



Drawing by  
Guy Coleleach

# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 59 — No. 4

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

September-October 2011

## September Program

**Fall Birds to Watch For**  
Wednesday, September 21, 2011  
Jon Fisher & Mickey Long

There could be a Tennessee Warbler mixed in with those Orange-crowned Warblers, or a Rusty Blackbird in that flock of Red-winged and Brewer's. Perhaps a Swamp Sparrow is lurking among the Song Sparrows at the edge of that pond, or a Lesser Yellowlegs may be feeding in the shallows with the more common Greater.

When birding, it's always a big advantage to be aware of potential rarities and what it is that makes them different from our more common species before we encounter them. Mickey and Jon will take a look at when and where these rare birds occur and also give you tips on how to identify them as well as similar-looking common species.

### General Meetings Held At:

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

## President's Perch

September is the month that we start the new fiscal year with new goals and a new budget.

Last year we gave five grants, the largest to the AFC to help them obtain matching funds to buy the important 18 acres of Rubio Canyon. This year we are encouraging local universities to apply for grants to further the study of birding behavior and birding habitat. Studies like that will promote birdwatching and may

## October Program

**A Very Big Year**  
Wednesday, October 19, 2011  
Sandy Komito

A Big Year is a competition among birders to see who can see or hear the largest number of species of birds within a specific geographic area.

In 1998, three different birders — Sandy Komito, Al Levantin, and Greg Miller — chased Komito's record of 721 North American birds species. In the end Sandy Komito kept the record, listing an astonishing 745 birds, a record many in the birding community believe might never be broken.

Join us this evening to hear Sandy Komito, a celebrity in the bird watching community, regale us with anecdotes of his victory as well as gain insight in how to plan for your own big year. We will also be treated to photographs of many of the rarities that he was fortunate to observe.

save more of California's open space from development.

Another goal this year is to increase the number of Birding Classes we give at Eaton Canyon—maybe an advanced birding class or a habitat class, with a field trip.

Let me know what you would be interested in by leaving a note at the PAS mail box at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Good birding!

## November Program

**Inland Islands of Woodpeckers**

Wednesday, November 16, 2011  
Stephen Shunk

The Transverse and Peninsular mountain ranges of Southern California tower above the surrounding lowlands with a stratified diversity of flora and fauna. These forested realms host nine species of woodpeckers year-round in largely complimentary habitats. Winter also brings an influx of flickers and sapsuckers to the region, when some of the resident species can be found wandering beyond their normal ranges. Some of Southern California's local woodpecker populations have developed uniquely specialized lifestyles suited to their preferred islands of habitat, and at least one endemic subspecies inhabits the region's pine forests. And all of our woodpeckers play critical ecological roles in the forests and woodlands where they dwell.

Steve will discuss woodpecker natural history and adaptation, as well as potential identification challenges. He will also share stories of forest ecology and conservation challenges faced by our resident and migratory woodpecker species.

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## Conservation

### A Sea-change for Pasadena

For the last three years, a committee of residents and Pasadena City Staff has been working on the Open Space and Conservation Element as part of the city's revision of its General Plan. The purpose of the Element is to provide the City with a blueprint for handling issues related to open space and conservation.

As a member of that committee, I am pleased to announce that we have a draft of the plan ready for your perusal. It is available at <http://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/planning/deptorg/complng/OpenSpace/openspace.asp>. The draft Element was introduced to the public at a meeting on July 13, 2011, and we have received many helpful comments from the public. Next, the Environmental Advisory Commission and the Rec. and Parks Commission will review the draft, followed by the Planning Commission. In November, we hope to present a completed and revised draft to the City Council for their approval. Though the official time for comments from the public ended in August, I encourage you to take a look at it and let us know where we fall short or if anything is missing, especially regarding the implementation measures. We can still accept comments through the end of September; please send them to Laura Dahl at [ldahl@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ldahl@cityofpasadena.net).

While I recognize that this element might look like a giant government document that some fear might simply sit on a shelf and get dusty, I assure you that it has some pretty radical stuff in it. It will be an uphill battle to get this document approved by City Council because of these controversial changes that we propose. For example, our committee decided that the first Core Principle should be, "Pasadena keeps conservation of natural resources and open space opportunities at the center of all city decision-making." We recognize that this way of thinking requires a sea-change of attitude in City Hall, but that's exactly why we wrote it.

Some of our implementation

measures are equally controversial, some so much that when our staff liaison showed the draft to her colleagues, they changed the language, weakening it considerably. For example, in one implementation measure, we stated that the Hahamongna Master Plan would be amended to take the still-to-come new soccer field out of it, but the staff rewrote the language to say "Protect the existing natural open space within the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan area." As you can see, this mushy language allows for the new soccer field to be built, while the committee is adamantly opposed to it. When we submit the Element to the City Council, it will use our stronger language.

So this is why I need you to spend a little time with this document. I urge you to read it, or at least parts of it, and write to the Mayor and/or your City Councilmember to ask them to support the document that the Committee wrote. We do not want the Council to adopt an Element with weak and ambiguous language that allows the staff to maintain the status quo. As I stated above, we are asking for a sea-change. Questions? Email me at [purplecow@jps.net](mailto:purplecow@jps.net) or call 626.564.1890.

*Laura Garrett*

### Sediment Removal in Hahamongna

At press time, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is beginning to remove 25,000 cubic yards of sediment from behind Devil's Gate Dam. It is necessary to remove this sediment so that the dam can function properly. This is an interim measure; the County ultimately plans to remove about 1.9 million cubic yards of sediment from behind the dam. They plan to dump 25,000 yards of sediment in Johnson Field (the illegal baseball field on the east side). The LACo DPW assures us that they will follow the laws regarding protecting the flora and fauna of Hahamongna. They have a retained a biologist (Chambers Group, Inc.) who will monitor the area for nesting birds and the County will not begin the process until all nesting birds

in the area have fledged. The biologist is also monitoring Johnson Field for Western Toads. As soon as they migrate out, the dumping can begin. The County has pledged "buffer zones of 300 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors."

While it would be nice to believe that all will go smoothly, it is very important that we keep our eyes on Hahamongna while this work is going on. If you see any threats to birds near the work area, please send your comments to the project manager Keith Lilley ([klilley@lacounty.gov](mailto:klilley@lacounty.gov)). If you could CC your comment to me, that would be great. Or, if you prefer, you can send your comments to me and I will pass them on.

*Laura Garrett*

### After a Century, Common Murre Breeds in Southern California

In July, biologists conducting research for the U.S. Geological Survey discovered Common Murre chicks on Prince Island - an islet off San Miguel Island, westernmost of the Channel Islands. The last recorded breeding for this species in Southern California was exactly 100 years ago.

According to the USGS report, this new colony is perched on 100-foot-high sea cliffs, and was spotted by USGS ecologist Josh Adams, USGS biologist Jonathan Felis and their Channel Islands National Park colleagues Laurie Harvey and David Mazurkeiwicz during their research trips to this remote windswept island this summer. For the first two weeks of their life, murre chicks are fed at the colony by their parents, which use their wings to propel themselves underwater and dive for anchovies, sardines and juvenile rockfishes. At about two weeks of age, murre chicks waddle off the cliff edges to the surf below. They join their fathers, which raise the chicks at sea until they are capable of diving and feeding on their own.

For the full story of this discovery, plus photos of the the colony, visit [www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2875](http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2875)



## Hahamongna Sightings

## Trip Reports & Sightings

For years Red-shouldered Hawks have bred in Hahmongna Watershed Park. This year, Denis Callet spent much time observing and photographing a nest in a sycamore near Johnson Field - the area that is soon to become the dumping ground for the emergency sediment removal at Devil's Gate Dam.

In this photo both chicks are visible with one of the parents. Notice the distinct difference in appearance between the chick that hatched first and the one that hatched later. (They change so fast at that age!)

Denis first noticed the pair's courtship behavior in February and Darren Dowell later located the tree where they eventually built a nest. Denis says the two chicks,



Photo: Denis Callet

hatched a few days apart, displayed little competition and were well-fed by parents who alternated time on the nest with hunting for rats and squirrels.

By late July the fledglings were big, active, and gone.

Denis appreciates the privilege of watching nature so close to a big city and hopes that Hahmongna can remain a great habitat for wildlife.

See video of this nest!

Go to

[www.pasadenaaudubon.org](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)

for the link.

In addition to locating the Red-shouldered Hawk nest site, Darren Dowell made an uncommon discovery last July. He found Spotted Sandpiper breeding in Hahamongna and photographed juveniles there.

## Birding the North American Rainforest

Each year, the Garrett family embarks on an epic camping adventure that covers beautiful and interesting areas of the United States. The last few years have found us in familiar vacation spots like Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon as well as less-traveled parks like Theodore Roosevelt National Park (breeding saw-whet owl!) in North Dakota or Pawnee National Grasslands (longspurs! Grasshopper Sparrows! Lark Buntings!) in Colorado. This year, we decided to explore the temperate rainforest of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. We were not disappointed!

Our first stop was Silver Falls State Park in Oregon. For most people, its most significant feature is the Trail of the Ten Falls, an eight mile trail that passes by, yup, ten waterfalls. South Falls, the tallest one at 177 feet, is quite spectacular, but my favorite was Double Falls with its fern-filled grotto and cooling mist. By the way, we noted that with names like "Upper North Falls" and "Lower South Falls," none of the falls had especially poetic names. But they were lovely.

Silver Falls State Park also introduced us to the birds of the temperate rainforest: Red-breasted Sapsuckers (and a hybrid with a Red-naped), Pacific Wrens calling everywhere, Pileated Woodpeckers, and the ubiquitous American Robin.

Our second stop was the Hoh rainforest in Olympic National Park in Washington. Located between Mt. Olympus and the coast, this is one of the wettest spots in the US, with 12-14 feet of rain a year. While it certainly was cool and damp while we were there, the rain was minimal and did not stop our enjoyment of seeing Steller's Jays, Bald Eagles, a family of Ruffed Grouse, and Roosevelt Elk. Of course, the large and lovely Banana Slugs were everywhere, as were the Robins.

Then we camped at Mora Campground on the coast of

Olympic National Park, where the rainforest meets the sea. It is also Twilight country, so we kept our eyes open for vampires. To help us stay on our toes, one gas station had a big "Vampire Threat Level" sign, much like the fire danger signs that the Forest Service uses. Besides the rainforest birds we had already seen, we were treated to the sight of thousands of Common Murres and other alcids, including Tufted Puffins (life bird!). Bald Eagles became as common as trash birds. Rialto Beach, across the river from La Push, had some of the most biologically diverse and pristine tide pools I have ever seen, and the largest driftwood ever (signs warned that they were killer drift-logs, but we didn't see anyone get attacked by one).

From there, we drove and then took two ferries to Orcas Island, one of the San Juan Islands, where John heard/saw Barred Owl and Golden Eagle. Besides a deer suspiciously watching us in our campground, the highlight for me was hundreds of Rough-skinned Newts in Summit Lake on Mount Constitution. Oh, and the view from the top of Mount Constitution was splendid—we could see almost all of Puget Sound, the Canadian Rockies, Mount Olympus, the San Juan Islands—truly spectacular.

Then we took another ferry to Vancouver Island. On the way from Sydney to Victoria, we made a detour to search for Sky Larks. These wonderful creatures were introduced from Great Britain in 1903, becoming established in the 1940s. We searched for them in vain, and then, to our delight, one began "skylarking," or soaring so high in the sky that it became almost invisible, singing the whole time: As Shelley says, "singing dost soar, and soaring ever singest." Its joyous song caught our ears so that we could just see the bird as it flew higher and higher, singing its "shrill delight." Then it flew DOWN, almost Peregrine like, and disappeared into the field. What a remarkable bird.

*..continued on p. 7*

## Field Trips

### San Gabriel River



Saturday, September 10, 2011

7:30 am — noon?

The San Gabriel River is an often overlooked location for birding in the Los Angeles area. Join us for a casual walk to see what we can find. Recent walks have found 40+ species along a short stretch of the river. We will be looking for migrating shorebirds and returning waterfowl and maybe some exotics like Orange Bishops and Nutmeg Mannikins. This area even hosted a Purple Gallinule last year, though none is scheduled for this walk. Stilts, Killdeer, Least Sandpipers, Dowitchers and Cinnamon Teal are all likely.

We will meet at the Havenwood St. gate of the spreading grounds and walk around to the river. GPS address is 9541 Havenwood St., Pico Rivera 90660.

Take the Whittier Blvd exit west (right turn) off the south 605 freeway. Turn left at Passons Blvd. and left again at Havenwood St. The street ends at the gate to the spreading grounds. If the water level is not stable until this date, we will meet here and drive to another location along the river with more water. This walk is all on pavement and is ideal for beginners so feel free to join us.

*Norm Vargas*

**More Field Trips on Page 6!**

### Huntington Beach Central Park

Saturday, September 24, 2011

7:30 am — noon

Central Park in Huntington Beach is a great place for migrant warblers and flycatchers, especially in the fall, and the large areas of unmanicured habitat in the park are surely a factor. Rarities such as Blackburnian and Hooded Warblers have shown up in the past. There's also a permanent lake and an intermittent pond that can be good for water birds. If there's interest, we can do an extension to Newport Back Bay or Bolsa Chica, which are both nearby.

Take the 405 freeway south to Goldenwest and go south on Goldenwest. Make a left at Slater and then a quick right into the parking area on the north side of Central Park.

*Mark Scheel*

### Ballona Freshwater Marsh

Saturday, October 22, 2011

7:30 am — 11:30 am



The Ballona Freshwater Marsh was officially protected in 2003. Since then, the marsh has blossomed with wildlife! We will cover the public and more sensitive areas of the marsh. Along the way we'll see returning ducks and other wintering species along with the usual marsh-avian specialists. And who knows, maybe some surprises, too!

The Ballona FWM is at the corner of Lincoln and Jefferson in Playa Vista. From Pasadena, get to the 90 west (towards Marina del Rey) from the 405. Get off at Culver Boulevard and turn LEFT. Drive past Lincoln, and when you get to Jefferson Boulevard, take a sharp LEFT. As you head back to Lincoln, the marsh will be on your right. Park along Jefferson at the first curbside area that is allowed on your right. Warning: No toilet facilities.

*Ron Cyger*

### Legg Lake & San Gabriel River



Saturday, November 5, 2011

7:30 am — 11:30 am

These trips will cover some consistently good lake and park birding areas. Legg Lake has lots of water and scattered trees and has produced good waterfowl numbers and varieties as well as an impressive list of migrants and wintering birds. Time permitting we'll include the Pico Rivera spreading grounds or some other river locations, based on what's around. An excellent trip for beginning and young birders.

Meet in the Santa Anita Ave. parking lot, closest to the 60 freeway. Take the Santa Anita exit and turn south from the off-ramp (going south). The lake and parking lot will be on your right.

*Ed Stonick*

### Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk



Sunday, September 18, 2011

Sunday, October 16, 2011

Sunday, November 20, 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, September 3, 2011

Saturday, October 1, 2011

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 Hahamongna, and park by the ballfield.

*Ron Cyger*

### Huntington Library Monthly Walk



Sunday, September 25, 2011

Sunday, October 23, 2011

Sunday, November 27, 2011

8:00 am — 11:00 am

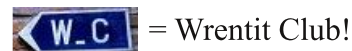
A special benefit for Pasadena Audubon Society members is the chance to bird the Huntington Library grounds. Attendance is by reservation only and limited to 15 participants. Members may bring one non-member guest, space permitting. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these 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 October 1st



### September 2011

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader
3	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
7	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
10	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	San Gabriel River	Norm Vargas
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Bonelli Park	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
21	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Fall Birds to Watch For
24	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Huntington Central Park	Mark Scheel
25	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip (PAS members only)	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

### October 2011

1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
5	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
12	Wed	7:00 pm	Botany for Birders	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Mickey Long
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Legg Lake	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	The Big Year
22	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Ballona Marsh	Ron Cyger
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip (PAS members only)	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson
26	Wed	7:00 pm	Botany for Birders	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Mickey Long
29	Wed	TBD	Botany for Birders	Field Trip	Mickey Long
30	Sun	9:30 am	Field Trip	Newport Back Bay Kayaks	Mark Hunter

### November 2011

2	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
5	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Legg Lake/San Gabriel River	Ed Stonick
12	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	North Slope San Gabriels	Mark & Janet Scheel
15	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Santa Fe Dam	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
16	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Woodpeckers
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip (PAS members only)	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

#### \* Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (chair)	(626) 355-8707	<a href="mailto:scheel@tapir.caltech.edu">scheel@tapir.caltech.edu</a>
Larry Allen	(323) 288-2701	<a href="mailto:larryallen@earlymusicla.org">larryallen@earlymusicla.org</a>
Lance Benner	(626) 791-1187	<a href="mailto:lbenner@charter.net">lbenner@charter.net</a>
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625 (before 9:00 pm)	<a href="mailto:ron@cyger.org">ron@cyger.org</a> (preferred)
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Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	<a href="mailto:west266@adelphia.net">west266@adelphia.net</a>



## Botany for Birders



### Classes and Field Trip

**October 12, 26, 29, 2011**

**W**ould you like to know more about plant identification and ecology to improve your knowledge, communication skills and enjoyment of birds in their ecosystems? These classes and field trip will provide illustrated examples and hands-on samples of plants from Southern California habitats, including valleys, foothills, mountains, and deserts. Both native and common non-native trees and shrubs will be included, but we will stick to most important, indicator species for bird habitat. This is not an exhaustive plant ID class.

Learn about:

Dominant trees and shrubs that provide common perches for birds.

Rather than say "it's in that big tree toward the middle," you can say "in the sycamore, just left of the ash."

Important food plants, berries, seeds. In what plants do I look for Pine Siskins in Fall or Swainson's Thrushes during May migration?

What warblers tend to use conifers and which are most likely in deciduous trees.

Where to really look for a California Gnatcatcher, a Cactus Wren, or a Least Bittern based on vegetation indicators.

Recommended books and other sources for identifications and further study.

When: Two evening classes: Wednesdays, October 12 & October 26, 2011 7:00 pm—9:00 pm and a local Field Trip: Saturday October 29, 2011

Class limited to 20 people. Participants are asked to make all sessions.

Where: Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Cost: \$50 for Pasadena Audubon Members, \$70 for non-members (which will include membership). Fee is payable to "Pasadena Audubon Society" and due at the first class session.

Instructor: Mickey Long, Field Biologist and former Natural Areas Administrator, L.A. County Parks &

Recreation.

For Questions or to make reservations contact:

botany@pasadenaaudubon.org

Sponsored by Pasadena Audubon Society and Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

## Newport Back Bay Kayaks

**Sunday, October 30, 2011**

**9:30 am—1:00 pm**

**T**his trip mixes birding with fun and beauty in a rich habitat. Birding by kayak allows much closer approaches to shorebirds than does birding by foot. The different perspective is fun, as you get buzzed by clouds of peeps and actually *see* Marsh Wrens! Black Skimmers are fairly reliable, as are Osprey. Most wintering waterfowl have arrived by the end of October, so we should have great scenery, weather, and species counts.

The trip begins and ends at Newport Aquatic Center (newportaquaticcenter.com or (949) 646-7725). I have a couple of kayaks available for loan and NAC also rents kayaks. The begin and end times are keyed to the tides, resulting in a fairly low-effort paddle.

RSVPs required. Please contact me (info at the bottom of page 5.)

*Mark Hunter*

## North Slope San Gabriels

**Saturday, November 12, 2011**

**7:30 am—early afternoon**



**W**e will explore areas on the northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, such as Grassy Hollow Visitors Center, Jackson Lake, and locations in Valyermo. We will search for high-altitude species as well as wintering raptors. Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and Golden Eagle are possible, as are Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers. Unusual species (e.g. Lewis's Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Swamp Sparrow) have been found in some years. Time permitting, we may look for Mountain Plovers or longspurs in the nearby Antelope Valley.

It may be cold, especially at higher elevations, so bring warm clothes. Also, bring lunch. We will meet at the Park & Ride on Ave S. in Palmdale, just east of the 14 freeway.

*Mark and Janet Scheel*

## Trip Report

### Los Angeles River

**August 20, 2011**

**O**n an unseasonably cool August morning, we took a leisurely two-mile walk up the Los Angeles River from Willow Street in Long Beach. While it may lack in aesthetic value, this is a fantastic spot to watch autumn shorebird migration. The access and walking are easy and the number and variety of birds is amazing in August and September. The highlight of the morning came early and it was a Solitary Sandpiper just above Willow Street. We also found a Willet, two White-faced Ibis, over fifty Wilson's Phalaropes, two Red-necked Phalaropes and a dozen Short-billed Dowitchers among the many Long-billed. Two Black-bellied Plovers and a number of Semipalmated Plovers were also present as were two Peregrine Falcons. Nutmeg Mannikins and Orange Bishops were also seen in the riverbed vegetation. On last year's trip we found a Semipalmated Sandpiper — scarce but regular here in August— but this time we scanned many hundreds of Least and Western Sandpipers in vain. By the end of the walk though we had seen a total of fifty-five species and enjoyed weather that was pleasant beyond any reasonable expectation.

*Jon Fisher*

## A Word from the Editor

**A**s I looked over this issue, it struck me that this is a pretty fine chapter we've got here in Pasadena. Look at the programs on page 1 — these are great programs! (Thanks, Lew.) We've got field trips going everywhere (thanks, Mark S.), educational classes going on (thanks, Ron), financial grants to award (thanks, Norm), powers of environmental darkness to combat (thanks, Laura). We have many superb birders among our membership who are generous with their advice and time. This is a happenin' outfit! We welcome Norm Vargas as a new field trip leader and Denis Callet as a new author, and we encourage all to think about serving Pasadena Audubon, too. You'd be in good company. Next issue, we'll talk about the folks who keep the lights on, the cookies on the tables, and the IRS at bay.

*Mark Hunter*



**Pasadena Audubon Society Board**

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Field Trips	Mark Scheel	(626) 355-8707
Hospitality	Grace Wong	(626) 798-6500
Programs	Lew Hastings	(626) 710-8264
Magpie Bird Study Group	Madeline West	(626) 574-0429
Magpie Bird Study Group	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991
CBC Coordinator	Jon Fisher	(818) 544-5009
Membership	Lois Fulmer	(626) 798-1606

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**Woodpeckers in the Wild Field Seminars**

**Saturday, November 12: Malibu Creek State Park, Los Angeles County**  
**Saturday, November 19: Limestone Canyon Regional Park, Orange County**  
**9:00 am—3:00 pm**

*(See related program announcement on page 1)*  
Join North American woodpecker specialist, Stephen Shunk, for an inside look at the woodpeckers of Southern California. During these 6-hour field seminars, you will explore a wide variety of habitats as Steve provides detailed natural histories of the species encountered. He will also discuss the ecological roles played by each species in its respective habitat, as well as historic and current conservation challenges. Enjoy first-hand observations of feeding, climbing, and communication behaviors, while Steve discusses the adaptations that make woodpeckers one of the most specialized bird families in the world.

Space is limited to 12 people for each one-day class. Fee: \$35

Pre-register by contacting Steve Shunk at 541-408-1753 or [steve@paradisebirding.com](mailto:steve@paradisebirding.com)

***New Members***

**ALHAMBRA:** Judy Castaneda, Sharron Chow, Dolores Priest; **ALTADENA:** Nancy Edwards; **ARCADIA:** Mary Adams, Debbie Andersen, Deborah Huang, Betty Thorn; **AZUSA:** James Henrich, Shirley Schwartz; **COVINA:** Patrick Gavit; **DUARTE:** Kari Hatfield, Kay Wallace; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Jake Johnsen, Wayne Snyder; **MONROVIA:** Mary Brown, Susan Ting; **MONTEREY PARK:** Irene Lujan, Tom & Mariko Ueunten, Yoichi Serizawa; **MONTROSE:** Alexander Michaels; **PASADENA:** Fred Dwyer, Magdalena Ferrante, Richard Finley, Richard Frank, Win Griffen, Ann Kelley, Ruth Langford, Gloria Lothrop, Satyendra Nandi, Kelly O'Donnell; **ROSEMEAD:** Jean Lathorn, Eugene Miller, Philip Yu; **SAN GABRIEL:** Rose Aparicio, David Richardson; **SAN MARINO:** Henry Doupe, William Woods; **SIERRA MADRE:** Anne Campbell, Cecil Gaudet, Jill Lokan; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Rebecca Schein; **TEMPLE CITY:** Gail Priddy, Veronica Raymond.