

Drawing by  
Guy Coleleach

# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 57 — No. 3

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

May - June 2009

## May Program

### Cape May

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Jon Feenstra et al

In September of 2008, Jon Feenstra led a group of PAS Board members on a birding field trip to Cape May, New Jersey. Cape May is a world-renowned hotspot for observing bird migration. Every fall millions of waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, and passerines funnel through the peninsula. Waves of migrants are pushed by passing autumn weather systems and settle to rest on the Point before long flights over the ocean. Their staging and passage coincidentally supplies an excellent opportunity for the birder. Jon and company will present a report of the trip with natural history, bird pictures, stories, and other interesting and amusing highlights.

**General Meetings Held At  
Eaton Canyon Nature Center  
1750 N Altadena Drive  
Pasadena CA  
Social 7:00 pm, Program 7:30 pm**

## June Program

### Annual June Dinner and Celebration

Saturday, June 13, 2009

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Save the date! Join us on the patio for drinks and appetizers followed by a delicious catered middle-Eastern dinner, at the beautiful Eaton Canyon Nature Center. There will be plenty of time to visit with old friends and make new friends.

After dinner, we will be hosting the ever-popular slide show where you get an opportunity to show (show off?) your favorite photos. Simply choose a few of your favorite shots (animal, mineral or vegetable) and bring them on your thumb drive. And don't forget the raffle!

Your \$20 ticket covers all food and drinks. **RSVP before June 5th**, with a check payable to PAS, indicating number of people attending. Send to:  
Susan Gilliland  
c/o Pasadena Audubon Society  
Eaton Canyon Nature Center  
1750 N. Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, California 91107

## September Program

### Little Green Birds, Little Brown Birds

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Jon Fisher and Mickey Long

As the phrases imply, they're either greenish (LGBs) or brownish (LBBs) and with few obvious field marks. The bane of many birders, not only do they look alike, but they can make birding frustrating since they often remain unidentified. In reality, a little homework with the field guides and some experience in the field goes a long way toward resolving this problem. Join us as Mickey and Jon help make sense of these nondescript little songbirds.

### PAS Annual Elections

Elections for Pasadena Audubon officers will be held during the May 20th general meeting, and the new slate of officers will be presented at our annual dinner in June. Consider supporting PAS by serving as an officer (President, Vice-president, Treasurer, or Secretary.)

## President's Perch

This is my final report to you for this fiscal year (no Wrentit in July or August) so I want to thank the PAS Board members for working together to "bring the excitement of birds to community through birding, education and the conservation of bird habitats" (our Mission statement is on the front page and Board members are listed on the last page of the Wrentit). I hope you have enjoyed the monthly programs, the field trips and joined in on the environmental issues.

Financially, PAS is doing well. We have received generous donations during the year and our annual Birdathon on April 24th-26th completed our fundraising.

We will close this year with another fantastic dinner on June 13th, with installation of officers, awards for the top Birdathon teams, raffles, good food arranged by our Hospitality team and good fellowship provided by our members – See you there!

*Will*

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## Conservation

### People Who Really Count

A unique volunteer program harnesses the handwritten observations of birders from a century ago to determine how climate change is impacting bird migration today. You can be a part of this effort, with just a computer and a simple set of instructions.

At my house winter migrants consistently arrive on October 10th and depart on April 10th, give or take a couple of days. But as climate changes worldwide, birds that leave my house on April 10th might be arriving in Alaska too late to take maximum advantage of food sources, such as insect hatches, that occur earlier than they did in the past. It's important to know whether arrival and departure dates have shifted to match the changing climate. So long-ago observations of arrivals and departures are extremely valuable.

The Bird Phenology Program (BPP) has begun scanning the handwritten records into digital images.

Volunteers then view a batch of these images on their own computers and transcribe the information into BPP's database for analysis. BPP manages a web site at [www.PWRC.USGS.GOV/BPP](http://www.PWRC.USGS.GOV/BPP) where you can learn more about this interesting program. Quoting from that site:

"The North American Bird Phenology Program houses a unique and largely forgotten collection of six million Migration Observer Cards that illuminate migration patterns and population status of birds in North America. These handwritten cards contain almost all of what was known of bird status from the Second World War back to the later part of the 19th century. The bulk of the records are the result of a network of observers who recorded migration arrival dates in the spring and fall that, in its heyday, involved 3000 participants.

"Today, those records are being processed and placed into a modern database for analysis. This information will be used, along with recently collected arrival times of migrant birds, in conjunction with historical weather data to show how migration is affected by climate change. The information from this analysis will provide critical information on bird distribution,

migration timing and migration pathways and how they are changing. There is no other program that has the depth of information that can help us understand the effect that global climate change has on bird populations across the country."

Mark Hunter

### TerraCycle and PAS

PAS is going to recycle some trash and make a little money at the same time. At our General Meetings, we will collect Nabisco cookie bags (eg. Oreo, Nutter-Butter, Chips Ahoy! and Fig Newtons), energy bar wrappers (the kind with a silver lining) and corks (real, not plastic). We will send these items to TerraCycle, a company dedicated to the idea of ending waste, and they will send PAS money. To help, please bring the above items to any meeting, or you can contact TerraCycle at [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net) and sign up on your own. For more information, please contact Laura Garrett at: [purplecow@jps.net](mailto:purplecow@jps.net) or 626-564-1890. Many thanks to Ron Cyger for this great idea.

### Pasadena Audubon Society Grant, Donation, and Scholarship Policy

*[Editor's note: As Pasadena Audubon's endowment grew from non-existent to moderate in recent years, its opportunities to donate money to worthy causes also grew. In the past several months, the Board of Directors has worked toward a set of guidelines to govern such donations. The document that follows is a summary of these guidelines. PAS members should be aware that deserving individuals and organizations can get financial support from PAS, using the guidelines that are incorporated in the policy.]*

Pasadena Audubon Society is a non-profit corporation that needs to have a process for making donations to other organizations, groups and individuals that is fair, accountable and clearly defined. The purpose of this document is to outline the policies and procedures Pasadena Audubon Society will follow in making unsolicited donations and in handling request for donations to support various facilities, organizations or causes.

Five categories of request for funds

have been used by Pasadena Audubon Society:

#### Scholarships

To support Pasadena area birders, teachers, and others to help attend conferences, attend classes or workshops, or study ornithology.

#### Grants for Research

Specifically, research that collects data to support the core missions of Pasadena Audubon: Birding, habitat conservation, and education. Research can be local or more wide-reaching.

#### Grants to Local Organizations

For specific uses, with a requirement for feedback and accountability for use of the funds.

#### Unrestricted Donations

To support various deserving organizations to support their organization missions. Examples include Eaton Canyon Nature Center and Owens Valley Committee. Birdathon money raised for specific causes supported by Pasadena Audubon Society has been directed to specific organizations via this mechanism.

#### Restricted Donations

For specific projects or uses with a

requirement for feedback. Example: Eaton Canyon Nature in a Box program supporting bird taxidermy.

#### How to Apply

Applications for Scholarships, Research Grants or Grants to Local Organizations are submitted to the Pasadena Audubon Society Board in a letter format that outlines the proposed project or scholarship with a time period of performance, a clearly identified responsible individual, a proposed budget for the donation and a justification for the requested donation. At least one Board member will serve as the sponsor for the application to facilitate presentation of the application to the Board and to be the point of contact. The applicant is responsible for engaging a Board member as a sponsor. If a member of the Board is making an application they will be excused from the voting process.

At a subsequent Pasadena Audubon Society Board meeting, the application will be presented and a decision made by the Board to seek clarifications, to fund or not fund the project for a specific amount, or to defer funding.

## Trip Reports

### San Gabriel Mountain Owling

The annual Pasadena Audubon Owling trip was on March 28th. We met at 6:00 pm and then drove up the Angeles Crest Highway into the San Gabriel Mountains. Our plan was to stop at various locations where I had found owls while scouting recently. After a brief potty break at Red Box Gap, we started looking for Northern Pygmy Owl shortly before sunset and were very lucky to hear one within moments of getting out of the cars. Ultimately everyone saw the bird out in the open at close range through binoculars and a spotting scope. Shortly afterward and just a few minutes after sunset, we heard two Western Screech Owls, but despite extensive searching, did not get a good look at them. At our second stop we heard and saw a Great Horned Owl perched atop a nearby tree. Moments later we heard a Northern Saw-whet Owl tooting loudly nearby, but despite a concerted effort, we didn't see it. The next stop produced three Common Poorwills, a Great Horned Owl, a very distant Northern Saw-whet Owl, and after a brief pause for an informal star party, a Spotted Owl that called numerous times down a canyon below the highway. Our totals for the night were three Great Horned Owls, three Western Screech-Owls, four Northern Saw-whet Owls, one Northern Pygmy-Owl, one Spotted Owl, and three Common Poorwills.

*Lance Benner*

### Fish Canyon

April 5, 2009

Sixteen people showed up for a birdwalk that turned out to be more like a hike, with birds. While we waited to begin Red-tailed Hawks played along the steep slopes next to the Vulcan Materials quarry. Outside the quarry gates it was cool and windy, but when we shuttled our way across the quarry to the trailhead, the wind lightened considerably, and we followed the canyon upstream as the sun slowly painted more of the slopes. Wildflowers were everywhere, and the narrow trail passed through lush forests of poison oak. Birds were, um, present, and sometimes we even saw them. Most winter residents were gone, except for Yellow-rumped Warblers, and few summer residents had arrived. We did get seldom-heard songs from the Yellow-rumps and from Orange-crowned Warblers. Spring migrants were sparsely represented by Townsend's Warbler and Black-headed Grosbeak (ID'd by ear). Rough-winged and Violet-green Swallows graced the mostly empty skies. A lone accipiter fled before we got a good ID. But we sure had Canyon Wrens!

Despite lighter-than-expected birdlife, the canyon was beautiful, intimate, and pristine, and we had it to ourselves all morning, thanks to our private access to the trailhead. The turnaround point for the walk was Fish Canyon Falls, a beautiful, 80-foot, four-tier cascade down a sheer rock face. In the deep pools below the falls were rainbow trout and salamanders. We'll try this hike again next year, tweaking the date to get a bigger selection of birds.

*Mark Hunter*

### A Passage to India

Of all the exotic places the Fulmers have visited, none is as different as India. Last January/February we went there on a guided birding trip.

Towns and small villages are everywhere in India. Vendors display their wares along the roads, and the fresh vegetables and fruits look tempting. Even in the remotest villages, most of the men dress in Western clothes. Most of the women, however, wear beautiful jewel-toned saris. All of the people we met were kind and friendly. But there are few Westerners to be seen in the countryside, and our group always attracted a curious crowd, especially when we wandered through fields, staring through our binoculars.

Traffic is unbelievable, a mass of vehicles, people, and animals occupying the roads amid a cacophony of horn-honking. Imagine a pot-holed one-lane road filled with trucks, cars, buses, bicycles, motor scooters, carts, people, cows, water buffalo, dogs, goats and the occasional pig, horse or camel. Although every vehicle has its share of dents and dings, we saw few accidents and only a couple of animal fatalities.

In addition to birds, we were promised tigers and the Taj Mahal. We weren't disappointed. We visited two Tiger Preserves, Kanha and Corbett, where we were thrilled to see three beautiful tigresses from our perch atop elephants. We admired the beautiful Taj in and out, and we toured several complexes where Indian rulers once lived with their family and court, including the Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri. Our last stop was Keoladeo Ghana National Park in Bharatpur, an artificial wetland created in the 18th century by the local maharajah as a private duck preserve.

Kanha National Park inspired Rudyard Kipling to write his famous *Jungle Book*. India's "jungle" is really a forest comprised of the native Sal, bamboo, and pine, interspersed with introduced species, such as lantana and thorny acacia. The national animal, the Tiger, is only one of many species of animals in India. There were thousands

*(continued on page 6)*



## Field Trips

### Big Morongo Reserve

Saturday, May 9, 2009

8:00 am – 1:00 pm

This desert oasis and migrant trap offers great birding in the spring. Warblers, flycatchers, hummingbirds and orioles are among the birds expected. At least one pair of Vermilion Flycatchers has been seen every April in memory. Join us as we walk the trails in Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and into adjoining Covington Park, where you will enjoy one of the finest birding locations in the world, with over 250 species of birds making stops at the Preserve annually. Directions: Allow 2 hours drive from Pasadena. Take Interstate 10 east to Route 62, which is past the Palm Springs turnoff. Go north to the tiny town of Morongo Valley and turn right on East Drive to the Big Morongo Preserve at 11055 East Drive. Meet at the Information Kiosk at the south end of the parking lot. Bring lunch and drinks.

*Lance Benner*

### Cape May Migration

September 27 – October 3, 2009

Come to the May general meeting for detailed info and the chance to snag one of the few open spots.

### Owens Lake

Saturday, May 2, 2009

7:30 am – 2:00 pm

This is a repeat of the successful field trip on 4/26/2008 where we observed over 10,000 shorebirds of 18 different species. While May 2nd is slightly past peak of migration we can expect to see big numbers of shorebirds, gulls and waterfowl. Thanks to the efforts of the Los Angeles DWP, the Owens Valley Committee, and other environmental organizations, we will observe the continued recovery of this amazing wildlife resource after nearly a century of being a dried up dust bowl. Time permitting, we will also visit the Cartago salt works, Dirty Socks Springs and other locations around the lake.

Meet at the Ranch House Café parking lot in Olancho. Driving time from Pasadena is about 3.5 hours. There are good hotels and restaurants, including a Best Western, in Lone Pine. Information on the history and some of the biology of the region is at: [WWW.OVCWEB.ORG/OWENSVALLEY/OWENSVALLEY.HTML](http://WWW.OVCWEB.ORG/OWENSVALLEY/OWENSVALLEY.HTML). A checklist of the birds is also available at this web site.

Spotting scopes recommended. Trip is limited to 12 persons. Reservations required; contact the trip leader.

*Mike San Miguel*

### Mt. Piños and Environs

Saturday, June 6, 2009

7:30 am – early afternoon

Mt. Piños is one of the best places in Southern California to enjoy a wide variety of montane birds and see California Condors. We will definitely do the first. Several species of warblers, thrushes, raptors, woodpeckers, flycatchers and finches are usually abundant. Williamson's Sapsucker, Calliope Hummingbirds and Hermit Warblers are target species. We will visit Iris Meadows and several other areas where the birding is usually reliable.

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

*Larry Johnson and Ron Cyger*

### New Start Times

Be sure to note the new, earlier start times for some trips, such as Hahmongna (beginning September), Red Box, and Mt. Piños.

*more trips on page 6*

### Eaton Canyon

#### Monthly Walk

Sunday, May 17, 2009

Sunday, June 21, 2009

Sunday, July 19, 2009

Sunday, August 16, 2009

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.

### Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, May 2, 2009

8:00 am – noon

Saturday, September 5, 2009

7:30 am – noon

(no walks in summer)

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 Hahagmongna, and park by the ballfield

*Ron Cyger*

### Huntington Library

#### Monthly Walk

Sunday, May 24, 2009

Sunday, June 28, 2009

Sunday, September 27, 2009

8:00 am – 11:00 am

(no walks in July and August)

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. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible.

Contact Elaine by email (preferred), putting "Huntington" in the subject line to avoid inadvertent deletion or by phone.

*Elaine MacPherson*

## Calendar

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

### May 2009

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader*
2	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Owens Lake	Mike San Miguel
2	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
6	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
9	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Big Morongo Canyon	Lance Benner
17	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Lower Arroyo	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
20	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Cape May
24	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip ( <i>members only</i> )	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

### June 2009

6	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Mt. Piños & Environs	Larry Johnson & Ron Cyger
13	Sat	6:00 pm	<b>Annual Dinner!</b>	<b>Eaton Canyon Nature Center</b>	<b>Susan Gilliland</b>
16	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Descanso Gardens	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
20	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	Big Santa Anita Canyon	Mark & Janet Scheel
21	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
28	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip ( <i>members only</i> )	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

### July 2009

11	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Buckhorn Campground	Ed Stonick
18	Sun	7:30 am	Field Trip	Red Box	Ron Cyger
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold

### August 2009

8	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	Piute Ponds	Jon Feenstra
15	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	L.A. River	Mike San Miguel
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold

### September 2009

2	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
5	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
12	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Pt. Vicente Sea Watch	Mike San Miguel
16	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: LGBs & LBBs
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip ( <i>PAS members only</i> )	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson
27 (thru Oct. 3) all day			Field Trip	Cape May Migration	Jon Feenstra

#### \*Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (Chair)	(626) 355-8707	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 ( <i>before 9 pm</i> )	RON@CYGER.ORG ( <i>preferred</i> )
Kathi Ellsworth	(626) 564-0652	PANDIONSKY@YAHOO.COM
Jon Feenstra	(626) 792-4346	FEENSTRA@ALUMNI.CALTECH.EDU
Jon Fisher	(818) 800-2776	JONF60@HOTMAIL.COM
Nick & Mary Freeman	(818) 247-6172	MNFREEMAN@EARTHLINK.NET
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	
Mickey Long	(626) 398-5420	MLONGBIRD@CHARTER.NET
Elaine MacPherson	(626) 355-9412	BIRDERGRRL@AOL.COM
Hill Penfold	(626) 352-4954	HPENFOLD@GMAIL.COM
Mike San Miguel	(626) 355-5058	SANMIGBIRD@AOL.COM
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	STONICKS@EARTHLINK.NET
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	WEST266@ADELPHIA.NET

*Field Trips, continued***Red Box Bird Hike****Saturday July 18, 2009****7:30 am – noon**

This is a four hour hike down to the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. We should see lots of breeding activity. This area has confirmed nesting for hummingbirds, flycatchers, titmouses (mice?), chickadees, nuthatches, gnatcatchers, bluebirds, and grosbeaks, to name a few.

Meet at the Red Box parking lot. To get there, take Angeles Crest Hwy north from La Canada off the 210 freeway about eight miles to the intersection with the road leading to Mt. Wilson. This intersection is Red Box (look for the red box on the right). Wear sturdy shoes and bring plenty of water, bug repellent, snacks, sun screen and an Adventure Parking Pass.

*Ron Cyger***Antelope Valley****Saturday, August 8, 2009****7:00 am – 2:00 pm**

The main focus of this trip will be to observe shorebirds at the Piute Ponds and other west Mojave "hot spots" (literally and figuratively) in the Antelope Valley of northern Los Angeles

County. Thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage at these isolated wetlands during their southerly migration and we will be there to meet them. Baird's Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper are likely possibilities. In addition to shorebirds (if this weren't enough), the surrounding desert can produce Prairie Falcon, LeConte's Thrasher, and lots of Horned Larks and Sage Sparrows.

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

*Jon Feenstra***Big Santa Anita Canyon****Saturday, June 20, 2009****7:00 am – noon**

Join us for a morning at Big Santa Anita Canyon, on the edge of the San Gabriel Mountains above Arcadia. The canyon hosts a shaded permanent stream, as well as Sturtevant Falls. We will be at high enough altitude for Stellar's Jays, and we will look for American Dipper, Canyon Wren, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Purple Finch, and other low mountain species.

Take Santa Anita Avenue north

*(continued on page 7)***Buckhorn Campground, San Gabriel Mountains****Saturday, July 11, 2009****8:00 am – ??**

At an elevation of 6,300 feet, Buckhorn Campground is a beautiful and comfortable retreat from the hot, smoggy valleys below. There is a small shaded stream, tall evergreens of several varieties, and some open dry slopes. This is an excellent mixture for montane species, including several species of woodpeckers, nuthatches, and flycatchers, Cassin's and Purple Finches, Green-tailed Towhees, Fox Sparrows, and MacGillivray's Warblers. Occasionally other mountain birds, such as Brown Creepers and Pine Siskins, may be found.

From Interstate 210, go north (right) on Angeles Crest Highway, State Route 2, about 34 miles. The campground entrance is about one mile past Cloudburst Summit, at mile marker 58.3. Proceed through the campground, following signs for the Burkhart Trail. A Forest Adventure Pass is required to park in the trailhead lot, where we'll meet. Allow a least 75 minutes for the drive from Pasadena.

*Ed Stonick**A Passage to India (continued)*

of Chital (Spotted Deer, the Tiger's favorite food), plus Barasinga (Swamp Deer), Sambar (another type of deer), Tarai Grey Langurs (monkeys), Golden Jackals (which look very much like our coyotes), Indian Flying Foxes (fruit bats), Wild Boar, and the ubiquitous Five-striped Palm Squirrel.

In addition to forest, Corbett National Park has more extensive grassland, where herds of Asian Elephants roam. Gharials (crocodiles) swim in the reservoir. The common monkey here was the Rhesus Macaque. We saw (and heard) the well-named Barking Deer. An Indian Cobra attracted much attention (at a safe distance) as it sunned itself near our lodge. On our way out of the park, an angry cow Elephant charged our jeep. Our driver went into reverse very quickly, and the elephant stopped after a short chase, but the event got our adrenaline moving!

While we traveled by jeep and elephant in Kanha and Corbett, our transportation in Keoladeo was rickshaw and old-fashioned walking. No tigers, but we did see young Indian Grey Mongooses at play.

And yes, we saw lots of birds — 290 species altogether. There were birds we can see right here, such as Northern Pintail, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Northern Harrier, Common

Moorhen, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Barn Swallow and those Arboretum favorites — Indian Peafowl and Red-whiskered Bulbul. There were birds that are common elsewhere in the world, such as Darter, Greylag Goose, Tufted Duck, Black Kite, Eurasian Kestrel, Common Kingfisher, Great Tit, and White Wagtail. There were new birds from familiar families, such as River Tern, Spot-billed Duck, Black Bittern, Painted Stork, Egyptian Vulture, Little Ringed Plover, Indian Gray Hornbill, Brown Dipper, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Great Slaty Woodpecker (the world's largest), Ultramarine Flycatcher, and Greater Short-toed Lark.

There were birds from families not found in North America, such as Indian Roller, Eurasian Hoopoe, Green Bee-eater, Coppersmith Barbet, Oriental White-eye, Jungle Babbler, and Purple Sunbird. And finally, there were birds with names that were new to us, such as Shikra (an accipiter resembling a Cooper's Hawk), Lesser Adjutant (a stork), Sirkeer Malkoha (a cuckoo), Black-rumped Flameback (a woodpecker), Rufous Treepie (a corvid), Long-tailed Minivet, Rufous-bellied Niltava, and Plain Prinia.

All in all, our trip to India was a wonderful experience, and our Life List has been increased by 198 birds.

*Lois Fulmer*

### Glenn Olson Retirement

**G**lenn Olson has retired from Audubon after five years of leading Audubon California as Executive Director. His enthusiasm and knowledge helped lead Audubon back to a chapter-based organization and specifically helped make Pasadena Audubon a successful chapter in California through motivational and financial support. He sends his best to all his friends in our chapter.

On April 1st, Graham Chisholm was appointed Executive Director of Audubon California. Graham has proven to be deeply committed to birding and conservation. He has a great background and knowledge and has shown a commitment to Audubon chapters and Pasadena Audubon Society. We at Pasadena Audubon are looking forward to working and birding with Graham!

#### (Field Trips, continued)

from the 210, past the gate, where it turns into a winding mountain road. Continue all the way up to the Chantry Flats parking lot. We will meet at the bottom of the lower parking lot. You will need an Adventure Pass to park.

We will hike to the waterfall and back (a 4 mile round trip, with a steep climb at the end), so bring water, snacks, and sturdy shoes.

*Mark & Janet Scheel*

### L.A. River

**Saturday, August 15, 2009**

**8:00 am – noon**

Contact leader for details

*Mike San Miguel*

### Santa Barbara Fundraiser

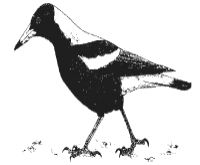
**S**CAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment) and the Santa Barbara Audubon Society are co-hosting an Art Sale. There will be a raffle for a mixed case of Los Cinco Locos wine, and beautiful art for sale.

Please come join us! **July 18th and 19th** from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm in La Arcada, 1114 State Street, downtown Santa Barbara. A portion of the proceeds benefit Santa Barbara Audubon.

#### New Members, continued

Edward Conolley; **PASADENA:** Gary Benthin, Edie Chilcutt, David Elspas, Joyce Hall, Philip Lathrap, Iris Lazarian, Edward Levin, Kaaren Lundeen, Frederick Ruppert, Linda Seiter, Marisella Vera, Ro Virgil, Eleanor Walker, Eileen Wise, Susan & John Wood, William Zimmerman; **SAN GABRIEL:** Luz Barbilla, M.P. Crabtree, Stan & Arlene Yokoyama; **SIERRA MADRE:** Mariette Fay, Laurie Godfrey, Stanley Kalter; **SOUTH PASADENA:** William & Johan Page, Todd Rinehart

### Magpie Bird Study Group



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

**Tuesday, May 19, 2009**

#### Lower Arroyo

Meet in the parking lot directly back of the casting pool

**Tuesday, June 16, 2009**

#### Descanso Gardens

Meet at the entrance

### Thank You for Your Donations to PAS

These PAS members have recently made donations to our chapter: Lance Benner, Beth Gertmenian, William Freeland, Frank & Susan Gilliland, Lew Hastings, Madeline West, and Joan Zukoski. Thank you!

### Become a Chapter-only Member of PAS

**P**olicy changes by the National Audubon Society have severely reduced the share of NAS membership dues returned to local chapters, funds which Pasadena Audubon has used to finance its programs and services. To make up for the loss of funds from National Audubon, PAS, like many other National Audubon chapters, now 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, including publication of *The Wrentit*. We thank you all for your support!

### Chapter-only Membership Application

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

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**

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 Vice-President Norm Arnheim (626) 405-0844  
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 Magpie Bird Study Group Madeline West (626) 574-0429  
 Sid Heyman (626) 571-5991  
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**John's Corner**

Since 2002, my family and I have actively participated in the Pasadena Audubon Society's annual Birdathon, each time finding well over 100 species (our record was 172 in 2008), and raising about \$2,000 to help birds locally. Typically, I have no conflicts in gathering sponsors for Birdathon – this year, however, is a little different. On the second weekend in May is the World Series of Birding (WSB), based in Cape May, New Jersey, where numerous big day teams compete to find the greatest number of species of birds humanly possible within a single, 24-hour day.

Opportunely, I've won a spot on a team for the WSB: the American Birding Association's/Leica Sport Optics' Tropicbird Team. The Tropicbird team consists of four passionate teenage birders, Spencer Hardy, Corey Husic, Ted Stiritz, and me, as well as our skilled and enduring leaders (and drivers): Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis, and we hope to find approximately 200 species for the WSB, as Tropicbird teams in previous years have done.

This team functions very similarly to Pasadena Audubon's Birdathon – each team member collects sponsors who pledge to donate a small amount of money per species of bird found on the

big day. For our Birdathon, the money raised goes to support PAS so that we can work on important local conservational and educational projects. The money donated to the Tropicbirds team likewise goes to the American Birding Association, primarily for youth education purposes.

As many of you know, it's challenging enough to collect sponsors for just one big day team per year. Now, I must try to find enough sponsors to help me with two teams. If you're not participating in Birdathon, please consider sponsoring someone for either Birdathon or the Tropicbirds team.

*John Garrett*

**New Members**

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

**ALHAMBRA:** Roberto Ignacio, Roger Leguay, Eugene Spangler;

**ALTADENA:** Margaret Brozovich, Ralph Constantini, J.A. Green, Jeannette Huber, Margaret Jaynes, Sarah Marshall, Mary McGough, Piri Mee, James Watson; **ARCADIA:** Karin Hanson, Catherine Zhu; **AZUSA:** P. Faulkner; **DUARTE:** Taylor Paez; **LA CAÑADA**

**FLINTRIDGE:** Doug Falkenberg, Victor Levine, Margaret Marsh, Sophia Stefan; **MONROVIA:** Patricia Ballinger, Tandy Denny, Jennie Green, Ewa Karczewska, Jodie Moore; **MONTEREY PARK:** Takeyuki Miyauchi; **MONTROSE:** ...continued on page 7