



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 64 — No. 4

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

April–June 2016

Acorn Woodpecker

(It Takes a Village)

The Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) inhabits oak woodlands of western North America and much of Central America. A medium-sized woodpecker, the Acorn Woodpecker can be found all over L.A. County, especially in the Pasadena area. Its unmistakable facial pattern of boldly contrasting white, black and red, as well as the solid black back and streaked breast, make it easy to identify and visually distinctive from the rest of North American woodpeckers. Acorn Woodpeckers also exhibit slight geographical variation in their facial coloration, bill length and shape, and eye color among separate or isolated populations and subspecies across the bird's range.

The Acorn Woodpecker exhibits many behavioral characteristics and complex social structures that are unique among woodpeckers. One such characteristic is the remarkable foraging behavior that gives the Acorn Woodpecker its name. Acorn Woodpeckers live in large family groups, moving through the oak woodlands in search of acorns and other nuts. The birds then store the mass of acorns they have collected in a chosen "granary" tree (or trees), where they carve out thousands of small holes to jam the acorns into.

Each granary can hold thousands of acorns that the birds collect from the surrounding habitat, and are essential in sustaining the birds through harsh times. Maintaining this store of food takes the coordinated effort of the entire group. As the acorns dry out and shrink inside their storage holes, the birds need to wedge them into tighter storage holes so that they do not become loose and fall out. While the flock is out foraging, some members stay behind to guard the granary, which can be made out of oaks, telephone poles, palm trees, or a number of different natural and human-made structures. Each group defends a foraging territory that can support the entirety of the flock, which can span about 15 acres of woodland. Acorn Woodpeckers have also been known to feed on sap drilled from under the bark of trees, large quantities of flying insects, the eggs of other birds, and even occasional vertebrates, taking bats, lizards, and other small animals.

Acorn Woodpeckers are fiercely territorial, and have been observed acting aggressively toward birds of different species that encroach upon their feeding and storage areas. An interaction recorded between Acorn Woodpeckers and Red-breasted Sapsuckers nesting in the granary tree of the woodpeckers even resulted in the death and removal of the nestlings.



Photo: Johnathan Nightingale

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President's Perch

When I was younger I used to mark time by the holidays and all the preparations for each. Now as part of Pasadena Audubon, I mark my time by fall migration, the Christmas Bird Count, spring migration, Birdathon, and our June dinner. This year I am adding in our very first hands-on **cleanup** event, at Peck Road Water Conservation Park, taking place on April 16th. See the flyer in this issue, or more information on our web site. Home Depot is giving us gloves and all participants will get a PAS tote bag PLUS a free lunch. Hope to see you all there.

Birdathon is upon us now! This year's spirited competition will help raise funds for scholarships at two organizations, The Western Field Ornithologists and Debs Park. Please read more about Birdathon on page 3. You can join a team, donate to a team, or start your own team.

On May 7th, California Audubon sponsors the 2nd annual **Bird LA** event. There are activities all over the L.A. basin for birders of all levels. PAS will be

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April Program

Tejon Ranch

Wednesday, April 20, 2016
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Situated about halfway between Bakersfield and Los Angeles, Tejon Ranch straddles an incredible 422 square miles and is the largest contiguous private property in the whole of California. The extraordinary convergence of San Joaquin oak woodlands, Mojave Desert Joshua trees, the fir forests of the Sierra Nevada and the chaparral-studded South Coast Ranges on this vast acreage provides an important home for the more than 60 at-risk plant and animal species that are protected here.

Scot Pipkin, Public Access Coordinator of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, will introduce us to the incredible wealth of wildlife diversity that is to be found just a stone's throw from Downtown Los Angeles as well as discuss the work that the Tejon Ranch Conservancy is undertaking to preserve this incredible site.

General meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (address on back cover). Refreshments and socializing begin at 7:00 pm and programs are presented from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Occasionally programs for youth begin at 6:45 pm; check the announcements.

May Program

Here Be Dragons

An introduction to the odonata of L.A. County
Wednesday, May 18, 2016
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Do you enjoy birding and want to learn more about some of the other interesting critters that live around here? Dragonflies are a great place to start.

This talk is intended to help birders and other nature enthusiasts get started with enjoying dragonflies and damselflies. The best way to get started is ... to get started! We will talk about what you'll need, where and when to go and simple (and more advanced) tools to help you. The talk will also help you learn how to identify some of the most common species in our local area.

David Bell grew up in Pasadena and is the creator of many free apps for birders: BirdLog (now called eBird Mobile), Merlin, BirdsEye and most recently the Dragonfly ID App.

June Dinner

Annual Dinner

Saturday, June 18, 2016
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Save the date! The June dinner is always a fun event. We serve delicious catered food with beer, wine, and other beverages. An entertaining program will be featured. Watch for the June issue of The Wrentit, arriving in mailboxes around June 1, to get full details on pricing and how to reserve your seat.



Allen's Hummingbird photo by Candy Dougherty

Conservation

Polystyrene Ban Update

As you may know, the City of Pasadena has been working on passing an ordinance to ban the use of polystyrene takeout containers at restaurants. Plans hit a snag when Dart Industries convinced a few local small business owners that this would bankrupt them, even though the price difference between polystyrene and other containers is very small. This issue will come to City Council in the next couple of months, so if you live in Pasadena, please contact your city council person to ask them to support the ban. If you don't live in Pasadena, please contact Mayor Tornek to ask for his support. Polystyrene trash is a regional problem that Pasadena can help mitigate by passing this ban. Thank you!

Laura Garrett

A New Resource for Native Plant Gardeners

If you are a regular at our monthly meetings, you may have noticed that I promote native plants. They are the very best way to attract birds, butterflies, and bees into your garden, and, unlike seed, they don't attract rats! (See other article). But some folks struggle with natives, and those of us who plant them can tell you all about the struggle to determine which plants we

should plant, or all about the heartbreak of losing a salvia or five. Not good.

If you are interested in planting natives but aren't sure how to get started, I'm delighted to tell you that a wonderful new resource is available to help you. And it's free!!

Native plant landscaper Lisa Novick and videographer Susan Hoskins have created a series of short films about landscaping with California native plants, and they plan to do more. These films are "short tutorials that empower people to transform patios, parkways and yards into spaces that support healthy functioning food webs and ecosystems." The link to their Youtube channel is on our website, or you can go to Youtube and search for LIFE—Landscape Integrity Films and Education.

I highly recommend these short films. They answer a lot of questions you might have about landscaping with natives. They focus on creating habitat and saving water, both of which are important to birders. So jump in! Watch a few films and learn how you can turn your yard into a habitat for the birds!

Laura Garrett

Continued on page 7

Young Birders

ABA Awards

Diego Blanco, age 15, won 3rd Place in the Field Notebook module of the American Birding Association competition for 2016. Diego submitted his field notebook with entries from birding trips in Spokane, WA, Ballona Wetlands, Pasadena, CA and various locations in Mexico. Diego is also the author of this issue's Page One Bird essay.



Dessi Sieburth, the 2015 ABA Young Birder of the Year, placed second in the 2016 ABA Young Birder of the Year photography module. Dessi took photos of birds in Los Angeles and on his birding trip to Alaska. Dessi used his photos for his conservation articles including cavity conservation and he showed his photography at art exhibitions where he talked about what people can do to help birds.



Teodelina Martelli, age 14, won 2nd Place in the Illustration module and 3rd Place in the Conservation & Community module of the American Birding Association competition for 2016. Teodelina was the Page One Bird author in the February issue of *The Wrentit*.



All photos by Susan Gilliland, from December 29, when these talented and lucky young birders witnessed the release of Condor AC-4 at the Bitter Creek Wildlife Refuge.

Are you passionate about birds? Want to share your enthusiasm with the community? Consider joining the outreach committee! Outreach volunteers will help out with tabling events at ECNC and other community events like Earth Day and Bird Day LA.

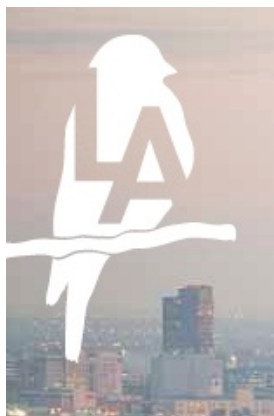
kym.buzdygon@pasadenaaudubon.org or 301-305-2467

Bird LA

May 7, 2016

All Day

Bird LA is a day of bird-related events all over Southern California. Pasadena Audubon will host two walks (Hahamongna and Huntington Botanical Gardens) and will cap the day with a "Birds and Beer" event. You can get more information on the official web site: www.birdla.org.



Old Birders

BIRDATHON!!

April 29 — May 1, 2016

Pasadena Audubon's biggest event raises funds for worthy causes. This year, those causes are the scholarship funds to allow young birders to attend conferences of the Western Field Ornithologists (the Mike San Miguel Memorial Fund), and summer camps at the Audubon Center at Debs Park.

The objective is to count as many different species as possible in L.A. County during Birdathon weekend. Birdathon teams take widely divergent, but very serious, approaches to this event. Here are the teams known at press time:

Irritable Owl Syndrome (April 30) starts just after midnight and drives about 400 miles through the county over the course of a very long day, into the following evening. Send your pledges to Mark and Janet Scheel. Last year they found 195 species. How many will they find this time?

The Big Sit (April 30) are Laura Garrett and a number of others who subscribe to her way of doing Birdathon. If it resonates with you, you are welcome to join them. From Laura:

Do you like sleeping during normal sleeping hours? Do you like hot coffee, comfy places to sit, and peaceful views? Then The Big Sit is for you. We will meet at Legg Lakes in Whittier Narrows, in the open grassy area between the south and middle lakes, just east of the playground, coffee and breakfast in hand, to count as many species as we can before noon. A few of us may even take a leisurely stroll around a lake or two. Bring your own coffee, snacks, and chair. If even our lovely relaxed morning is too rigorous for you, please feel free to sponsor us!

Team Verdin features Dessi Sieburth doing a Big Photo Day. When you pledge with Dessi you pay by the number of species that he photographs that day (117, last year).

Where Do You Fit In?

That's easy. See the flyer in this issue. You join one of the teams and gather pledges, or you do your own birdathon, or you pledge support to a team or an individual. These are worthy causes, after all.

America's Birdiest County

Join birders across the area as we scour Los Angeles County from April 29 to May 1 to find as many bird species as we can. "America's Birdiest County" started in 2003, and although the nationwide friendly competition is no longer occurring, the event has proved popular in Southern California and we are continuing it again this year in Los Angeles. Los Angeles County has consistently produced 260+ species and in 2015 we found 275. Can we do better in 2016?

There aren't any organized trips for this; rather, we ask observers to post reports of every species found in Los Angeles County that weekend to compiler Lance Benner at lbenner@charter.net or to the Los Angeles County Bird listserver (LACoBirds@yahoogroups.com). It's Birdathon weekend, too, so your efforts can serve two purposes.

Lance will post regular updates throughout the weekend to track our progress and to identify species we've missed.

Field Trips

San Gabriel Mountains

Saturday, April 9, 2016

7:30 am — noon



This is a trip to find montane species in the early spring when some of the resident species are most vocal and active. We will devote special effort to finding Mountain Quail and the dark subspecies of Bell's Sparrow, which actively sings in April. Other targets include Black-chinned Sparrow and Sooty, Slate-colored, and Thick-billed Fox Sparrows.

We'll make several stops along the roads and do some short walks but there won't be any long or steep hikes. We're going stop along the Angeles Crest Highway, Upper Big Tujunga Canyon Road, Charlton Flats, Cloud Burst Summit, and perhaps Buckhorn if time permits.

Meet near the base of the Angeles Crest Highway in La Canada-Flintridge. Exit 210 at Angeles Crest Highway, go north, and turn right onto Milmada Drive, which is the second street up from the freeway. Then turn left *immediately* onto Flanders Road and park on the west (left) side of the street.

We'll organize a carpool and then head up. Bring an Adventure Pass, warm clothes, sturdy shoes, a hat, sunscreen, water, and lunch. Rain or snow cancels.

Lance Benner

Tejon Ranch

Saturday, April 23, 2016

8:00 am — 5:00 pm

At 422 contiguous square miles, or 240,000 acres, Tejon Ranch is the largest piece of privately held property in California. Tejon Ranch is a hotspot of biological diversity and lies at the confluence of four major biogeographic regions. Be part of the lucky 20 Pasadena Audubon Society members to enter Tejon Ranch. What?! You're not a member? It's easy. Go to our website for more information and join us.

Sign-up is required. To reserve your space contact Susan at gillilandsusan@gmail.com before April 16, 2015 and provide the following information: Full name (first, middle initial, last), address (street, city, state, zipcode) and home phone number and email address. Location directions will be provided to registered participants.

Note: El Nino style rains/snow/ice will cancel.

If you sign up and cannot attend, please let Susan or Frank know more than 24 hours prior to the trip. There is always a waiting list.

Frank & Susan Gilliland

Mojave Desert Oases

Saturday, May 14, 2016

6:30 am — 1:00 pm



We will search several key desert "oases" for northbound shorebirds and other migrants. The trip starts at Piute Ponds, accessed with special permission from Edwards Air Force Base, therefore the number of participants will be limited. After Piute, we will visit Apollo Park and, time permitting, the (in)famous Lancaster Sewage Ponds. Birds sought include shorebirds, flycatchers, warblers, some of the resident A.V. specialties, and (with some luck) Bank Swallows, Black Terns, and Franklin's Gulls. To take advantage of the day's prime bird activity, trip participants should plan to meet at 6:30 (half an hour after sunrise) at a location to be specified in the Antelope Valley. We will aim to conclude the tour of the primary sites by 1:00 pm. Spotting scopes are recommended. This trip is open to 15 participants in addition to the trip leaders, with preference to those who did not go on this field trip last year, by order of sign-up. Contact Darren Dowell at dowell.darren@yahoo.com to sign up or for further information.

Darren Dowell, Mark & Janet Scheel

Field trips continue on page 6!

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Sunday, May 15, 2016

Sunday, June 19, 2016

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, 2016

Saturday, May 7, 2016

7:30 am — 11:30 am



This monthly bird walk is for birders of all ages and experience. A good variety of birds should be in residence. Bring binoculars, birding guide, water and wear walking shoes. No dogs.

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

Darren Dowell

Huntington Library Monthly Walk

Sunday, April 24, 2016

Sunday, May 22, 2016

8:00 am — 11:00 am



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

For reservations contact me (see bottom of calendar page) by email (preferred), or by phone.

Mark Hunter

WC = Wrentit Club!

Calendar
 Submit material for the next Wrentit by May 1

WCC = Wrentit Club
 Count Circle!

April 2016

2	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
6	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	WCC	Eaton Canyon	Deni Sinnott
9	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	San Gabriel Mountains	Lance Benner
10	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
13	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E. Colorado Blvd.	See page 7
16	Sat	8:00 am	Communtiy Service		Peck Road Water Conservation Park	See flyer
17	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Rancho Santa Ana	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
20	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon	Tejon Ranch
23	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip*		Tejon Ranch	Frank & Susan Gilliland
24	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*	WCC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

May 2016

4	Wed	7:15 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
7	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
7	Sat	All Day	Bird LA!		Everywhere in SoCal	See www.birdla.org
8	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
11	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E. Colorado Blvd.	See page 7
14	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
14	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip*	WC	Mojave Desert Oases	D. Dowell, M&J Scheel
14	Sat	8:00 am	Community Service		Rubio Canyon	See page 6
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
15	Sun	7:00 pm	Field Trip	WC	San Gabriel River Nighthawks	Lance Benner
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Lower Arroyo Seco	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
18	Wed	6:45 pm	Young Birders		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	What's That Bird Call?
18	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Here Be Dragons
21	Sat	6:00 pm	Field Trip	WC	San Gabriel Mountain Owls	Lance Benner
22	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*	WCC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

June 2016

4	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Buckhorn Campground	Jon Feenstra
8	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E. Colorado Blvd.	See page 7
11	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
11	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Throop Peak	Lance Benner
12	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
18	Sat	6:00 pm	Annual Dinner!		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Everybody! 
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Descanso Gardens	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman

* - reservations required, PAS members only

* Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (chair), (626) 765-5408, scheel@tapir.caltech.edu	Frank & Susan Gilliland, (626) 441-8487, gillilandsusan@gmail.com
Larry Allen, (626) 797-1810, larryallen@earlymusicla.org	Mark Hunter, (626) 344-8428, mark.hunter@pasadenaudubon.org
Lance Benner, (626) 791-1187, lbenner@charter.net	Mickey Long, (626) 285-8878, mrlongbird@charter.net
Ron Cyger, (626) 840-2566, ron@cyger.org (preferred)	Hill Penfold, (818) 352-4954, hpenfold@gmail.com
Darren Dowell, (626) 344-4003, dowell.darren@yahoo.com	Julia Ray, (818) 314-5127, jraymusic@att.net
Kathi Ellsworth, (626) 524-0652, pandionsky@yahoo.com	Ed Stonick, (626) 796-0595, edstonick@att.net
Jon Feenstra, (626) 319-4723, feenstra@alumni.caltech.edu	Luke Tiller, streatham2003@aol.com
Jon Fisher, (818) 800-2776, jonf60@hotmail.com	

Field Trips, continued**San Gabriel River Lesser Nighthawks****Sunday, May 15, 2016****7:00 pm — 9:00 pm**

This short trip is designed to search for lesser nighthawks, barn and great horned owls, Bell's vireo, yellow-breasted chat, and other birds active late in the day and at dusk along the San Gabriel River in the spring. We'll make a special effort to see and hear lesser nighthawks trilling as part of their courtship displays.

Please bring binoculars, headlamps, water, and bug repellent.

Meet at Encanto Park in Duarte at 7 pm. We'll do an easy walk across the bridge and north along the San Gabriel River bike path. From Pasadena, take 210 east, exit at Mt. Olive Drive, and go north to Huntington Drive. Turn right (east) on Huntington Drive and then turn left (north) on Encanto Parkway. Turn left just past the bridge into Encanto Park.

*Lance Benner***C'est Chouette: Mountain Owls****Saturday, May 21, 2016****6:00 pm —midnight**

Join us as we search for owls and nightjars in the higher areas of the San Gabriel Mountains.

We'll start shortly before sunset when we'll look for Northern Pygmy Owl and diurnal montane species, and then after dark we'll look for Flammulated Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Spotted Owl, Western Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Common Poorwill.

Limited to 10 people. Please email the leader to reserve a spot.

*Lance Benner***Buckhorn Campground****Saturday, June 4, 2016****7:00 am — noon**

Buckhorn Campground comprises some of the most lush, scenic and easily accessible mountain habitat in the San Gabriel Mountains. The high elevation forest with a running stream (I hope...) is a great place to find the typical breeding birds of the mountains. Species like White-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, MacGillvray's Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, and Thick-billed Fox Sparrow are regular. Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Dipper, Hermit Warbler, and Cassin's Finch are sometimes present, as well. We'll start at the Burkhart Trailhead below the campground and bird our way up through the campground and along the access roads. We may also do some exploring in the area stopping at Islip Saddle and Cortleyou Springs or perhaps some highway turnouts in the vicinity.

Meet in the parking area for the Burkhart Trailhead at 7:00 am. The lot is reached by driving through the campground and following the signs. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required or you may receive a \$5 ticket.

*Jon Feenstra***L.A. County Arboretum****Second Saturday of every month****8:00 am — 10:00 am** (no walk in April due to special event)

This easy walk is for birders of all ages and experience levels. Meet on the steps leading to the entrance of the Arboretum. Admission is \$5 – free for members of the Arboretum or Audubon, and free for children under 12.

*Julia Ray***Chilao Visitor Center****Second Sunday of every month****8:00 am — 10:00 am**

The Chilao Visitor Center walks continue each month, weather and roads permitting. (If things look rainy, snowy or brush fire-y, check first.)

Chilao, 26.5 miles north of I-210 on Angeles Crest (State Hwy 2), is a good place to see woodpeckers and we often see four or more species on a walk. Mountain Quail are somewhat elusive but still seen or heard about half the time. You can also expect Purple Finches, Steller's Jays, Dark-eyed Juncos and several species of nuthatches and others totaling about 30 species during the 2-hour walk.

*Hill Penfold***Throop Peak, June 11**

Check the web site or watch for full information in the June issue of *The Wrentit*.

Rubio Canyon Restoration Day

International Migratory Bird Day is May 14th! Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty with a day of birding and habitat restoration.

Join PAS and the Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy at Rubio Canyon on May 14th. This is an all-ages event (but please, no dogs). We will start with a bird walk from 8:00—9:00 am, and then help AFC restore Rubio Canyon's bird habitat by either removing invasive plants or planting native plants from 9:00 am to noon. Please wear clothes that you are okay getting dirty, sturdy shoes, and a hat. We ask that you bring a refillable water bottle and sunscreen. We will be providing water and light snacks.

Email Kym at kym.buzdygon@pasadenaaudubon.org for more information and to register. We look forward to seeing you there!



Say No to Rat Poison

As spring comes, so do increases in rat populations, and it might be very tempting to get rid of the little buggers with poison. Please resist the temptation! Once a rat eats the poison, it gets into the ecosystem. Owls take the poisoned rats home to their nests and feed them to their owlets, killing them all. Bobcats, coyotes, and even mountain lions also end up with the poison in their system, making them weak and susceptible to disease. Even family pets can end up affected. So please, avoid rat poison at all costs. Thank you.

Laura Garrett

Page 1 Bird, continued

The breeding behavior and social structure of the Acorn Woodpecker is also remarkably complex and structured. Acorn Woodpeckers are cavity-nesters, and bore their nest cavities into the trunks of hollow trees, or use existing cavities to inhabit and raise their young in. As cooperative breeders, each family group may only have a few breeding pairs, in most cases the oldest of the group, but the entire group aids in rearing and collecting food for the young, and several females all lay their eggs in the same nest. After the young have fledged, the parents and other adults in the flock all assist in providing food and raising them, allowing the young to become part of the flock and contribute to foraging and guarding the food storage and territory.

Diego Blanco

President's Perch, continued

having two bird walks and will host "Birds and Brew" at the end of the day. I need one of our members to act as host at Birds and Brew since I can't attend that evening, so drop me an email if you can assist.

Enjoy the weather before it gets too hot...I am still hoping El Nino will get here even if it arrives in June!

Happy Birding,
Deni Sinnott

Announcements

DONATIONS TO PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Norm & Anne Arnheim, Frank B. Burrows, Ellen Carroll, Denise Castillo, Anne Chomyn, Betty Cole, Terry & Tilda DeWolfe, J.M. Guard, Anthony & Ryanna Orona, Paul Scranton, Neal Turner, G.N. & Gayle Van Essen. Thank you all!

Elections

Nominations for the 2016-2017 slate of officers will be accepted at the April general meeting, and voting takes place at the May general meeting. The current officers have agreed to stand for re-election.

Birds 'n Beers

Good food, good beverages, and good bird talk at this casual monthly gathering led by Luke Tiller, Catherine Hamilton, and David Bell. Everyone is welcome! 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, the second Wednesday of each month, at Lucky Baldwin's at 1770 E. Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena.

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, per family, 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 (individual or family) \$15 (senior or 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

Magpie Bird Study Group



We meet the third Tuesday of most months. We bird 9:00 am to 11:30 am and have a sack lunch and a short meeting. All PAS members welcome!

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Rancho Santa Ana

Admission policy:
www.rsabg.org/visit

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Lower Arroyo Seco

Parking lot near casting pond

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Descanso Gardens

Trip leaders: Julia Ray, Sid Heyman

Pasadena Audubon Society Board

President	Deni Sinnott	(626) 233-4128
Vice-President	Mickey Long	(626) 285-8878
Secretary	Ira Blitz	(818) 802-5943
Treasurer	Eileen Burton	(626) 585-9076
Conservation	Laura Garrett	(626) 564-1890
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Programs	Luke Tiller	(203) 981-9924
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Trip Report: Anza-Borrego

Luke Tiller led a trip to this low desert region to witness its premier spectacle: hundreds of Swainson's Hawks feeding on fat caterpillars and then rising en masse to continue their migration, one which takes them from Argentina to Canada, and back, every year. The desert was full of bloom, too, thanks to decent rains for the first time in several years.

Other birds of note were a very unexpected Zone-tailed Hawk, Vermilion Flycatcher, and regular but crowd-pleasing species such as Crissal Thrasher, Sage Thrasher, Verdin, Costa's Hummingbird, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Rock Wren, and Cactus Wren.

For a much more detailed and vivid account of the day, check Luke Tiller's blog at:

<http://underclearskies.com/2016/03/20/anza-borrego-circle-of-life>

Photo by Luke Tiller



New Members

ALHAMBRA: Richard Beltran, Diane Bennett, Bobby Briscoe, Elaine Fuller, David Gallardo, William Murphy; **ALTADENA:** Nancy Johnson, Loren Shirar; **BURBANK:** Beatrice Kumar; **DUARTE:** Katharine Altaner, Janet Torres; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Leslie Nord; **MONTEREY PARK:** Rosemarie Garcia; **MONTROSE:** Claude White; **PASADENA:** Michael Checca, Dee Cody, Currier, Tim Delia, Joan Depew, Elayne Landy, Felicity Lao, Robert Leese, Janice Mangerino, Tamara Mark, Andy Myler, Ray Nobuhiro, Larae Parry, Mike Regalado; **SAN GABRIEL:** Debra Fetterly, Anthony & Ryanna Orona; **SAN MARINO:** Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Cypherd; **SIERRA MADRE:** Ellen Carroll, Jane Khudayakov, Leslie Schenker, Patricia Wilson; **SUNLAND:** Gerard Van Heijzen; **TEMPLE CITY:** Phylis Reneau; **VALENCIA:** Catharyn Strub

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