & Jerry Bowns, Hilda Dawley, Jennifer Demotta, Bonnie Dillard, Vicki Herrick, Joe McCord, Elsa Reese, Judith Sullivan, Robert Watson;  
**AGUA DULCE:** Jim Moore; **ARCADIA:** Linda Busche, Jean Harmon, Victoria Higgins, Sidney Kyser, Nelson Liao, Sharon Ogura, Peter Petkov, Liane Putman, Violet Tressel, Yiu

Wong; **AZUSA:** Marjorie Collins, Nancy Delap, Irene Khoshnevis, Oliver May, Peter Tansey; **CULVER CITY:** Lisa Fimiani; **GLENDORA:** Hendrika Namikas; **LA CAÑADA:** Jack Bierman, Sophia Eckerle, Charles Field, Paul Haaka, Robert MacMillan, Alfred Pederson, Richard Schroeder, Philip Turner; **MONROVIA:** Hilary Cunningham, Eric Foss, Banford Frederick, John Honack, Frank Morimoto, Jane Tawel; **MONTEREY PARK:** Sayuri Buell, Jerry Hinaga, Margaret Makley, Loren Murray, Cathy Oszlanyi, Frank Poppie, Janet White; **MONTROSE:** Sharon Mayeux; **PASADENA:** Robert Boardman, Mary Cannon, Sandy Chestnut, Carl Cooper, Merrilee Fellows, Erika Felsoory, Karen Freeburg, Jean Freshwater, Yanyi He, Tamia

Hope, Daniel Howell, Lucy Huston, Shelley Kirkpatrick, P. Knosig, Kathie Lester, Genevieve Marko, Peter Martin, Priscilla Moorman, Eugene & Geraldine Peterson, Stanley Poston, William Renter, Joyce Ride, Eleanor Robinson, Leslie Rossiter, Michael Schmidt, Kai Schraml, Eugene & Janann Strand, Lana Tom, Johnnie Williams, Linda Zinn; **ROSEMEAD:** Ngoc Truong, Jean & Dorothy Weiss; **SAN GABRIEL:** Carol Carriere, F. Wirt; **SAN MARINO:** Susan Boyle, Victor Crutsinger, Christine Maxwell, Keith McDonald, Wakako Oka, Nancy Snyder; **SIERRA MADRE:** Stan Hutchinson, Mei Kwan; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Bo Bonyo, Sandy Cullman, Helene Drachman, Jonathon  
*(see New Members, page 9)*

### Pasadena Audubon Society Board

President	Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625
Vice President	Norm Arnheim	(626) 405-0844
Youth Representative	John Garrett	(626) 564-1890
Secretary	Jean O'Hagan	(626) 792-4406
Treasurer	Will Fulmer	(626) 798-1606

### Board Members at Large:

Eileen Burton, Mark Hunter, Dan Lewis

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	Silvia Vieyra	(323) 266-5184
Field Trips	Jon Feenstra	(626) 792-4346
Hospitality	Laura Garrett	(626) 564-1890
Programs	Ron Cyger/Bev McKenzie	
Magpie Bird Study Group	Madeline West	(626) 574-0429
	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991

Membership	Lois Fulmer	(626) 798-1606
Publicity	Priya Kumar	(626) 793-8832
	Michael Graesser	(626) 793-8832
Youth Education	Norm Arnheim	(626) 405-0844

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### Pasadena Audubon Society

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