



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 65 — No. 5

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

June-August 2017

Whimbrel

The Whimbrel is a large shorebird, a type of curlew, that breeds in the Arctic and winters as far south as Brazil. From tracking device studies they are known to make nonstop flights of over 2000 miles. During migration, Whimbrels are common on Southern California coastlines, and many winter here in California. However, I was inspired to write about them because a flock of Whimbrels showed up at the Birdathon event at Legg Lakes in Whittier Narrows, far from the ocean. After orbiting over an adjacent agricultural field, they landed and spent hours, nearly hidden, foraging among neglected rows of strawberries. (I just learned that Whimbrels are known to eat berries, but strawberries? I'll have to look more closely next time.) Despite its fondness for berries and, occasionally, insects, the Whimbrel typically eats the same foods as other sandpipers and curlews: invertebrates plucked from sand or mud, particularly crabs.



Photo: Mark Scheel

The Whimbrel has a downcurved bill which, although long, is significantly shorter than the only similar local species, the Long-Billed Curlew. It has broad, dark stripes on both sides of the crown. Overall it has a streaked, grayish-brown appearance.

allaboutbirds.org reports that Whimbrels, and many other migrating birds, are subject to intense hunting pressure on some Caribbean islands when they pause during migration. A well-known Whimbrel, "Machi," was tracked during fall and spring migration for several years, but was eventually shot on Guadeloupe. Individual hunters sometimes kill hundreds of birds. Efforts to impose bag limits have made limited progress, but cultural resistance is strong.

Mark Hunter

President's Perch

Writing this column for the last time is somewhat bittersweet. I have enjoyed—wait—*delighted* in being your President, but the time has come for someone else to take the reins and lead our chapter to even greater heights. I am quite sure I will miss being at the helm, but I will still serve on the board as Past President for one year.

Over the past four years we did a lot of things: increased our membership numbers, established a Young Birders Group, participated in over 100 outreach events, educated many a fledgling in the way of binoculars, hired our first employee, and won recognition as leaders in the fight for conservation over the Hahamongna issue.

I am excited for our new leadership to take the helm and believe that we can only go up from here with our officers. If you like being a part of PAS, please step up and help us to keep things moving in a positive direction. Conserve the environment, educate your friends and neighbors and always keep the excitement of birding close to your heart.

Until next time,

Deni Sinnott

In This Issue

Programs	2
Conservation	2
Birdathon	3
Education	4
Grants	4
Field Trips	5, 7,8
Calendar	6
Harvard	8
Announcements	9
New Members	10

June Dinner

That's a Wrap

Saturday, June 10, 2017
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

The PAS fiscal year starts July 1 and ends June 30 each year. Come celebrate another very successful year of our chapter reaching out to the community, defending our local habitat, and supporting outstanding birders. The dinner features delicious catered food from Stonefire Grill, complimentary beer and wine, great conversations, prize drawings, a silent auction of very cool stuff, and the installation of newly elected officers for the 2017-2018 year. Bring your bird photos on a USB drive (limit: 5 minutes' worth) for viewing by your fellow members. It's a very good deal at \$20 per person. **You must RSVP; to reserve your spots**, mail a check to PAS, attention June Dinner, at the address shown on the back cover of the newsletter.

Summer!

Traditionally, PAS events decline during the summer. The walks at Hahamongna and the Huntington don't resume until September. Ditto for the board meetings and general meetings. But that doesn't mean we're dormant. One of the most valuable and successful PAS programs, Birding 101, will have a July session (see page 4). And there are a few specialty trips planned, to the high mountains and to the haunts of the Black Swift, for example. You'll find trip blurbs within this issue.

If your summer vacation results in photos and/or anecdotes that would interest our readership, send 'em our way. The deadline for content for the September Wrentit is August 10. Send it to pas.wrentit@gmail.com. Thanks! Enjoy your summer!

September Program

America's Got Feathers

Wednesday, September 20, 2017
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Tired of National Audubon telling you what the Important Bird Areas are? Does all this lumping and splitting of species look like just a ploy by bird guide publishers to get you to buy new editions? Then come to the September meeting and take control of your destiny!

The premiere episode of *America's Got Feathers* is hosted by Luke Tiller. Luke and his applause meter will guide us through a complete taxonomic rearrangement of North American species, by popularity. Then we'll move on to the tagging segment of the show, in which audience members attempt to mis-net each other...

...OK, we confess, we made that up. We don't know what the September program is, yet. But by the time the September issue hits mailboxes, we will! Stay tuned.

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. Programs for youth begin at 6:30 pm.

National Monuments at Risk

At the end of April, President Trump signed two executive orders that threaten 27 National Monuments, including the San Gabriel Mountains and the Carrizo Plain. These monuments include more than 11 million acres of land and about 760 million acres of ocean. In his remarks on April 26th, the President said he was looking to end "another egregious abuse of federal power," put "states back in charge" and open up now-protected areas to "tremendously positive things." Despite his comments about states being "in charge," these areas would remain under the control of the federal government, though if their status were to change, they might lose protections and be available for mining and logging. That might be the "tremendously positive things" that the President was referring to. It's hard to know.

The last three presidents used the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate these areas as monuments, and though public comment is not required under the Antiquities Act, much public comment was instrumental in these designations. While the current administration is claiming that the public was not involved, numerous stakeholders who worked hard to get these areas designated as monuments disagree with that assumption. In fact, many of you probably wrote to Rep Judy Chu or attended local town hall meetings to support her efforts to

Continued on page 4

Conservation

Update on Hahamongna Big Dig Lawsuit

You might recall that Judge James C. Chalfant has ordered the LA County Flood Control District to revise their EIR (Environmental Impact Report) on the Big Dig so that it complies with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act). They must improve their habitat and air quality mitigation plans, and they must analyze the cumulative impacts on the biological resources caused by both the Big Dig and the Eaton Canyon Pipeline. Once they have done that, we will have 45 days to comment on the EIR to the Board of Supervisors.

As of press time, we have had no news regarding the County's new draft of the EIR. Keep your eyes on your email and our Facebook page. We'll get the word out as soon as we know anything. In the meantime, contact your supervisor (Kathryn Barger if you live in our count circle) to convince her that the plan is deeply flawed even if the new EIR is approved and they should instead adopt the Pasadena Plan which is slower, smaller, less destructive, but still safe. You can reach her at Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov or 500 W Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Laura Garrett

Birdathon! Irritable Owl Syndrome!

On April 30, team "Irritable Owl Syndrome" embarked on a 21-hour mission to identify (by sight or sound) as many species of birds as possible in a single day, in Los Angeles County.

We started at midnight high in the mountains: our first two birds were Northern Saw-whet Owl and Flammulated Owl. We covered mountains, deserts, foothills, ocean, and urban areas, on a route designed to take us through a large number of different habitats in the smallest amount of time, in order to maximize the bird diversity we would encounter.

Team "Irritable Owl Syndrome" was Darren Dowell, Janet Scheel, and myself. We ended with 198 ABA species, plus 1 non-ABA bird (Egyptian Goose), for a total of 199 species.

Luckily for us, the owls were not irritable, but instead were very cooperative. We did better with night birding than ever before; we found *nine species of owls* plus Common Poorwill and Lesser Nighthawk. Other highlights included Golden Eagle in two different locations (maybe the same individual), a Least Bittern, a Cassin's Vireo (we usually miss it), and Snowy Plovers at Piute Ponds (which was, as usual, our best single location of the day). We also learned that the correct way to entice a Sora to call is for Janet to say "You know, we haven't found a Sora yet", and the way to encourage a Red-breasted Nuthatch to call is for me to say "Ok let's leave, there's no Red-breasted Nuthatch here".

Lowlights included a flooded and birdless Malibu Lagoon, and generally low numbers of shorebirds and seabirds on the coast. Even Willet was scarce, and we didn't find a Marbled Godwit on the coast at all (there was one at Piute Ponds). And for the first time ever we missed Heermann's Gull---I don't know if this is related to the recent breeding failures that have been suffered by this species.

I'll close with the "list of shame": the "easy" birds that we missed because of haste, running out of time, or just plain bad luck. In addition to Heermann's Gull, this year we missed three birds that we've never before missed on Birdathon: Ruddy Turnstone, Purple Finch, and Redhead.

We thank our sponsors very much, and we had a great time doing it!

Mark Scheel

Birdathon! Big Sit!

About 20 PAS members converged on Legg Lakes in the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area for the April 29 Big Sit. We were blessed with nice weather, good company, and over-the-top nesting activity (the birds, not us). We got most of the way to our eventual 64 species before breaking for lunch, with delicious drinks and desserts, and cool raffle prizes, supplied by PAS. Some non-sitting activity, walking around the lakes, got us the rest of the way to 64. We had our share of beginner's luck from beginner Ayla Qureshi, whose camera work helped us ID several warblers. And a flock of orbiting shorebirds half a mile away were ID'd, hours later, as Whimbrels (thus the Page One Bird in this issue). Other crowd-pleasers were Ruddy Ducks in

breeding plumage and Common Gallinules.

Many thanks to all the participants! 64 is a new record for this event, and we'll see what happens next year.

Mark Hunter

PAS Young Birdathoners Rock!

Team Verdin – Young Birder!

Dessi Sieburth, age 14, completed his fourth Big Photo Day for Birdathon 2017. Dessi was able to break his existing record of 134 by photographing 145 bird species. Dessi and his team mates, Beatrix Schwarz, and Frank and Susan Gilliland, started at 5:30 AM birding the LA Basin where the winds blew in plenty of migrants. It also blew away the time schedule. However, the team remained calm and carried on. Leaving the L.A. Basin at noon, with 81 species photographed, the team entered the Valley of the Antelopes, and mercifully, the winds were minimal. During stops at Apollo Park, the Lancaster Sewage Ponds (aka the poo-poo ponds) and Piute Ponds, Dessi was able to photograph 35 species. The team then raced through the Valley, Crystallaire, Bob's Gap, St. Andrew's Abbey, and Fort Tejon Road, identifying and photographing birds as they went. As the last rays of daylight faded Dessi was able to photograph another 13 species in at Placerita Canyon. Dessi did an amazing job of photographing a total of 145 species of birds. Team Verdin raised a lot of fun and funds – good job!

Team Audu-Bonn – Young Birder!

Team Early Bird morphed into Team Audu-Bonn! The Bonn boys, Calvin, age 11, and his dad, Dan Bonn "got up way too early again this year" (those are dad's words) and launched head first into their second Birdathon. The most notable birds were an adult Peregrine Falcon and a group of four Wandering Tattlers - in breeding plumage! Calvin and his dad saw 74 species for the day raised a grand total of \$112.50. Way to go Team Audu-Bonn!

Susan Gilliland



Calvin Bonn - Photo by Dan Bonn

Education

Birding 101

Birding provides enjoyment and challenge throughout life. Birding gets you outdoors in your neighborhood or around the world. Birding increases your ability to observe and appreciate the world around you. And finally, Birding is just gosh darn fun! So, why would you put off learning how to be a better birder any longer?

This class is designed for beginners, but all are welcome. We will cover identification, optics, field guides, note-taking, habitats, birding ethics, and many other topics. Class size is limited so don't delay!

Classroom sessions: July 12, 19, and 26 at 7:00 pm.

Field trips: July 16 and 23, from early morning to early afternoon. Location of the class and field trips will be sent to the class participants.

Cost: \$50 for Pasadena Audubon members, \$70 for non-members (but will include membership in Pasadena Audubon Society). This fee will cover all three classes and two field trips. Payment is payable to "Pasadena Audubon Society" and is due at the first class session.

Leaders: Ron Cyger and Mark Scheel

For questions or to make reservations, contact Mark and Ron at birding101@pasadenaudubon.org.

Trip Report: Piute Ponds

You know it will be an exciting trip when you start off with a Burrowing Owl. Sixteen of us met shortly after dawn on a beautiful but windy day at Piute Ponds. Passerine migration was in force, with many Wilson's Warblers, a lingering Yellow-rumped Warbler, a Warbling Vireo, and several Western Tanagers, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, and Western Wood-Peepees. About 75 Yellow-headed Blackbirds serenaded us with their lovely songs. And ducks included Redhead, Bufflehead, and all three Teal.

We had great looks at a Sora and brief looks at a Virginia Rail. Shorebirds featured alternate-plumage Red-necked Phalaropes, and both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs together for comparison. Swallows included Bank, Cliff, Barn, and Tree; one Bank Swallow was particularly cooperative as it flew against the wind, almost hovering over us.

We also did well with desert species: a Ladder-backed Woodpecker and several Cactus Wrens made an appearance, as did a few Bell's Sparrows. A Le Conte's Thrasher perched in the open long enough for a few people to get photos. And a Greater Roadrunner was seen by about half the group before it ran down the road and behind some tamarisks.

After Piute Ponds we drove the musical road (which was as well-tuned as the aforementioned Yellow-headed Blackbirds) to nearby Apollo Park. There we found numbers of passerines; highlights were MacGillivray's and Hermit Warblers, 2 Hammond's Flycatchers, 3 Swainson's Thrushes, and lunch. Our day list totaled 96 species.

Mark Scheel

Monuments at Risk, continued

protect our beloved San Gabriel Mountains by getting them designated a National Monument.

The comment period for the review of these monuments begins May 12. It only lasts for fifteen days for the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, so it will be too late for you submit those comments by the time you read this, and is 60 days long for the others. So please visit the website or write them a note to leave your comment.

Comments may be submitted online after May 12 at <http://www.regulations.gov> by entering "DOI-2017-0002" in the Search bar and clicking "Search," or by mail to Monument Review, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240. Written comments relating to the Bears Ears National Monument must be submitted within 15 days of publication of that notice. Written comments relating to all other designations subject to Executive Order 13792 must be submitted within 60 days of that date.

Laura Garrett

Grants

PAS Funds Worthy Causes

Pasadena Audubon supports individuals and organizations whose work aligns with the PAS mission statement. Accordingly, PAS awards grants each year. In early 2017, PAS awarded the following:

\$1,500 to Los Angeles Audubon to continue Western Snowy Plover monitoring activities, including citizen science, biological monitoring, protective enclosures, and outreach. Our grant is to ensure uninterrupted surveys by replacing funding from a California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant that is expiring.

\$3,000 to Kelly Barr, a graduate student at the Center for Tropical Research at UCLA, to sequence the genome of Tricolored Blackbird, and genotype 200 individuals and hundreds of feather samples to characterize genetic variation, populations structure, and patterns of movement throughout the range. Our grant is to collect additional samples from areas where tricolors are migratory, rare, or isolated.

\$1,000 to Devon DeRaad of the Moore Lab at Occidental to assist in sequencing the entire genome of the endangered Red-crowned Parrot. Identify genomic sequences to further investigate possible hybridization of Red-crowned and other parrots in L.A. area. Our grant is for sequencing costs, but the larger project studies the feasibility of reintroducing our local Red-crowned Parrots to their native range in Mexico, where they are presently endangered.

\$2,000 to Myra Finkelstein of UC Santa Cruz, to analyze lead in post-mortem feathers from ten golden eagles. Her team has used the same technique to evaluate lead levels in California Condor and found feather testing to potentially be more precise than blood samples. Our grant is for supplies and instrument time.

Continued on page 8

Field Trips

Tejon Ranch

Saturday, June 3, 2017

8:30 am — 4:30 pm

Join us for an all day (*weather permitting, of course) Cross Ranch Tour (CRT). At 422 contiguous square miles, or 240,000 acres, Tejon Ranch is the largest piece of privately held property in California. We will head across the ranch in search of Burrowing Owl, Greater Roadrunner, Golden Eagles and California Condors.

Trip Requirements: a) be a PAS member b) sign up with gillilandsusan@gmail.com c) pay Tejon Ranch fee d) more details and directions will be provided to registered participants.

Frank and Susan Gilliland

WC

Learn More about the Moore Lab

Thursday, June 22, 2017

3:00 - 4:00 pm

Join us on a tour of this amazing collection. The Moore Lab contains 65,000 bird specimens with a strong focus on Mexico and Latin America. The birds were collected by Chester Lamb, under the direction of Robert T. Moore. Information on Moore Lab at Occidental College can be found here:

<http://www.oxy.edu/moore-lab-zoology> and
<http://www.oxy.edu/moore-lab-zoology/history>

Sign up required. Limited to 15 adults. To sign up email gillilandsusan@gmail.com.

Frank and Susn Gilliland

WC

Throop Peak

Saturday, June 24, 2017

7:30am—1:00 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 birds. We'll hike at a leisurely pace to the summit of Throop Peak (elevation: about 9100 feet) as we search for Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, Townsend's Solitaire, Red Crossbill, and other montane species.

Meet at Dawson Saddle at milepost 69.5 on the Angeles Crest Highway, about 45 miles from I-210 in La Canada. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent, sturdy shoes, a hat, and a coat. The hike is about four miles round-trip; a few sections are steep, and all of it is at altitudes in excess of 7900 feet. Please carpool and plan for 90 minutes to drive from Pasadena.

Lance Benner

WC

Black Swifts and Lesser Nighthawks

Saturday, July 1st, 2017

Late afternoon - evening

Black Swift: so enigmatic was this species that up until 2012 ornithologists still had no idea where the birds wintered. We will seek out these aerial acrobats at Claremont Wilderness Park, the only reliable spot in LA County, to find this most mysterious of birds. The swifts are best looked for late in the day and so we will spend a couple of pre-dusk hours seeking them out. On our return towards Pasadena we will make a sundown stop in Duarte to look for Lesser Nighthawks.

Please email me at streatham2003@aol.com to reserve a spot and to receive directions on where and when to meet.

Luke Tiller

WC

Continued on page 7

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, June 18, 2017

Sunday, September 17, 2017

8:00 am — 11:00 am

Pasadena Audubon and Eaton Canyon Nature Center are cosponsoring monthly walks at Eaton Canyon, 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, except July and August. Meet at the flagpole: bring water, binoculars, hats, but no dogs.

Hill Penfold

WCC

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, September 2nd, 2017

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

WCC

Huntington Library Monthly Walk

Sunday, September 24, 2017

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

WCC

WC = Wrentit Club!

Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by May 1

WCC = Wrentit Club
Count Circle!**June 2017**

3	Sat	8:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Tejon Ranch	Frank & Susan Gilliland
10	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
11	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
10	Sat	6:00 pm	Annual Dinner		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	See page 2
14	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E Colorado Blvd	See page 9
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Descanso Gardens	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
22	Thu	3:00 pm	Field Trip	WC	Learn More about the Moore Lab	Frank & Susan Gilliland
24	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Throop Peak	Lance Benner

Summer 2017

7/1	Sat	Evening	Field Trip	WC	Black Swifts and Lesser Nighthawks	Luke Tiller
7/8	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
7/8-9	Sat-Sun		Field Trip		Southern Sierra Nevada weekend	Lance Benner, Kathi Ellsworth
7/9	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
7/12	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E. Colorado Blvd.	See page 9
7/19	Wed	9:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	L.A. Natural History Museum	Kimball Garrett
8/5	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Lower L.A. River	Larry Allen
8/9	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers	WC	1770 E. Colorado Blvd.	See page 9
8/12	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
8/12	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	San Gabriel Mountain Springs	Darren Dowell
8/13	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
8/19	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Odes and Hummers	Luke Tiller

September 2017

2	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
6	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Laura Garrett
9	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Piute Ponds	Mark & Janet Scheel
9	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
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 9
16	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip		Dana Point Pelagic	See page 10
17	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WCC	Legg Lakes	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
20	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	TBA
24	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*	WCC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter
30	Sat	6:30 pm	Field Trip	WC	Fall Warblerama	Mark & Janet Scheel

* - 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@pasadenaaudubon.org
Lance Benner, (626) 791-1187, lbenner@charter.net	Mickey Long, (626) 285-8878, mstrongbird@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**Natural History Museum of L.A. County****Wednesday, July 19, 2017****9:30 am**

Join us for a behind the scenes tour at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History! We will check out the gardens, tour the ornithology collection, and observe specimens being prepared.

Limit is 15 people, and you must RSVP to Kym at Kym.buzdygon@pasadenaaudubon.org. Carpooling or public transit is encouraged. Entry is free but you will need to pay for parking.

*Kimball Garrett***Southern Sierra Nevada****Sat-Sun, July 8-9, 2017****All weekend**

Join us as we explore the southern Sierra Nevada at the Audubon Kern River Preserve, the Greenhorn Mountains, Holey Meadow, Trail of 100 Giants, Sherman Pass, and the Kern Plateau. Possible species: yellow-billed cuckoo, summer tanager, brown-crested flycatcher, willow flycatcher, pileated woodpecker, Pacific wren, sooty grouse, northern goshawk, black-backed woodpecker, mountain bluebird, both Pacific and "interior west" white-breasted nuthatches, owls, and other montane species.

Limit is 10 people. Please contact the trip leader (lbenner@charter.net) to reserve a spot and to obtain information on lodging and other logistics.

*Lance Benner and Kathi Ellsworth***Lower L.A. River****Saturday, August 5, 2017****8:00 am — noon**

August is about the peak of shorebird migration as wintering birds return and transients pass through. Be prepared for anything, but if your shorebird ID skills are rusty we will spend as much time as necessary on the more common species to get everyone comfortable with them.

Take the 710 (Long Beach) Fwy south to the Willow Street offramp, head east across the L.A. River, and take the first left on Golden Ave, the first left again on 26th, and follow 26th past the pump station onto DeForest Ave. Park near the river access by the bridge and meet the group along the river at 8:00. We will bird until noon and may visit the Dominguez Gap Wetlands if time permits.

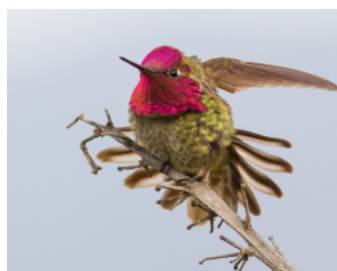
*Larry Allen***San Gabriel Mountains Springs Hike****Saturday, August 12, 2017****7:30 am—1:00 pm**

We will be visiting several springs in the high elevation San Gabriel Mountains, accessed at roadside and by hike from the Angeles Crest, seeking many of the resident montane bird species, perhaps a few southbound migrants, some

wildflowers, and a refreshing break from the summer heat.

Total hiking distance will be approx. 5 miles at an elevation of 7000 feet, with only small elevation gain. Meet at Islip Saddle at mile marker 64.1 on the Angeles Crest Highway, about 40 twisty miles from I-210 in La Canada, by 7:30 am.

This is not the starting location for the main hike, so please be prompt. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent, sturdy shoes, and a hat. Please carpool and plan for 80 minutes to drive from Pasadena.

Darren Dowell

Anna's Hummingbird
Photo: Luke Tiller

Odes and Hummers**Saturday, August 19, 2017****8:00 am to midday**

The heat of summer is a great time to look for both migrant and possibly even vagrant hummingbirds, so we will start out our morning checking out a private site where large numbers of these incredible little gems can be found. As the day warms up we will poke around a couple of spots looking for dragonflies, damselflies and whatever other critters we can uncover.

Please email Luke Tiller at streatham2003@aol.com to reserve a spot and to receive directions on where and when to meet.

*Luke Tiller***L.A. County Arboretum****Second Saturday of every month****8:00 am — 10:00 am**

This easy walk is for birders of all ages and experience levels. Meet at 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 each month****8:00 am — 10:00 am**

The Chilao Visitor Center walks continue each month, weather and roads permitting.

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

Field Trips, continued

Piute Ponds and vicinity

Saturday, September 9, 2017

6:30 am — early afternoon

By September, southbound migration will be in full swing. Join us at the Piute Ponds, a wetland oasis in the desert, where every year thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage on their way south. We should find over a dozen shorebird species, and we may see Baird's or Pectoral Sandpipers. We will also look for desert birds such as Bell's Sparrow and we have a chance for LeConte's Thrasher. After Piute Ponds, we will visit nearby Apollo Park, where we will look for migrating songbirds such as warblers and flycatchers. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

Note: Piute Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base, which has restricted entry, so space is limited. Please email Mark Scheel if you would like to attend. We will be meeting in the northern Antelope Valley at dawn (6:30 am); the meeting place will be arranged.

Mark and Janet Scheel



Board member Kathy Degner with owl puppet in hand at one of our many outreach events

Volunteers at the Peck Road Park Clean-up

Thank You to our Volunteers!

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers from this year who helped support PAS by leading field trips, showing up for outreach events, picking up trash at Peck, bringing cookies, setting up and cleaning up for meetings and special events, working with the Young Birders, teaching kids about birds, giving presentations to the community, serving on our board, and everything else that helps PAS fulfill our mission of bringing the excitement of birds to the community. We appreciate your time and commitment!

Fall Warblerama

Saturday, September 30, 2017

7:00 am—11:30 am

WC

Join us as we look for interesting warblers, flycatchers, and other passerines near the end of fall migration. We will start at DeForest Park in Long Beach, which tends to attract migrants: it is a green area with tall trees in an area that is mostly residential, and it is located adjacent to the LA River. We will search the park for migrants, and explore other nearby areas depending on where migrants are showing up.

Directions: From the southbound 710 freeway, exit south on Atlantic (same exit as the eastbound 91 freeway). Go south on Atlantic, then right (west) on 63rd street to the end, which is DeForest Ave. Go south on DeForest Ave and park in the parking lot on the west side of the street, opposite Harding St.

Mark and Janet Scheel

Grants, continued

\$1,000 to Neil Gilbert of the University of Alabama, to identify landscape characteristics associated with grassland bird occupancy in the Black Belt of Alabama. Our grant is for basic living expenses. Neil Gilbert is a highly regarded young birder from Orange County.

\$1,500 to Ventura Audubon for protection and monitoring of Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern on Hollywood Beach (Oxnard). Our grant is for contract biologist services and protective habitat fencing.

\$750 scholarship to our chapter's Dessi Sieburth, to attend the Western Field Ornithologists conference in 2017. Dessi received grants in 2015 and 2016 and submitted reports, so hopefully we'll see the 2017 report in a future issue.

\$750 to Alexander Single of California State University Fresno, to survey 309 waterfalls in the southern Sierra Nevada for Black Swift (California species of concern) nesting sites. Also collecting data on physical characteristics of waterfalls. Our grant is for a stream flow probe and an assistant field tech.



Birdathon Sponsors

Thanks to all the local businesses and organizations who supported Birdathon by donating prizes for the raffle!

- House of Windsor
- Charlie's House
- Clearman's Galley
- Bear Essentials
- Culture Club 101
- Descanso Gardens
- Huntington Library and Gardens

Election Results

In the May general meeting, members elected officers for the 2017-2018 fiscal year:

- President: Laura Garrett
- Vice-President: Darren Dowell
- Secretary: Ira Blitz
- Treasurer: Eileen Burton
- Congratulations to our new

leadership! Come to the June dinner and watch the installation of the incoming officers. This issue's roster reflects the outgoing elected and board positions. The roster for the September issue will reflect the newly elected and appointed positions.



Our Hero

Congratulations to our Conservation Chair and soon-to-be President Laura Garrett for receiving the Pasadena eARTh Festival's second annual Eco-Hero award! Laura was recognized for her ongoing commitment to conservation in Pasadena and the hard work she puts into achieving real results for the community. We are so proud of you, Laura- thanks for all you do for the birds!

Announcements

DONATIONS TO PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter. Thank you!

WARBLER (\$5-\$99): David Bottjer, Ellen Carroll, Mary Carter, Patricia Duarte-Pocock & Thomas Pocock, Chgristine Hessler, Judy Howell, L.L. & L.R. Lewis, Mireya Parravicini, Sylvia Stachura, Jean & Dorothy Weiss.

ORIOLE (\$100-\$249): Joan Probst, Gordon & Joanne Sasaski

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, June 20, 2017
Descanso Gardens

Tuesday, September 19, 2017
Legg Lakes

Santa Anita Ave parking lot
Trip leaders: Julia Ray, Sid Heyman

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 Wrenit*, 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)
- \$_____ (donation)

Make checks payable to, and mail to:

Pasadena Audubon, 1750 N Altadena Dr, Pasadena, CA 91107
Or pay with PayPal at www.pasadenaaudubon.org

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
Field Trips	Mark Scheel	(626) 765-5408
Programs	Luke Tiller	(203) 981-9924
Membership	Lois Fulmer	(626) 798-1606
Education	Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625
Publicity	Carla Alvarado	(480) 652-8514
Hospitality Chair	Liz Cordero	(562) 923-3521
Members at large:	Norm Arnheim (Grant Program), Susan Gilliland, Lance Benner, Grace Wong, Kathy Degner, Nina Clark	
Website	Janet Scheel	(626) 817-6322

Magpie Bird Study Group	Julia Ray	(818) 314-5127
	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991

The Wrentit is published by the Pasadena Audubon Society
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, CA, 91107
WWW.PASADENA AUDUBON.ORG

Editor: pas.wrentit@gmail.com	Mark Hunter	(626) 344-8428
Printing	Print Spot	(323) 269-4218

See chapter-only dues on previous page. Wrentit subscription only—1 year \$10. National Audubon Society membership fees—\$35. National members receive Audubon magazine and The Wrentit. Messages or queries for Pasadena Audubon may be left at (626) 355-9412. For change of NAS address call: (800) 274-4201.

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

DATED MATERIAL

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
No. 1880
Pasadena, CA



Printed on
10% recycled paper
FSC Certified

Dana Point Pelagic Trip

Saturday, September 16, 2017

7:00 am to 3:00 pm

Price \$65.00

We are excited to announce our first eight-hour dedicated pelagic trip! We will depart from Dana Point on the speedy Ocean Explorer and spend most our time at sea in Los Angeles County waters. This longer trip will help us connect with species that are harder to see from just your average whale watch, and chartering the boat will allow us focus specifically on the birds. PAS will be providing expert pelagic tour leaders (Kimball Garrett and Jon Feenstra) for this trip to help pick out interesting species. Birds that might be encountered include a variety of shearwaters, jaegers, phalaropes, alcids, gulls and terns. One of our main targets will be the rafts of storm-petrels that gather offshore in September, which may include both Black and Least. Uncommon and rare species discovered on similarly timed trips have included: Manx and Flesh-footed Shearwater, Arctic Tern, Red-footed and Blue-footed Booby and Craveri's Murrelet, among others.

Tickets are also available for purchase through the PAS web site for \$67.00 (to offset our credit card fees). If you have any questions contact Kym Buzdygon for further details: Kym.buzdygon@passadenaaudubon.org.

Luke Tiller



Pink-footed Shearwater
Photo: Luke Tiller

New Members

ALHAMBRA: J. McKay, Nattboy Family, Cecilia Sanchez; **ALTADENA:** John Merriam, Nivedita Thiagarajan, Loretta Williams; **ARCADIA:** Rose An; **CLAREMONT:** Scott Marnoy, Sudhakar Menon; **DUARTE:** Don Loewe; **LONG BEACH:** Keith Quinlivan & Terry Fontenrose, Elaine Swift; **LOS ANGELES:** Katie Porter, Kelsey Reckling, Sarah Roush; **MONROVIA:** George Forbes, Wendy Panikker, Susan Tanahashi, Jean Young; **MONTEREY PARK:** Jingxin Chen; **MONTROSE:** Mary Collings; **PASADENA:** Henry Awaya, Gary Bennett, Raphael Bostic, Jill Doughtie, Mari Haus, Misako Ishizu, Penelope Fine, Satiras Pisanis, Norma Scranton, Wendy Silberbauer; **ROSEMEAD:** Lillian Ho, James Old, Marian Whitman; **SAN GABRIEL:** Lori Mediate; **SIERRA MADRE:** Michael Howard; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Larry Goren, Lawrence Lovell; **TEMPLE CITY:** Mary Melbar & Martin Callan; **UPLAND:** Ann Lihl