



Drawing by
Guy Coleleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 61 — No. 3

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

June-September 2013



**Looks even better in color! Check
out www.pasadenaaudubon.org**

Rufous Hummingbird

Rufous Hummingbirds are a relatively common migrant in southern California during March, April, and early May. Adult males, such as the one shown here, have reddish-orange bodies with brilliant red throat gorgets, and they produce a metallic whining sound when they fly. Where they overlap other hummingbird species, they're usually the most aggressive species; for example, during southward migration in the Rocky Mountains, they regularly drive Broad-tailed Hummingbirds away from their breeding territories until after the Rufous Hummingbirds have left.

The range of Rufous Hummingbirds extends into southern Alaska, hundreds of miles farther north than the range of any other hummingbird species. The southern edge of their breeding range is in far northern California, southern Oregon, and southern Idaho. Most Rufous Hummingbirds migrate north through California in the spring and then south through the Rocky Mountains in the fall, although some also migrate south through the coast ranges and Sierra Nevada. Fall migration begins in June; normally adult males migrate first, followed by adult females, and then juveniles. Fall migration occurs when many alpine flowers are blooming.

Rufous Hummingbirds feed on nectar using their tongues, which are forked and have tiny tubes at the tips. The tongue draws in nectar by capillary attraction and licking but not by sucking. Their metabolism is so high that dye in sugar water consumed at feeders can appear in their droppings in less than twenty minutes.

Lance Benner

President's Perch

It's spring and the birds are doing their northern migration through So. Calif. – lots of colorful warblers in the parks and neighborhood trees. We have been to Descanso Gardens, Eaton Canyon, or Huntington Gardens nearly every morning since returning from a 15-day tour of Japan. Japan is a beautiful island country with very polite people. Lois and I enjoyed the trip but had trouble using chopsticks, and sitting/sleeping on the floor. Food was delicious and we took many pictures of shrines, palaces, Mt. Fuji. and a few (26) of the local birds.

I am happy to announce that the Pasadena Museum of History (470 W. Walnut) will house archived records of Pasadena Audubon Society, founded in 1904. Bev McKenzie, our long-time Board member and former Wrentit editor, has just completed sorting and boxing PAS historical records to be permanently stored and be available for research at PMH. Many of our records were lost in the 1993 fire at Eaton Canyon but Bev has gathered copies of most of the historic records from 1946 through 1993.

See you at the June 8 Dinner Meeting (reserve your spot now).

Good Birding!

In This Issue

Programs	2
Conservation	2, 8
Education	3
Sightings	3
Field Trips	4, 6
Calendar	5
Announcements	7
New Members	8

June Program

Annual Dinner

Saturday, June 8, 2013

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 2013-2014. Practice imitation bird calls in the only socially acceptable setting in which to do so! Bring up to five minute's worth of favorite photos on a USB drive to discuss during the slide show and bring money for the raffle and/or silent auction.

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. Payment must be received by June 4!

Questions? Contact Hospitality Chair Grace Wong at gywseven7@gmail.com or (626) 798-6500.

Summer Vacation

Many chapter activities take a holiday during summer. Our monthly walks in Hahamongna and the Huntington Library won't resume until September, although the Eaton Canyon walks still happen throughout the summer. And, at press time, a new series of walks at Chilao, high up the Angeles Crest Highway, is beginning - see page 5.

If you like summer school, you'll love **Birding 101**, the class that takes beginners and novices and dramatically improves their skills in a short time. See the announcement on page 3.

New PAS Officers

Elections were held at the May 15 general meeting and the new slate takes office July 1. They are:

President: Deni Sinnott
Vice-president: Mickey Long
Secretary: Kathi Ellsworth
Treasurer: Grace Wong

September Program

What IS That??

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Jon Fisher & Mickey Long

We want your bird photos! Do you have photos of a difficult ID? We'll avoid photos that defy all attempts at identification, but are soliciting any that show enough to at least narrow the field to one or two species.

We'll incorporate your bird pictures with our own to create an ID program that should offer something to interest everyone. As usual, we'll take a holistic approach to ID and touch on habitat, seasonal timing, natural history, behavior and similar species as well as the field marks of the bird at hand. We hope you'll join us for what should be a fun and informative first program of the year.

When you submit photos please note when and where each one was taken since this will add to the value of the program. We'll limit submissions to photos taken in southern California. Please submit your photos to Jon (JonF60@hotmail.com) or Mickey (mlobgibird@gmail.com).

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

Conservation

Hahamongna — A Reason for Hope

Ten years ago, the City of Pasadena planned to build several sports fields in Hahamongna Watershed Park. Over the last ten years, the City has removed all but one of these fields, in part because the Station Fire and subsequent rainstorms fundamentally altered Hahamongna's topography, and also because at every public meeting, the public, including Pasadena Audubon, has protested these fields being built in Hahamongna. But that one field remained in the works.

The situation looked especially dire for us when the California Department of Parks and Recreation granted Pasadena \$1 million to build a soccer field in Hahamongna. The city held scoping meetings to allow the public to comment on the plan, and we vociferously protested this shortsighted project. Last summer, we documented two "Least" Bell's Vireos right in the spot where the field was to be built, which added ammunition to our argument that a riverbed is not a good place to build a sports field. And as if to support our contention that this habitat is better for birds than for soccer, a singing "Least" Bell's Vireo returned to Hahamongna in early May this year!

The good news is that the City has found an alternate location for the field: John Muir High School. At first glance, this seems ideal. It would keep the field out of Hahamongna, the

school's south field is in desperate need of repair, and the grant will add lights and a bathroom as well. Unlike Hahamongna, public transportation is plentiful, and the school serves kids who will benefit. The only problem is that Muir Ranch, the school's farm, adjoins the field, and the Muir Ranch folks worry that their farm might be harmed if the new field is used more than the old one.

While understandable, these issues can be resolved, and I hope that Pasadena works with Muir Ranch to improve their farm and to solve any problems they have with the renovated field. One hopes that the kids of Muir Ranch will get an effective lesson in how to work with the City and learn how to leverage a potential problem into an effective solution. This could be a situation where everyone wins. Let's hope so.

Muir Ranch is a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). To learn more, please visit www.muirranch.org.

Laura Garrett

Editor's note: Laura's Birdathon team, the Big Sit, found 55 species without leaving their stationary 100-foot circle at Legg Lake in Whittier Narrows. See her detailed report in the September issue.

Education

Class: Birding 101

Sponsored by Pasadena Audubon and Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Birding provides enjoyment and challenge throughout life, getting you outdoors on your street or around the world. Birding increases your ability to observe and appreciate the world around you. And finally, birding is proven to keep you young! (Well, three out of four isn't bad!) So, why would you put off learning how to be a better birder any longer?

This class is designed for beginners, but all are welcome. We will cover the basics of identification, optics, field guides, note-taking, habitats, birding ethics, and many other topics. Class size is limited, so don't delay!

Classroom sessions: July 17, 24, and 31 at 7:00 p.m

Field-trips: July 20 and 27, 2013 from early morning to early afternoon.

Participants should attend all classes and field trips.

For reservations and more information, contact birding101@pasadenaudubon.org. Cost: is \$50 for Pasadena Audubon members, \$70 for non-members (which will include membership in Pasadena Audubon). This fee will cover all three classes and two field trips. Payment is payable to "Pasadena Audubon Society" and is due at the first class session.

Ron Cyger and Mark Scheel

Saving California Condors from Lead Poisoning

Have you ever seen a condor flying high in the sky? If you haven't there are reasons why! One of the biggest reasons why we have so few condors is because of lead poisoning. I learned about this at the Environmental Youth Summit at Debs Park on May 4th, 2013. We discussed how we could help the condors by banning lead ammunition used by hunters. There were twelve of us representing different Audubon programs around Los Angeles. Vivianna Vallin from Debs Park and representatives from Health Home Collaborators gave presentations about how lead is bad for condors, humans and the environment.

When hunters shoot wild animals, they sometimes leave them behind with the lead bullets in the animal. Condors feed on those carcasses and the lead makes them sick and if they are not treated they could die. This problem could be solved if hunters used copper ammunition instead of lead. In 2007 lead ammunition was banned in the condor range in California. But that is not enough since condors feed outside their range. Assembly Bill 711 aims to outlaw lead ammunition use throughout California. If the law gets passed the condors have a better chance to survive.

We thought about how our youth group can help to support Assembly Bill 711. We had lots of ideas including doing presentations at our schools, writing an article in the local newspaper, writing to all our friends on Facebook, making a u-

Continued on page 6

Birdathon Results

Team "Irritable Owl Syndrome" undertook a crazy, exhilarating, and exhausting 21-hour birdathon in LA County on Saturday, leaving home at 1:00 am and returning at 10:00 pm. Our route, all within LA County, had us racing into the mountains, through the deserts, into the foothills, and to the ocean. Our longest planned stop was Piute Ponds (an hour), and our shortest planned stop (can you call it a 'stop?') was a few seconds (a Burrowing Owl standing on a pipe on a desert road). Many stops were 10 minutes or less, targeting particular hard-to-find birds. Our schedule was packed: if we had trouble finding a bird, we couldn't afford to wait around for it, or else we wouldn't have time to get to all our planned locations before it gets dark.

Team "Irritable Owl Syndrome" was Frank Gilliland, Susan Gilliland, Janet Scheel, and myself. We ended up with 185 ABA species, plus two non-ABA birds (Rose-ringed Parakeet and Northern Cardinal), for a total of 187 species, just outpacing last year's count of 185. One bird ("Jaeger sp.") was unidentified to species.

We had a few firsts (at least for me on Birdathon): Least Bittern (Ballona Freshwater Marsh), Thayer's Gull (Zuma Lagoon), and Northern Cardinal (Sepulveda Basin). Other highlights included Northern Pygmy-Owl (Jackson Lake), Townsend's Solitaire (Grassy Hollow), Greater Roadrunner (Bob's Gap), and American White Pelican (Sepulveda Basin), all of which we usually miss. We usually miss Red Crossbill, but this time we had them at three locations: Grassy Hollow, Pearblossom Park, and Apollo Park.

Of course, no Birdathon description is complete without the "list of shame": the few easy birds that we end up missing because of extreme haste, running out of time, or just plain bad luck. This year our two most embarrassing misses were American Kestrel and Ring-billed Gull. We thank our sponsors very much, and we had a great time.

Mark Scheel

The PAS Birdathon **Green Team** completed its third year, counting from 5:00 pm Friday at Henninger Flat to 5:00 pm Saturday at Peck Water Conservation Park. We found 138 species, smashing last year's team record of 130. Also, two more species detected on the way to Henninger Flat (Indian Peafowl, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher) were not included in the total.

Green Team members this year were Christopher Stevenson and myself doing the full route, and Lance Benner, Ron Cyger, and Nathan Osborne joining for half of the count. The weather was clear and warm much of the time.

Highlights were numerous and included:

Largest team participation to date, with lots of eyes scouring the landscape

"Running the table" on hummingbirds, made possible by a concentration of birds feeding on black sage and white sage on the hillside above Henninger Flat: male Calliope (photographed!), Rufous, and Costa's hummingbirds being particularly notable. Anna's were common everywhere, Allen's

Continued on page 6

Field Trips

Mt. Pinos and Environs

Saturday, June 1, 2013

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

Throop Peak

Saturday, June 8, 2013

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

C'est Chouette, Part 2

Owls in the High San Gabriels

Saturday, June 22, 2013

7:00 pm —midnight

Join us as we search for owls and nightjars in the higher parts of the San Gabriel Mountains on a moonlit night at the summer solstice. 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, Northern Saw-whet, Spotted, Western Screech, and Great Horned owls and for Common Poorwill. If we're very lucky, we might find Mexican whip-poor-will, which was present last summer.

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; preference will be given to people who did not attend the Pasadena Audubon owl trip on March 30. At press time this trip was filling fast. Please email the leader for availability and logistical information.

Lance Benner

Piute Ponds

Saturday, August 3, 2013

6:30 am — early afternoon

What do you find in August in a wetland oasis in the desert? Shorebirds! Join us for a hot day at the Piute Ponds and other nearby Antelope Valley locations where every year thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage during their southbound migration. We should find over a dozen shorebird species, and may see rarities such as Baird's or Semipalmated Sandpipers. We will also look for desert birds such as Sage Sparrow, and we may have a chance for LeConte's Thrasher.

Field trips continue on page 6!

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sundays: June 16, July 21, August 18, and September 15, 2013

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, September 7, 2013

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.

Ron Cyger

Huntington Library Monthly Walk

Sunday, September 22, 2013

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 page 5) by email (preferred), or by phone.

Mark Hunter

 = Wrentit Club!

Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by August 1

 = Wrentit Club
Count Circle!





June 2013

1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Mt.Pinos	Ron Cyger & Larry Johnson
8	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Throop Peak	Lance Benner
8	Sat	6:00 pm	Annual Dinner		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	See page 2
9	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Descanso Gardens	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
22	Sat	7:30 pm	Field Trip		C'est Chouette Part 2	Lance Benner







July 2013

14	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
21	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold

August 2013

3	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip		Piute Ponds	Mark and Janet Scheel
11	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
31	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip		Los Angeles River	Mark and Janet Scheel

September 2013

4	Wed	7:00 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
7	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
8	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Legg Lake	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
18	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	What IS That??
21	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Ventura County Game Preserve	Larry Sansome, M. & J. Scheel
22	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Huntington Library & Gardens	Mark Hunter
			<i>(PAS members only)</i>			
28	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip		Placerita Canyon	Ron Cyger

Chilao Visitor Center Re-opens

By the time you read this, the Chilao Visitor Center on Angeles Crest Highway will be open again. Our own Hill Penfold leads bird walks there on the second Sunday of each month at 8:00 am. Go have a look! More details in the September *Wrentit*.

* Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (chair)	(626) 765-5408	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu
Larry Allen	(323) 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
Nick & Mary Freeman	(818) 247-6172	mnfreeman@earthlink.net
Frank & Susan Gilliland	(626) 441-8487	gillilandsusan@gmail.com
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	sidheyman@sbcglobal.net
Mark Hunter	(818) 369-6627	fishingyak@yahoo.com
Mickey Long	(626) 285-8878	mlongbird@charter.net
Elaine MacPherson	(626) 355-9412	birdergrrl@aol.com
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**(Piute Ponds, continued)**

Note: Piute Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base, which has restricted entry. Please email Mark Scheel if you would like to attend. The meeting time and place will be arranged.

Mark and Janet Scheel

Los Angeles River

Saturday, August 31, 2013

7:00 am — noon

WC

The Los Angeles River is the best place in coastal LA County to see a great variety of shorebirds. Join us for a walk up the Los Angeles River to see what we can find. We can expect large numbers of migrant sandpipers and maybe something rare, such as Solitary, Baird's, or Semipalmated Sandpipers, any of which may show up this time of year.

We will start at Willow Street in Long Beach and work our way up the river to the recently restored Dominguez Gap wetland.

Take the Willow Street exit east off the 710 Freeway and turn north at Golden Ave. just east of the river. Take an immediate left on 26th and then a right on De Forest Avenue. We will meet at the bike path entrance on De Forest, just north of 26th.

Mark and Janet Scheel

Placerita Canyon

Saturday, September 28, 2013

7:00 am — noon

WC

Placerita is a wonderful canyon on the western edge of the San Gabriel Mountains. We will explore the Walker Ranch area of the canyon with its oaks and foothill canyons.

To get there from Pasadena take the 210 West, 5 North, 14 North, off at Placerita Canyon Road and take a right at the stop sign. In 1.5 miles you will come to the entrance to the Nature Center. Go 1.7 miles PAST this entrance to the pull-off for the Walker Ranch area on the right. Parking is limited, so carpooling is recommended. And, you will need an Adventure Pass if there is still a requirement at that time.

Ron Cyger

Condors and Lead, continued

tube video and a school documentary as well as writing personal letters to our local politicians. Pasadena Audubon members can also help the effort to save the magnificent California condors by writing a personal letter to our Assembly members, Chris Holden (41st district) and Mike Gatto (43rd district) to say that you support Assembly Bill 711.

Dessi Sieburth

Editor's note: Dessi is a fifth-grader at Foothill Progressive Montessori School in La Canada. He has been birding for two years with PAS and he is part of the Western Bluebird Nest Box Project. His lobbying worked! AB 711 passed the Assembly on May 16, 2013.

Birdathon, continued

in the basin, and we picked up a couple of Black-chinned also in the basin.

Close-up views of a Common Poorwill (Lance was involved, of course!) with several others singing around us

Several target birds pre-sunrise Saturday from Encanto Park to Santa Fe Dam: Barn Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Phainopepla, Cactus Wren

Ron's prediction of a Gray Flycatcher at Santa Fe Dam which turned out to come true

A mixed flock of seed eaters near the base of the Santa Fe Dam which included a Brewer's Sparrow again this year

An orange juice refueling break at Legg Lake, courtesy of the Big Sitters (many of whom were standing, by the way...)

After a disappointing trip down a mostly dry San Gabriel River, a strong recovery on shorebirds and other birds associated with water along the Rio Hondo

Some last-minute birds at Peck Park (Western Gull, Eared Grebe, Warbling Vireo)

For the third year in a row, no flat bike tires

What was the most surprising miss this year? Probably Golden-Crowned Sparrow. Also in the negative category is that one team member received a light spraying by a skunk early Saturday morning -- see if you can figure out who at the next Audubon Society meeting.

We use eBird rules for counting local breeding birds, which allows us to include things like Egyptian Goose. We ask for leniency with a flock of Aratinga parakeets not identified to species (Red-Masked vs. Mitred), and also for the limited use of cars this year to allow some team members to participate on the Green Team while also meeting their other commitments.

Thanks especially to our sponsors. We're quite happy with our species total this year and in particular its impact on the amount of your donation to PAS causes.

Darren Dowell

Birding Hotspots, continued from p. 8

of an ecological preserve, the Executive Director of the Annenberg Foundation said, "You can choose to differentiate or parse between animals—wild, feral, indigenous, companion or others associated with an Urban Ecology—we do not."

Dogs have no place in an ecological preserve. We need to let the Department of Fish and Wildlife know that this is a terrible idea. You can contact the director, Charles Bonham, at California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1416 9th Street, 12th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 or director@wildlife.ca.gov.

The third problem is at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, where last February, the LA Department of Water and Power bulldozed significant riparian habitat. They did not follow proper protocol, and they have no plans to mitigate the damage or restore the habitat.

Please write to the superintendent of LA Parks and Recreation and ask them to hold the LADWP accountable for their gross negligence, that they restore the habitat, and to assure us that no such destruction will occur again.

Laura Garrett

Identifying and Learning Warbler Vocalizations

On Saturday, October 19, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, PAS and Los Angeles Audubon Society will host a warbler workshop at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Advance signup is required. There is a \$20 fee and the workshop is open to the first 80 people. We encourage you to bring a brown bag lunch. Mail checks payable to "LAAS Warbler Vocalization Workshop" to: Los Angeles Audubon-Field Trips, Attn: Susan Castor, PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041. Include name, address, phone number, and email address. Confirmations will be sent by email.

This workshop by Tom Stephenson will cover many new techniques that make it easier to identify singing warblers and other species. This workshop will first cover how to understand and use sonograms to learn what makes a vocalization unique and how to differentiate similar-sounding species.

Based on a new system outlined in *The Warbler Guide* Tom will explain and demonstrate how understanding a song's structure, and the characteristics of the Elements and Phrases that make up the song, can speed up the identification process and make it easier to remember all kinds of vocalizations. There will also be a discussion of how to use a song finder to quickly identify a singing warbler using the objective, easy-to-hear qualities of a song.

The author will also explain a simple 3-step memorization system that he has used many times to memorize 300 or more songs for a trip to a new country.

And, if time permits, there will be a discussion of how to study and identify the vocalizations of groups of similar-sounding species, such as western thrashers, and also how to learn the very short chip and flight calls of warblers and other species.

West Nile Virus

Dead bird? Sick bird? Call.

In 2012, West Nile Virus sickened 479 people in California, and 19 of them died. Testing of dead birds is an important early warning system, and your help is needed.

In 2012 over 4,000 birds were tested in California, and 38% of them were positive for the disease, which is spread by mosquito bites. Half of those were crows. Other corvid species are also very susceptible, and WNV is also found in other bird species such as raptors, finches, sparrows, and robins. The symptoms of WNV (recumbency, ataxia, circling, unusual posture, emaciation) overlap those of other bird diseases, so the only positive diagnosis is through testing of birds that have been dead less than 24 hours.

If you find a dead bird (or tree squirrel) make a report by phoning the hotline at (877) WNV-BIRD [968-2473] or on the web site at www.westnile.ca.gov. Avoid direct contact with carcasses — use plastic bags/gloves and shovels. Thank you for your help with this important public health issue. For other questions about the program, phone (510) 412-6255.

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!



No Meetings in July and August

**Tuesday, June 18, 2013
Descanso Gardens**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2013
Legg Lake**

Trip leaders: Sid Heyman, Julia Ray

DONATIONS TO PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Judy Howell, Katharine Linsenmayer, Stacey Masci. Thank you for your generosity, and special thanks to all our 2013 Birdathon participants and sponsors!

Become a Chapter-only Member of PAS

Local 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

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Vice-President	Darren Dowell	(626) 344-4003
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Birding Hotspots at Risk

Three important conservation issues need our attention, and I urge you to do what you can to help. Last December, at Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve, the Army Corps of Engineers clear-cut much of the habitat along Haskell Creek, south of Burbank Ave, destroying bird habitat. My colleague at SFV Audubon, Kris Ohlenkamp, has been working diligently with the City of Los Angeles and the ACoE to rectify the problem. At first the ACoE was cooperative, but at the last meeting on April 23, they flatly rejected the proposals presented by Kris and others. The ACoE is blaming “the environmentalists” for submitting proposals that cost money, all the while ignoring that they created the problem in the first place.

So what can you do? Please write, call, or email Colonel Mark Toy and/ or Congressman Brad Sherman’s representative and let them know that we are waiting for the ACoE to solve the problem that they created: they need to restore this habitat.

Contact Colonel Toy at richard.m.toy@usace.army.mil, or (213) 452-3961, or 915 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1101, LA, CA 90017. Contact Congressman Sherman at matt.dababneh@mail.house.gov, or (818)501-9200, or 5000 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 420, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Let them know that we are waiting for the ACoE to solve the problem that they created: they need to restore this habitat.

The second issue is at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Preserve, which was established in 2003 for “conservation, restoration, or recreation purposes only.” Astonishingly, the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife entered into a Memorandum of Understanding last January with the Annenberg Foundation to build a 46,000 square foot building in Area C of the wetlands (north of Culver Blvd and Ballona Creek) for the care and adoption of animal companions. When told that this facility has no place in the middle

Continued on page 6

New Members

ALHAMBRA: Edith Avrin; **ALTADENA:** Tammy Coggnetta, Doris Dunn, Katharine Linsenmayer;
ARCADIA: Jackson Etter, James Hisle; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Carolyn Murray; **LA CRESCENTA:** Chris Spurgeon; **LOS ANGELES:** Scott Baker; **MONROVIA:** Larry Canterbury, Eileen Eckstrom; **MONTEREY PARK:** Marian Cavataio, Brenda Kuo, Philip Richardson; **PASADENA:** Maaatha Amatul-Hagg, Eddie Angeles, Bruce Garbe, Pamela & Craig Hearn, Beatrice, Herrera, Christopher Hopkins, Frances McCue, William Norman, Suzanne Partridge, Rosemarie Pico, Virginia Robinson, Lindy Russell, H. Vocan, Stanley Wilson; **ROSEMEAD:** Bruce Capucetti; **SAN GABRIEL:** Thomas Goff, Mary Nesalhous; **SAN MARINO:** Ruth Cornell; **SHERMAN OAKS:** John Lobel; **SIERRA MADRE:** Susan Austin; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Edward Fitzgerald, Keith Novak; **TEMPLE CITY:** Cynthia McNamara