



# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 70 — No. 3

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

February 2022- March 2022

## PAS Caps 2021 With Another Top Notch Christmas Bird Count

As we were about to conduct a second Christmas Bird Count under the shadow of Covid, hopes were boosted by our 2020 census, the results of which seemed relatively undampened by pandemic restrictions.

In 2021 we held the count on December 18, and though overall numbers of many species were below average, our species count did not suffer (read on to find out what it was). With forty-seven participants we had an adequate number of counters to get all our regular count areas covered. And there were plenty of highlights and good birds.

We had some precipitation in the days before the count, but it was too late to affect habitat quality. Still, anything we can get in the way of rain is most welcome at this point. The long-term drought in California and the west has affected both birds and humans. That said, the weather on count day was near perfect, clear and calm and quite mild.

*continued on page 7*

### PRESIDENT' PERCH

As we grind away into our third year of this pandemic, it's entirely understandable if you are feeling just the tiniest bit weary. Pasadena Audubon had just gotten used to running field trips again, and we were hoping to start our hybrid in-person/ live-streamed meetings soon. Then omicron hit, and it all went south. All in-person field trips were once again canceled, and we have no idea when we can next meet in person for our monthly programs. Our Bird Science Program is in limbo yet again, and it looks like expanding it to other schools will have to wait a little bit longer.

C'mon, Covid, seriously???

And yet, your Pasadena Audubon Board has been very busy. We have been working hard on the revised Birding Guide to the Pasadena Area (look for a spring release for this stunning new resource), and our program chair, Chris Spurgeon, has been scheduling some pretty amazing on-line programs for us. And critically, we've been working hard on developing a Strategic Plan to guide us through the next five years.

We began developing a Strategic Plan in the fall of 2019, and we sought help from Jericho Road, a local non-profit that supports other non-profits. They sent us a wonderful facilitator, and he helped our Strategic Planning Committee through the



*Rarely seen in our count circle, this Black-throated Green Warbler was nice enough to show up at Huntington Gardens on CBC day. © Jon Fisher*

fall and winter, a period that included surveying and interviewing members and other stakeholders. Unfortunately, as an owner of a very popular local restaurant, he had to leave us to return to running his business once Covid hit in March 2020.

The next delay was at our end. In the summer of 2020, we experienced some significant shifts to our board makeup, and so we were figuring out how to deal with the pandemic while we were recruiting (our truly wonderful) new board members and adjusting to life on Zoom.

Finally, last August, we were able to have a retreat, part of which focused on our strategic plan. Jericho Road had sent us a new facilitator, the very able Ashok Boghani, and he helped steer us through a process that continues to this day. We have five goals which focus on the three parts of our mission, i.e. birding, education, and conservation, as well as using best practices in how we function plus fundraising to pay for it all. I look forward to sharing it with you once the board has approved it, and it is full of exciting ideas and plans. I am extremely grateful to Darren Dowell for leading the committee from 2019 through the retreat in 2021, and also to the five leaders and their committees who are developing the strategic plans for our five goals: Lois Brunet: education, Sok Tng: fundraising, Dave Weeshoff: conservation, Luke Tiller:

*continued on page 3*

## MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS: UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### Audubon's Priority Birds

February 16th, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
Nicole Michel

Birds across North America are in peril, but research from the National Audubon Society's Science Team shows that conservation actions are making an impact: along our coasts, 77 percent of priority species — birds of concern that benefit most from Audubon targeted conservation action — are more abundant in places Audubon works. The Audubon Priority Birds Report looks at how priority birds have fared over the past 50 years, and shares case studies of the actions we are taking across the network to slow or reverse population declines. Come learn more about the Audubon Priority Birds Report, and what it tells us about the difference we're making for birds and people!

Nicole Michel is the Director of Quantitative Science with the National Audubon Society's Science Team. She joined Audubon in 2015 and leads a team of scientists responsible for analyzing bird population trends from programs like the Christmas Bird Count, and developing metrics to track bird response to Audubon's conservation actions. She holds a Ph.D. in Ecology from Tulane University, completed two postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Saskatchewan, and has studied birds for more than 25 years. She lives in Portland, Oregon, with her family, which includes her wife, a teenager, a labradoodle, and two indoor cats.

### The Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-21, 2022

Take part in the silver anniversary of what has become a global citizen science project! Bird your local patch for at least fifteen minutes over the President's Day weekend and submit your observations, through the Merlin Bird ID app or through ebird, to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Unlike the Christmas Bird Count, the official count area is not circumscribed. You can do it anywhere! Visit [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) for more details.

### Bird Evolution

March 16th, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
Jessica Oswald Terrill

It's been a busy 150-million years for the birds. They've gone from just a few prehistoric species like *Archaeopteryx* to the more than eleven thousand species we enjoy today. But how much do you know about the evolutionary history of birds? For instance, did you know falcons are more closely related to parrots than to hawks? Or that birds in North America didn't evolve to fly south for the winter, they evolved to fly north for the summer? Join evolutionary biologist Jessica Oswald Terrill to hear the amazing story of bird evolution.

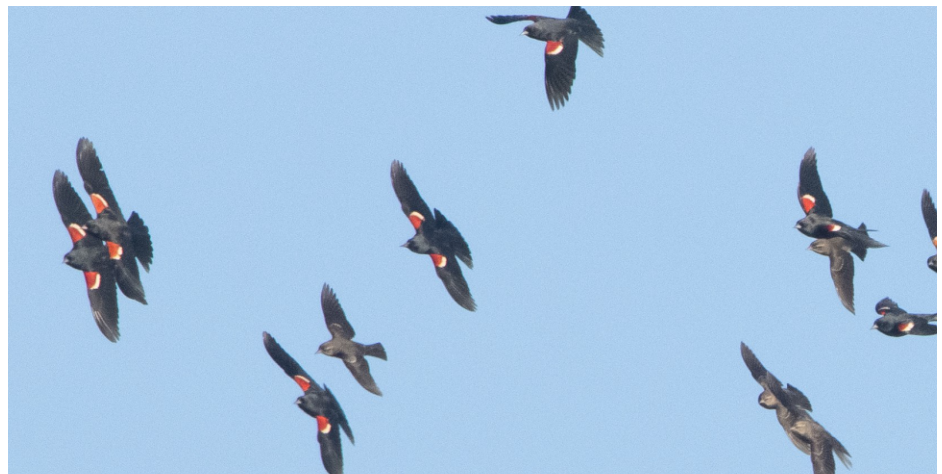
Jessica Oswald Terrill is a research assistant professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. She studies bird extinction - past and present - and investigates the evolutionary relationships between different bird groups.

### Saving the Tri-colored Blackbird

April 20th, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
Xerónimo Castañeda

Tricolored Blackbirds are a true California speciality, with the overwhelming majority of the bird's remaining population concentrated in the San Joaquin Valley. But loss of habitat, agricultural practices, and water scarcity have caused the Tricolored Blackbird population to plummet by close to 90% in the last century. Yet all is not lost. For the past several years a partnership between conservation groups and area farmers has helped preserve thousands of acres of breeding habitat, and now the number of Tricolored Blackbirds is on the rise.

Xerónimo Castañeda, Project Manager of California Audubon's Tricolored Blackbird Conservation Program, will share one of bird conservation's most optimistic stories.



A cluster of Tricolored Blackbirds takes wing over Baldwin Reservoir in Sacramento on a recent morning.  
© Liam Huber, Macaulay Library at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, ML402972741

*Monthly chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month. Until doomsday or further notice, whichever comes first, the meetings will be held remotely, facilitated by the Zoom platform for video conferencing. The application can be downloaded free of charge to computer or smartphone at <https://zoom.us/download>. Please register on the website to receive the meeting link.*

### Upcoming PAS Board Meetings

The PAS Board now meets 7:00 pm-8:30 pm on the **second** Wednesday of the month, between September and June. Contact Lois Brunet at [LoisB.PAS@gmail.com](mailto:LoisB.PAS@gmail.com) if you would like the Zoom link to attend.

February 9th, 2022  
March 9th, 2022  
April 13th, 2022  
May 11th, 2022  
June 8th, 2022

**IN MEMORIAM: LEW HASTINGS (1946-2021)****CONSERVATION**

Lew Hastings was quite a guy. I met him when we became LPAS board members back in 2010. We were both new, and a bit clueless. We struck up a friendship and helped each other get through this new and exciting time.

Lew served as Program Chair from 2010-2012 and did a fantastic job of finding engaging speakers. It was shortly after he improved the programs that our membership began to grow. He was a dedicated birder and took leave during fall migration to enjoy his favorite pastime. This love of birding also showed up in the beginning of his email address: [curlw@](mailto:curlw@)

I was saddened to hear the news of Lew's passing last fall from Parkinson's disease. He was a warm and generous man, but the generosity didn't end with his passing: in lieu of flowers he had asked that donations be made to PAS, resulting in a huge response from his friends and family. I feel lucky to have known him, and I hope you find enduring friendships through PAS as I did with Lew. May he rest peacefully in the heavens with his beloved birds.

*Deni Sinnott*

Lew's obituary can be found at <https://outlooknewspapers.com/blog/2021/10/29/lewis-j-hastings-jr-obituary/>



Lew Hastings is second from right in this PAS Board photo from 2011, when he was Programs Chair. Also pictured, from left to right, are Grace Wong, Bev McKenzie, Lois Fulmer, Mark Hunter, Deni Sinnott, Mary Jane Macy, Kathi Ellsworth, Will Fulmer, Lance Benner, Ron Cyger, Linda Moore, Norm Arnheim, John Garrett, Mark Scheel, and Laura Garrett.

**PRESIDENT'S PERCH (CONT'D)**

birding, and Laura Solomon: best practices. It is our hope that this strategic plan will help guide us through the next five years so that we can be the regional leaders in birding, conservation, and education that we aspire to be. So take THAT, Covid! We're making the most of our enforced time not in the field!

We are Pasadena Audubon, and we strive to be the best!

*Laura Solomon*

**Birds and Climate Change: Past, Present, and Future**

We are all bird lovers, curious, dedicated, and awed by the amazing birds in our region, and even world-wide. Each of us came to this interest in our own way, but came to the same conclusion - we find birds fascinating, and truly deserving of our attention. For many of us our passion has altered our life journeys profoundly; socially, culturally, intellectually and financially.

We are reminded by Baba Dioum (1968) "In the end we will conserve only what we love..." and, in fact, Audubon and other birding organizations are consistently in the forefront of the Conservation Movement, protecting those areas where birds live against many attacks from all directions. This is true for your Pasadena Audubon Society.

In October 2019 the National Audubon Society produced a report "Survival by Degrees" which reported that 389 North American bird species (of 549 in the Lower 48) are vulnerable to extinction from anthropogenic climate change in the next 60 years. And to further elaborate on the threat to bird populations, that same month a study, published in *Science* magazine, reported that in the past 50 years the population of North American birds has dropped 3 billion – a 30% drop in abundance. Both studies describe in detail the causes and effects by various categories of birds and their habitats.

So, what can we do to improve the plight of our feathered friends? In subsequent Wrenit articles I intend to go deeper into various solutions but one of the most important things you can do to fight climate change is also one of the simplest: Talk about it. Research shows that discussing global warming with family and friends reinforces that the crisis is real and the science unequivocal. And yet, nearly two-thirds of Americans say they rarely or never have those conversations. For help in clarifying your personal message, the Audubon website has a "Guide to Climate Action" outlining where to begin and how to amplify your efforts to make lasting change in the world.

Please go to [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org) for the Audubon report and to learn what more you can do. Climate Change is an existential threat to all life on our planet including birds - no exaggeration - and each of us can do our part to minimize the impacts and their consequences.

And, please call me at (818) 618-1652 or email [weeshoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:weeshoff@sbcglobal.net) with questions, comments, or to enlist in our conservation activities on behalf of our feathered friends.

*Dave Weeshoff*

## OPINION

## Keep Rodent Control Measures Indoors, Including Cats

Placing sticky traps, snap traps, and rat poison in your yard can end up victimizing birds, so PAS strongly discourages deploying these pest control measures outdoors. If the public service announcement ended at that, there'd probably be very few objections. Yet if the statement included arguably the most effective form of rodent control, and by far the most harmful to birds, some avowed animal lovers might protest. Why? Because then we would be talking about outdoor domestic cats.

According to survey data gathered by the American Veterinary Medical Association, roughly 25 percent US households have one or more cats, caring for an estimated 95 million domestic felines. Approximately a quarter of cat-owning households grant their cats access to the outdoors at least part of the time, so roughly 24 million domestic cats roam America's neighborhoods.

The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine counsels against outdoor cats for a host of reasons: Parasites, predation (coyotes), motor vehicles, theft, environmental toxins, and infectious diseases. These hazards reduce the average longevity of outdoor cats by 8-10 years! Most outdoor cat owners are probably aware of these risks but feel their cat's quality of life is so enhanced by indulging its innate curiosity and penchant for hunting that they accept the trade-off in quantity of life.

What about the trade-off in terms of the quantity of songbird lives these pets prey upon? The conservative estimate from a 2013 study (Loss et al.) is 221 million birds killed by outdoor domestic cats annually, while the point estimate is closer to 700 million. The numbers are jaw-dropping because there's nothing natural about unleashing feline predators who, unlike the bobcat, didn't evolve with North American avifauna. Our birds are not adapted to deal with the threat these outdoor cats pose. But even if you think the lower bound estimate is too high by a factor of ten, you'd still have to admit that's an awful lot of easily preventable songbird deaths. So along with the snap traps, sticky traps, and rodenticides, let's keep the cats indoors.



A beautiful animal in its own right, to be sure, but this domestic cat doesn't give a rip about bird conservation, and that's a serious problem. © Shutterstock

## WINGBEAT

First in an occasional series of vignettes about the humorous, strange, poignant, and profound things that can transpire when we venture into the field...

### Luck Be A Lady (In Need of a Loo)

By and large birders are a pretty rational bunch. It is a science-related hobby after all, and so we dutifully consult the authoritative guidebooks and study ebird data to maximize the probability of seeing sought after birds. And yet, I doubt that I, my wife Learden, and my son Wolfgang are the only three birders to get a little superstitious every now and then.

It started a few years ago on a trip to Mount Lemmon north of Tucson. By mid-morning we'd seen the Yellow-eyed Juncos, Grace's Warblers, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds known to frequent the area. However, deep into the afternoon we still hadn't spied our most coveted quarry: The lovely, and perpetually mortified, Red-faced Warbler. The urgency was amplified by Learden's sudden need for a bathroom. We found facilities at the Rose Canyon campground, and while she was inside, who should alight in the nearby alder tree but a pair of Red-faced Warblers! And they were uncanilly docile, posing for us at close range well after Learden emerged from the john.

Fast forward to September 2020. We were birding in the midst of year one of the pandemic, looking for another red-faced passerine: A European Goldfinch had temporarily encamped outside the Madrona Marsh Visitors Center. We staked out the gurgling fountain where several ebirders had seen it. For a good half hour we saw no sign of our quarry. Then Learden made a trip to the ladies' room, and within seconds it appeared, took a leisurely morning bath, and preened casually in a nearby tree.

Should we chalk it up to coincidence? Emphatically "yes". Will we send Learden off to the baño the next time a target bird is a no-show? Emphatically "yes", especially if we're on the lookout for another red-mugged rarity:

White Ibis, Lewis's Woodpecker, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane...Gouldian Finch, Siamese Fireback, Black-collared Barbet! If you believe strange magic is at work, the possibilities really open up.



While not exactly in fine feather, we got a long and interesting look at this European Goldfinch right after its daily dip. Was it made possible by Learden's bathroom trip? © Learden Matthies

Carl Matthies

Do you have a weird, wacky, or wonderful anecdote of something that happened while you were out birding? Share it in *The Wren Tit*. Email me at [pas.wrentit@gmail.com](mailto:pas.wrentit@gmail.com)

AVIAN WORLD NEWS

BIRD SCIENCE PROGRAM

## Endangered Bird Songs Soar on Aussie Music Chart

An unusual compilation from "various artists" debuted on the Australian Recording Industry Association's sales chart in early December. *Songs of Disappearance*, a record of the vocalizations of endangered Australian birds, became the sleeper hit of the holiday season, eventually landing at #3, nestled between world-famous pop musicians Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran. It is the first album of its kind to generate such strong sales.

The record was produced by Bird Life Australia to raise awareness and funds for 216 species of threatened native birds, or 1/6th of all the birds on the continent. Its release coincided with the publication of a decennial report on the status of Australia's avifauna. The report, which represents the combined efforts of more than 300 ornithologists, found that climate change is having an even more severe impact than previously thought. Recent wildfires, in particular, have devastated habitat many birds depend on. Sean Dooley of Bird Life Australia noted that since the last report was issued in 2011, seventeen of the threatened species found in high-elevation rain forests have declined by an estimated total of six million birds. But the report is not all doom and gloom. The authors recommended downlisting 23 species whose numbers have substantially rebounded in the last decade, due in large measure to conservation efforts on their behalf.



The Golden Bowerbird is one of 53 species with the dubious distinction of being featured on "Songs of Disappearance".

© Lindsay Poppo, Macaulay Library at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, ML268928031

*Songs of Disappearance* features audio of 53 of these threatened and endangered bird species, including the wet-sneakers-on-wood-floor croaks of the Gang-gang Cockatoo, the ethereal *tseeps* of the Flinders Ranges Thick-billed Grasswren, and the Mallee Whipbird's cartoon factory sound effects. It costs \$10 (USD) to download and, in my household at least, has been worth every penny for the entertainment value

alone. Knowing the proceeds help birds in the land down under makes the purchase that much sweeter. So here's the page for downloading a digital copy of the record to your computer: <https://thebowerbirdcollective.mywaterfrontstore.com/Product/99676/0>

For those interested in a current, comprehensive report on the state of Australia's birds, and policy prescriptions for their recovery, *The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020* is available for purchase at: <https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7905/>

Carl Matthies

## New BSP Interns and Docents Fledge

In December, the Bird Science Program (BSP) ran its second Annual training session for new docents and interns. Eleven new docents and three interns attended the five-week program focused on the BSP curriculum, lessons on local birds and habitat, and Pasadena Audubon history. Vicki Salmon led the redesign of the program and focused it on learning by doing. New docents and interns engaged in program activities like dissecting owl pellets and playing the vocalization game, Find Your Flock.

The magic moment for many participants came near the end of the training, with a field trip to Peck Park. After a birdwalk and introduction to the park by Marian Coengen of *Amigos de los Rios*, who has done much of the habitat restoration work there, the group was joined by bird rehabilitator Bob Everett of *Wild Wings*, our program partner. He brought the educational birds that are a highlight of the program for children and volunteers alike. And this year, along with our familiar friends, Honey, the Barn Owl, Bruce, the Great Horned, and Odie, the Western Screech, he brought a Peregrine Falcon named Adonis and a tiny Saw-whet Owl, Delilah. The experience of having a wild bird perch on your hand is a powerful one. Participants were moved and reminded of why they signed up in the first place.

Returning docent Annabelle Aylmer may have summed it up best: "The Bird Science Program is such a great way to share my love of birds with children. Can't wait for the field trips!"

Lois Brunet



Clockwise from Top Left: Parker Davis with Delilah, Jeremiah Cabrera with Honey, Melissa Mukai with Adonis, and the whole BSP gang, donning their stylish new caps. Not an easy detail to see but take my word for it, they look absolutely fabulous.

## CHAPTER NEWS

## Brunet Becomes Pasadena Audubon's First Executive Director

At its November meeting, the PAS Board voted by a wide margin to accept the Executive Director hiring package proposed for Lois Brunet by Treasurer Gary Breaux, officially making her the first Executive Director in the organization's 118-year history. The move is in keeping with the PAS strategic plan to adopt best practices for non-profit organizations, which include having a professional Executive Director to help the all-volunteer Board achieve its goals.



PAS Executive Director Lois Brunet

Lois joined PAS as an outreach volunteer in 2016, shortly after moving to California. She then joined the board for a short stint as Newsletter Editor before switching to part-time Program Manager which has grown to full-time Executive Director as programs have blossomed.

Lois spent the first half of her career in Paris where she earned her masters in International Relations at Sciences Po. She worked in project management at a major French bank and got into teaching business English when her four kids came along. The family moved to Boston in 2003. While managing a busy household, Lois kept a foot in the professional world, working in a non-profit serving the homeless and then in international education at Northeastern University.

The birding bug got her eleven years ago when she became an "empty nester". She and her husband Pascal started to explore the forests and nature reserves around Boston where, she notes, "there is a lovely network of Audubon centers". The Wood Thrush captivated them with its song. After that, they were hooked! Now it's all birds all the time. Trilingual, Lois and her husband travel extensively to keep up with far flung family and friends, and they are always on the lookout for new birds!

Asked for comment, Lois told The Wren Tit, "I am honored to have the opportunity to co-lead the Pasadena Audubon Society with our excellent board of directors. PAS is poised to develop its vision and build on the momentum of the past few years. I look forward to being a part of the effort to bring PAS to the next level, making a positive difference for birds and birders in the greater Pasadena area."



## COMING THIS SPRING!

**ORIGINAL ARTWORK!**

**CHARTS & MAPS &**

**LOCAL EXPERTISE!**

**THRILLS! CHILLS!**

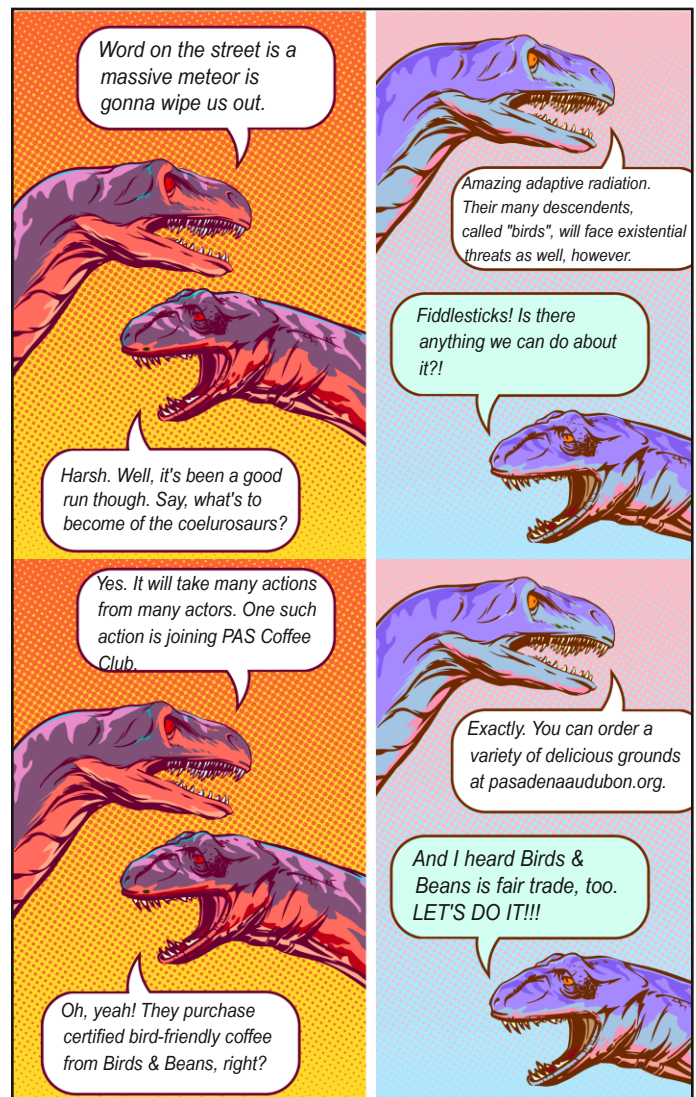
**AN ADVENTURE FOR**

**THE WHOLE FAMILY**

**TO ENJOY!**

**AND IT'S IN**

**TECHNICOLOR!**



## CBC (PART 2)

Once the pre-count meeting, planning and coordinating were done, all that was left was the fun part; counting the birds. Here's a look at what we found...

A few waterfowl of interest were recorded, with three Greater White-fronted Geese tallied- one at Belvedere Park and two at Walnut Creek. Also of note were single Cackling Geese at Legg Lake and Walnut Creek.

A non-native (either released or escaped) Mandarin Duck, recorded periodically on the count, was at Belvedere Park. Though the media sporadically gives an inordinate amount of press coverage to this species, their occurrence locally is hardly unusual.

Truly relatively rare on the count however was a Canvasback at Peck Road Water Conservation Park. Also quite irregular was a Common Goldeneye along the San Gabriel River at San Jose Creek.

Surprisingly, both Western Grebe and Clark's Grebe were missed on count day but thankfully recorded during count week (the three days before and three days after count day). The count week birds don't add to our official species total but do get included in the overall count report.

Easily missed on the CBC was a Costa's Hummingbird spotted at a residence in Eagle Rock. Another frequently missed species was a Sora recorded at Legg Lake.

Less than common gulls included one each Herring Gull, Iceland (Thayer's) Gull and Glaucous-winged Gull. Ring-billed, California and Western Gulls were of course well-represented on the count.

A good find, and the third count record, was a Neotropic Cormorant along the San Gabriel River at San Jose Creek. Though increasing in the region, they are far less likely in winter.

Raptors of note included a White-tailed Kite at Santa Fe Dam, a Northern Harrier above the foothills near Pasadena and a Bald Eagle Peck Road WCP.

Zone-tailed Hawks made their first appearance on the count, with no fewer than three recorded on count day. Single birds were at the Arboretum, over Monrovia and above Eaton Canyon. Though still quite scarce, reports of this species in the

San Gabriel Valley have been increasing in the last few years.

A Long-eared Owl at Hahamongna Watershed Park was a really nice find and just the fourth record for the count. This species is almost certainly more common in winter on the coastal slope than records would indicate. Much more expected were a single Barn Owl and one Western Screech-Owl.



*One of the five Lewis's Woodpeckers seen on count day. © Mako Koiwai*

Five Lewis's Woodpeckers were representative of this species' modest irruption this fall and winter. Also notable, and often hard to find on the CBC, was a White-headed Woodpecker near Mt. Wilson. There is some downslope movement in fall and winter, but generally this is a bird of higher elevations.

Three species of Empidonax flycatchers were found. A rare in winter Hammond's Flycatcher was at the Arboretum, while a very rare in winter Dusky Flycatcher (only the second count record) was at Peck Road WCP. Still rare but much more expected was a Pacific-slope Flycatcher at the Huntington Gardens.

Vermilion Flycatchers have been increasing on the coastal slope in recent years and were represented on the count by seven individuals. Once quite rare, they are now expected in parks with extensive lawns and at golf courses.

Count week recorded a continuing Cassin's Vireo (rare in winter) at Peck Road WCP and a Plumbeous Vireo (scarce but expected in winter) was in the Whittier Narrows area on count day.

A Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Victory Park was surprisingly the only swallow recorded. Often hard to get were one each Red-breasted Nuthatch

and Pygmy Nuthatch, both near Mt. Wilson.

A California Gnatcatcher was along the Rio Hondo in the Whittier Narrows area. This species is local within the count circle, but findable with some effort or a bit of luck. Within the circle, the Montebello Hills apparently supports a decent-sized population, though access is often problematic.

Long time Pasadena CBC participants will remember the 10,000 plus European Starlings gracing earlier counts at the now defunct duck farm bordering the 605 Freeway and San Gabriel River. These days our counts of this undesirable

*continued on page 8*



*This male Summer Tanager, the only one seen on count day, trying to be discrete but sticking out like a sore thumb in his bright red plumage. © Mickey Long*

## CBC (PART 3)

invasive species are much more manageable. Just over two hundred were recorded on the 2021 count.

Miscellaneous exotics included six European Goldfinches, sixty-four Scaly-breasted Munias and seven Pin-tailed Whydahs. All are increasing locally.

Five Vesper Sparrows were reported from Santa Fe Dam, while a continuing Dark-eyed “Gray-headed” Junco at Hahamongna Watershed Park was accounted for on count day.

A stunning male Hooded Oriole was at the Huntington Gardens and an equally attractive Bullock’s Oriole was seen during count week at Almansor Park. Just two Tricolored Blackbirds were recorded; both were at Legg Lake where they are expected in small numbers.

A count week Lucy’s Warbler at the Huntington Gardens was only the second ever found on the count. The previous record was in 1997. Rare in winter were two Nashville Warblers; one at the Huntington Gardens and one at Peck Road WCP.

A very rare find in winter (or at any time for that matter) was a Black-throated Green Warbler at the Huntington Gardens. This was only the second count record and the first in two and a half decades.

A male Summer Tanager at Legg Lake was a nice surprise on count day. Often missed on the count was a Northern Cardinal found on count week at Whittier Narrows New Lakes area. This species is far easier to detect in spring when the males are singing.

What did all this add up to? A grand total of one hundred and sixty-eight species. Although this was below the high count of 174 in 2018, it’s a very respectable number. It’s interesting that twenty-eight of those were represented by just a single individual. How many did we just manage to see and how many did we just barely miss?

Count week gave us another half dozen species. The count week period enables us to record the presence of birds that may be regular in the count circle but be easily missed on the single day of the count. I also may allow us to include a continuing rare bird that proved impossible to find on count day.

There have been many changes over the history of the

*A few of the people who made CBC '21 such a successful event, and a whole lot of fun, too! © Sean Doorly*



Pasadena CBC. Information about birds and where to find them has exploded due to technology. The internet, digital cameras and smart phones have all made the documentation and dissemination of information about birds easy beyond what was imaginable a few decades ago, not to mention practically instantaneous. All of this has positively influenced the success of the Pasadena and many other Christmas Bird Counts.

The birds too have changed, albeit not nearly as rapidly. One of the most obvious changes has been the increase of non-native species. Though parrots were present and well-known in the 1970s, the number and variety have dramatically increased. Non-native songbirds have proliferated as well. While generally not desirable, this certainly keeps things interesting for birders. On the flip side, other very adaptable birds-including House Finches, Mourning Doves and Red-tailed Hawks- have been able to maintain stable populations regardless of what humans and nature throw at them.

It’s easy to see from the preceding account that the 2021 CBC was another successful event. This is only made possible by all of the participants, both regular and new. In particular, we have a handful of experienced and very dedicated counters who come through year after year; tracking down those scarce and difficult to find birds that help paint a more complete picture of winter birdlife in the area.

But every participant old and new contributes useful data and there’s always room for newcomers to carve out their own niche and make valuable contributions.

Thanks must also go to Pasadena Audubon; their continued sponsorship, support and promotion of the Pasadena CBC has helped increase participant turnout and resulted in increasingly productive counts.

Each year of the count is interesting and different, with surprise finds and surprise misses. We can never predict with certainty what we’re going to get. As they say in sports, “that’s why they play the games”. The last thirty plus years of compiling the CBC has indeed been a rewarding endeavor. I do hope to see everyone back (and some new faces) for the 2022 count on December 17. It will be here before you know it!

*Jon Fisher*



## THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS!

CALIFORNIA CONDOR (\$2000+): Scarlett Hibner, Ann Horton, Elliott Mazur

GOLDEN EAGLE (\$1000-\$1999): Gary Breaux, John & Elaine Reveley, Carol Watson & Greg Kunert

GREAT HORNED OWL (\$500-\$999): Jesse Bauman & Kristine Haugen, Hilary & Steve Dorsey, Ninarose Mayer

ACORN WOODPECKER (\$250-\$499): Michael Abrams, Larry Allen, Michelle Carter, Wendy Clough, Sydney Feeny, Ursula Heise, Jane Hufnagel, William Murphy, Presenti Foundation, Deni Sinott & Mako Koiwai

CALIFORNIA THRASHER (\$100-\$249): Oscar Aparicio, Paula Bailey, Mary Louise Blackstone, Mary Brooks, Lois & Pascal Brunet, Ellen Carroll, Steven Clark, Liz Cordero, Susanna Dadd, Susan Dewitt, Lane Dolan, Darren Dowell, Susan Frank, Karen Freeburg, James Graunke, Monica Greening, John Hallstrom, Greg Harrison, Lew Hastings, Donna Heinz, Marcia Homiak, Gary Izumi, Mary Kyropoulos, Michael & Jan Long, Marianne McDonald, Nancy McIntyre, Nathan & Lynne Osborne, Susan Paulsen, Anne Peterson, Lucy Pliskin, Wendy Price, Joan Probst, Jeannene Przyblyski, Phillip Regan, George Reich, Edward Remson, Ray Santana, Loretta Selinger, Anne Shapiro, Marlee Snowdon, Laura & Gavin Solomon, Sylvia Stachura, Kathryn Sturdevant, Luke Tiller, Brian Tomikawa, Neal Turner

WRENTIT (\$5-\$99): Joan Aebi, Priscilla Allen, David Almada, Christopher Anderson, Susan Beery, Kitty Blassey, Suzie Bonholtzer, Jane Bork, Gertrud Bouche, Douglas Caister, John Campbell, Robert Carr, Nancy Chalifour, Kenneth Christianson, Gilbert & Dorothy Conn, Marlene Cuttrell, Faye Eggerding, Eric Fearon, Joe Feinblatt, E.O. Fisher, Maureen Flaherty, Mary Freeman, Alejandro Garcia, Danielle Garcia, Evelyn Glaser, Michael Gottlieb, John & Sheri Gray, Marsha Grieco, David Hansen, Gillian Harden, Alan Harris, Margaret Haskin, Terence Hoban, Karen Holgerson, Sue Horton, Lawrence Jelinek, Jeffrey Jensen, Ruth Johnson, Leonie Jordan, Susan Kasielke, Joanne Kennedy, Donald Lieu, Elaine Macpherson, Shake Mamigonian, Marilyn McCurdy-Hansen, Patricia Michel, Carl Morgan, Kerry Morris, Cynthia Murphy, Kathy Musial, Julie Nava, Greg Nemes, Robert & Gail Nishinaka, Julie O'Leary, Kristine Olsen, Ellen Osheroff, Dennis & Margaret Page, Chris & Katie Poole, Julie Reiz, Karen Reynolds, Judi Romine, Janet Rose, Christina Sansone, Joanne & Gordon Sasaki, Lora Smith, Thomas Smith, Jane Soloway, Robert Staehle, Nancy Thompson, Amado Umaguig, Catherine Waters, Glenna Watterson, Joseph Witt, Daniel & Grace Wu, Laura York, Susan Zucker

DAWN CHORUS: Martin Bern, Lois & Pascal Brunet, Hannah Carbone, Kathy Degner, Sarah Hilbert, Jared Knickermeier & Lynda Elkin, Kristin Ochoa & Shana Pallotta, Taylor Paez, Laura & Gavin Solomon, Chris Spurgeon, Elaine Tietjen, Patrick Walling, Dave Weeshoff

MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS: Bradley Broffman donated in memory of Lew Hastings, and he writes, "Soar with the eagles, Lew." Rick Brignolo, Molly Brockmeyer, Paul Bruder, Carl & Irene Christensen, Joan Harker, Devony Hastings, Lewis Hastings, Ed & Jean Haven, Albert & Virginia Kelley, Bryan Kenny, Ernest & Lyn Messner, Mike Morey of StanCorp Mortgage Investors, Heather Murbach, Kathy Rosen, Rosalyn Scaff & Michael Cahill, Michael Schau, Laura & Gavin Solomon, Judy Sterling, Brad & Heather Strahorn, Charles Taylor, Richard Teresa, and Cotty & John Wallace also donated in memory of Lew Hastings.

Carl Matthies donated in memory of Cary Arentz.

David Campbell donated in memory of Mike Clearman.

Gail Gibson & Connie Pearson donated in memory of Molly.

Stella MacDonald donated in memory of Pop.

Pam Dong donated in memory of Prudy Gin.

Deni Sinott made a donation in honor of Kathy Degner.

Stephanie Yanchinski made a donation in honor of Brandon Bielec.

## Become a Part of the Dawn Chorus



Consider joining our monthly donor program to provide ongoing support for all our programs and events. Sign up at [pasadenaudubon.org/donate](http://pasadenaudubon.org/donate). Dawn Chorus donors receive a beautiful enamel pin designed by PAS' own Patrick Walling and Graham Hamby!

## A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members!

ALHAMBRA: David Andrus, Heather Clifford, Cecilia Sanchez; ALTADENA: Shannon Acedo, Christine Brandt, Jack Danna, Serina Diniega, G. Fogler-Mancini, Mark Fornace, Susan Grether, Bethany McClellan, Steven Milam, Alice Recendez, Don Vrtis; ARCADIA: Bonnie Bonnie, Lester Dering, Gina Truex, Tamara Vassey; BURBANK: Omar Alui; COVINA: Novellyn & Lance Heard; DUARTE: Sarah E. Jones-Weston, Patricia Giles, Steven Hernandez, Michael Holguin, Joanne Lepore; EL MONTE: Mary Younakof; GLENDALE: Jordan Almada, Peter Balwan; GROTON: Patty Oat; LA CAÑADA-FLINTRIDGE: Alan W. Harris, Sara Lessley, Joseph Padmini, Donald Riechel, Terrence Spidell, John Stevenson; LA CRESCENTA: George Faeustle, Kathy Seifert; LOS ANGELES: Kyle Gerner, Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, Eliot Murray & Danielle Syslo, Erica Silverman, Lily Wolfensberger, Emily Woodward; MINNEAPOLIS: Laura Muessig, Karen Reid; MONROVIA: Estelle Charlebois, Laurel Cross, Ernesto Cuento, Paula Rodriguez Rust; MONTEREY PARK: Gary Kamiyama, Ray Nikaido, Deanna Ying...

*continued on page 10*

**Pasadena Audubon Society Board**

Laura Solomon	President	mypurplecow@outlook.com
Darren Dowell	Vice President	dowell.darren@yahoo.com
Jane Glicksman	Secretary	jglixman@gmail.com
Gary Breaux	Treasurer	gbreaux@gmail.com
Chris Spurgeon	Programs	chris@spurgeonworld.com
Luke Tiller	Field Trips	luke.tiller@gmail.com
Kelsey Reckling	Publicity	kelseywreck@gmail.com
Graham Hamby	Membership	graham.hamby@gmail.com
Carl Matthies	Wrentit Editor	cfmatthies@yahoo.com
Sok Tng	Development Chair	sokktng@gmail.com
Ashwin Sivakumar	Conservation	ashwin.h.sivakumar@gmail.com
Lance Benner	Member at Large	lbenner@charter.net
Dave Weeshoff	Member at Large	weeshoff@sbcglobal.net
Lois Brunet	Executive Director	loisb.pas@gmail.com

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

Editor: Carl Matthies, [pas.wrentit@gmail.com](mailto:pas.wrentit@gmail.com)  
Printing by Print Spot (323) 269-4218

Messages or queries for Pasadena Audubon may be left at (626) 410-7506.  
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

**NEW MEMBERS (CONT'D)**

...PASADENA: Frances Balcomb, Cynthia Bennett, Martin Bern, Micki Bryant, Julianna Chianelli & Sarah Arnold, Jeff D'Angelo, Marion & Marion E. Bull, Luzmaria Garcia, Shirley Gatson, Janet Grady, Dana Guerrieri, Miranda Johnson-Haddad, Thomas Johnston, Marie Khatchatoorian, Ellen Knell, Patricia Liberman, Brian MacGregor, Shake Mamigonian, John Matthews & Karrie Mooradian, Mary McGilvray, Leah Mintz & Wesley Heartfield, Ann Motrunich, Jim Nomura, Joshua Ogden, Chad Tanaka Pack & Michael Foley, Joseph Sadove, Tartanya Smitheman & Daniel Nunes, Kathleen Spradling, Louis Steinhauer, Jeffrey S. Sutherland, Karen Swanson, W.R.G., Gary Watanabe, Robert Whitson, Jessie Wojdak, Raleigh Young; POMONA: Genessi Torres; REDLANDS: Danielle Garcia; ROSEMEAD: Rosa Gomez; SOUTH PASADENA: Sharonda Bazzell, Julie Clayton, Greg Hise, Elaine Kokubun, Theresa Rossoff, Nathan Seidman & Elissa Konove; SAN GABRIEL: Patricia Cramer, Reshama Damlé, Linda W. Morales, Edgardo Pareja, Cindy Ramos; SAN MARINO: Patrick Haden, Ann Horton; SANTA MONICA: Trisha Roth, Marielle Smith; SHERMAN OAKS: Patricia Turner; SIERRA MADRE: Elvin Beyer, Donald Caldwell, Sarah & Zack Domb, Patricia Johnson, Helen Lievre; SUN VALLEY: Joanne & Ken Millius; SYLMAR: Ingrid Gibson; TEMPLE CITY: Susan Elizabeth Stewart Reedy; THOUSAND OAKS: Marie Barnidge-McIntyre; TORRANCE: Heather Szafranski

**Join the Pasadena the Audubon Society**

PAS Chapter-only Membership supports our conservation, education and outreach efforts. You'll be the first to hear about our programs and field trips, and you'll receive a one year subscription to *The Wrentit* newsletter.

Membership dues: \$25 for individuals, \$30 for families, \$15 for seniors/senior family/students. Lifetime membership with a \$2,000 donation. You can join online at [pasadenaaudubon.org](http://pasadenaaudubon.org) or by submitting this form. Your contact information is never shared.

Make checks payable to PAS at 1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena CA 91107

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I want to go paperless and read *The Wrentit* online

Gift memberships can also be purchased online or by contacting our membership chair, Graham Hamby, at [graham.hamby@gmail.com](mailto:graham.hamby@gmail.com)