



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 51 – No. 5

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

November-December 2003

November Program

Digiscoping

November 19, 2003

Tom Stephenson and Eddie Thomas

Everything you need to know about how to take great looking digital pictures through a telescope.

Ever see a bird that you wanted to take home with you? Now you can. If you own a digital camera and a telescope, you probably already have what you need to begin Digiscoping.

Come to the meeting and learn how to choose a digital camera, how to adapt one to your scope, and some of the processing procedures available to help you make incredible-looking bird and wildlife pictures for printing, emailing, and even using as aids to identification.

Meetings held at:

Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena
7:00 pm Social
7:30 pm Program

January Program

Bats

January 21, 2004

Diana Simons

Learn about the fascinating world of bats and help to promote understanding and appreciation for these beneficial and much maligned mammals. Bat Biologist, Diana Simon's beautiful slide program is both entertaining and educational. Topics include the roles that bats play in different ecosystems, the diversity of bat species, bat/human interactions, and close-up photos of bats from California and around the world. It also includes bat house information and a live bat.

In addition to her educational programs, Diana is currently monitoring bats in bridges for Caltrans and working on a bat survey for the U.S. Park Service.

Diana is featured, along with some of her non-releasable rescued bats, in a children's book entitled, *Bat*, by Caroline Arnold (Morrow Jr. Books, 1996). She believes that a key component of bat conservation is public awareness about these gentle and misunderstood animals.

Christmas Bird Count/ Bird Count Dinner

Sunday, December 14, 2003

See Page 4 for details

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

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President's Perch



*Photo of California Thrasher
by Ron Cyger*

My wife, Suzie, and I were walking down Colorado Boulevard the other day and noticed a Turkey Vulture soaring above. We laughed at the thought there may be carrion available in downtown Pasadena.

Like all living things, the Turkey

Vulture was looking for a place to settle down for a bit. The right habitat. Some species are more adaptable to habitats than others. For example, man can live almost anywhere in the world, but other species need specific habitats to survive. Needless to say, that Turkey Vulture was just passing through on its way to a suitable habitat.

Pasadena Audubon Society gives our community the opportunity to learn about habitat and its importance. We offer field trips to look closer at birds within their habitat; programs to help you understand and appreciate the complexity of birds and other wildlife in relation to their habitat; seminars to increase your understanding and knowledge of this important subject.

Pasadena Audubon is doing a lot for you, but you need to do a couple of things also.

First, be aware of the natural habitat

around us and how it is being threatened. In this newsletter, you can follow what is happening with the Arroyo Seco and other areas that are losing habitat. Yes, we need soccer fields and 3 golf courses, but at what cost if we destroy a natural habitat to create a new one where only crows and house sparrows thrive. Once the natural habitat is lost, the nature it supports – both plant and wildlife – will die. It's really that simple.

Second, determine how important it is to you to have Pasadena Audubon Society in your community. For the last 100 years, the Pasadena area has thought it worthwhile. Now we are being threatened too, but our threat is financial. Please turn the page and read our appeal letter. Then show how important Pasadena Audubon Society is to you by giving us your financial support.

Conservation

Arroyo Seco Master Plan Update

The battle over the Arroyo Seco Master plan is all but over. The battle for a natural Arroyo Seco continues.

The Pasadena City Council approved the Lower and Hahamongna parts of the plan, holding off on the Central Arroyo pending the NFL plan for the Rose Bowl.

The Lower Arroyo Master Plan passed with little debate. The Hahamongna Master Plan had late night, last minute Council changes. It is hoped that the city will publish a clear final version so the final impact of those changes can be scrutinized. There are still many glaring issues which will more than likely delay the completion of the Hahamongna portion of the plan. The major project of the Conservation Pool, which will eliminate the existing habitat, can't be started until the water pollution issues are resolved. It is projected this could take 20 years. The Spirit of the Sage Council is still negotiating with the city over their suit on the Master Environmental Impact Report. Keep posted! Stay involved!!

Possible Compromise Underway on Forests

A group of U.S. Senators, in an effort to break an impasse on legislation to protect at-risk neighborhoods and communities located near national forests from wildfires, have crafted a "compromise" bill that, when finalized, can muster 60 votes to safely pass the Senate. Although not completed, the compromise proposal includes the first-ever protections for old-growth forests, and allows thinning projects on roughly 20 million acres of fire-prone national forest lands, with half the work restricted to areas near homes and communities – both good things. However, it also advances key parts of the House-passed Healthy Forest Restoration Act (bill number H.R.1940) that weakens environmental safeguards and limits public input and court appeals that might otherwise be a last line of defense in protecting pristine areas of national forest lands.

America's national forests comprise some of the most biologically and economically significant land left on earth. The 191 million acres that comprise our national forest system is the best wildlife habitat in the U.S. for over 3,000 fish and wildlife species and 10,000 plants. In fact, more than one quarter of the nation's imperiled species are found in national forests. That's one of many reasons why Audubon and our partners in

conservation continue to encourage the Senate not to create a new compromise measure, but to take up and pass an existing bill, S.1453 which truly focuses on protecting people and communities located near national forests, as well as the forests themselves. And you can help! Please contact your two U.S. Senators and urge them to oppose the House-passed H.R.1904 or any similar version of it, and support S.1453!

Audubon Alert

Draft of President Bush's New National Forest Rules Reveals Troubling Intentions

Defenders* recently acquired a draft of the White House's plans to revise the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Disregarding the more than 100,000 public comments, 325 scientists, and more than 100 members of Congress who asked that the forest management rules be strengthened, the Bush Administration appears poised to cut the public out of public land management, and return logging as the dominant use of the national forests.

The draft adopts a scientifically discredited approach to maintaining wildlife species—focusing only on habitat, rather than on species themselves. In addition, the Bush Administration plans to scuttle the rule that requires environmental impact assessments for planned logging ventures, basically leaving no protection for the forests.

**Defenders Environmental Network*

Senators Sign Letters Opposing Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

As negotiations continue on the 2004 Energy bill, the White House has renewed its call for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

In an effort to protect the refuge's rare ecosystem, numerous senators have signed on to a letter drafted by Sens. Richard Durbin (D-Illinois) and Dianne Feinstein (D-California) saying they will not vote for an Energy bill that includes drilling in the Refuge. Several Republican senators have signed on to a similar letter drafted by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine).

Defenders Environmental Network

Condor Chick Brought in from the Wild

A four-month-old condor chick hatched in the wild last May was airlifted to the Los Angeles Zoo for treatment. In September, during an examination by a team of biologists, a zookeeper and a veterinarian, the chick was found to be suffering from a blockage of the digestive tract and signs of respiratory distress. The team had entered the nest cave in the Los Padres National Forest to administer the West Nile Virus Vaccine, affix tags and transmitters to its wings, and give the chick a physical examination.

The chick regurgitated a number of items including a combination of plastic, glass, bone and metal. The veterinarian staff determined that the chick's health was too compromised to return it to the nest. Although weakened, the chick is still vigorous and it is hoped that it will recover and be released back into the wild next Spring. Condors were listed as an endangered species in 1967 under a law that predated the existing Endangered Species Act. In 1982, the condor population reached its lowest level of 22 birds, prompting biologists to start collecting chicks and eggs for a captive breeding program. In 1992, the Recovery Program began releasing California condors back into the wild.

Defenders Environmental Network

Help Protect the California Tiger Salamander

The California tiger salamander needs your help. This unique amphibian lives in some of the most endangered habitat in California—vernal pools, grasslands, and oak woodlands. To date, the tiger salamander has lost 75 percent of its habitat in California and exists in only three small populations. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is proposing to list the central California population of the tiger salamander as threatened and to reduce protections for the Santa Barbara and Sonoma County populations by changing their status from endangered to threatened. In addition, the FWS is proposing to allow the take (e.g., killing or harming) of tiger salamanders during "routine ranching operations" in central California—a significant loophole that will heavily impact the ability of salamanders to recover.

Defenders Environmental Network

PAS on the WEB

ListServe

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

Website

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



PASADENA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Founded April 1904
 1750 N. Altadena Drive
 Pasadena, CA 91107
 WWW.PASADENA AUDUBON.ORG

November 2003

Dear Supporters of Pasadena Audubon Society,

It's time to start thinking about your end-of-the-year tax-deductible contributions, so before you finish writing your checks, please consider what Pasadena Audubon Society offers you.

Unlike other organizations, you can see your contribution in action. Pasadena Audubon Society:

- presents eight programs a year, free to the community, ranging from bird identification and behavior to habitat information and just plain adventure;
- sponsors over 30 field trips a year to local and distant locations lead by knowledgeable and enthusiastic birders/naturalists;
- was founded 100 years ago because of local conservation issues and we are still involved in local issues such as Hahamongna Watershed Park and the Arroyo Seco;
- is restarting its Audubon Adventures program in twenty Pasadena area classrooms which wouldn't have happened without your financial support;
- offers you the chance to participate in citizen-science projects like the Christmas Bird Count and the Cardinal Census;
- maintains a website jam-packed with birding/nature information, Pasadena Audubon Society and its activities, links to many other interesting sites, and much more;
- publishes a newsletter, *The Wren*, five times a year with a calendar of programs and events, conservation and education information, interesting articles and more.

Last year your generosity helped Pasadena Audubon Society balance its budget by raising nearly \$2,000. This year, receiving no financial support from the National Audubon Society, we need to raise almost twice that amount to maintain our current level of service to the community and expand our education program. Help us, and know that your financial assistance makes a direct impact on what we accomplish.

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

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

Thank you in advance for your support and I hope to see you at our next meeting or field trip.

Ron Cyger, President
 Pasadena Audubon Society

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

Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Christmas Count/Dinner

Sunday, December 14, 2003

The Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Christmas Count originated in the late 40's, and while the five intervening decades have seen a tremendous amount of change, we have managed to find more species and individual birds on recent counts than ever before. This is partly due to an increased knowledge of the distribution and identification of the birds in our area. More intense coverage of the count circle has paid off as well. In spite of the continual loss of habitat, at least fragments of habitats that once were here still survive.

The Pasadena count circle is extremely varied. Prairie Falcon, Nutmeg Mannikin, Tundra Swan, Kentucky Warbler and many other unusual species have been recorded. We have freshwater marshes, lakes, chaparral, mountain forest, alluvial scrub, riparian and oak woodland habitats to choose from. A species count of close to 150 is expected. New birds are regularly added to the count list, which makes each year interesting and different.

The count circle, fifteen miles in diameter, is centered at the intersection of San Gabriel Blvd. and Duarte Road. It includes such interesting birding locales as Santa Fe Dam, Big Santa Anita Canyon, Whittier Narrows, Peck Pit, Eaton Canyon and the Huntington Gardens and L.A. County Arboretum. The circle also reaches as far north as Mt. Wilson, offering the chance for high elevation species such as Clark's

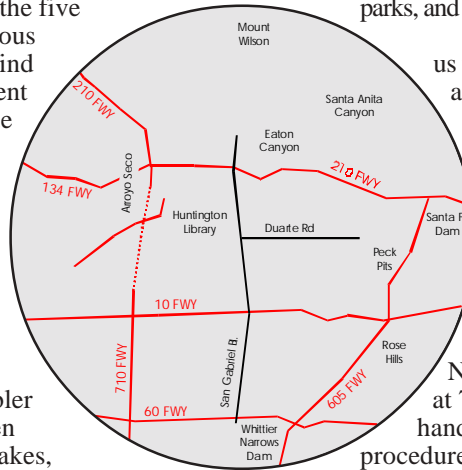
Nutracker. In addition, there are numerous small canyons, city parks, and other areas all deserving of coverage.

Whatever your birding ability, be sure to join us for this event. It's a great learning experience and is a worthwhile effort because it actually contributes to our knowledge of bird distribution and population trends.

This year's Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Christmas Count will take place on Sunday, December 14. The dates for the Christmas Count are now fixed from year to year, and for 2003 our usual count day of Saturday falls just outside the period. The pre-count meeting will be held at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 pm. At the pre-count meeting we will hand out count materials and checklists, review procedures and assign count areas to the participants.

If you are not going to attend this meeting, please contact the count coordinator to sign up for an area to count.

As usual, we will hold a post-count dinner and wrap-up at 6:00 pm on count night at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Pizza, pasta, salad, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert will be provided. Cost will be \$10/adults and \$4/children under 12. Bring wine if you wish. For dinner information contact Bev McKenzie at (626) 355-9842 or LBMAC2@EARTHLINK.NET. For count information, contact count coordinator Jon Fisher (818) 544-5009 or JON.L.FISHER@DISNEY.COM.



Field Trip Report

Hahamongna Monthly Walk



Photo of Gray Flycatcher by Ron Cyger

Pasadena Audubon Society has a monthly walk at Hahamongna Watershed Park the first Saturday of the month, September through April and sometimes May (check your *Wrentit*). It seems every month something exciting turns up. In September we had one tree with eight species, including five warblers.

In October we had a Gray Flycatcher (our winter regular) and a kettle of two Red-shouldered Hawks, two Red-tailed Hawks, and two Ravens. What a sight! Who knows what coming months will bring. There's only one way to find out. See ya there!

Ron Cyger

Beginning Birding: class and field at the Huntington

Saturdays, November 8 & 15
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Fall is a wonderful time for birds at the Huntington. Whether you're an absolute beginner, or have some experience, please join Elaine MacPherson from our chapter and learn more about birding. Try out new skills in the beautiful Huntington grounds. Class size limited to 15, so reserve early. Please bring binoculars and a notebook.

The class fee includes the Pocket Guide to Western birds. Having fun and sharing knowledge is the instructor's goal for the class.

Huntington members: \$45
Non-members: \$55
Registration: (626) 405-2128
Elaine MacPherson (626) 355-9412

Birding Economics

Jane Strong found the following document: Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis. Available at:

[HTTP://LIBRARY.FWS.GOV/NAT_SURVEY/2001_BIRDING.PDF](http://library.fws.gov/nat_survey/2001_birding.pdf)

Updated Arroyo Seco Bird List Available

PAS has recently updated a list of birds of the Arroyo Seco. Copies are available at the General Meeting or from the PAS website WWW.PASADENAAUDUBON.ORG.



The report provides up-to-date information so birders and policy makers can make informed decisions regarding the protection of birds and their habitats. The report identifies who birders are, where they live, how avid they are, where they bird and what kinds of birds they watch. In addition to demographic information, this report also provides two kinds of economic measure. The first is an estimate of how much birders spend on their hobby and the economic impact of these expenditures. The second is the net economic value of birding, that is, the value of birding to society.

Field Trips

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, November 1, 2003

8:00 am – noon

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

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

Ron Cyger RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred)
626-449-3625 (before 9:00 p.m.)

San Joaquin Marsh

Saturday, November 8, 2003

8:00 am – noon

This nearly annual PAS trip is great for southbound shorebirds which migrate early. We'll look for Baird's, Pectoral and Solitary Sandpipers, with Semipalmated possible. Other likely species include Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew, Least and Western Sandpipers, dowitchers, phalarope, avocets and stilts, and a few ducks. Caspian, Forster's, Elegant and Least Terns and Black Skimmers are regular. Other specialties here include Yellow-breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo and Blue Grosbeak, nesting Tree Swallows and occasionally a Least Bittern. We will also check out nearby Upper Newport Bay in search of Clapper Rails and whatever else may be around.

Take the 405 Freeway south to the Jamboree exit and make a right turn, then a quick left onto Michelson. Turn right on Riparian View and follow signs to Audubon and the duck club. We'll meet in the parking lot at 7:30 am to try and beat the summer heat.

Larry Johnson (626) 796-8246 or
TROGAN@AOL.COM

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, November 16, 2003

8:00 am – noon

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

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

Hill Penfold (818) 352-4954
HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM

Antelope Valley/North side of San Gabriel Mountains

Saturday, November 22, 2003

6:45* am – afternoon

We will search for late migrants and wintering birds in rarely visited northern LA County locations.

*Meet at Eaton Canyon Nature Center to carpool.

Jon Feenstra (626) 792-4346
FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, December 6, 2003

8:00 am – noon

See November 1, 2003 for details.

Christmas Count/Dinner

Sunday, December 14, 2003

All Day

See article for details on page 4

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, December 21, 2003

7:00 am – noon

See November 16, 2003 for details.

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, January 3, 2004

8:00 am – noon

See November 1, 2003 for details.

Santa Fe Dam

January 10, 2004

8:00 am – noon

This trip will highlight the avian diversity of the basin at Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area in Irwindale. The lake collects many wintering herons, ducks, grebes, and gulls. The region surrounding lake with trees and scrub can be very good for chaparral birds, wintering passerines, and the occasional visitor from high elevations. Meet at 8 am in the first parking lot encountered when entering the park. Admission is \$6.

Jon Feenstra FEENSTRA@CALTECH.EDU
626-792-4346 (H)

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, January 18, 2004

8:00 am – noon

See November 16, 2003 for details.

Salton Sea

Saturday/Sunday, January 24/25 2004

The Salton Sea has been a traditional way for PAS members to begin their year list for many years now. Species lists for the weekend regularly run into the 100's at one of the premier birding spots on the continent. We will bird all day Saturday and half a day on Sunday, heading home after lunch.

Ten rooms are reserved at the

Brawley Inn, in beautiful downtown Brawley, CA at \$65/night for January 23 and 24 (Friday and Saturday nights) under Pasadena Audubon Society. Rooms include a continental breakfast in the morning and will be held until January 13th.

To reach the Brawley Inn, take Interstate 10 East, through Indio and past the Monroe and Auto Center Drive exits, and then take State Route 86 South into Brawley. The Brawley inn is on the North/left side of 86 when heading South. Look for the heron on the sign. Bring water and lunch for both days (though we will never be far from civilization). Also bring an FRS radio for communication between cars.

We will meet in the Brawley Inn parking lot at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday. This trip will be a great way to start your 2004 year list!

Ron Cyger RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred)
626-449-3625 (before 9:00 pm)

Malibu Area

Sunday, February 8, 2004

7:30 am – noon

Just about every family of bird will be possible on this trip. We will begin by scoping for seabirds from the bluffs at Leo Carrillo State Beach and work our way east through the interior to Malibu Creek State Park and finally end up at Malibu Lagoon.

Meet at 7:30 am in the beach parking lot at Leo Carrillo State Park – and bring a scope, if possible. Admission is \$5.

Jon Feenstra FEENSTRA@CALTECH.EDU
626-792-4346 (H)

Magpie Bird Study Group



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

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

9:00 am

**Puddingstone Reservoir
Bonnelli Park**

Meet in the Park & Ride lot before entering the park. We will carpool into the park

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

9:00 am

**San Dimas Nature Center
San Dimas Park**

Meet at the Nature Center

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

Calendar

*Submit material for the next Wrentit by **December 1st***

November 2003

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Information
1	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Monthly Walk Ron Cyger RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred) (626) 449-3625
8	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	San Joaquin Marsh	Larry Johnson (626) 796-8246 TROGAN@AOL.COM
13	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado (at Madison)
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold (626) 352-4954 or HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM
18	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Puddingstone Reservoir Bonelli Park	Sid Heyman (626) 571-5991 & Madeline West (626) 574-0429
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Digiscoping
22	Sat	6:45 am	Field Trip	Antelope Valley and north side of SG Mountains. (Meet at ECNC to carpool)	Jon Feenstra (626) 792-4346 FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU

December 2003

1	Mon	6:00 pm	Wrentit	Material Due to Editor	Bev McKenzie (626) 355-9842 or LBMAC2@EARTHLINK.NET
6	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Monthly Walk Ron Cyger RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred) (626) 449-3625
10	Wed	7:00 pm	Pre-Count Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Jon Fisher (818) 544-5009 or Cell (818) 359-2986
14	Sun	All Day	Christmas Count	Various location	Jon Fisher (818) 544-5009 or Cell (818) 359-2986
21	Sun	6:00 pm 8:00 am	Count Dinner Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold (626) 352-4954 or HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM

Happy New Year!**January 2004**

3	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Monthly Walk, Pasadena
8	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado (at Madison)
10	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Santa Fe Dam	John Feenstra (626) 792-4346 or FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold (626) 352-4954 or HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM
20	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	San Dimas Nature Center San Dimas Park	Sid Heyman (626) 571-5991 & Madeline West (626) 574-0429
21	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Bats
24/24	S/S	All day	Field Trip	Salton Sea	Ron Cyger RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred) (626) 449-3625

February 2004

7	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Monthly Walk Ron Cyger RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred) (626) 449-3625
8	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Malibu Area	John Feenstra (626) 792-4346 or FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU
12	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado (at Madison)
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold (626) 352-4954 or HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Group	TBA	Sid Heyman (626) 571-5991 & Madeline West (626) 574-0429
21	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Ballona Freshwater Wetlands	Ron Cyger RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred) (626) 449-3625

Centennial Notes:

Rediscovering Our History

[Note: In our research of PAS's history we came across this poster and photograph at the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society.]



Helen Steele Pratt (1883-1965)

Helen Steele Pratt was affectionately called the bird lady of Eagle Rock, a title she did not particularly relish. She helped write the Boy Scout handbook, held offices in the state Audubon Society and in 1914 traveled all over the state as a representative of the Audubon Society to educate children about the different

HELP SAVE THE BIRDS

*Persons May Be Arrested If
Without a Permit From the*

STATE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

They shoot, trap, or catch Birds; take nests, eggs, or young birds; or have any birds, dead or alive, in their possession.

REPORT

violations to nearest Game Warden, Constable, Sheriff or
Secretary of Audubon Society,
Helen S. Pratt, 2451 Ridgeview, Eagle Rock.

varieties of birds. Her yard was designed to attract birds and it was a bird sanctuary.

Descanso Gardens Bird Observation Station was dedicated in her memory by the San Fernando Audubon Society in May 1965. The placque states, "Devoted

naturalist, nature teacher and counselor whose efforts led to the adoption of the California Quail as the California State Bird."

**San Diego Bird Festival
February 4 - 8, 2004**

For information

WWW.SANDIEGONATUREFESTIVALS.ORG
E-MAIL:REGISTRATION@
SANDIEGONATUREFESTIVALS.ORG
619-516-0139

Sierra Club Photo Auction

Please support the local Pasadena Group of the Sierra Club by joining us for our annual fundraiser, an auction of photographs on natural scenery and subjects.

The auction will take place at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, in the Auditorium on

Saturday, November 8. A reception and preview takes place from 5-6:00 pm with hors d'oeuvres and music, and the auction begins at 6:00 pm. All photos will be auctioned, including winners in several categories, with proceeds going to support Pasadena Group programs. For more information, call Ginny Heringer at (626) 793-4727.

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ E-mail _____

Donor's address for gift membership:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Yearly Membership for Individual or Family

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

* Plus Chapter Pin and Tee Shirt

NAS Introductory C06 \$20

Make checks payable and mail to:
Pasadena Audubon Society, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107

Kid's Corner

Birding at Mono Lake

In mid-September my family and I spent a fabulous week in Yosemite. We went to Mono Lake for the last day. Before this trip, I barely knew anything about Mono Lake's conservation and history and I had eight fewer life birds.

Mono Lake is a beautiful place filled with lots of animals (especially birds) and an amazing history. It once was a peaceful lake with plenty of birds and two large islands. The dark one, Negit Island, and the brightly colored one, Paoha Island, make perfect breeding grounds for California Gulls. In fact 85% of the California Gulls nesting in California, nest in Mono Lake. Also, the shoreline is covered with a species of fly called the brine fly and the water is full of something called the brine shrimp. Both of these are delicious foods for the California Gull, as well as for many other birds.

Then, one day, people in Los Angeles started using most of the water that flowed into Mono Lake. Both the flies and the shrimp rely on the water; with all the water getting too salty, and the lake level getting lower, they nearly died out. Since they were both food for the birds, the

birds were at great risk. This was a terrible time for Mono Lake and the creatures that lived there. It was even worse for the California Gulls because with the lake level so low, the gray foxes could easily walk to the islands (which were now peninsulas) and eat the gull eggs.

About ten years ago, the State Government finally stopped everyone from using most of Mono Lake's water. One person who helped this happen was David Gaines who also wrote *Birds of Yosemite*. Now, all the animals (except the foxes) are back, even though the lake isn't full. Now if you go there you will see a lively lake, a shore black with flies, and birds everywhere.

My experience of Mono Lake was terrific. We stayed in Lee Vining, where we saw many interesting birds, including Clark's Nutcrackers (abundant), Red-breasted Sapsucker, and even two Brewer's Sparrows! The Brewer's Sparrow was the first lifebird I got that day, though, unfortunately only I saw it.

Early that morning we drove to Mono Lake. From the car, we saw many other amazing birds, including a perfect view of a Black-billed Magpie, which was another lifebird. Soon we came to Mono Lake

County Park on the north side of Mono Lake. While on the path to the lake, we saw a Hoary Bat sleeping in a willow tree! It was dazzlingly close. When we got to the lookout at the end of the trail, the first birds we saw were California Gulls, and Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Then we noticed millions of tiny little dots on the lake. Once we looked through our binoculars and our scope, we realized that most of them were Red-necked Phalaropes and a few were Eared Grebes. It made me happy to see these birds again.

Suddenly a Birder/Park Ranger appeared. His name was Dave Marquardt, and he helped us identify the birds at Mono Lake. Then I said "Hey look a Wilson's Snipe!" for I had just seen one fly out of nowhere. Everyone looked and saw one resting on some rock tufa. It stayed there the rest of the time we were there. After that, we looked amongst the Red-necked Phalaropes for any Wilson's Phalaropes. Soon we discovered that at least half of the birds we called Red-necked were indeed, Wilson's! That was our third lifebird of the day.

John Garrett

(to be continued in next Wrenit)

New Members

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

Arcadia: Shye Ren Yeh; **Pasadena:** Bernard Cooper, Jacqueline Coulette, Judith Richards, Mrs. Roger Sperry; Mark

Watt, Catherine Wood, Margaret Lynn Yonekura, Prof. H. Zima; **San Gabriel:** Jennifer Lee, Eugene & Lois Stelzer; **Sierra Madre:** Ronald Tcheng; **South Pasadena:** Gretchen Zelek; **Temple City:** Elsie Stanley, Yvonne Watkins.

Mark Your Calendars

Coming to your back yard!

**Great Backyard
Bird Count
February 13-16, 2004**

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