



Drawing by  
Guy Coleleach

# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 62 — No. 3

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

April–June 2014



**Photo by Lance Benner**  
**Looks better in color! Check out**  
**[www.pasadenaaudubon.org](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)**

## Least Bell's Vireo

**L**east Bell's Vireo is an endangered species that occurs locally at Hansen Dam, the San Gabriel River, Santa Fe Dam, Whittier Narrows, the Sepulveda Basin, the Ballona wetlands and creek, and at Hahamongna Watershed Park where two were discovered in 2012 by local birder David Bell.

Least Bell's Vireos nest in riparian habitat on the coastal slope and in areas of mesquite at desert sites. A small, drab, grayish-yellow insectivore, the species is easy to overlook, but they are much easier to locate by their distinctive, loud, and persistent songs. Least Bell's Vireo is a neotropical migrant, and its winter range and habitat are not well understood.

The population of Least Bell's Vireos plummeted precipitously throughout California in the 20th century due to habitat destruction and brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds. The number bottomed out at roughly 300 pairs in the mid 1980s, and the species was added to the California and federal endangered species lists in 1984 and 1986. Since listing, habitat destruction has slowed considerably and, coupled with

aggressive cowbird trapping, local populations have begun to rebound. Even so, a bird that was once common from northern Baja California north throughout the Central Valley is now restricted to small pockets of suitable habitat south of Santa Barbara County where its future is still at risk.

The discovery of Least Bell's Vireos at Hahamongna Park could help alter Los Angeles County's plans for removing the willow/mulefat habitat at Hahamongna. Be sure to report any Hahamongna sightings to eBird and to the Pasadena Audubon Yahoo group or Facebook group. Also look for this species on our upcoming field trips to Encanto Park and Big Morongo.

*Lance Benner*

## President's Perch

**S**pring has sprung, as evidenced by birds flying past with twigs, paper, and string — heading to undisclosed locations in a tree near you. I always marvel at the tireless energy of the birds this time of year. My hope is that the Western Screech-owl will nest again on my street, providing a bit of diversion when I walk my dog each evening.

Get ready for Birdathon! We have a few teams forming now. Depending on your birding style you can get up at midnight and go all day with Irritable Owl Syndrome, travel L.A. using various modes of transportation with the Locavores, or enjoy a slow-paced day with folks on the Big Sit. This year, funds raised will go to the Western Field Ornithologists to bolster the Pasadena Audubon Youth Scholarship Fund, which honors the memory of Mike San Miguel.

We have a busy season ahead with Birdathon, S.M.O.R.E.S (April and May), and our participation in Earth Fest on May 4th at the Los Angeles River Center. Please put these events on your calendar and plan to step up and participate!

Happy Birding,

*Deni Sinnott*

## In This Issue

<b>Programs</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Conservation</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sightings</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Field Trips</b>	<b>4, 6</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b>8</b>

**April Program****Friends of Seal Beach  
National Wildlife Refuge**

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

7:30 pm—9:00 pm

John Fitch

The Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge is part of the extensive San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex and is located within the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station. The Refuge's tidal salt marsh, 965 acres, serves as a sanctuary for resident wildlife, as well as providing a critical migration stopover and wintering habitat for thousands of birds that migrate up and down the Pacific flyway each year.

Join us as John Fitch, bird specialist with Friends of Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, presents a program focusing on the formation of the refuge, the creatures that live there and what the Friends do to improve the habitat.

**May Program****Remarkable Red Crossbills**

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Lance Benner

Red Crossbills are finches with beaks that cross at the tips. In North America they have recently been classified into ten types based on their flight calls and may actually represent a number of different species.

This talk will discuss the biology and adaptations of Red Crossbills, make extensive use of eBird maps to illustrate their geographic distribution, and use recordings and sonograms to demonstrate how to identify their flight calls.

In the past three years Lance Benner has worked with Walter Szeliga, Kathi Ellsworth, and John Garrett, using sonograms to determine the flight call types. This led to the discovery that the Red Crossbills that occur most often in southern California are type 2s and that many of the crossbills in our area during the irruption of 2012-2013 were type 3s.

**June Dinner****Annual Dinner**

Saturday, June 14, 2014

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Enjoy good catered food and drink, interesting and amiable dining companions, and blessedly short speeches at Pasadena Audubon's yearly dinner. Meet the newly elected officers for 2014-2015. Vie for raffle prizes. Play Spotted Owl calls faintly and surreptitiously on your smartphone, and watch the reaction.

Tickets are \$20 per person. Make checks payable to "Pasadena Audubon Society" and make a note of "annual dinner" on the check. Send to the PAS address shown on page 8.

Questions? Contact Hospitality Chair Chrystal Watson at (626) 794-9233.

*General meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (address on back cover). Refreshments and socializing begin at 7:00 pm and programs are presented from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm.*

**Conservation****Pasadena's Next Environmental  
Dilemma—The 710 Tunnel**

Get ready for the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the 710 Tunnel. Cal Trans will be releasing this document soon, probably in May. We will need to pay close attention to this document, as this project, which aims to close the gap between the 10 and the 210, has serious ramifications for all of us. The air quality will be severely affected, and the amount of soil that will be removed is five million cubic yards, more than the highest amount projected by the Department of Public Works in the Hahamongna Sediment Removal Project. Some of us remember what the 210 was like before we could take it all the way to the 15. It used to be a freeway we could use to get from point A to point B quickly. Now, it is one of the most congested freeways in Southern California. What will happen to traffic once trucks can travel straight from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach all the way to the Grapevine and the 5, using the 210?

As someone who commutes to East LA, I understand the desire to close the gap between the 10 and the 210. But we must pay attention to this project and make sure that the benefits outweigh the costs.

Laura Garrett

**Nesting Season**

You may have noticed birds carrying nesting material or building nests. Soon they'll be feeding their young. This is why it is critical that we postpone any tree or shrub trimming until the fall. Not only is it better for the birds, but complies with federal law, which protects nesting birds. So please spread the word—save tree-trimming until the fall. The birds will thank you.

Laura Garrett

**Local Boy Makes Good**

John Garrett, the young man who became a first-rate birder while growing up in Pasadena, has distinguished himself by joining the California Bird Records committee while still a college student. CBRC is a committee of the Western Field Ornithologists and is the arbiter of rare bird sightings in California, and its members are acknowledged as some of the premier birders in the state.

CBRC recently made their masterwork, *Rare Birds of California*, available online. This was made possible by a publications fund set up in memory of deceased PAS member and CBRC member Mike San Miguel, who believed strongly in publishing this book both in print and online. To view this impressive publication, go to [www.californiabirds.org](http://www.californiabirds.org).

## Quail Lake

February 21, 2014

Thirty-one eager birders joined us at Quail Lake and, as usual, this location did not disappoint. This is the best place in L.A. County to get close comparisons between Greater and Lesser Scaup, and to see large numbers of Common Goldeneye. We also found other ducks that can be difficult to locate elsewhere, such as Redhead and Common Mergansers. Quail Lake is also a good raptor location; we saw both Bald and Golden Eagles, and watched a Prairie Falcon zip by.

But it got even better. At Quail Lake we found 3 Barrow's Goldeneye: an adult male, a female, and an immature male. Even a single Barrow's Goldeneye is seldom seen in L.A. County. We had great scope views of all three. These were life birds for many people on the trip.

After Quail Lake, we headed east across the Antelope Valley, and stopped for Ferruginous Hawks, Mountain Bluebirds, Bell's Sparrows (formerly known as Sage Sparrow), and Vesper Sparrows.

We ended at Piute Ponds. There two LeConte's Thrashers perched up in view for a very un-lecontish long time, even allowing some photos. Raptors included Merlin, Prairie Falcon, and Ferruginous Hawk. We found a Marbled Godwit and a Semipalmated Plover, both unusual at Piute Ponds in winter. But the most unusual bird at Piute Ponds was a Pectoral Sandpiper. This is a rare bird in winter anywhere in our area; Pectorals are most often seen during fall migration.

*Mark and Janet Scheel*

## Great Backyard Bird Count

February 14, 2014

Pasadena Audubon members joined about 100 third graders (yes, that's 1-0-0) from Longfellow Elementary School as they participated in their second annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC).

To help the third graders get ready for the GBBC, PAS and ECNCA members held three one-hour-long workshops to each of the three third-grade classrooms on February 12th. Our goal was to convey the basics of birds through bird taxidermy and fun, hands-on demonstrations. Dessi Sieburth, special PAS guest, shared some of his experiences with PAS including how



*Volunteer Beatrix Schwarz, - photo by Kristy Clougherty*

## Sightings and Reports

fun it is to go birding, things he does to help birds, and his bird sketches and photography; and told the students about

his amazing scientific work on the Bluebird Conservation project.

On the day of the GBBC, it was unusually warm, but we were ready. About 15 adults and 1 young birder, Dessi, cumulatively represented PAS, Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates, the local community, parent volunteers, and teachers. The volunteers broke into teams and birded with 1 classroom at a time around the school yard. Despite the fact that we birded on Valentine's Day, we weren't able to find any Lovebirds. By the end of the morning we found a grand total of 35 species, including Hermit Thrush, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds, Western Scrub-Jay, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Band-tailed Pigeon.

GBBC tidbit: In 2013 birders from all 7 continents, including more than 100 countries, counted birds. During the 2013 count more than 34.5 million birds were counted and a total of 3,610 species were recorded. That's nearly one-third of all the species in the world.

*Susan Gilliland*

## Parrot Chase

February 15, 2014

Pasadena Audubon's annual parrot chase turned into a parrot stroll, but it was a near thing.

Several dusk and pre-dawn trips to the traditional parrot/parakeet roosts in Temple City and nearby neighborhoods turned up no roosts and just a few sightings of birds commuting to other locations, mostly northwest.

Fortunately, birder Kevin Gin had on November 25th reported a major afternoon aggregation of parrots staging along Raymond Ave. in the vicinity of Hammond St. in northwest Pasadena. On a subsequent day I followed the flock to a roost site along Claremont Ave. straddling both sides of Fair Oaks Ave. Even more fortunately, these birds were still present on chase day. The group saw single-digit numbers of Yellow-headed, Lilac-crowned, and Red-ored Parrots, an estimated 500 Red-crowned Parrots, and an estimated 500 additional Amazona parrots not identified as to species.

We saw none of the Mitered or Red-masked Parakeets that typically joined the roost in Temple City. The traditional South Pasadena roost of Mitered Parakeets has moved from Ramona St. to the quadrant northeast of Huntington Dr. and Fremont Ave. If anyone knows where the Temple City flocks of Aratinga parakeets are roosting, please let me know (contact details are in the "trip leader information" section on the calendar page).

Oh, yes. The four participants who came the farthest were from Ohio and Indiana. The one who traveled least was passing by on his way to the hardware store, and happened to have his scope with him. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

*Larry Allen*

## Field Trips

### Tejon Ranch

**Saturday, April 12, 2013**

**Early morning — Midafternoon**

The Tejon Ranch is 422 contiguous square miles and is the largest piece of privately held property in California. The Ranch came to an agreement with major environmental organizations (including the National Audubon Society) regarding conservation and development. You can visit [www.TejonRanch.com](http://www.TejonRanch.com) for more information. Part of that agreement was to expand its access to natural areas.

Last year we had Scott's Oriole, Burrowing Owl, many raptors, many sparrows, and incredible scenery!

The Ranch is private property and is only open for visits by reservation. If you would like to visit the Ranch on this trip, please contact the trip leader (email preferred) with the following information for each person: Name, address, telephone number, and email address. I will then send further information on meeting place, time, etc.

Trip size is limited and is open to Pasadena Audubon members only. Hope to see you at the Ranch!

*Ron Cyger*

### Big Santa Anita Canyon

**Saturday, April 19, 2014**

**6:30 am — noon**

Santa Anita Canyon is one of our most gorgeous local canyons. We're going to explore it at a time of year when the spring migrants have arrived and many of the birds are most active. This is a particularly good trip for American Dippers and we'll make a special effort to find them.

We're going to hike down into the canyon to Fern Lodge Junction, along the trail above Sturtevant Falls, through the slot canyon, back south along the Stock Trail, down into the main canyon again, and then back up to the parking lot for a total of



about six miles.

Meet at Chantry Flat at 6:30 AM. We're starting early to beat the heat and to avoid the crowds. Parking can be limited, so please carpool. Bring water, food, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, a hat, bug repellent, and an Adventure Pass. We'll return to Chantry Flat by about noon.

*Lance Benner*

### Piute Ponds

**Saturday, May 3, 2014**

**6:30 am — 1:00 pm**

During migration, the bodies of water and surrounding vegetation in the Antelope Valley attract a variety of birds taking a rest and refueling break during their journey. On May 3, Pasadena Audubon will search several of these key "oases" for northbound migrants. The trip starts at Piute Ponds, accessed with special permission from Edwards Air Force Base, therefore the number of participants will be limited. After Piute, we will visit Apollo Park and, time permitting, the (in)famous Lancaster Sewage Ponds. Birds sought include shorebirds, flycatchers, warblers, some of the resident A.V. specialties, and (with some luck) Bank Swallows, Black Terns, and Franklin's Gulls. To take advantage of the day's prime bird activity, trip participants should plan to meet at 6:30 (half an hour after sunrise) at a location to be specified in the Antelope Valley. We will aim to conclude the tour of the primary sites by 1:00 pm. Spotting scopes are recommended. This trip is open to 12 participants in addition to the trip leaders, with preference to those who did not go on this field trip last year, by order of sign-up. Contact me at [dowell.darren@yahoo.com](mailto:dowell.darren@yahoo.com) to sign up or for further information.

*Darren Dowell, Mark and Janet Scheel*



**Field trips continue on page 6!**

### Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk



**Sunday, April 20, 2014**

**Sunday, May 18, 2014**

**Sunday, June 15, 2014**

**8:00 am — 11:00 am**

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

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

*Hill Penfold*

### Hahamongna Monthly Walk



**Saturday, April 5, 2014**

**Saturday, May 3, 2014**

**7:30 am — 11:30 am**

This monthly bird walk is for birders of all ages and experience. A good variety of birds should be in residence. Bring binoculars, birding guide, water and wear walking shoes. No dogs.

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

*Darren Dowell (April 5), Ron Cyger (May 3)*

### Huntington Library Monthly Walk



**Sunday, April 27, 2014**

**Sunday, May 25, 2014**

**8:00 am — 11:00 am**

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

For reservations contact me (see bottom of calendar page) by email (preferred), or by phone. Trip leaders vary.

*Mark Hunter*

 = Wrentit Club!

**Calendar**  
Submit material for the next Wrentit by May 1

 = Wrentit Club  
Count Circle!

**April 2014**

2	Wed	7:00 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
5	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
12	Sat	Early morn	Field Trip		Tejon Ranch	Ron Cyger
13	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
15	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Rancho Santa Ana	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
16	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Friends of Seal Beach Refuge
19	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip		Big Santa Anita Canyon	Lance Benner
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
26	Sat	All day	<b>Birdathon</b>		Everywhere	See page 7
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Huntington Library & Gardens	Mark Hunter

*(PAS members only)*

**May 2014**

3	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip		Piute Ponds	Darren Dowell & the Scheels
3	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
7	Wed	7:00 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
11	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
17	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip		Big Morongo	Kathi Ellsworth
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Lower Arroyo Seco	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
21	Wed	7:00 pm	General meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Remarkable Red Crossbills
24	Sat	6:30 pm	Field Trip		Encanto Park	Lance Benner
25	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Huntington Library & Gardens	Mark Hunter
31	Sat	7:00 pm	Field Trip		San Gabriels Owling	Lance Benner

*(PAS members only)*

**June 2014**

7	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Throop Peak	Lance Benner
8	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
14	Sat	6:00 pm	Annual Dinner		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	See page 2
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Descanso Gardens	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
21	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Mt. Pinos	Ron Cyger, Larry Johnson

\* Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (chair)	(626) 765-5408	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu
Larry Allen	(626) 288-2701	larryallen@earlymusicla.org
Lance Benner	(626) 791-1187	lbenner@charter.net
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625 (before 9:00 pm)	ron@cyger.org (preferred)
Darren Dowell	(626) 344-4003	dowell.darren@yahoo.com
Kathi Ellsworth	(626) 564-0652	pandionsky@yahoo.com
Jon Feenstra	(626) 319-4723	feenstra@alumni.caltech.edu
Jon Fisher	(818) 800-2776	jonf60@hotmail.com
Frank & Susan Gilliland	(626) 441-8487	gillilandsusan@gmail.com
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	sidheyman@sbcglobal.net
Mark Hunter	(818) 369-6627	mark.hunter@pasadenaaudubon.org
Mickey Long	(626) 285-8878	mlongbird@charter.net
Hill Penfold	(818) 352-4954	hpenfold@gmail.com
Julia Ray	(818) 314-5127	jraymusic@att.net
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@earthlink.net

**Field Trips, continued****Big Morongo Preserve****Saturday, May 17, 2014****8:00 am — 1:00 pm**

This desert oasis and migrant trap offers great birding in the spring. Warblers, flycatchers, hummingbirds, and orioles are among the birds expected. At least one pair of Vermilion Flycatcher has been seen every spring in memory. Join us as we walk the trails in Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and into adjoining Covington Park, where you will enjoy one of the finest birding locations in Southern California, with over 250 species making stops at the preserve annually.

Directions: Allow 2 hours to drive from Pasadena. Take Interstate 10 east to route 62. Go north to the town of Morongo Valley and turn right on East Drive to the Big Morongo Preserve at 11055 East Drive. Meet at the information kiosk. Bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, and a good broad-rimmed hat.

*Kathi Ellsworth***Lesser Nighthawks & San Gabriel River****Saturday, May 24, 2014****6:30 pm — 9:00 pm**

This short trip is designed to search for Lesser Nighthawks, Barn and Great Horned Owls, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and other birds active late in the day and at dusk along the San Gabriel River in the spring. Lesser Nighthawks were formerly common on the coastal slope but are now confined to a small number of washes where isolated pockets of suitable habitat remain. The San Gabriel River between Santa Fe Dam and Azusa Canyon is one of their local strongholds and one of the closest places to Pasadena to find this species reliably. We'll make a special effort to see and hear lesser nighthawks trilling as part of their courtship displays. Please bring binoculars, headlamps, water, and bug repellent.

Meet at Encanto Park in Duarte at 6:30 pm. We'll do an easy walk across the bridge and north for about 3/4 of a mile along the San Gabriel River bike path.

*Lance Benner***C'est Chouette****Owls in the San Gabriel Mountains****Saturday, May 31, 2014****7:00 pm — midnight**

Join us as we search for owls and nightjars in the higher areas of the San Gabriel Mountains. We'll start shortly before sunset when we'll look for Northern Pygmy Owl and diurnal montane species, and then after dark we'll look for Flammulated Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Spotted Owl, Western Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Common Poorwill. This trip concentrates on high elevations primarily to find flammulated owls, which do not usually occur below about 6000 feet in the local mountains.

Limited to 10 people. Please email the leader to reserve a spot.

*Lance Benner***Throop Peak****Saturday, June 7, 2014****7:30 am — 1:00 pm**

Join us as we explore one of the highest altitude trails in the San Gabriel Mountains during the peak time of year for montane birds. We'll hike at a leisurely pace to the summit of Throop Peak (elevation: about 9100 feet) as we search for Williamson's Sapsucker, Townsend's Solitaire, Clark's Nutcracker, Dusky Flycatcher, White-headed Woodpecker, Green-tailed towhee, Red Crossbill, and other montane species.

Meet at Dawson Saddle at mile 69.6 on the Angeles Crest Highway, about 45 miles from I-210 in La Canada. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent, sturdy shoes, a coat, and an Adventure Pass. The hike is about five miles round-trip with possible snow patches; a few sections are steep, and all of it is at altitudes in excess of 7900 feet. Please carpool and plan for about 90 minutes to drive up from Pasadena.

*Lance Benner***Mt. Pinos and Environs****Saturday, June 21, 2014****7:30 am — early afternoon**

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

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

*Larry Johnson and Ron Cyger***Chilao Visitor Center****Second Sunday of every month****8:00 am — 10:00 am**

The Chilao Visitor Center walks will continue each month, weather and road conditions permitting. (If things look rainy, snowy or brush fire-y, check first.)

Chilao, 26.5 miles north of I-210 on State Hwy 2, 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 about half the time. You can also expect Purple Finches, Steller's Jays, Dark-eyed Juncos and several species of nuthatches and others totaling about 30 species during the 2-hour walk.

*Hill Penfold***Elections**

Nominations for PAS officers for the coming year will be accepted from the membership at the April 16 general meeting. Elections will be held during the May 21 general meeting. The slate of new officers will be introduced at the June annual dinner, and their one-year term begins June 1.

## Birdathon

**April 25-27, 2014**

**I**t's back! Pasadena Audubon's main fundraiser gets dozens of folks out in the field, first collecting pledges and then sighting all the species that they can to maximize the proceeds. You can pledge a fixed amount, or an amount per species sighted. This year the proceeds go to the Western Field Ornithologists, to the youth scholarship fund dedicated to the memory of Mike San Miguel, a well-loved PAS member who died doing field work in the San Gabriel Mountains almost five years ago. Scholarship funds help young aspiring ornithologists attend the camps and conferences presented by WFO.

For the past few years, Birdathon participants have aligned themselves with one of three teams, although you are also welcome to form another team or just go your own way. All three teams have committed to this year's effort, too.

Team **Irritable Owl Syndrome** is the military boot camp version of Birdathon. Departing at midnight on count day, they set a relentless pace across virtually all of Los Angeles County and cover about 400 miles before finishing after dark. This year their target is 200 species. Want to support them? Contact the leader, Mark Scheel (info on calendar page).

The **Locavores** (formerly the Green Team) are older, perhaps wiser, and definitely lazier this year. They will unashamedly use cars this time — yet they are keeping it local, and will be on bikes or in hiking boots much of a very long day. Can they hit 140 species? To join them, or pledge your support, contact team leader Darren Dowell (info on calendar page).

The **Big Sit**, that sedate activity situated on a lawn at Legg Lakes, is back this year, although team leader Laura Garrett is planning a radical change. At some point, participants will actually rise to their feet and stroll around the lake, rather than just sitting continuously. Laura hopes that this will raise the count from the 55 or so species that have been seen in past years. To contribute or to join, contact her (info on calendar page).

## Don Rogers

**D**on Rogers passed away on February 5, 2014. Don served Pasadena Audubon for many years, and a succession of Wrentit editors, doing desktop publishing for the Wrentit newsletter and for the Birding Guide to the Pasadena Area. He also made major contributions in historical research for the PAS centennial celebration in 2004. His wife, Karen Rogers, served as president of PAS in the 90's.

Don did volunteer work for many other non-profit organizations, too. He was an ordained minister and a skilled professional photographer. He loved the Huntington Library and Gardens, particularly the cactus garden. PAS has made a donation to the Huntington in his memory.

## Magpie Bird Study Group

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



**Tuesday, April 15, 2014**  
**Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden**

**Tuesday, May 20, 2014**  
**Lower Arroyo Seco**

**Tuesday, June 17, 2014**  
**Descanso Gardens**

*Trip leaders: Sid Heyman, Julia Ray*

### DONATIONS TO PAS

**T**hese PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Anna & Norm Amheim, Frank Burrows, Denise Castillo, Betty Cole & Arthur Mack, Tilda & Terry DeWolfe, Lew Hastings, Stacey Masci, Diana Neder, Phil Richardson, Henry & Loretta Selinger, Madeline West. Thank you for your generosity!

## Become a Chapter-only Member of PAS

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

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

### Chapter-only Membership Application

Name . . . . . Phone . . . . .  
Address . . . . .  
City . . . . . State . . . . . ZIP . . . . .  
Email . . . . .

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

Name . . . . . Phone . . . . .  
Address . . . . .  
City . . . . . State . . . . . ZIP . . . . .

Yearly dues:

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

Make checks payable to, and mail to:

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

**Pasadena Audubon Society Board**

President	Deni Sinnott	(626) 233-4128
Vice-President	Mickey Long	(626) 285-8878
Secretary	Kathi Ellsworth	(626) 524-0652
Treasurer	Grace Wong	(626) 798-6500
Past President	Will Fulmer	(626) 798-1606
Conservation	Laura Garrett	(626) 564-1890
Field Trips	Mark Scheel	(626) 765-5408
Programs	Darren Dowell	(626) 344-4003
	Susan Gilliland	(626) 441-8487
Membership	Lois Fulmer	(626) 798-1606
Education	Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625
Publicity	Open	
Hospitality Chair	Chrystal Watson	(626) 794-9233

Website	Janet Scheel	(626) 817-6322
Hospitality	Joanne Weigel	(818)790-4347
	Lynne Osborne	(626) 403-9451
Magpie Bird Study Group	Julia Ray	(818) 314-5127
	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991

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

Editor Mark Hunter (818) 369-6627  
 Printing Print Spot (323) 269-4218  
 Pasadena Audubon Society Chapter only-\$20. Wrentit subscription only-1 year \$10. National Audubon Society membership fees-\$35. National members receive Audubon magazine and The Wrentit. Messages or queries for Pasadena Audubon may be left at (626) 355-9412. For change of NAS address call: (800) 274-4201.

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

**DATED MATERIAL**

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



Printed on  
 10% recycled paper  
 FSC Certified

**SMORES Volunteers Needed**

**S**MORES is an overnight camping program designed to provide youth of Los Angeles County the opportunity to make personal connections to nature. The program is organized by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and funded by the Habitat Conservation Fund. Pasadena Audubon members served as birding guides for the SMORES participants in 2013, and now the 2014 events are beginning.

On **April 12** the young campers will spend the night at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. On **May 17** the program moves to Whittier Narrows Regional Recreation Area. We are once again looking for PAS members to help with the birding activities on those two weekends.

You don't need to be an expert. Just get out there and communicate your pleasure at birding to your group. It's very rewarding to see birding take hold with some of the kids, to see a new world open up to them.

For more information or to sign up for a volunteer walk leader slot, contact Helen Wong at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, (626) 398-5420.



*Volunteers John Oliver and Grace Wong, in a photo by Helen Wong*

**New Members**

- ALTADENA:** Bruce Bigelow;
- ARCADIA:** Burton & Marylo Powell, Kathryn Ward;
- BURBANK:** Freddi Rokaw;
- DUARTE:** Melodie Conrad;
- LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Chris & Bill Holmes, Patricia Kodie, Donald Riechel;
- LOS ANGELES:** Mary Brooks;
- MONROVIA:** Kim Proctor;
- MONTEREY PARK:** Nancy Gillmore;
- PASADENA:** R. Boatman, Jane Bork, Jennifer Duke, Brack Duker, Christina Honchell, Lizabeth Maynard, Joanna Rawley, Diane Sipieter, Yim Tam, Valla Walker, Dexter Williams, Irina Zabula;
- SAN DIMAS:** Carol Evoy, Jerry Evoy;
- SAN GABRIEL:** Gabriel & Sophia Pina, Cathy Tarazon;
- SAN MARINO:** Natalie Davis;
- SIERRA MADRE:** Sybil Anne Davis, Laura O'Dell;
- SOUTH PASADENA:** Afshin Ketabi, Robert Wilken, Annie Wilker