



Drawing by  
Guy Coheleach

# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 59 — No. 2

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

April-May 2011

## April Program

### Owls of Southern California

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

#### Lance Benner

Eleven owl species occur in Southern California and at least ten of them breed in the area. Due to its geography, Southern California is at the edge of the range of several species, and one, the Elf Owl, is on the verge of extirpation from the state. This talk will expand significantly on the presentation by Lance from several years ago and will complement other recent PAS programs by featuring extensive use of range maps from eBird and owl recordings and sonograms of our local species. Time permitting, after the program we'll look for Western Screech-owl outside the Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

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

## May Program

### Right Under Your Feet

May 18, 2011

#### Jon Fisher

Birders are an optimistic lot, generally looking up, scanning the trees hoping to catch a glimpse of a fleeting bird. Often we miss what is right at our feet. Join us for a presentation by Jon Fisher on southern California snakes. Over two dozen species of snakes occur in Southern California, ranging from the little known Thread Snake that spends most of its life underground, to the oft-encountered and infamous Southern Pacific Rattlesnake. They have adapted to habitats from barren desert to wetlands and range from sea level well up into the mountains. Unfortunately, to many of us snakes remain little known, mysterious and even frightening. We'll shed some light on these legless reptiles by covering the identification, distribution, biology and natural history of this fascinating and diverse group. If snakes give you trepidation, hopefully you'll warm up to them a little. If you already find them interesting, this will be a good chance to learn more about them.

Ron Cyger, Bev McKenzie and Laura Garrett form this year's Nominating Committee so feel free to contact one of them if you want to recommend someone as a candidate. Nominations for Officers will be announced at our April meeting with elections at our May meeting. Elected Officers will be installed at our June (dinner) meeting.

Thanks to all who are serving this year!

## June Dinner!

### Eat, Drink, Applaud

June 11, 2011

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

The Annual Dinner is always a good time. The awards for the Wrentit Club's first year will be handed out, and other honors and treats will be bestowed. The newly elected slate of officers will be presented. Enjoy free-flowing beer and wine, and a delicious catered meal. The venue, as usual, is Eaton Canyon Nature Center. The Hospitality Committee is finalizing the details, which will appear in the June issue of the *Wrentit*. Tickets are \$20 per person. Send checks payable to PAS by June 3 to "June Dinner" at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (address on page 8). Questions? email [graceysw@earthlink.net](mailto:graceysw@earthlink.net).

## Election of Officers

**Nominations: April meeting  
Election: May meeting  
Inaguration: June dinner**

## President's Perch

We are coming up to Officer election time again. As a non-profit corporation we must elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and a Treasurer each year, for a one-year term. All Officers (and Board members) are unpaid volunteers — at PAS, donations and fund-raising money go to programs, not salaries. I should add that PAS does thank its Officers & Board members for their service with the Annual Board Dinner (spouses & significant others invited).

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## Conservation

### UrbanWild Network is Born

A wonderful consequence to the horrible destruction of the Arcadia Woodlands last January is the birth of a new environmental network, the UrbanWild Network. The Network provides a way for all the local groups and individuals to communicate with each other regarding local and regional land issues. We cannot allow another situation like the Arcadia Woodlands disaster to ever happen again. So please join us! Our website, built by the wonderfully talented Carole Scurlock, is [www.urbanwild.org](http://www.urbanwild.org).

Laura Garrett

### Hahamongna to Get an EIR

Largely because of pressure from the new group UrbanWild, County Supervisor Michael Antonovich requested and got an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) for the sediment removal at Hahamongna. This is excellent news for at least two reasons. First, it means that UrbanWild is already having an effect. The political fallout from the Arcadia Woodlands debacle is still powerful.

Second, this means that the County must develop alternate plans and must mitigate, or offset, any negative impacts from the sediment removal.

Before this EIR was announced, Hahamongna was facing a very destructive plan to permanently clear-cut 50 acres of willow and native habitat and construct a permanent two-lane road to carry the sediment out of the basin.

Also, it is still facing thousands of truck trips out of the basin to carry the sediment to gravel pits in Irwindale. We shall have to see what alternate plans the County develops, and we plan on coming up with one or two of our own. Stay tuned for further news; we may call on you to send letters and emails and make some phone calls.

Laura Garrett

### Audubon California Assembly

The Audubon California Assembly was held on March 4-6, 2011 in San Diego in conjunction with the San Diego Bird Festival. The setting was right on Mission Bay, and the weather was glorious – beautifully sunny and clear. Pasadena Audubon was represented by board members Deni Sinnott, Lew Hastings and Ron Cyger (chairs of Publicity, Programs and Education, respectively). Also attending were members Bob and Jan Stull, Julia Ray, Jane Stavert, and Jon Feenstra co-leading several pelagic trips. (Sorry if you attended and we didn't see you there.)

The Audubon California Assembly is held every two years or so and gathers many leaders of California chapters to meet with Audubon California and National Audubon staff, attend workshops and, of course, socialize. We estimate over 400 people attended the weekend events, field trips and seminars. There were many workshops ranging from major issues such as the Pacific Flyway to micro issues such as chapter fund raising and education. Leaders of the seminars were from National, State and Local Audubon providing in-depth information to bring back and share at the chapter level.

There were a couple of highlights: Peter Harrison (author of *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*, 1983) was the keynote speaker and introduced to us (but not to science, yet) a new species of storm petrel. This is the first new seabird species to be announced in 89 years.

Also, David Yarnold, the new President of National Audubon, delivered a talk at our reception the next night. His views were refreshing, with a new emphasis on chapters and how National Audubon can service chapters to make Audubon more vibrant in our community and nation.

If you have never been to an Assembly before you may want to consider attending the next one; the weekend inspires birders to practice their craft, educate the community about birding and become more proactive in habitat protection and restoration.

Deni, Ron, and Lew

### Rubio Canyon All But Protected

Rubio Canyon, located just west of Eaton Canyon and home of the Mt. Lowe Railway, is about to be permanently protected and restored. The Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy has been promised a grant from the California Wildlife Conservation Board that will pay for the acquisition of the remaining land. If you pledged money to AFC for the purchase of this land, your money will support trail restoration and building. Many thanks to *all* of you who gave money to this worthy cause! Because of your donations, soon Rubio Canyon will be more open and available to the public than it has been for decades. Many thanks also to the Pasadena Audubon Society for its contribution of \$5,000 to help pay the closing costs.

Laura Garrett

### John's Corner

As I write in mid-March, it feels like Spring is finally arriving. The Townsend's and Black-throated Gray Warblers in my yard aren't yet singing fully, but they're incessantly whisper-singing: rambled, jumbled, gurgly phrases with occasional excited bouts of their full song. Hooded Orioles have arrived in my neighborhood, and Warbling Vireos are showing up in the foothills. Soon a panoply of grosbeaks, Nashville and Wilson's Warblers, Vaux's Swifts, and Empidonax flycatchers will be rushing through, the males singing their testosterone-filled hearts out. By late May or June, everything will have settled on the breeding grounds, not to be seen in Pasadena yards until September. Butterflies and dragonflies are appearing, and different flowers are in season. Yes, it seems like spring is finally here, after a long, boring, birdless winter.

Wait a second. If Western Tanagers are migrants through here, like the book says, how come I was seeing them in my neighborhood all winter? What were those swallows and Vaux's Swifts doing throughout the season over Legg Lake?

It seems like more and more migrants are found wintering along the

...continued on page 7

**Big Santa Anita Canyon  
February 12, 2011**

**Trip Reports & Sightings**

**Santa Barbara County  
March 12, 2011**

Eighteen people attended the late afternoon/early evening Pasadena Audubon trip into Big Santa Anita Canyon on February 12. We hiked down into the canyon, upstream above Sturtevant Falls, and then back down onto the canyon floor before returning, five-plus miles later, to Chantry Flat.

During daylight we saw and heard a Rufous-crowned Sparrow at close range, found three Canyon Wrens and a Belted Kingfisher, and got excellent looks at two American Dippers.

As dusk settled, we heard the first of several Great Horned Owls, and then heard another target species, a Northern Pygmy Owl. A short time later we heard a Spotted Owl and saw it perch on a branch in the open for several minutes. It was a life species for many people on the trip. After a breathtaking climb out of the canyon, we rounded out the evening by hearing and seeing a Western Screech-owl at Chantry Flat.

*Lance Benner*

**Northwest L.A. County  
March 6, 2011**

On a strikingly gorgeous day, the typical spring winds waited for the afternoon and we were comfortably in the foothills. But not before seeing a Golden Eagle fly over Quail Lake, Common Ravens in pursuit, and a sleepy Barn Owl nestled in a pine tree at Holiday Lake.

The foothills were a good show, too, with a Lewis's Woodpecker perched on a telephone pole on our drive along Pine Canyon Road. The Bald Eagle at Elizabeth Lake was the icing on the cake and the final bird of an excellent day in the field.

*Jon Feenstra*



We started the trip at Lake Los Carneros, a location featuring ornamental plantings as well as natural habitat, and yes, a small lake. What a birdy place! Highlights included first-of-spring Hooded Oriole, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and Rufous Hummingbirds. We had good scope views of White-tailed Kites, including one swallowing a rodent. And a puzzling gull turned out to be a 2nd-cycle Thayer's, an age we don't usually see in Southern California.

Our next stop was Los Alamos Park, which has nesting Yellow-billed Magpies. The magpies went in and out of nests, and even showed us their equestrian skills (see photo). While we were watching the magpies, a White-winged Dove, very rare in Santa Barbara, flew in and everyone had a great look.

At Waller Park we found many Chestnut-backed Chickadees, another key target of the trip, along with a Hermit Warbler, a flyover Merlin, and Snow, Ross's, Cackling, and Greater white-fronted Geese.

A golf course near Devereux Slough hosted a few rarities: a female Vermilion Flycatcher that appeared only briefly and was seen only by two of us, and an Eastern Phoebe that was much more cooperative. The Slough itself held a variety of shorebirds and ducks, including a beautiful male Eurasian Wigeon. A Golden-crowned Kinglet took our attention away from our scopes for a short time. We ended the day at Santa Barbara Harbor with loons, grebes, rocky shorebirds, gulls, and Black Skimmers. A fun, full day of birding a variety of habitats; the trip list was an impressive 133 species.

*Mark and Janet Scheel*

**PAS Pop Quiz!**

Correctly tag the photos below with the location in which they were taken:

- A. Africa
- B. Santa Barbara County

*Winner gets a free guest column in a future Wrentit!*



**What... that quiz was too easy?**

OK, then - there are two species of birds endemic to California (found in California, but nowhere else.) One of them is Yellow-billed Magpie (pictured on the horse, above.) What's the other one?

## Field Trips

### Elysian Park

Saturday, April 16, 2011



7:30 am — noon

Where can you hear the call of an oriole, the crack of a baseball bat, and gunshots from a police academy firing range, all at the same time? In Elysian Park, of course! We will search out residents, migrants, and vagrants (the feathered kind, that is.) Last year we had four species of woodpeckers, five of warblers, and a great view of a nesting Common Raven. There are always surprises; possibly a Redstart (Painted or American) will show up! We will bird in Solano Canyon and other locations as time permits.

Directions: Take the Pasadena (110) Freeway south, exit on Academy Way and go straight down the offramp. Take a right at the first stop light (Park Dr/Solano Canyon). Go about 1/4 mile to the parking area on your left.

*Sue Horton & Ron Cyger*

### Big Morongo Preserve

Saturday, May 7, 2011

8:00 am — 1:00 pm

This desert oasis and migrant trap offers great birding in the spring. Warblers, flycatchers, hummingbirds, and orioles are among the birds expected. At least one pair of Vermilion Flycatcher has been seen every spring in memory.

Join us as we walk the trails in Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and into adjoining Covington Park, where you will enjoy one of the finest birding locations in Southern California, with over 250 species making stops at the preserve annually.

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

*Kathi Ellsworth*

### Throop Peak

Sunday, June 19, 2011

8:00 am — 2:00 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 bird activity. This trip will hike at a leisurely pace to the summit of Throop Peak (elevation: about 9100 feet) as we search for montane specialties such as Williamson's Sapsucker, Townsend's Solitaire, Clark's Nutcracker, Dusky Flycatcher, White-headed Woodpecker, Red Crossbill, Cassin's Finch, and other montane species.

Meet at Dawson Saddle at mile 69.6 on the Angeles Crest Highway. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen,

bug repellent, a coat, sturdy shoes, and an Adventure Pass. The hike is about 5 miles long, some 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*

### Owling in the San Gabriels

Saturday, June 25

7:00 pm — midnight



This trip will look for owls at the higher elevations in the San Gabriel Mountains in regions that were unaffected by the Station Fire in 2009.

We'll start in the early evening 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; Common Poorwill; and if we're really lucky, Mexican Whip-poor-will.

Limited to 10 people. Please email or call the trip leader to reserve a spot and for directions on where and when to meet.

*Lance Benner*

*More field trips on page 7.*

*Plus, the ultimate field trip: Birdathon! See page 6 for details.*

### Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk



Sunday, April 17, 2011

Sunday, May 15, 2011

Sunday, June 19, 2011

8:00 am — 11:00 am

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

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

*Hill Penfold*

### Hahamongna Monthly Walk



Saturday, April 2, 2011

Saturday, May 7, 2011

(walks resume in September)

7:30 am — noon

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 (Lance Benner on 4/2)*

### Huntington Library Monthly Walk



Sunday, April 24, 2011

Sunday, May 22, 2011

Sunday, June 26, 2011

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.

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 March 5th*






 = Wrentit Club!

### April 2011

2	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip 	Hahmongna	Lance Benner
16	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip 	Elysian Park	Sue Horton, Ron Cyger
17	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group 	Rancho Santa Ana	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
20	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	So. Cal. Owls
22-24	Fri-Sun	All day	<b>Birdathon!</b> 	All over the place!	See page 6
24	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson







*(PAS members only)*

### May 2011

4	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
7	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip 	Hahmongna	Ron Cyger
7	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Big Morongo Preserve	Kathi Ellsworth
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group 	Lower Arroyo	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
18	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Beneath Your Feet
21	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip 	Santa Fe Dam	Jon Feenstra
22	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

*(PAS members only)*

### June 2011

5	Sun	7:30 am	Field Trip 	Mt. Pinos	Larry Johnson, Ron Cyger
11	Wed	6:00 pm	<b>Annual Dinner!</b>	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Grace Wong
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Throop Peak	Lance Benner
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group 	Descanso Gardens	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
25	Sat	3:00 pm	Field Trip 	San Gabriels Owling	Lance Benner
26	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

*(PAS members only)*

#### \* 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 (before 9:00 pm)	ron@cyger.org (preferred)
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
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	
Mark Hunter	(818) 957-5044	fishingyak@yahoo.com
Mickey Long	(626) 398-5420	mlongbird@charter.net
Elaine MacPherson	(626) 355-9412	birdergrrl@aol.com
Hill Penfold	(818) 352-4954	hpenfold@gmail.com
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@earthlink.net
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	west266@adelphia.net

## Birdathon, Baby!

April 22-24, 2011

Pasadena Audubon has one fund-raising event each year. And this is it! Dozens of birders, from novice to expert, work very hard for the benefit of our Society and for their ongoing species lists. If you've never been part of a Birdathon team, you'd be startled at the intensity and persistence of the members. This year, Birdathon falls on the same weekend as the nationwide "America's Birdiest County" competition, which involves Audubon chapters all over the U.S. Los Angeles County has *won* this competition several times in recent years, partly because of its great variety of habitats, and partly because of the hard work of birders from Pasadena Audubon and other L.A. County chapters. So your Birdathon efforts can help us win again!

PAS is an all-volunteer organization - no one takes any salary at all. We spend money wisely, supporting the most effective and crucial causes in regional ornithology and conservation. You can feel confident that your donation will make a real difference. **The letter included with this issue can be used to make a pledge to an individual or team involved in Birdathon. Don't have anyone in mind yet? Look over our terrific teams, below, and see who you favor!** This year, PAS also accepts donations via PayPal. 100% of your donation is tax-deductible.

But besides donating, consider getting involved! The Big Sit, the Day Without Cars, and the Hansen Dam Harriers are looking for more teammates. You'll have a blast. Regardless of what form your participation takes, PAS thanks you for your support.

### Irritable Owl Syndrome

Saturday, April 23, 2011

Wee hours — after dark

They look good on paper! Members of last year's winning team (Mark Scheel, Janet Scheel, and John Garrett) are joined by Jon Feenstra. They will log about 400 miles, all in Los Angeles County, from the Antelope Valley to the San Gabriels to the coastline, and all the regions in between. They had 187 species last year and are aiming for 200 this year. Plan your pledges accordingly! And let's see if the Autobahn Chicks can pass these guys. Leader: Mark Scheel, [scheel@tapir.caltech.edu](mailto:scheel@tapir.caltech.edu)

### Hansen Dam Harriers

Saturday, April 23

7:30 am — lunchtime

More birders welcome to join!

This is the outing for folks who dread a long-distance 24-hour marathon, but still want to see a lot of birds. We expect to see between 65 and 100 species. The mix of lake, scrub, park, and riparian woodland attracts a wide variety of birds during spring migration.

Bring picnic lunch, hat, sunscreen, water and snacks. A scope is helpful for viewing lake birds.

Take the 210 west past Sunland, exit at Osborne, left on Foothill, left on Osborne, and left on Dronfield Ave. into Hansen Dam. Work your way to the lower-level parking lot (a right, then left) between the lake and park setting (we'll picnic at the tables in the park setting at the end of the outing).

Leaders: Ron Cyger and Lew Hastings. Questions? [ron@cyger.org](mailto:ron@cyger.org)

From last year's Birdathon, a Bonaparte's Gull at Malibu Lagoon. What will you see this year?



Photo: Jon Fisher

### A Day Without Cars

Saturday, April 23

pre-dawn — afternoon

More birders welcome to join!

Some of the other Birdathon teams are relying on internal combustion, but this one is all about muscle power. We will hike from Eaton Canyon up to Henninger Flats pre-dawn, then hike back and mount bicycles for a trip down the San Gabriel River to Peck Road Park and possibly Legg Lake. We expect about 100 species for the day. Want to come along? You can hike with us, or just bring your bike and

Leaders: Brendan Crill, Darren Dowell, [brill@gmail.com](mailto:brill@gmail.com)

### Autobahn Chicks

Saturday, April 23, 2011

All day — and some of the night  
One spot still open at press time!

This trip is all about the numbers. We hope to shatter every existing Birdathon record! We begin pre-dawn at the Salton Sea, quickly rolling up the species count. Sunset will find us in Laguna Beach, after some serious mileage, and many stops in many habitats in between. This all-woman crew seeks to break the 200 mark for the day's count.

Leader: Kathi Ellsworth, [pandionsky@yahoo.com](mailto:pandionsky@yahoo.com)

### The Big Sit

Saturday, April 23

7:30 am — 11:30 am

More birders welcome to join!

At a Big Sit event, you may only count species seen while remaining within a 30-foot circle. Bring a chair, bins, coffee, snacks, whatever you want. Please sponsor us, join us, or better yet, join us, sponsor us, **and** get other people to sponsor us. I'll bring a clipboard and some field guides. **All** are welcome to join me. (I really don't want to sit at Whittier Narrows by myself all morning long). There is good, mixed habitat, so you can expect to see about 30 species from your little circle.

We will sit between the middle lake and the south lake in the Legg Lake area of Whittier Narrows. Exit the 60 freeway at Rosemead, and go south a short distance to the parking lot entrance, on the left.

Leader: Laura Garrett, [purplecow@jps.net](mailto:purplecow@jps.net)

**John's Corner, continued from p. 2**

coast. There are several probable reasons for this. One is that with increased development, we have more nonnative (tropical) berry-producing plants throughout the winter on which birds like waxwings and tanagers can gorge themselves. Another is that (also possibly correlated with increased development), there are more birders and increased coverage, so that more of these birds are found. Additionally, birders are discovering more about where these uncommon winter visitors are, and are focusing their attention on these areas. A third (or fourth) factor is climate-related. While I lack the authority to discuss the effects of global warming on bird movements, it is imperative that we monitor what they are doing (the Christmas Bird Count and eBird are great ways to do this).

If you're seeing more tanagers and other migrants throughout the winter in your neighborhood, it may be that you're noticing them more often, but it may also be that there really are more of them. Either way, its very worthwhile to look out for when spring actually starts.

*John Garrett*

**Field trips, continued from p. 4**

**Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area**

**Saturday, May 21, 2011**

**7:00 am – noon**

The flood basins are some of the last holdouts of quality lowland riparian habitat in the Los Angeles Basin. In the tangles of willows reside a few of the region's most threatened breeding birds like Least Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Yellow Warbler. Further, add a park with alluvial scrub, some exotic trees, and a lake and it makes for a nice mix of birds at the end of spring migration. On this trip we'll be seeking the local residents and breeders, scoping some open water, as well as keeping an eye on the trees for looks at what birds might still be heading north.

There is an entrance fee of \$8 per car charged at the gate, so carpooling is especially advisable. Our cars will be nearby, but we will be spending a lot of time on foot.

*Jon Feenstra*

**Mt. Piños & Environs**

**Sunday, June 5, 2011**

**7:30 am — early afternoon**

**M**t. Piños 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 several other nearby areas.

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 and take a left at the only stop sign into the park. We will meet at the park. Don't forget lunch, water and sunblock.

*Larry Johnson and Ron Cyger*

**Magpie Bird Study Group**

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



**Tuesday, April 19, 2011**

Rancho Santa Ana, Claremont  
Meet in the parking lot

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011**

Lower Arroyo, Pasadena  
Meet in the parking lot

**Tuesday, June 21, 2011**

Descanso Gardens, La Canada  
Meet in the parking lot

**Donations to PAS**

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Norm & Anna Arnheim, Lance Benner, Denise Castillo, Lew Hastings, Eleanor Osgood (in honor of John Garrett), Ann C. Patterson, Elizabeth Weigand, Madeline West. **Thank you!**

**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**

President	Will Fulmer	(626) 798-1606
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**They're Baaack...**

In a modest repeat of their irruption a few years ago, Pine Siskins swept into Southern California this winter and gave goldfinches some competition at the thistle feeders. Will Fulmer took this photo of some of the hectic action in his backyard.

