

Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

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Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

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

April 2019 - May 2019

The Northern Harrier

The Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*) can be both a seasonal or year-round resident of most of North America, including California. It was once classified as a subspecies of the old-world Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), but recent phylogenetic analyses support the idea that the two are in fact different species. While both species look physically similar, the Northern Harrier has darker plumage in both sexes than the Hen Harrier. Thankfully for us birders, the natural ranges of both species do not overlap, making mix-ups unlikely.

The Northern Harrier has many unique behavioral and morphological features that differentiate it from other Accipitriformes. Harriers, like owls, rely on acute hearing to find their prey, which mostly consists of terrestrial rodents. This hearing is aided by the presence of distinct facial disks reminiscent of those found on owls. While hunting, harriers fly low to the ground to avoid being spotted by their preferred prey. Northern Harriers have also been observed obtaining their food through kleptoparasitism (the stealing of prey caught by another animal). Research has shown that Northern Harriers are selectively territorial and will allow smaller raptors to hunt for prey in their territory but aggressively repel larger species. The harrier will monitor the smaller raptors until they have caught prey, and then swoop in to steal it. While kleptoparasitized food does not make up a significant part of the harrier's diet, it is still an interesting part of Northern Harrier behavior.

While there is a small population of year-round harriers concentrated in California's Central Valley, the majority of harriers are migrants from the north. They prefer open, flat areas such as meadows with large concentrations of rodents. Northern Harriers in California are threatened by rodenticide and disturbance of their ground nests by humans and their pets.



Northern Harrier

© Mark Scheel

Kees Hood

President's Perch

Spring is in the air! Overnight, it seems we have gone from pouring rain to birds, butterflies and flowers. So very lovely! And such a good time to be looking for birds. I saw a kettle of Swainson's Hawks last Sunday and heard my FOS Black-headed Grosbeak today so keep your eyes and ears open!

I am happy to report that our pilot education program at Washington Elementary STEM Magnet School and Jackson STEM Dual Magnet Academy has been going extremely well. We provide each class that we work with two lessons in the classroom, and then we take them on a field trip to Peck Road Water Conservation Park. So far, we have worked with a class of first graders, third graders, fourth graders, and fifth graders at Washington as well as four classes of second graders at Jackson. The children are engaged, the teachers are happy and our volunteers are the BEST. Seriously, we couldn't do it without your dedication to educating kids about birds. And a special shout-out to Kathy Degner who, with Lois Brunet, worked tirelessly to develop the curriculum.

I am also delighted to announce that we received a grant to create a native garden outdoor classroom at Washington and are working with a team to design, plan, plant and fundraise for this garden, which we hope to plant in the fall. If you'd like to join the team, let Lois know at lbrunet@pasadenaaudubon.org. We are hoping to both help birds and kids with this project, and we'd love your enthusiasm and help.

We're Pasadena Audubon, and we love educating kids about birds!

Laura Garrett

MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS: UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Fantastic Flora of California

April 17, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Adam Searcy

California boasts a higher list of native plants than any other state, many of which are found nowhere else on earth. Join us as we take a brief tour covering some of California's floral wonders and discuss ways to experience, identify and document your own observations as well as to contribute to important research.

Adam Searcy is a field biologist who grew up in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. He has been studying the flora and fauna of California for the last 20 years. His interests include hunting down rare birds, Calochortus lilies, Monkeyflowers, fungi, beer, herbs and strange weeds.



Calochortus argillosus ©Bill Boufon

Channel Islands Bald Eagles

May 15, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Annie Little

Channel Island Bald Eagles were a core constituent of Southern California's Bald Eagle population, and these nesting birds were equally an important element of the ecosystem of the islands. By the 1960s, however, the eagles had disappeared due to the combined effects of DDT, egg collection and human persecution. Similarly, Peregrine Falcons suffered the same dramatic declines mid-century and like the eagles, were also extirpated within that same time frame.

Come join Annie Little from the U.S. Forest and Wildlife Service to discover how, despite the challenges, these majestic species were eventually brought back to their ancestral homes. This is a story almost forty years in the making and includes innovative programs involving multiple agencies.

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

June Dinner

Saturday, June 8, 2019

6:00 pm-9:00 pm – Save the Date

Come celebrate another very successful year of our chapter reaching out to the community, defending our local habitat, and supporting outstanding birders. The dinner features delicious catered food from Stonefire Grill, complimentary beer and wine, beverages, great conversation, a book sale, raffle prizes and a chance to meet the slate of officers who will govern the chapter in the next fiscal year. Bring your bird photos on a USB drive (limit: 5 minutes' worth) for viewing by your fellow members. Dinner is \$30.00 per person. Please RSVP by June 3rd to reserve your spots. Send a check to PAS attention: June Dinner, 1750 North Altadena Drive, Pasadena, CA, 91107 or make a PayPal payment on our website. Attendees are welcome to bring their favorite dessert.

We will need volunteers for the coffee, tea and lemon water stations as well as a couple of people to tend the Wine and Beer bar on the patio. To get more information or to volunteer, contact Doug Farr at 818-957-0845.

CONSERVATION

The Destruction Continues

The Interior Department has cancelled most protections for Sage Grouse. Much of the mining and drilling that was previously prohibited in the West can now proceed. Acting Secretary David Bernhardt has rolled back regulations in several areas recently and news analysts speculate that he is rewarding special interests for whom he worked during his fossil fuels lobbying career.

The next cleanup of Peck Road Water Conservation Park will take place on June 2, 2019. This winter's strong storm flows brought an abundance of trash into the small lake, and Pasadena Audubon volunteers will put a major dent in the unsightly debris. Come for the always-productive bird walk at 8:00, pitch in during the cleanup at 10:00, and enjoy pizza with your comrades at noon.

Governor Newsom is still leaning toward Cal Fire's slash-and-burn plan for California habitat. An initial project targets 95,000 acres, but millions of acres will eventually be affected by this environmental damage. Most of the Santa Monica Mountains, Verdugo Mountains and north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains are targeted, along with numerous smaller, more local areas. For more information, and to support activists who seek alternatives to this wholesale destruction, visit www.californiachaparral.com/ and click the "Threats to Chaparral" link.

People interested in the nest protection project, in which PAS Conservation and Advocacy volunteers help identify nests in street trees and protect those trees from the City of Pasadena's tree-trimming contractors, are invited to join the PAS walk at the County Arboretum on April 13 at 8:00 am. We will again be looking for evidence of breeding and nesting behavior so that volunteers can be trained to more easily recognize such behavior in local neighborhoods.

Mark Hunter

A BIRD FROM AFAR

Trinidad & Tobago: A Kaleidoscope of Birds!



Tropical Screech Owl

The Trinidad Motmot (*Momotus bahamensis*), the Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*) and the Oilbird (*Steatomis caripensis*) are three iconic Trinidadian birds, and I was on my way to find them!

Located about 1500 feet above the Arima Valley in the North Range on Trinidad, Asa Wright Nature Center is a plantation style estate, which sponsors conservation education and eco-tourism. When we arrived at this lush neo-tropical setting, we were welcomed by our tour host Kathy and our guide and driver Mahace, an expert birder. After being assigned rooms, we then made straight for the veranda where we were promised “30 species before breakfast!” Trinidad and Tobago is host to an incredible 474 species. Collectively our group checked in at 138, and I actually saw almost all of them.

The Asa Wright Nature Center faces a valley with views through the forests all the way to the ocean and provides a breathtaking theater for birding. There are hummingbird feeders placed along the eaves of the veranda every six feet or so, which draws an amazing variety vying for a spot. We saw so many species of hummingbirds during our visit, there were almost too many to count. Some of the more memorable were the White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*), so named as they wear their blue and white coats like the Jacobins of the French revolution, and the Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*). We were enchanted with the Little Hermit (*Phaethornis longuemareus*) and White-chested Emerald (*Amazilia brevirostris*) playing the polka with the Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*) and the Ruby Topaz (*Chrysolampis mosquitus*) a veritable kaleidoscope of emerald and sapphire!

The Center draws birders, naturalists and nature-lovers. Many of the guides there are students who lead hikes through the Center’s 1500-acre grounds. During our visit we learned about the medicinal uses of the local flora, the mating habits of the White-bearded Mannikin (*Manacus manacus*) and the history of the area’s earliest inhabitants. We didn’t have to go far to see an amazing and colorful assortment of honeycreepers, tanagers and Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) having tea on feeders stocked daily with assorted fruit. The male Green honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) is actually turquoise; the Purple honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes caeruleus*) is actually blue; and the Turquoise tanager (*Tangara mexicana*) boasts a tiny turquoise wing covert among a variety of blues on his mottled body and yellow breast. The Red-legged honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) has purple with black primaries and really does have red legs!

The call of the Bearded bellbird (*Procnias averano*) clunked like cowbells throughout the valley during the day, each male calling out his territory. We caught a view of one off the veranda one morning, its black wattles hanging from its chin. They seemed to throw their voices like ventriloquists throughout the mid and upper story of the forest.



Yellow Crested Caracara

Late one morning we made our way down the trail to Dunstan Cave to find the Oilbird (*Steatornis caripensis*). One of the main nesting sites is right on the AWNC property. Due to a near extinction, the location is highly regulated. Visitors are permitted three times a week, each group of four allowed only a few minutes viewing. My group shuffled together a short way into the tall narrow cave which was in fact a deep gorge. There were about six to eight nests visible on rocky ledges as our guide’s light moved briefly over each nest. With a potoo-like face the nocturnal oilbirds sat sleepily and serenely on their brushy nests. There were so many other amazing birds to see that I will need to write another chapter in this adventure of a lifetime -- Stay tuned!



Aninga



Motmots

Story and photos by Annabelle Aylmer

Readers share their sightings....

Arden Beer from Altadena writes: “I didn’t believe my Mom when she told me she saw a Red-whiskered Bulbul, but I do now. This guy landed right in front of me while I was parked off Fremont Avenue in So. Pasadena.”

Thank you Arden



Red-whiskered Bulbul
© Phil Navarro

Readers, if there’s a Bird from Afar that you saw and loved, we’d love to hear about it. Send your text and photos to the Editor at pas.wrentit@gmail.com.



FIELD TRIPS

Bob's Gap**Saturday, April 13, 7:00 am - noon.****Heavy rain will cancel.**

Found in the southern Mojave Desert not far from Valyermo, Bob's Gap Road goes through a steep rocky gap in the desert foothills of the north San Gabriel Mountains. This is one of the best and least disturbed areas for many of the desert elements in the San Gabriel Mountains. Spring wildflowers can be spectacular depending on rain of course. We will look for Mountain Quail, Scott's Oriole, Black-throated Sparrow, Black-chinned Sparrow, Bell's Sparrow, Verdin, Prairie Falcon, Ladder-Backed Woodpecker and many other species. Bob's Gap is historically important as a Gray Vireo breeding spot and, amazingly enough, we found one last year! We will check previous locations, just in case!

Meet at Pearblossom Park, 121st St. East and East Ave. V-14. From there we will carpool/caravan to Bob's Gap which is south of Pearblossom Hwy, 165th Street becoming Bob's Gap Road. We will park near the Limekiln ruins on the east side dirt road.

Please notify the leader if you plan to attend.

Kathi Ellsworth, pandionsky@yahoo.com, (626) 524-0652.

Kathi Ellsworth



Northern Flicker © Jeff Bjork

Birds and Blooms Walk**Sunday, April 14th 7:00am - Noon**

Adam Searcy will lead a walk where he will share some of his favorite plants and flowers of Los Angeles County from the interesting and rare to common and beautiful. As well as being a great time to seek out blooming plants, it's also peak season for spring bird migration too, so we'll be pointing out both the plants and the birds that utilize them. Please email Luke Tiller at luke.tiller@gmail.com to reserve a spot and to receive directions on where and when to meet.

Adam Searcy

Antelope Valley Migrants**Saturday, April 27, all day**

Join Luke Tiller for an Antelope Valley Birding Adventure during the peak of spring songbird migration. We will explore all the weird and wonderful desert oases that provide rest and refueling stops for hungry northbound migrants in and around Lancaster. This week is generally regarded

as the peak for both numbers and diversity of western migrants, so should promise a nice mix of migrating birds. As well as seeking out the migrants, we will also keep our eyes open for desert denizens like LeConte's Thrasher, Scott's Oriole, Bell's and Black-throated Sparrows.

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

Luke Tiller

Piute Ponds and Vicinity**Sunday, May 5****6:30 am--early afternoon**

In spring, Piute Ponds and nearby desert oases are full of northbound shorebirds, warblers and flycatchers.

We will start at Piute Ponds, where we will look for migrants as well as desert specialties such as LeConte's Thrasher. Piute Ponds sometimes hosts birds that are very hard to find elsewhere in the county, such as Bank Swallow, Black Tern and Franklin's Gull. After Piute Ponds we will visit Apollo Park and, time permitting, the (in)famous Lancaster Sewage Ponds.

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

Mark and Janet Scheel

East Mojave Desert**Saturday and Sunday, May 11-12**

This is the year to visit the East Mojave! Due to recent rain, there could be carpets of wildflowers. We will also search for Gray Vireo, Gilded Flicker, Gray Flycatcher, Bendire's Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, LeConte's Thrasher, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Black-chinned Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Lucy's Warbler, Woodhouse's Scrub-jay, Juniper Titmouse, Golden Eagle, Scott's Oriole and Zone-tailed Hawk, which has nested near Mid-Hills in recent years. We will camp for one night on Saturday, May 11. We will meet at 7 am on Saturday in Baker and then travel paved and dirt roads of the Mojave National Preserve to Zzyzx, Cima Dome, Kelso, Cedar Canyon Road, the Mid-Hills, the Lanfair Valley and possibly the New York Mountains. Limited to 15 people. Email Lance Benner for more information and to sign up.

Lance Benner and Kathi Ellsworth



Heerman's Gull

© Ira A. Blitz

FIELD TRIPS & MONTHLY BIRD WALKS

C'est Chouette: Owls in the San Gabriel Mountains

May 18, 6:00 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, Western Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Spotted Owl, and Common Poorwill.

Limited to 10 people. Please email the leader to reserve a spot. Trip leader: Lance Benner lbenner@charter.net

Lance Benner

Throop Peak

Sunday, June 2

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 Golden Eagle, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, Townsend's Solitaire, Red Crossbill, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin 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 hat and coat. The hike is about four miles round-trip; a few sections are steep, and all of it is at altitudes in excess of 7900 feet. Please plan for about 90 minutes to drive up from Pasadena. If the Angeles Crest Highway isn't open to Dawson Saddle, then we will post an update on the PAS listserv and will hike from Islip Saddle to Little Jimmy Spring instead.

Lance Benner

Chilao Visitor Center

Saturday June 8

8:00 am - 10:00 am

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

Hill Penfold

Black Swifts and Lesser Nighthawks

Saturday, June 29, late afternoon/evening

So enigmatic was this species that up until 2012 ornithologists still had no idea where the Black Swift wintered. We will seek out these aerial acrobats at Claremont Wilderness Park, the only reliable spot in L.A. County to find this most mysterious of birds. The swifts are best looked for late in the day. And so we will spend a couple of pre-dusk hours seeking them out. On our return towards Pasadena, we will make a sundown stop in Duarte to look for Lesser Nighthawks.

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

Luke Tiller

Peck Road Water Conservation Park

First Saturday of the month, March to November

7:30 am - 10:30 am

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



Darren Dowell

Magpie Bird Study Group

Third Tuesday of most months

9:00 am until about noon

April 16, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. See admission policy at www.rsabg.org/visit

May 21, Lower Arroyo Seco. Meet at the parking lot below the Casting Ponds.

June 18, Descanso Gardens. Meet at the entrance.

Julia Ray, Sid Heyman

L.A. County Arboretum

Second Saturday of every month

8:00 am - 10:00 am

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

Katy Mann

Continued on page 11

CALENDAR

April 2019

3	Wed 7:30 pm	Board meeting		Eaton Canyon	Laura Garrett
6	Sat 7:30 am	Field trip	WC	Peck Rd. Water Conserv. Park	Darren Dowell
10	Wed 5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Sena on Myrtle	L. Tiller, C. Hamilton, D.Bell
13	Sat 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	County Arboretum	Katy Mann
13	Sat 7:00 am	Field trip	WC	Bob's Gap	Kathi Ellsworth
14	Sun 7:00 am	Field trip	WC	Birds & Blooms	Adam Searcy
16	Tue 9:00 am	Magpie Study group	WC	Rancho Santa Ana Gardens	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
17	Wed 7:30 pm	General meeting		Eaton Canyon	Adam Searcy
21	Sun 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Eaton Canyon	Hill Penfold
26-28	Fri-Sun	Birdathon	WC	Time & Locaton Varies	Teams
27	Sat All Day	Field trip	WC	Antelope Valley Migrants	Luke Tiller
28	Sun 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

May 2019

1	Wed 7:30 pm	Board meeting		Eaton Canyon	Laura Garrett
4	Sat 7:30 am	Field trip	WC	Peck Rd. Water Conserv. Park	Darren Dowell
5	Sun 6:30 am	Field trip	WC	Piute Ponds	Mark and Janet Scheel
8	Wed 5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Sena on Myrtle	L. Tiller, C. Hamilton, D.Bell
11	Sat 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	County Arboretum	Katy Mann
11-12	Sat-Sun 7:00 am	Field trip	WC	East Mojave	Lance Benner & Kathi Ellsworth
15	Wed 7:00 pm	General meeting	WC	Eaton Canyon	Annie Little
18	Sat 6:00 pm	Field trip	WC	Owls in the San Gabriels	Lance Benner
19	Sun 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Eaton Canyon	Hill Penfold
21	Tue 9:00 am	Magpie Study group	WC	Lower Arroyo Seco	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
26	Sun 8:00 am	Field trip	WC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

June 2019

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

WC Wrentit Club

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

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



RESULTS ARE IN! 2018 PASADENA SAN GABRIEL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 2018 count was held on December 15 and enjoyed pleasant dry weather and enough participants to ensure adequate coverage. One hundred and seventy-two species were recorded on count day, a record high. It's notable that the Legg Lake area alone recorded eighty-two of those species and the San Gabriel River area tallied nearly ninety. Most of these species were also seen elsewhere, but these figures illustrate just how productive these two locales are.

Contributing to the high species count were very few misses of expected species and a good number of unusual birds, many discovered prior to the count. Rare birds and species counts tend to get a lot of attention, but these are not the main goal of the count. However, it should be noted that a high species count does reflect good coverage of the count circle.

What we're really attempting to record are the numbers of regular species and how they vary from year to year and over the long term. In comparing the results of the 1946 count to those from 2018 we are clearly doing that. In the process our data has demonstrated significant changes in the early winter avifauna of the San Gabriel Valley and environs.

Here's a look at the highlights of the 2018 effort.

Five Greater White-fronted Geese and three Cackling Geese were at Legg Lake and two Snow Geese and another Cackling Goose were found along the San Gabriel River. Otherwise, waterfowl numbers were somewhat low. Some common species were represented by only a few individuals. This isn't necessarily an indication of declining numbers overall, as plenty were nearby (but outside the count circle) at the spreading basins in Pico Rivera and elsewhere.

Larids of interest were a Mew Gull found at Legg Lake and a single Glaucous-winged Gull along the San Gabriel River. This was a far cry from 2008 when seventy-nine Glaucous-winged Gulls were recorded. That however was an unusual year that saw large numbers of this species occurring at many inland locations.

A first for the count was a Neotropic Cormorant at Lincoln Park in the extreme southwestern corner of the circle. This bird and recent records from the Los Angeles River in Glendale and Echo and MacArthur Parks may well pertain to a single individual. We were fortunate that it was present in the circle on count day. At one time, Double-crested Cormorant was the default species away from the immediate coast, but as Neotropic Cormorants expand their range that is starting to change.

A Least Bittern was at Legg Lake where they are regular but can be tough to find. It's best to start before sunrise if you want to see or hear one of these elusive birds.

Easy to miss on the count was a lone White-tailed Kite spotted along the Rio Hondo. Two Northern Harriers were found at Santa Fe Dam, the only location in the circle where they are fairly reliable in winter.

Nocturnal coverage along the old Mt. Wilson Toll Road produced a Northern Saw-Whet Owl and later in the day a Northern Pygmy-Owl. A good bird for the count was a Burrowing Owl at Santa Fe Dam. The count week period (the three days before and three days after the count) produced a Barn Owl.

A continuing Lewis's Woodpecker at Hahamongna Watershed Park in Pasadena was the only one recorded on the count. Two hundred and twenty-eight Acorn Woodpeckers was quite a good number and a total of three White-headed Woodpeckers were found at multiple locations in the mountains.

Rare in winter was a Pacific-slope Flycatcher at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino. Still scarce but more expected at this time of year was a Gray Flycatcher continuing at Hahamongna Watershed Park in Pasadena. Legg Lake held a continuing stunning adult male Vermilion Flycatcher. This species has been increasing on the coastal slope in recent years, thus its appearance on the CBC wasn't too surprising.

Three Loggerhead Shrikes was slightly better than the recent average. Still, this is only about ten percent of the numbers we recorded decades ago. Other interesting passerines included a Cassin's Vireo at San Jose Creek, a Brown Creeper (scarce in the lowlands) at Legg Lake, a Pacific Wren (rare but regular locally in winter) along Winter Creek above Arcadia and a Townsend's Solitaire along the Mt. Wilson Toll Road.

A count of two hundred and thirty-two Cedar Waxwings and seventy-nine American Robins indicated that both species were present in lower than normal numbers.

Two Vesper Sparrows were a nice addition at Santa Fe Dam and a continuing Dark-eyed "Gray-headed" Junco was at Hahamongna Watershed Park in Pasadena.

A previously discovered Hooded Oriole was found on count day at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino. This species is quite rare locally in winter, but the Huntington has proven to be a fairly reliable spot for one or two each winter.

Legg Lake also produced the count's only Tricolored Blackbirds, with seven tallied there. This is the only spot they can be reliably found in the circle.

Scarce on the count was a Hermit Warbler at San Gabriel Cemetery, while a Wilson's Warbler at San Jose Creek was surprisingly the only one recorded on the count.

Additional count week birds included a Greater Scaup (rare on the count), Long-eared Owl (very rare on the count) and Barn Swallow at Peck Road Park in Arcadia. A excellent count week bird was the continuing Painted Redstart at Brookside Park. Also found during this period were a Red-breasted Nuthatch and Yellow Warbler.

These count week birds don't add to the species total, but CBC rules allow us to include birds that were missed on count day with the notation "CW". This helps create a more accurate picture of what birds are actually present.

As already noted, we missed virtually no expected species and picked up quite a few unusual and not so expected birds in 2018. Conspicuously absent this year were irregular irruptive species such as Varied Thrush, Pine Siskin and Lewis's Woodpeckers (save for the lone bird at Hahamongna). Overall it's hard to complain when we had pretty full coverage of the count circle and over 170 species recorded, including the requisite number of rare birds.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all of the participants who helped make this a successful event. Many CBCs suffer from a shortage of counters, but we are fortunate in this regard. Being located in a densely-populated area does come with the advantage of greater numbers of birders.

I've now been coordinating and compiling the Pasadena count for over a quarter of a century, having taken over from our own venerable Mickey Long. It continues to be a fun and rewarding experience each year.

Jon Fisher

SPECIAL EVENT

Visit PAS Young Birder Club Exhibit at the Pasadena Central

Library *California Condors: Past, Present and Future*

by PAS Young Birders Club



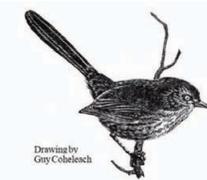
Pasadena Audubon Young Birders Club will have a featured exhibit in Pasadena’s Central Library in May. Several young birders have been busy working on an exhibition featuring the story of the California Condor. The young birders have been actively involved in planning the display. They started in the fall of 2018 with a visit to the library to view and measure the exhibit cases.



In order to tell the remarkable story of the California Condor, the young birders have been conducting research and writing text about the California Condor’s past, present and future. The exhibit will include information on the Condor’s physical description, habitat requirements, food preferences, nesting habits and behaviors. Because California Condors are critically endangered, the young birders are presenting facts about the greatest threats facing California Condors including lead ammunition, microtrash, and habituation.

In addition, to conducting research and writing text, the young birders have identified all the materials and equipment they will need and how they will produce materials and artwork that they don’t have on hand. Everything must be ready for installation day.

Please come and view the exhibit in the north exhibit hall of the Pasadena Central Library during the month of May. The Central Library is located at 285 East Walnut Street, Pasadena.



SPRING CLEANUP

Save the Date:

Cleanup at Peck Rd. Sunday, June 2

Join us for our biannual cleanup at Peck Road Water Conservation Park. We’ll do a guided bird walk at 8:00 am, cleanup from 10:00 am until noon, and then enjoy some pizza together under the trees. This communal effort benefits birds and birders alike. RSVP Lois Brunet, lbrunet@pasadenaaudubon.org We hope to see you there.



Hooded Merganser

© Kathy Degner

BIRDATHON 2019

What exactly is Birdathon?

Birdathon is a fundraiser where teams collect “per bird species” pledges from their friends, family or anyone who wants to sponsor them. Pledges can be as little as 5 cents a species. Of course, the sky’s the limit. Then teams go birding on either April 26, 27, or 28 and try to find as many bird species as possible. Sponsors then make donations to PAS based on the number of species found by the team they sponsored.

[The team raising the most funds is honored at the June dinner with a hearty round of applause and a very birdy prize!] On a more serious note, we have timed this event at the end of April for maximum avian diversity: some wintering birds haven’t left, some summer residents have arrived, and migrants abound.

How can I participate?

- Join an existing team or event; see the list to the right for teams registered as of print deadline. Additional teams will be listed on the website. Email Lois, lbrunet@pasadenaudubon.org, for a pledge sheet and collect pledges. Then hit the trails with your team.
- Form your own team. Register with Lois by email and she’ll send you the pledge sheet. Collect pledges and make a birding plan. You might want to bird at a single park, or stay within Pasadena city limits; some travel only by foot or bicycle, some count only birds that they photograph. A team can spend as little or as much time as they want, from watching backyard feeders for an hour to embarking on a 24-hour-long manic quest on a finely-tuned precision birding route. You’re the boss.

I don’t want to bird. How can I pledge?

Pick a team, and email your “per bird species pledge” and contact information to the leader. They’ll be happy to hear from you!! After the event, they’ll be in touch with their results, and you can make your donation by check or through PayPal on our website.

Sponsors can be anyone: friends, family, co-workers, even your boss. In addition to supporting PAS, sponsors learn about birds and bird habitat. Sponsors who are not birders are often amazed at the number of bird species that can be found here. But if you are a team member, don’t surprise your sponsors too much --- give them an estimate of how many birds you expect to find before they pledge! After Birdathon, I send my sponsors a thank-you note, a species list, and a description of how the day went, including any surprises or amusing anecdotes.

Birdathon is a lot of fun, supports PAS, and educates non-birders about birds and the importance of habitat. So join a team or sponsor one!

How does PAS use the funds?

Birdathon helps fund many of our exciting programs, including: Grants and scholarships that support important research and send young birders to camps and conferences; Conservation initiatives, like our Peck cleanups and our new native garden project at Washington Elementary.



Ladybirders

TEAMS

The Big Sit: at Whittier Narrows, 8:00 am–noon, April 27. Bring your lawn chair and do your birding with a like-minded crowd. Contact Mark Hunter, mark.hunter@pasadenaudubon.org, for exact location and to pledge. No need to sign up; just bring your binoculars.

The Ladybirders: New last year, the Ladybirders are heading out on Friday April 26th and will attempt to beat their record of 83 species, with 72 at Peck alone! Margaritas will follow. Contact Lois Brunet, lbrunet@pasadenaudubon.org, to pledge or join. Sorry guys, this is a ladies only team.

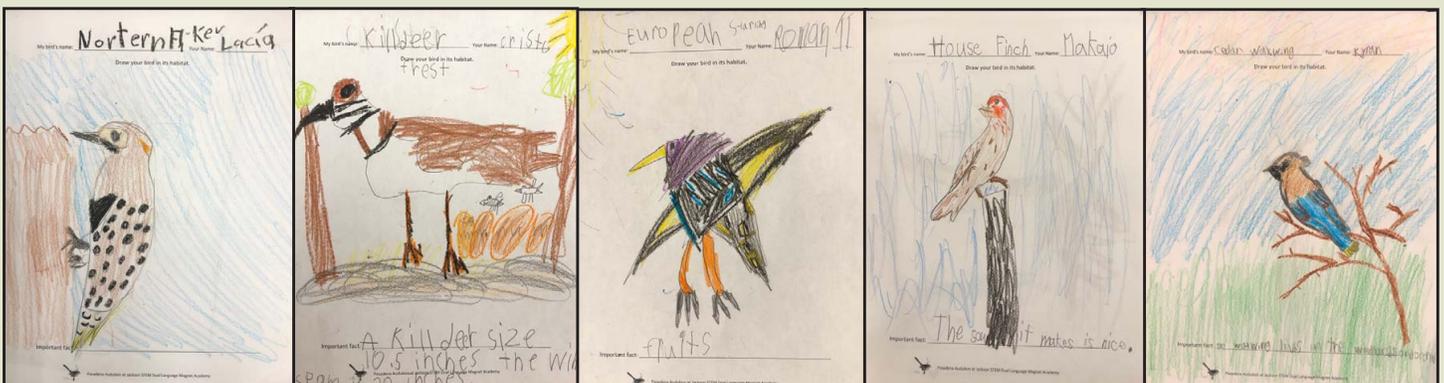
Team Adriana: With only a year into birding, Team Adriana will be out and about again looking for birds in either California or Missouri. Contact Adriana to pledge: akleiman@thechicagoschool.edu

Not seen since 2015, the **Green Team** returns! This will be a full-day/part-night adventure with minimal use of cars (but public transportation is allowed). Expected species count is around 125, but could be higher or lower depending on the route chosen and our tolerance to pain that day. Contact team leader Darren Dowell, dowell.darren@yahoo.com, for financial sponsorship or moral support.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Bird Science Program

One important component of our Bird Science Program is assigning each child a bird. The kids learn their bird by drawing it and then sharing a fun fact with their classmates. When we head to Peck Road for our field trip, there’s always an added moment of excitement when a child finds his or her bird at the park. This artwork is from the second graders at Jackson STEM Dual Language Magnet Academy.



PAS Young Birders are for the Birds!

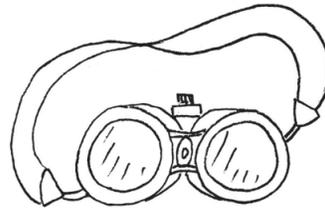
Creating Nest Boxes

March 2019

PAS young birders and their parents built 12 nest boxes to create safe homes for: Black Phoebe, House Finch, Oak Titmouse, Western Bluebird, Wren and Woodpecker. For these species, there may be a shortage of good nesting spots. Birds have specific nesting requirements.



Young birders built the right nest box for the right bird. Bird nest boxes support more nesting birds. Thank you young birders, parents, grandparents, and master nest box builders, Norm and Derek.



The Young Birder Club

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to our generous Donors!

ORIOLE (\$100-\$249): Kathi Ellsworth, Douglas Farr, Kathy Linowski, Mitchell Tsai

WARBLER (\$5-\$99): Mary Louise Blackstone, Harry and Karen Brumer, Frank Burrows, Chris Dean, Tilda and Terry Dewolfe, Pam and Wilbur Dong, Mark Kocsis and Tamara Mason, Patricia C. Loverme, Cecilia Lowenthal, Margaret Machida, Fred Nelson, Wendy Panniker, Ayla Qureshi, Sharon and Bill Ramsey, Julie Reiz, Paul Scranton, Anne Shapiro, Genessi Torres

Birds ‘n Beers

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

Monthly Walks

Continued from page 5

Eaton Canyon

Third Sunday of every month

8:00 am - 11:00 am

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

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

Hill Penfold



Painted Lady

Trip Leaders

Mark Scheel (chair)	(626) 765-5408	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu
Larry Allen	(626) 797-1810	larryallen@earlymusicla.org
Lance Benner	(626) 791-1187	lbenner@charter.net
Ron Cyger	(626) 840-2566	ron@cyger.org (preferred)
Darren Dowell	(626) 344-4003	dowell.darren@yahoo.com
Kathi Ellsworth	(626) 524-0652	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	
Mark Hunter	(626) 344-8428	mark.hunter@pasadenaaudubon.org
Mickey Long	(626) 285-8878	mlobgird@gmail.com
Katy Mann	(626) 797-0307	katymann1960@gmail.com
Hill Penfold	(818) 352-4954	hpenfold@gmail.com
Julia Ray	(818) 314-5127	jraymusic@att.net
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@att.net
Luke Tiller		luketiller@gmail.com

Huntington Library

Fourth Sunday of every month

8:00 am - 11:00 am

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

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

Mark Hunter

Elections

A nominating committee has been formed to solicit candidates to serve as officers for the 2019/2020 fiscal year. Nominations will be accepted at the April general meeting. You may also contact Mickey Long (mlobgird@gmail.com) or Kathy Degner (ottergal65@yahoo.com) with a recommendation.

Voting takes place at the May general meeting. At this time, the current president, vice-president and secretary have agreed to stand for reelection. Deni Sinnott has been nominated for treasurer.

Join the Pasadena Audubon Society

Join the Pasadena Audubon Society

Pasadena Audubon Society Chapter-only Membership provides important support for our conservation, education and outreach efforts. You'll also be the first to hear about our programs and field trips, and you'll receive a one-year subscription to our newsletter, *The Wrentit*.

Membership dues: \$25 for individuals, \$30 for families, \$15 for seniors/senior family/student.

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Your information is never shared.

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I want to go paperless and read *The Wrentit* online.

Or join online at pasadenaaudubon.org.

If you'd like to provide a gift membership, please contact our membership chair, Lois Fulmer, at willo2001@earthlink.net.

We thank you for your support!

Pasadena Audubon Society Board

Laura Garrett	President	purplecow@jps.net
Darren Dowell	Vice President	dowell.darren@yahoo.com
Ira Blitz	Secretary	irablitz@gmail.com
Eileen Burton	Treasurer	eileenburton@att.net
Deni Sinnott	Publicity	denisinnott25@gmail.com
Mark Hunter	Conservation	mark.hunter@pasadenaaudubon.org
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Ron Cyger	Education	ron@cyger.org
Mark Scheel	Field Trips/Grant Program	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu
Doug Farr	Hospitality	doug@dmfarr.com
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Kathy Degner	Outreach	ottergal65@yahoo.com
Luke Tiller	Programs	luke.tiller@gmail.com

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Mickey Long	Member-at-Large	mlongbird@gmail.com
Katy Mann	Member-at-Large	katymann1960@gmail.com
Carolyn Murphy	Member-at-Large	carolyn@hundredfold.org
Jane Glicksman	Wrentit Co-Editor	pas.wrentit@gmail.com
Javier Vazquez	Wrentit Co-Editor	javierv@marinagraphics.com

Program Manager: Lois Brunet, lbrunet@pasadenaaudubon.org

See chapter-only dues on previous page.

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.

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Peregrine Falcon

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The Paperless Option

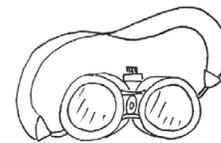
If you'd prefer to read *The Wrentit* online, let us know, by emailing your name and address to:

paperless@pasadenaaudubon.org

You'll receive an email and link to the newsletter when each issue comes out. You'll also have our gratitude, as this will allow us to reduce our paper use and printing expenses. Plus, photos will be in living color, just like the birds we love!

PAS Gear Now Available at Zazzle.com

Let the world know you're with Pasadena Audubon. Go to www.zazzle.com/pasadena_audubon for T-shirts, water bottles, luggage tags and more, all featuring our lovely wrentit logo.

**Welcome to our New Members**

ALHAMBRA: Weikuang Lee, Zheya Su; ARCADIA: Charlotte Eubanks, Dirk Hudson, Raymond Lam; AZUSA: Charlotte Augustine, David Munn; BURBANK: Margie Pfeffer; CLAREMONT: Muriel Replogle; DUARTE: Donald Milefchik, Jean Moulding; GLENDALE: Carolyn Finger; LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE: Julie Abbott, Morrow Fleet, Vahe Mazmanian, Joe & Joan Wosslaw; LOS ANGELES: Alex Coffey, Zoë Garcia; MONROVIA: Fred Cunningham, Judith Graven, Dianne Logan, Nora McDowell, Anthony Richland; MONTEREY PARK: Rama Sarnoff, James Shen, Bonnie Shih; PASADENA: Ann Faison, Linda Hargrove, Eric Haupt, Beverly Knapp, Debra Lemonds, Louisa Miller, Marjorie Rydberg, S Schleimer, Heidi Taylor, Gautam Vasisht, James Willett; RANCHO CUCAMONGA: Laurie Borer; SAN MARINO: Timothy Breen, John Hicks, Jane Houle, Deanne Larsen, Enzo Repetto, Beth & Steve Roth; TEMPLE CITY: Joann Lynn