



# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 66 — No. 1

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

September–October 2017

## California Least Tern



*Photo and pencil drawing:  
Cayenne Sweeney*

Not long ago, my friend and I set out during the morningtide along the humble, warm shoreline of Malibu. We were in the presence of a nesting bird haven, the Malibu Lagoon, observing its astounding assemblage of avifauna. One of the Lagoon’s visitors is the California Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*); a dainty, orange-billed shorebird with a striking black crown and willowy wings. It is federally listed as endangered.

Their range is limited to the southern Pacific coast and some inland regions. Courting Least Terns have a tenderly choreographed dance: the male offers the female food and they dance gently in nearly mechanical synchrony.



The devoted parents are extremely protective of their young, and will relentlessly attack anything that poses a threat, including humans (I speak from experience!).

You can help these birds by volunteering at your local bird conservation organizations, and doing so has a huge positive impact on the future of California Least Terns - as well as other threatened birds - along the California coast.

*Cayenne Sweeney, 14 years*

## President's Perch

I’ve been thinking a lot about Wilson’s Warblers. Such bright cheerful-looking birds with their yellow-green plumage and jaunty black cap. Every migration, I wait for them to visit my pond on their long journey north or south. When one does, I ponder the miracle of their migration, such a tiny thing weighing no more than a few paper clips somehow wending its way—mostly at night-- from Mexico all the way to Canada or Alaska to breed. Talk about faith!

These marvelous little birds have been on my mind as I contemplate beginning my first year as your president. I was nervous when I agreed to accept this honor, but downright terrified after my husband died suddenly on June 3, turning my world upside down. Could I still do this? It’s not easy to follow in the magnificent footsteps of Deni Sinnott, and now I had lost my bearings.

Then I went to the National Audubon Society’s convention in Park City, Utah, and I was reminded what’s at stake for our birds, locally, nationally, and globally. And I was reminded of the tiny, fearless Wilson’s Warbler. How can I do any less? We have much to do, and the birds are counting on us. Happy Fall Migration!

*Laura Garrett*

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**MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS: UPCOMING PROGRAMS**


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## Mickey and Jon's Bird ID Quiz

September 20, 7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Mickey Long and Jon Fischer

As is traditional, we will kick off our Fall season of meetings with Mickey Long and Jon Fisher hosting an evening of bird identification challenges. This year we will be including fun and games that involve an expert panel of PAS's birding glitterati (Dessi Sieburth, Darren Dowell and Mark Scheel). We will get into the swing of fall migration by helping sharpen your ID skills and have some laughs along the way.

Come join in the fun!

*Monthly chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (1750 N. Altadena Drive in Pasadena). 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.*

## Magical Monarchs

October 18, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Kristy Brauch

Everyone knows birds migrate, but some insects, such as butterflies and dragonflies, undertake equally impressive movements each year too. Probably most famous of those migrations is that of the Monarch Butterfly. In Fall this species undertakes a migration of thousands of miles, from breeding sites as far north as Canada to wintering sites along the California coast and into Mexico. Recent years have seen worrying declines in this incredible butterfly species.

Come learn from PAS member Kristy Brauch about these amazing butterflies and discover what we can do to help them on their journey.

## The Socorro Islands: Endemics on the Edge

November 15, 7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Loretta Williams

What does it take to return a bird extinct in the wild to its ancestral home? A small group of ornithologists have been working for more than three decades to return the Socorro Dove that went extinct in the wild in 1978, to home on an island off the Mexican coast. Last July, public radio journalist Loretta Williams spent a month on Socorro Island tracking the plans to return the dove to the island in the coming year.

Loretta Williams is an award-winning public radio journalist. She has worked on stories that range from wildlife conflict to cochlear implants to the mysteries and promise of genetic science. She is currently working on a book about the reintroduction of various birds back to their ancestral homes.

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## CONSERVATION

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### Big Dig Plan Needs Your Comments

This is my first article as the PAS Conservation Chair, replacing Laura Garrett, who is now President of the chapter. And there's no shortage of things to work on!

Last February, the Arroyo Seco Foundation and Pasadena Audubon Society won a battle in the fight to stop the overly aggressive, destructive plan to scrape bare much of Hahamongna Watershed Natural Park. A Superior Court judge ruled that the L.A. County environmental impact report was flawed and that three portions of the plan must be revised and recirculated for public comment. That new plan is now available for public comment until September 7, so you only have a few days to send comments.

Although these revisions offer some concessions to original critics of the project (cleaner diesel engines, better habitat mitigation), the project is still highly destructive to Hahamongna. In addition, the County announced, in July, that it plans to impound storm runoff behind Devil's Gate Dam each rainy season. It will then pump that water through a planned new cross-town pipeline to Eaton Canyon, where the water will be percolated through spreading basins into the Raymond Aquifer groundwater supply. After community objections to tearing up streets, the pipeline was put on hold, but not killed. It's still lurking out there.

This pipeline project means that the county designed a sediment removal project larger than needed for flood control, in order to serve this water banking and pipeline. The County will treat all of Hahamongna primarily as a reservoir, not a park. Most of the basin will be flooded in winter and will be scraped to bare dirt in fall. The current rich habitat will be destroyed, harming the birds and other wildlife that depend on it. Areas of Hahamongna that are regularly used by equestrians, hikers, runners, and others will become degraded or inaccessible.

In contrast, the City of Pasadena supports a plan that reduces sediment in a way that is less destructive and less harmful to neighborhoods that surround Hahamongna.

Visit web site [www.savehahamongna.org](http://www.savehahamongna.org) for more information about alternative plans. Then send your comments to the County by emailing [reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov) (or send regular mail to the address listed on the web site). Tell them that you want a Hahamongna project that is less aggressive, less harmful to habitat and wildlife, and more sustainable. The current project is too big, too fast, and too destructive.



Mark Hunter

## YOUNG BIRDERS REPORT FROM THE FIELD

**Afternoon in the Pampas***Teodelina Martelli, 15 years*

The steel sky encroached ominously overhead, but I saddled the Shetland and trotted west for the birds. The pampas, the mother of grazelands, is all horizons - you get on your horse and there's no mountain to circumnavigate, no hills to investigate. Instead, the birds gather in the marshes and sumps, or flock in the giant stands of eucalyptus that mark gaucho lodgings and familial corrals. In between these, Southern Lapwings and nameless pipits populate the razed soyfields. The odd Spotted Nothura will explode out from underfoot and whirr away with the sound of a violently thrown axe.

Such are the outskirts of Buenos Aires, where endless grazing fields and marshes are intercrossed with cobwebs of barbed wire, patched with eucalyptus, and decorated with the occasional water mill - once you've ridden too far, the landmarks blur as one and all directions seem equal. Early June in Argentina sent bright sun one day and dull clouds the other. I scrawled in my field notebook, hindered by the homesick pony, which like all my grandmother's Shetlands is only too eager to go back into its corral.

*Southern Lapwing* © Teodelina Martelli

The first soyfield out of the house range yielded an anxious Burrowing Owl; it flew to a safe distance of fifteen feet among the chaff and stood erect, screeching and bobbing comically. Its white face puffed around the cheeks and eyes, giving it a skull-like appearance at a distance, fitting for its storied reputation.

A lagoon later caught my attention - distant coots swam the choppy grey water and a Brazilian Duck yielded its warm coffee color from afar. Not far from its shore, Herefords mulled the dullness of life - oh, you cows! - and a pair of Southern Caracaras stood in the yellow grass nearby, growling their rattle call, bare faces magenta under their rakish dark caps. They are a study in lines, standing with body horizontal and neck straight, fine chocolate barring dominating their contrasted figures.

The Shetland threw me on its overeager escape attempt; weary with scolding, I bribed it with a handful of corn - glad I thought to bring it - and I regained a controlled mount while he focused on the treat. We rode onwards. The caracaras watched us pass by, and from the heavy greyness began a light, cold rain. We forded a canal, and leading the pony parallel to its reeds, I noted a active blip of a bird. Its ultramarine helmet and yellow belly took my breath away. Its ceramic-blue eye glared

from under its quizzical bold brow, and it flaunted its decorated saddle of a mantle before dashing off through the reeds with a flash of crimson undertail coverts. The Many-Colored Rush-Tyrant, or Sugar-Rush Tyrant (which is how it makes you feel!) is one of my favorite Argentine birds. Locals call it "El Sietecolores de Laguna", or "The Seven-colors of Lagoons". Given a moment to

*Maguari Stork* © Teodelina Martelli

contemplate the "Sietecolores", I wonder if I'll ever find its seventh color - I can only see six on it, but this cannot possibly detract from the honor of its presence. The little gem is the result of evolution gilding the lily, and it knows it - bouncing between the reeds with tangible attitude, just visible enough to show off for a second or two, pow!

My Shetland could not appreciate that, and I subsequently lost another handful of corn to get back on. Maguari Storks towered juridical by a nearby lagoon, named "Swan Lake" for its ever-present Coscoroba Swans, and otters went watchfully about their wet day, but the rush-tyrant had satisfied me. I put on Don't Panic, turned the pony around and let it fly now through the soggy pasturelands at a joyful gallop, guiding it between the electric fences and Herefords - how they stared! I suppose they've never seen a birder galloping homewards singing along to punk pop at full blast?

**My Summer Trip in the Pacific Northwest***Calvin Bonn, 11 years*

I recently went on an amazing road trip through the Pacific Northwest! It was really awesome and I saw tons of birds.

Our first stop was Monterey, California, with its famed bay right on the other side of town. The next day we took a whale watching trip that I treated like a pelagic. Onboard, I saw life Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters, and Black-footed Albatross, along with the flukes of several Humpback whales.

After that, we went to Redwoods National Park. With towering trees, in a lush forest, I thought that it would be a birdwatchers' dream. I was completely and utterly wrong. The undergrowth was so dense and the canopy was so high above us that I saw only ten individual birds! Granted, I did get a fleeting glimpse of a Marbled Murrelet (life bird) which was pretty cool. We did a three mile hike through the Redwood forest which was pretty and then played at the shores of one of the few rivers in California without a dam, Smith River!

*continued on page 8*



## CONSERVATION

## Successful Conservation: Atlantic Puffins at Eastern Egg Rock, Maine

*Dessi Sieburth, 14 years*

I was very fortunate to get scholarships from the National Audubon Society and the American Birding Association to attend the Audubon's Young Birder camp at Hog Island, Maine, from June 18th to June 23rd. One of the highlights of the camp was learning about Project Puffin, which is an ongoing effort to introduce breeding colonies of Atlantic Puffins to several islands off the coast of Maine.

Atlantic Puffins historically bred on many islands along the Maine coast, but in the 19th Century, Maine's Atlantic Puffin population began to decline due to hunting and egg poaching. By the end of the century, only 31 breeding pairs remained in the state. Eastern Egg Rock is one of the islands where Atlantic Puffins once thrived. The puffins were extirpated from Eastern Egg Rock in 1885, when egg poachers had taken the last eggs.



*Atlantic Puffin at Eastern Egg Rock Island,  
photo by Dessi Sieburth*

In 1973, Biologist Steven Kress wanted to re-establish a breeding puffin population to Eastern Egg Rock. He introduced puffin chicks he collected from Newfoundland to the island. He was hoping these puffins would start a breeding colony. After fledging, puffins go out to sea for three years and

will only return to their island to breed if it has an active colony on it. To entice the puffins to return and breed, Kress set out puffin decoys and mirrors on the island. He also introduced tern colonies on the island to drive predators such as gulls away.

It took eight years before the first puffin pair bred on the island. Today, there are over 120 breeding pairs of Atlantic Puffins on Eastern Egg Rock. At camp, we got to visit Eastern Egg Rock and to observe Atlantic Puffins closely from the blinds on the Island. I saw several puffins fly in with fish in their mouth and disappear under rocks, where their nests were. I felt very lucky to experience the success of Project Puffin first hand.

Often, we hear about bird populations declining and habitat being destroyed. However, there is hope. Many organizations around the world including our own Pasadena Audubon Society are taking action for birds. Project Puffin is an excellent example of a successful bird conservation story.

## HISTORY

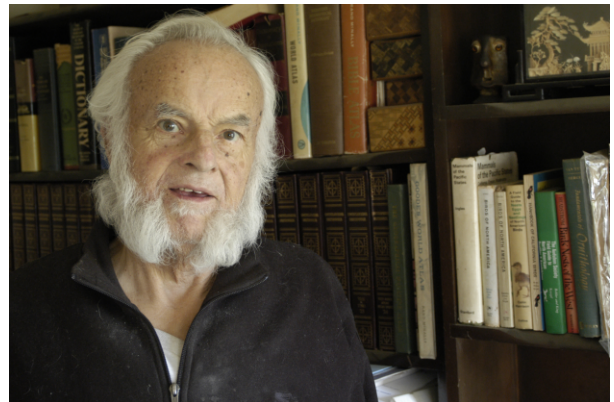
## Arden Brame and Eaton Canyon

*Ira Blitz*

Until 1927 the Pasadena Audubon Society had met in people's homes. In that year PAS began meeting in the Pasadena Public Library. In the early 1970's concerns developed about the difficulty of parking in the Library area and about the safety of walking around the downtown area at night in poorly lit areas.

PAS President Arden Brame (1971-1976) proposed bringing the meetings to the Eaton Canyon Nature Center where there was a well-lit convenient parking lot, an auditorium with superior acoustics, a library where books could be housed and where refreshments could be served. The proposal was not without controversy and one former PAS President wrote a letter in the Wrentit opposing the change.

After consideration of the issues, the PAS Board of Directors voted 10-1 to make the move and the decision was put up to the General Membership at the March 17, 1972 meeting. The vote in favor was 35-10. However most abstained having not had the time to consider the matter.



*Arden Brame in 2004 © Don Rogers*

The vote was reintroduced at the April and May meetings with the same result. That year PAS moved to the McCurdy Nature Center in Eaton Canyon. Not long after the move the Center was rebuilt emerging as the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. During the time of construction PAS temporarily met at the LA County Arboretum before settling permanently in the new Center.

Arden Brame, in addition to being PAS President, was also Director of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center from 1965-1978. He developed a profound interest in the settlement of Eaton Canyon in the post-Native American era. He presented a program on this history at the PAS meeting of May 20, 1983.

Arden was a biologist with a particular interest in salamanders and wrote over fifty scientific articles. On February 27, 2004 he was interviewed by Don Rogers in preparation for the 100th anniversary celebration of the Pasadena Audubon Society. He died six months later.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Piute Ponds and Vicinity****Saturday, September 9, 6:30 am to early afternoon**

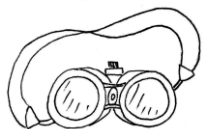
By September, southbound migration will be in full swing. Join us at the Piute Ponds, a wetland oasis in the desert, where every year thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage on their way south. We should find over a dozen shorebird species, and we may see Baird's or Pectoral Sandpipers. We will also 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***Fall Warblerama****Saturday, September 30, 7:00 am to 11:30 am**

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***Big Sit****Saturday, October 7, pre-dawn to dusk**

A team of PAS birders will be taking part in this year's official Big Sit. The Big Sit is a fun event where teams from across the country aim to see just how many species they can tally from one seventeen-foot diameter patch of ground over twenty-four hours. It's also a time to get together and "tail gate for birds".

More about Big Sits can be found on The Bird Watchers Digest website: [www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com), under the tab *Connect*. Check out the Field Trip page on the PAS website for more details on the event and supporting the team on the day.

*Luke Tiller***Elysian Park PARE Hunt****Saturday, October 21, 7:30 am until about noon**

On this walk in LA's oldest park, we will search out residents, migrants, vagrants (only the feathered kind). A stray flyball or a redstart is not unheard of, and either will be pretty exciting! We do expect to see fall warblers, woodpeckers, and other perching birds while we explore the heart of Elysian Park!

From Pasadena, take the Pasadena (110) Freeway south, exit on Academy Way and go straight, past Solano Canyon. Follow Academy as it curves left, and runs into Academy Rd. Take a right and continue straight, past the right turn for Stadium Way, then take the next right into the parking lot where we will meet.

*Ron Cyger and Sue Horton***Legg Lake & San Gabriel River****Saturday, November 4, 7:30 am to 11:30 am**

In winter, the Hahamongna monthly walk is replaced by one at Legg Lake. 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. From the 60 freeway, take Santa Anita south a short distance to the lake and parking lot on your right.

*Darren Dowell***North Slope San Gabriels****Saturday, November 11, 7:30 am to early afternoon**

We will explore areas on the northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, such as Grassy Hollow Visitor's 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.

Although we will get to higher elevations, all locations on this trip are accessible by car, and there is no strenuous hiking involved. We will be out most of the day, but anyone who needs to leave early will be able to do so.

It may be cold, especially at higher elevations, so bring warm clothes. Also, bring lunch. We will meet at Pearblossom Park, which is at the corner of 121st st. East and East Avenue V14 in Pearblossom, just south of Hwy 138 (Pearblossom Highway).

*Mark & Janet Scheel*

**FIELD TRIPS: REGULAR MONTHLY WALKS****Hahamongna****First Saturday of most months, see calendar****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 Hahamongna, and park by the ballfield.

The November walk will be at Legg Lake, see page 5.

*Darren Dowell*

**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 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.

*Katy Mann*

**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*



*Mandarin Duck at the L.A. County Arboretum © Julia Ray*

**Magpie Bird Study Group****Third Tuesday of most months****9:00 am until about noon**

September 19, Legg Lakes, meet in the Santa Anita Ave parking lot

October 17, Peck Road Water Conservation Park

November 21, Santa Fe Dam, meet at Nature Center

We bird until 11:30 and then have a sack lunch and a short meeting. All PAS members welcome!

*Julia Ray, Sid Heyman*



*Chilao Visitor Center © Tyson Gillard*

**Eaton Canyon****Third Sunday of every month****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 Eaton Canyon for many years. This is a wonderful walk for 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*

**Huntington Library****Fourth Sunday of every month****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*



## CALENDAR

## 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	WC	Piute Ponds	Mark & Janet Scheel
9	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
10	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
13	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Lucky Baldwin's, Pasadena	see page 9
16	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip		Dana Point Pelagic	Luke Tiller
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	Bird ID Quiz
24	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter
30	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Fall Warblerama	Mark & Janet Scheel

## October 2017

4	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Laura Garrett
7	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
7	Sat	pre-dawn	Big Sit		Check website	Luke Tiller
8	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
11	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Lucky Baldwin's, Pasadena	see page 9
14	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WCC	Peck Road Park	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
18	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Magical Monarchs
21	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Elysian Park	Ron Cyger, Sue Horton
22	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

## November 2017

1	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Laura Garrett
4	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Legg Lake	Darren Dowell
8	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		Lucky Baldwin's, Pasadena	see page 9
11	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
11	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	North Slope San Gabriels	Mark & Janet Scheel
12	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
15	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Sorocco Island Endemics
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WCC	Santa Fe Dam	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
26	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

## Trip Leaders

Mark Scheel (chair).....	(626) 765-5408	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu
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Ron Cyger.....	(626) 840-2566	ron@cyger.org (preferred)
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Luke Tiller .....		streatham2003@aol.com

 Wrentit Club

 Wrentit Club Count Circle

The Wrentit Club is a special distinction for members who've seen 250 birds or more in L.A. County within the calendar year. The field trips designated WC are within L.A. County. Any birds seen on these trips count towards the Wrentit Club distinction. See our website for a listing of current and past members.

The Wrentit Club Count Circle, WCC, designates field trips that are within the PAS Christmas Count Circle.

## YOUNG BIRDERS

### Pacific Northwest, continued from page 3

At Mt. St. Helens, we only stayed one night. When I saw a life Calliope Hummingbird at the visitor center, I felt extremely lucky; five minutes at Mt. St. Helens and a life bird! During those five minutes, I learned some of the history of the volcano which is very interesting, like that it erupted multiple times before and after the big eruption in 1980.



Clark's Nutcracker at Crater Lake © Calvin Bonn

The next and longest stop was Olympic National Park. It was the most beautiful park that I have ever been to, and believe me; I've been to more than 15 National Park Service properties and many more State Parks. It had beautiful rainforests, sparkling mountain peaks, and pristine beaches. The birding there was better than in the Redwoods, and there was a huge variety! I saw life Pacific Wrens and Northwestern Crow, but also cool birds like Peregrine Falcons, Gray Jays, and Gray-crowned Rosy-finches. We did a 7 ¾ mile hike through the rainforest to a beautiful waterfall, drove to gorgeous views and beautiful alpine meadows, and relaxed at a creek mouth on pebble beaches and amongst tide pools. I loved it! For me, it was the best part of the trip!

Then, we went on a ferry to Victoria, British Columbia. On it, I saw a life Rufous Hummingbird crossing the strait and what I thought was a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel; it flew like a storm-petrel, skimmed the water, dodged in and out of whitecaps, looked like a pale-gray to white tern, had a square tail with a notch in it, and had a short bill. While we were in Victoria, we walked around the harbor, biked around the town, explored a castle, and admired the city lit up at night. It was my first time in Canada and I left having enjoyed it very much.

By now, I was stunned; eight maybe nine life birds! I hadn't had a trip like that since the first time I went birding in the eastern United States which was three years ago! It felt like a buffet! And the best part; I was only halfway through!

We were on our way back now; a quick overnight in Portland where we met up with some old friends and went fishing by a

Bald Eagles' nest, then onto Crater Lake National Park!

Crater Lake itself is relatively short, but underneath, the lake extends for over 1,946 ft! It is also incredibly blue, the purest shade I have ever encountered. The extra bonus? Life Red-breasted Sapsucker and Gray Jays galore!

Then, back into California to Lassen Volcanic National Park. On the way, we drove right by Mt. Shasta which is a very pretty volcano. Lassen Volcanic is the biggest hydrothermal area west of Yellowstone. And it sure smelled the part! The air stank with sulfur! There were also tons of volcanoes; about 25! There was also lots of snow (it was funny; one part of the park was inaccessible because of snow, another inaccessible because of a fire)!

Our final stop was Yosemite National Park. On the way there, I saw several life Swainson's Hawks over agriculture fields. When we were there, we played in the Merced River, which was full because of snowmelt and had a roaring current. The waterfalls were also gushing down torrents of water, which gave all of them a veil, not just Bridalveil Falls.

Overall, our trip was epic! After 3 weeks, 9 stops, 3750 miles, 2 ¾ long audio books, 3 new Junior Ranger badges, and 11 life birds, we went home. This trip gave me many memories that I will never forget. This was one of the best trips I've been on (and one of the most bird productive). I highly recommend this trip for anybody. I wonder what we will be doing next year.

Calvin Bonn, 11 years

## Young Birders' Achievements Recognized



Cayenne Sweeney

Congratulations to Cayenne Sweeney, for earning the title of 2017 ABA Young Birder of the Year (11-13 year old category). Cayenne won top honors in the Field Notebook module and second place in the Photography module.

Congratulations to Justina Martelli who won first place in the Illustration module and took second place, to her friend Cayenne, in the Field Notebook module.

Young birders continue to make great contributions to birding, conservation and education and serve as inspirations for young people and adults. Way to go!

Susan Gilliland



Justina Martelli



CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER NEWS

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.

Upcoming Cleanup Events

September 16th is Coastal Cleanup Day with Heal the Bay! Pasadena Audubon is joining other community volunteers for the second year, to pick up trash along the Arroyo. We will meet at 360 N Arroyo Blvd in Pasadena and work from 9 am until about noon.

We will also be hosting a Pasadena Audubon Fall cleanup, most likely at Hahamongna. Date and time are still TBD. To sign up for Coastal Cleanup Day 2017, or to receive more details about the Hahamongna clean up, please email Kym at kym.buzdygon@pasadenaaudubon.org.

And the Crow Cup goes to Grace Wong!

In recognition of her many years of service to PAS, Grace Wong has been awarded the 2017 Crow Cup. Congratulations Grace!



PAS is Soliciting Grant Funding Requests

Last year, PAS funded grants in support of our mission, up to \$12,000. We are once again accepting requests. These must be submitted by December 15, 2017 and applicants will be notified by March 17, 2018.

Three categories of requests for funds will be considered by PAS:

- Scholarships to help support Pasadena area birders, teachers, and others to attend conferences, classes, and workshops or to study ornithology.
• Research grants for collecting data on birds, birding, habitat conservation, and education. Preference will be given to projects in southern California but national and international studies will also be considered.
• Grant awards for specific projects may also be awarded to organizations that have missions similar to those of PAS.

More detailed information is available on our website: www.pasadenaaudubon.org

Thank you to our generous donors

Our thanks go to these PAS members and friends who have recently made donations to our chapter.

WARBLER (\$5-\$99): Renate Buerner, Helena Czepiec, John Grula, Joan Zukoski, Jane Hirschkowitz, Murial Horacek, John Odell & Margaret Gonder-Odell, Kurt & Paulett Liewer, Cynthia Morgan, Lance Benner.

ORIOLE (\$100-\$249): Linda Zinn

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 Wren Tit, 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 .....
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If this is a gift, please also provide the donor's information below:

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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

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## Birding 101: Ten Years and Counting

**P**AS has been offering an introductory course in birding which has proven very popular. Birding 101 covers identification, optics, field guides, note-taking, habitats, birding ethics, and many other topics.

Ron Cyger and Mark Scheel have been teaching Birding 101 for the past ten years! With over 180 graduates, eight B101ers have been or are presently board members of Pasadena Audubon. They are among our most enthusiastic members!

Kudos to Ron and Mark for sharing their knowledge and love of birding these past ten years!



July Birding 101 participants and instructors

## Welcome to our New Members

ALTADENA: Stephanie Barshefski, David Blaschke, Wes Cowan, Joe McCord, Peter & Lenae Mott, John Reveley; Arcadia: Loretta Slifkin; AZUSA: Beverly Wright; LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE: Vince Fazzi; LOS ANGELES: Scott Baker, Laura Hill, Jill Hoskins; MONROVIA: Luna Cariaga; PASADENA: Joanne Alvaranza, Angela Belcastro, Dolores Gaabo, Barbara Hartsfield, Deanna Heikkinen, Katherine Leitch, Alexandra Platz, Diane Tegarden; San Gabriel: David Chu, Myrna Dysart, Faye & Grant Kirchhoff; SAN MARINO: Emily Burke; SOUTH PASADENA: Robert Kavan

## Thank you, thank you, thank you!

PAS thanks the following business and individuals for their donations to the silent auction held at our June dinner. A total of \$2,250 was raised. These funds will allow us to continue with programs and activities in service of our mission.

1202 Salon, Arboretum, Bristol Farms, CBS, Domenicos, Eagle Optics, Eileen Burton, Elaine MacPherson, Frank and Susan Gilliland, Ginko Lee, Grace Wong, Huntington Gardens, January Nordman, Kathy Degner, Larry Allen and Marilyn Morgan, Laura Garrett, Liz Cordero, Lois and Wil Fulmer, Los Angeles Natural History Museum, Massage Place, Mickey Long, Monopole Wine, Old Mill Foundation, Panda Inn, Scott Loly, Stonefire Grill, Sylvia Stachura, The Blanco Family