



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 70 — No. 4

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

April 2022- May 2022

It's Birdathon Time!

PAS' annual chose-your-own fundraising adventure of birding draws nigh. That's right, time to get out your checklists...and your checkbooks! Without further ado, here are the 5Ws (and 1H):

Who: As many of the PAS community as possible

What: A birding bonanza in which teams use a variety of field-tested birding strategies to amass mighty single-day species totals.

Where: Anywhere in LA County

Why: To raise money for all the good work that PAS does year-around in promoting birds, education, and conservation.

When: Any block of time up to 24 hours in length from April 22nd-24th.

How: You can contribute in two ways: 1) As a member of a team, out grinding for birds; 2) As a bankroller, sponsoring a team for a per species amount that you choose.

To form a team email birdathon@pasadenaaudubon.org. Three teams have already formed:

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PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Do you worry about the state of birds? Of course you do—you already know that we've lost 30% of our birds since 1970. Are you anxious about the Insect Apocalypse? I assume you've noticed that your car windshield is much cleaner than it used to be. Thinking about these issues can feel overwhelming, especially when we add those concerns to the many others that crowd our teeming brains. As a life-long environmentalist, I learned a long time ago that we are never done saving the environment, and that it's better to focus on what we can do, rather than allowing the scope of the problem to paralyze us.

I have long subscribed to the Ben & Jerry's philosophy that says, "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something." And that's where you come in. You CAN do a lot to help birds. What is the something you can do? The four biggest human-caused reasons that birds die prematurely are outdoor cats, window strikes, poisons, and habitat loss. I bet you can help mitigate one of these today.

If you have a cat, please keep it indoors. This will keep the cat alive longer, and it will also help the birds. According to the American Bird Conservancy, in the United States alone, outdoor cats kill 2.4 billion—with a B—birds every year. So, please keep your cat indoors.

AOU Announces Name Changes to Make Birds 'More Relatable'

In a move that has bewildered birders across the country, the American Ornithological Union recently made a slew of name changes to North and Middle American birds. At a press conference last Tuesday, AOU President Craig Midgely offered this explanation: "To far too many Americans, birds are aloof, bordering on supercilious. Some of this impression is created by their being wild animals. We can't do much about that. But what we can do is make some of the common names a little more relatable."



A recently rechristened Larry's Goldfinch snacks on seeds.

© Marsha Fowler

Midgely went on to say AOU had altered the common names of more than a dozen species so far. New appellations include Willy's Warbler/Snipe/Phalarope and Harry's Hawk. Many on hand were left wondering if this might all be some kind of joke, and given today's date, they're probably right.

Another huge cause of avian death is window strikes. Portland Audubon reports that these kill up to one billion birds a year, and that over half are at residences. Window strikes are fatal 54%-76 % of the time; even if the bird flies away, it could die later from the injury. Portlandaudubon.org offers excellent tips and suggestions for reducing the chances of window strikes at your home, with information on where to place feeders and birdbaths, decals and window treatments, and lighting.

According to US Fish & Wildlife, 72 million birds die each year because of pesticides, including rodenticide, so please don't use them. The poisons travel up the food chain and kill the birds that eat the pests. Remember DDT? It was killing raptors like Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons. The legal pesticides are toxic, too. Please avoid them.

We don't know how many birds die each year due to habitat loss, but we can guess that it's a lot. The good news is that you can create bird habitat by planting native plants, even if your patch is very small. If you have the room, plant an Engelmann Oak. This tree hosts 111 species of moths and caterpillars, as well as countless other insects, which in turn feed the birds. If you have less room, plant a California Buckwheat. It is beloved by native pollinators, as well as by the birds. If you

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MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS: UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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.

BIRDATHON PREVIEW (CONT'D)

The Big Sit: April 24, 2022 8:00 - 11:00

Tired of aerobic birding? Eager to try out that new lawn chair? But you still want to contribute to Pasadena Audubon's major fundraiser of the year? Then the Big Sit is for you. Join us on the big lawn west of Restroom 7, between the center lake and the south lake at Legg Lakes (Whittier Narrows Recreation Center). Reach the parking lot by taking Santa Anita Avenue south from the Pomona Freeway. We'll see nesting Double-crested Cormorants, nesting Blue Herons, and lots of close fly-bys from swallows. Bring a comfy chair or blanket, and snacks and drinks. Most years, the crowd grows restless after sitting for an hour or two, and some strike out on walks around the lakes to find additional species. That works, too. We'll add all the sightings to a single checklist that donors can use to guide their donations. Email Mark Hunter at huntington.walk@gmail.com to join or pledge.

Ladybirders: Formed in 2018, this team is on a mission to surpass its first year



Any birds flying over Legg Lake on the morning of April 24 will see Team Big Sit below (within the circled area), and, more to the point, Team Big Sit will see them! © Google

Bear Divide Migration

May 18th, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Ryan Terrill

In the past few years the birding community has discovered that one of the best migration hotspots in all of the western US is right in our neighborhood -- Bear Divide in the Angeles National Forest. Each spring tens of thousands of songbirds fly through the gap at Bear Divide on their way north. Dr. Ryan Terrill, who heads up the research at Bear Divide, will update us on what we've been learning at this unique location.

Dr. Ryan S. Terrill is postdoc researcher at the Moore College of Zoology at Occidental College. For the past several years he's been leading the efforts to record the birds migrating past Bear Divide.

A Record-setting Big Year, and a Campaign to Make The Outdoors Safe For Women

June 15th, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Tiffany Kersten

Tiffany Kersten didn't set out to do a big year, but after a series of unanticipated and serendipitous events, she suddenly found herself amidst one. She spent 2021 traveling to all corners of the Lower 48 States, setting a new record of 726 species in the year. As a survivor of sexual assault, Kersten has a second goal for her big year -- raising awareness about the dangers women face in the outdoors. Join us as Kersten recounts tales of her epic adventure.

Monthly chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month. Until further notice, 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 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 if you would like the Zoom link to attend.

April 13th, 2022
May 11th, 2022
June 8th, 2022

record of 72 species at Peck. New lady birders are welcome; sorry, no guys. Margaritas after birding are the tradition. The outing will be on Friday the 22nd. Email Lois Brunet at LoisB.PAS@gmail.com to join or pledge.

Arroyo Ramblers: Ever wanted to find out how many different birds you can see on a trek from Prieto Canyon down to South Pasadena? Well, here's your chance to find out! Join and/or sponsor the Arroyo Ramblers. Participants are free to hike as much or as little of the route as they wish. Unless you want to hike all the way to and fro, you might consider dropping a car off or locking up a bike at your planned endpoint so you can shuttle back. The plan is to get started early Saturday morning, exact time TBD, so get a good night's sleep, and don't forget to bring plenty of water and snacks if you're in for the long haul. Email Carl Matthies at pas.wrentit@gmail.com to join or pledge.

Cliff Swallows

I must've been about six years old the first time I heard *When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano*. It was neither the dulcet high tenor of the Ink Spots' Bill Kenny nor the mellow baritone of Bing Crosby, but the comically nasal voice of Mel Blanc's Bugs Bunny, belting out the melody as he's stalked by another hapless would-be predator. The otherwise typical installment of Looney Tunes stands out in my memory because of Leon Rene's song. I was enchanted by the idea that birds would arrive *en masse* at a particular place on a particular day.

Contrary to mission lore, Cliff Swallows don't always arrive on March 19th. They start to show up in late February, and the influx continues for about a month. And of course, Cliff Swallows had been returning every spring to the Juaneño Indian pueblo at the site for centuries before the Spanish arrived and the San Juan Capistrano Mission was built. The swallows were no doubt drawn to the area by the confluence of rivers and the abundance of flying insect nourishment that came with it. The construction of the mission did, however, provide suitable nesting sites for Cliff Swallows, who are content to establish colonies under eaves, culverts, and bridges as well as on cliffs.

Cliff Swallow nests are made from bits of mud and clay plucked from a riverbank and molded together into little adobe igloos by both members of the pair. About a thousand beakfuls of mud go into a typical nest, which will see one or two broods of up to six eggs each in a breeding season.



Offering a full frontal view of its characteristic cream-colored visor, a Cliff Swallow peers out of its nest and prepares to make another food foray. © Tom Cassaro

Without trying to dissuade anyone from taking a road trip, you needn't drive all the way to San Juan Capistrano to see Cliff Swallows. They come to Santa Fe Dam, Peck Road, Hahamongna— local birding spots with obvious water.

Cliff Swallows start heading south in August, staying in colonies and flying only during the day. To my knowledge there isn't a romantic song about the swallows arriving in Buenos Aires, but Argentinian poet Jaime Dávalos wrote a melancholy number about their leaving again! And why wouldn't he?

Carl Matthies

Bird Collisions With Windows

Each year between 365 million and 1 billion birds die from collisions with windows across the United States. The overwhelming majority of those window strikes occur at residential and low-rise buildings, with less than 1 percent caused by skyscrapers. We'd like to know how many collisions there might be in Pasadena Audubon Society neighborhoods and what we can do to reduce their occurrence.

Here's what we already know:

- Collisions don't happen at an even pace over the course of a year, or even throughout the day.
- Most collisions happen during daylight hours or immediately before dawn, with few occurring at night.
- Mornings, in particular, tend to be the worst time of day for collisions. During migration this is because migratory birds that have flown all night are usually in a state of exhaustion as the sun comes up and as they look for a place to land and refuel. Those that land in and near cities find themselves in a maze of deadly glass. In addition, resident birds are generally most active in the morning, as they wake up hungry and immediately search for food.

We also know what to do if we find an injured bird. Since birds go into rigor mortis exceedingly quickly, in a matter of minutes, gently wiggle the legs. If they are stiff, the bird is dead. But if they move, the bird is unconscious. If so, quickly put the bird in a small box or paper bag and get it to a wildlife rehabber who can provide expert care and anti-inflammatory medication. Do not interact with the bird – voices, handling, petting - things that may soothe pets at home are not the same for wild animals. Don't try to feed the bird or give it water. Putting water down a bird's throat can cause it to aspirate. It will be okay without food or drink for the brief time it's in your care.

Caring for injured birds does good. But when it comes to window strikes, prevention is the best remedy. Thankfully, we know what we can do to prevent window collisions, too:

- Create patterns on reflective glass surfaces (quantity and spacing are very important) - multiple markings 2 to 4 inches apart are recommended. Paste-on decals have been determined to be of little value
- Install external screens on windows
- Close blinds or curtains
- Move interior plants away from windows
- Place bird feeders directly on windows or more than 30 feet away

For much more detailed information please go to Audubon.org (National Audubon Society) and ABCBirds.org (American Bird Conservancy).

To help us understand the scope of the problem here in Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley please call me at 818-618-1652 or email at weeshoff@sbcglobal.net reporting any

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BIRDS FROM AFAR

Feathery Lucre

A Survey of Birds on Currency in the Americas

I have a confession to make: Birding isn't my only hobby. Other passions compete for my leisure time, though in recent years, readers may be comforted to know that birding has received an increasing share of it. One of those other pursuits is numismatics or, in lay terms, coin collecting. Although it may seem that these hobbies have nothing in common, my fellow numismatists will know that there are many examples of coins and banknotes with birds on them. How many? Well, I'd originally planned to make this a global survey until I realized the article would be far too long. The reality is, whether you've traveled extensively, or just inspected your pocket change, you've inevitably had your hands on some feathery lucre.

It's only proper that our tour begin in Guatemala, a country that not only features its national bird, the Resplendent Quetzal, on its flag and its paper money, but actually named its monetary unit the *quetzal*! Portraits of solemn-looking patriarchs share space with the fabled trogon whose tail, at least in these stylized renderings, is over twice the length of its body.

When Costa Ricans updated their paper currency in 2010 to add security features, they made the country's biological diversity a central theme. Each of the six paper denominations of *colones* depicts flora and fauna from a different ecosystem: coral reef, mangrove swamp, lowland forest, rainforest, cloud forest, and *páramo*. The *páramo* is a high altitude, tropical moor, exclusive habitat for the endemic Volcano Hummingbird, whose likeness graces the ₡20,000 banknote.

The striking silhouette of another endemic hummingbird, the Red-billed Steamertail, embellishes all of Jamaica's banknotes. Known on the island as doctor birds for the black cap and "coat tails" reminiscent of the attire worn by physicians until the late 19th Century, these extra fancy hummers have been national emblems of Jamaica since 1962.

The Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago has birds on literally every single piece of currency issued by its central bank, because all the money bears the country's coat of arms, which is dominated by a Scarlet Ibis, a Cocrico (also known as a Red-tailed Guan), and a pair of nondescript hummingbirds meant to represent all eighteen hummingbird species found on the island. But T&T doesn't stop there. The paper money is adorned with more prominent illustrations of local birds such as the Trinidad Motmot, the Masked Cardinal, and...the Great

Bird of Paradise? Yes, the exotic bird appears on both the five cent piece and the \$100 dollar bill, vestiges of an ill-fated conservation plan. In the early 20th century, Englishman Sir William Ingram imported 50 of the birds to the islet of Little Tobago, which he owned at the time. He meant well. He was trying to save them from hat plume hunters, but this transplanted population was ultimately doomed by Hurricane Flora in 1963.

The promotion of native wilderness and wildlife through banknote designs is so pervasive in Latin America we can only mention them in passing. National birds from Mexico's Golden Eagle and Guyana's Hoatzin, to Chile's Andean Condor and Argentina's Rufous Hornero (ovenbird) are pictured on their respective currencies. Colombia's 2000 *peso* bill is teeming with a variety of birds; Peru's 100 *soles* bill has a Marvelous Spatuletail. Regrettably, Suriname and Venezuela abandoned truly outstanding versions of this motif when rapid inflation necessitated the creation of new currency.

Our neighbor to the north has dollar coins affectionately called *loonies* for the Common Loon engraved on the tail side (in Quebec Province they're called *huards*, French for loon). The coins were issued in 1987 to replace the less durable Canadian dollar bill. The beloved design might never have seen the light of day were it not for a bit of intrigue—the theft of the original master dies just prior to production. To thwart the obvious counterfeiting opportunity, the original, birdless design was scrapped.

Here in the US, our currency is still largely about men, mottos, and monuments, but anyone paying attention to quarters for the last twenty-odd years can't fail to have noticed the special series of quarters celebrating our states, territories, and parklands. To cite just one of numerous examples, the peregrine falcon is not the state bird of Idaho, and yet it's on the Idaho quarter. The design was chosen to honor the work of The Peregrine Fund, a Boise-based non-profit that helped bring the world's fastest animal back from critically endangered in 1970 to de-listed in 1999.

Numismatics fascinates me because, for better or worse, a country's currency communicates more than its face value. It is also a statement of *the country's values*; who is admired, what is held dear. While the face value tells us what a coin or bill can buy, when we take time to notice, other details on currency remind us of the real national treasures.

Carl Matthies



Left to right: A Resplendent Quetzal on a 10 quetzal bill, a Volcano Hummingbird on Costa Rican currency, a Great Bird of Paradise on a banknote from Trinidad and Tobago (not a typo!), a Rufous Hornero on Argentina's 1000 peso bill, detail of a "loonie", and a Peregrine Falcon on Idaho's quarter. © Shutterstock

PROGRAMS

PRESIDENT'S PERCH (CONT'D)

An Awesome, "Owlsome" Month for BSP

The Bird Science Program has finally resumed and on March 18 had forty 5th graders from Washington Elementary at Debs Park on a field trip. The kids got to walk the trails and see not only the birds but the native plants, flowering sages, wild cucumber, soft young sycamore leaves and the dreaded poison oak. They saw Western Fence Lizards doing push-ups, crows harassing Red-tails in the sky, Allen's and Anna's Hummingbirds perched, flashing their brilliant gorgets in the sun, bees foraging on the sage with their saddle bags full of pollen.



Ms. McDonald and some of the Bird Science Program crew, ready to get some birds into view. © Lois Brunet

Students also got to spend quality time with Bob, our rehabber from Wild Wings, and his educational birds. In addition to the Barn Owl and the Great Horned, Bob brought a Peregrine Falcon and a tiny Northern Saw-whet Owl. What lucky children to be within feet of all these amazing birds.



"Don't bother us, we're birding." Another action shot from the March 18th BSP field trip. © Lois Brunet

The week prior, Bird Science Program docents and interns had visited the STEM lab with a bag full of owl pellets, ready to be dissected. The kids, somewhat predictably, went from "eww, that's gross" to "wow, this is so cool!" as they picked apart their pellets to discover the tiny bones inside. "I have never seen the

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only have room for a pot, the good news is that many native plants do well in containers. An excellent resource for information on native plants, including container gardening, is the Theodore Payne Foundation (theodorepayne.org). If you haven't yet, give them a try!

If you really want to feel hopeful, you can join the movement started by insect ecologist Doug Tallamy called Homegrown National Park (homegrownnationalpark.org). The mission of this movement is to "regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function" by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks, and the goal is to convert half of the lawns in the country to native plantings. This would create a network of 20 million acres of native habitat across the US. You can join this effort by going to the website above and learning more. I think this is a perfect example of the power of "everyone doing something" espoused by Ben & Jerry's. How wonderful that we can help insects and birds at the same time!

We are Pasadena Audubon, and we are for the birds—and the insects!

Laura Solomon

CONSERVATION (CONT'D)

instances of bird window collisions, even a single bird, and let me know the circumstances. It may occur at a residence, condo complex, commercial building or high-rise. I can offer advice regarding an injured bird and individualized collision prevention while collecting data to help enlighten our conservation and advocacy activities.

Dave Weeshoff

At Last, More Bins Arrive in Peru

On March 15th, a plane arrived in Lima, Peru, from New York, New York, carrying, among many others, Diane and Alfredo Cuellar. They brought with them nine pairs of binoculars generously donated by PAS members and destined for COAP, the *Club de Observadores de Aves de Perú*. After a year of pandemic-related delays, the cargo was finally delivered to Victor Martinez, one of COAP's birding guides. In



Diane Cuellar and COAP birding guide Victor Martinez pose with binoculars donated by PAS members. © Diana Cuellar

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CHAPTER NEWS

Decade of Dedication: PAS Bluebird Nest Box Monitor Norm Vargas Passes Torch

Norm Vargas bought his first field guide, *The Golden Guides Birds of North America*, at a thrift store for \$0.45 in 1984. He's maintained an interest in birds, and all things skyward, ever since. Fellow PAS members might know Norm from his birdhouse craftsmanship and his emails about interesting sightings up on Mount Wilson, where he works as a researcher at the Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy.

Around the time young Norm was buying that first field guide, a man by the name of Dick Purvis was setting up his first bluebird nest boxes down in Anaheim. Purvis had grown up around Eastern Bluebirds as a boy in Georgia, and he recognized that Western Bluebirds were scarce in heavily landscaped Orange County because the dead, knotholed trees bluebirds typically nest in were promptly cut down. Purvis would eventually pepper all of the suitable habitat in Orange County with bluebird nest boxes, so he started hanging nest boxes at golf courses and cementaries in neighboring counties, including one for each hole at Alhambra Golf Course in 2009.

Three years later, Norm started tending those boxes after a golfer named Hollis Chang showed him the ropes. Over time, several more boxes were added, and several others were replaced, with help from boyscout Mark Gauderman and a modest grant from PAS. In the early half of his tenure, Norm got help with monitoring from wunderkind birder Dessi Sieburth and his parents Derek and Beatrix.

Nest box monitoring coincides with breeding season, of course, which runs from mid-March to late July. Bluebirds compete with non-native House Sparrows for nest boxes. In a typical season, Western Bluebird pairs produce two broods of 2-6 chicks each, and Norm records between 110-120 young.

All this and more was conveyed at a March 8th informational meeting for PAS members interested in bluebird boxes



Norm Vargas removes a House Sparrow nest from bluebird box #2, located in a pine tree behind the 17th green at Alhambra Golf Course. © Carl Matthies

generally and more specifically for anyone desirous of succeeding Norm as Alhambra Golf Course nest box monitor. I'm pleased to announce that at least one volunteer has stepped forward...*et c'est moi*. Norm attests that a couple other members have expressed interest, which is advantageous because it would allow for a platoon system.

I've met with Norm at Alhambra Golf Course to inspect nest boxes a couple of times since. I've seen firsthand the fierce competition with House Sparrows for the boxes. A couple of boxes even housed the dessicated remains of a bluebird, the *corpora delicti* of nesting sites taken by force. Such brutality made it easier to play the role of a callous sheriff, evicting House Sparrows, eggs and all. Fortunately there are quite a few bluebird pairs flying around the course— along with plenty of errant teeshots!—so my first season of nest box monitoring promises to be an exciting one. Many thanks to Norm Vargas for his decade of dedication to Western Bluebirds!

Carl Matthies



A happy nest box monitoring scenario looks like this, several bluebird chicks with maws agape. © Kathy Degner

PAS Board Nominates Slate of Candidates

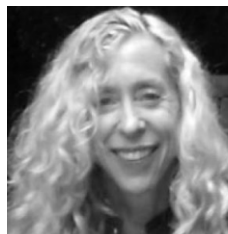
It's election season for PAS. In accordance with our bylaws, the Board nominated a slate of candidates at its March meeting. Voting will take place at the general membership meeting on May 18th. Nominations can be made from the floor at that time.



President: Luke Tiller



Vice President:
Dave Weeshoff



Secretary: Jane Glicksman



Treasurer: Gary Breaux

GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS!

GREAT HORNED OWL (\$500-\$999): Doug Farr

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WRENTIT (\$5-\$99): Rebecca Bruno, Elissa De Angelo, Polly E. Hawkins, James T. Heringer, Nadine Ishizu, Ruth Judkins, Charles Kolhase, Robert Kwan, David Labowitz, Mary Anne Lower, Denise Mazzarella, Andy Myler & Kathleen Smith-Myler, Hill Penfold, Katie Porter, Jean Richardson, Rita Speck, Tana U. Wong

MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS:

Maggi Berwindart donated in honor of Kathy Degner for "her kindness and enthusiasm"
 Susan Feliz donated in memory of Lewis J. Hastings, Jr.
 Sok Tng donated "in loving memory of Doris Meng Hong Tan"

BIRD SCIENCE PROGRAM (CONT'D)

class so excited about science!" emailed their teacher Ms. MacDonald later that day.

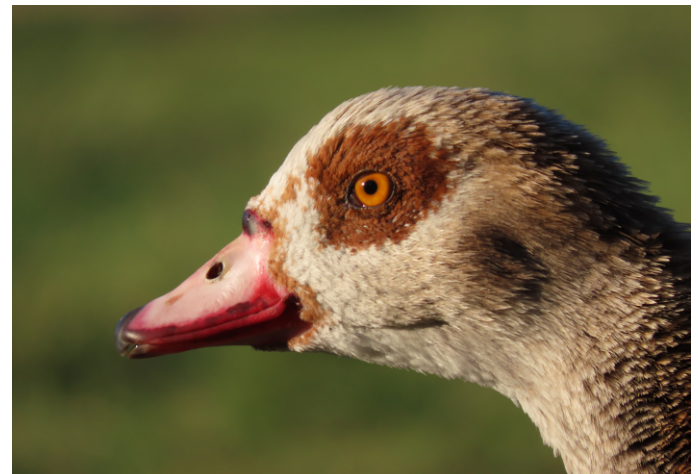
These kids were primed for owl viewing, and then we hit the jackpot! One student named Joshua, who was quite knowledgeable, naming the Peregrine off the bat, was with me for the birdwalk. He noticed a dark leafy nest in a large pine on the opposite hill. At first glance I thought, maybe a squirrel's nest, but let's get it in the scope. And lo and behold, there was a Great Horned Owl on top, sitting almost prone, very still, staring back at us. So these children saw the educational owls and a wild one nesting. If our luck holds up, children on future field trips will be able to see the young as they grow and eventually leave the nest. Talk about bringing science to life!

Lois Brunet

If these women look happy, it's because they're ordering *Birds & Beans* coffee from **PAS Coffee Club**. Melinda, the woman at the laptop computer, is going to the pasadenaaudubon.org website. Then she'll deftly mouse over to the RESOURCES dropdown menu, click on COFFEE CLUB, and follow the instructions for ordering and paying. Finally, she'll wait for the email from Leandra Woods that her coffee has arrived!



Birds and Beans coffee is shade-grown, certified bird-friendly, and fair trade, so it benefits the birds as well as the people who grow it.



A pensive Egyptian Goose mulls things over on the shore of Legg Lake. © Katarina Doorly, age 9.

BINS TO PERU (CONT'D)

a letter Victor sent to PAS Executive Director Lois Brunet, who, not at all coincidentally, is Diane Cuellar's sister, he wrote that the binoculars "will prove extremely useful to help train our local guides and, at the same time, improve the birdwatching experience here in Peru."

The pandemic wasn't the only hurdle to making the delivery. Sometimes hardware like binoculars doesn't clear Peruvian customs. Lois had written a note in the event the bins attracted scrutiny. Ultimately it wasn't necessary, but the note sums up the purpose of this project so well that I've excerpted it here to remind us:

"We have developed a program with COAP (Club de Observadores de Aves del Perú) which we're calling Bins to Peru. We collect used but serviceable optics, such as binoculars and spotting scopes, from our members and supporters and we carry them to Peru for the members of COAP. These optics are quite functional, and our members and supporters are happy to know that bird watchers in Peru will be able to use them.

The missions of Pasadena Audubon and COAP are perfectly aligned. We are both working to develop enthusiasm for birds and bird watching and channeling that to do critical conservation work. Many of the birds that we enjoy in Southern California are migratory and spend part of their lives in Peru and neighboring countries. It is critically important to have communities of people all along the Pacific flyway, the migratory path of these birds, who care about them and support conservation efforts."

The need for equipment within COAP is still very high, so if you have binoculars or scopes that still work but that you don't use anymore, consider donating them to Bins to Peru.

Carl Matthies

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A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members!

ALHAMBRA: Priscilla Garcia, Michelle Huang, Kazuko Tanaka; ALTADENA: Anne Chomyn, Catharine Feely, Nancy Gronroos, Joe Kilanowski, Clair Morissey, Catherine Oikonomou, Roger Proffitt, Gillian Symonds, Reid Thomas; ARCADIA: Bobbi Gaffke, Linda Jensen, Richard Pearce, Cat To, Richard C. Wightman; AZUSA: Rick Laezman; DUARTE: Rachel Spencer; GLENDALE: Patricia Frick, Joan Morris; LA CAÑADA-FLINTRIDGE: Elise Gibney, Gregory Ketabgian, Nina Smith; LA CRESCENTA: Kerri and Matthew Walsh; LOS ANGELES: Lisa and Chip Clements, Parker Davis, John Gallogly, Gerry Hans and Mary Button; MONROVIA: John and Sandra Bordi, Dian Buchness, Jo Mamer Porter; MONTEREY PARK: Christophe Chui, P.A. Feldstein, Rebecca Kaspin, Yuko Shibata, Ralph G. Valencia, Keiko Yokota; MONTROSE: Maisun Jabban; PASADENA: Hana Alwardi, Rick Bushnell, Jamie Cho and Christopher Patocka, Susan E. Coates, Elaine Eaton, Joanna and Dean Felipe, Sylvia Holmes, Miranda Johnson-Haddad, T.H. Khoe, Charlotte Klein, Jen Lucero, Donna Mathewson, Nancy Matzdorff, One West, Dianne Philibosian, Pamela Putch, Colleen Rockwell, W.R.G., Perry Wilder; ROSEMEAD: Anna Harlowe; SAN GABRIEL: Kally Wong; SAN MARINO: Lina M. Hatfield; SIERRA MADRE: Jean Wagner; SOUTH PASADENA: Max Benavidez, Mary S. Kyropoulos, Patricia C. Loverme, Sue Matz; TEMPLE CITY: Marcos Amezcua, Carolyn Fernandez

The final touches are being applied to the highly-anticipated *Birding Guide to the Greater Pasadena Area*, our fresh, fancy, and fact-packed resource for local birding. We're celebrating with a May 1st Book Release Party at Arlington Garden. Tickets will go on sale in early April. The book will be available at the event and on our website as of May 1st.

