



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 52 – No. 1

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

January-February 2004

January Program

Bats

January 21, 2004

Diana Simons

Learn about the fascinating world of bats and help to promote understanding and appreciation for these beneficial and much maligned mammals. Bat Biologist, Diana Simon's beautiful slide program is both entertaining and educational. Topics include the roles that bats play in different ecosystems, the diversity of bat species, bat/human interactions, and close-up photos of bats from California and around the world. It also includes bat house information and a live bat.

In addition to her educational programs, Diana is currently monitoring bats in bridges for Caltrans and working on a bat survey for the U.S. Park Service.

Diana is featured, along with some of her non-releasable rescued bats, in a children's book entitled, *Bat*, by Caroline Arnold (Morrow Jr. Books, 1996). She believes that a key component of bat conservation is public awareness about these gentle and misunderstood animals.

General Meetings held at:

Eaton Canyon Nature Center

1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena

7:00 pm Social

7:30 pm Program

February Program

Baja Adventures

February 18, 2004

Bernardo Alps

Come and join Bernardo Alps as he will explore the Baja California peninsula in a slightly different manner, he explores travel by boat. This will give us an opportunity to look for some of the ocean creatures that are difficult to see from shore, like albatrosses and murrelets. He will also visit some of the islands with unique flora and fauna where you can touch gray whales, walk among elephant seals and explore a mangrove estuary.

Bernardo is staff photographer for the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group and serves as naturalist on natural history trips for the American Cetacean Society, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Condor Cruises and the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

March Program

Seabirds and Marine

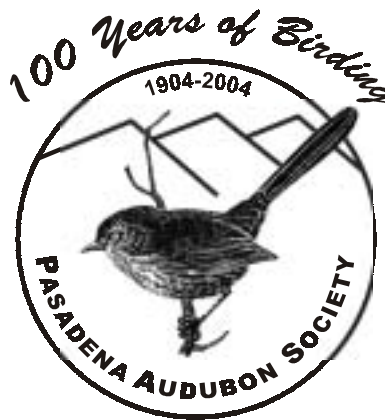
Mammals of Monterey Bay

March 17, 2004

Debra Shearwater

Debra Shearwater, founder/director of Shearwater Journeys and a Director of the American Birding Association, has been conducting pelagic trips off the California coast since 1976. As a full-time naturalist-birder, she has participated in over 1600 pelagic trips. These trips have produced many North American and California seabird records, most recently a Little Shearwater on October 29, 2003 on Monterey Bay!

Monterey Bay is well known to birders throughout the world as one of the premier places to observe seabirds and marine mammals. A giant submarine canyon close to shore provides an upwelling of nutrients creating a rich marine biodiversity with 94 species of seabirds and 26 species of marine mammals. One of only five such rich marine areas in the world, it has been designated a National Marine Sanctuary and an Important Bird Area. Here's an unusual opportunity to explore the fauna of the Monterey Bay with an expert on the area.



President's Perch

Happy Birthday! This year celebrates 100 years of Pasadena Audubon Society! During our first 100 years, we have been involved with saving the Cobb Estate; fighting for natural Hahamongna; introducing and educating thousands of people to birding; presenting countless programs on habitat, environment, travel,

adventure, and of course, birding; leading field trips all over California; and educating kids about birds and habitat.

What's in store for our second century? It's whatever YOU wish to do with Pasadena Audubon Society. I hope to see you soon at a meeting or on a field trip.

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Conservation

Arctic Safe for Now

In the most significant environmental victory last year, the US Senate voted to kill the Energy Bill – this is a tremendous victory! Thanks to steadfast opposition from supporters like you, the Bill's backers failed by a mere three votes to force a vote to ultimately pass the bill through the Senate.

As you may know, bill proponents removed the U.S. House-passed provisions to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. They had hoped that this concession would have helped push the bill through. But they were wrong.

Even without the Arctic drilling provisions, the bill still included dangerous provisions granting oil and gas companies exemptions from adhering to portions of the Clean Water Act, provisions delaying the deadline for large cities to come into compliance with the Clean Air Act, and provisions neglecting obvious energy-saving issues that should be addressed! The bill did not call for an increase in the fuel efficiency of cars and trucks. It did not include measures to diversify America's energy supplies with renewable power sources, nor did it address meaningful ways to reduce global warming pollution. It would have rolled back existing environmental safeguards for oil and gas drilling on public lands and expanded development to areas currently off-limits due to their environmental fragility. And while we celebrate this victory today, this fight is far from over. Rest assured, we'll be ready if and when proponents bring this bill back. For now, let's celebrate this victory.

Audubon Advisory

Urban Stormwater

On November 12, 2003 the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee allotted \$958 million dollars over six years for nationwide efforts to control pollution from roads, buildings, driveways and lawns - referred to as "urban stormwater." As you know, urban stormwater is the technical name for rainwater washing over dirty surfaces like roads and sidewalks, flushing cigarette butts, pieces of paper or plastic bags, detergents, oils and fertilizers, and drips of gasoline directly into our streams, rivers and beach areas, after traveling through stormwater drains. It's a growing problem local and state governments are beginning to face. Setting aside new federal dollars for stormwater programs is a big first step! The full Senate is will take up the measure in 2004.

Audubon Advisory

Congress Grants DoD New Exemptions

The U.S. Congress has completed action on the final Defense Authorization bill for Fiscal Year 2004 – a measure that includes "compromise" language that exempts the Department of Defense (DoD) from adhering to portions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA.) These exemptions basically mean military installations are no longer required to prepare critical habitat designations on DoD lands as long as another plan, called an Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, is in place – thereby regulating military base activities under the more lenient Sikes Act rather than the ESA. It also will allow DoD an exemption from the MMPA, which may be interpreted to allow DoD to use its new high-powered sonar in the world's oceans, without regard to the harm it may cause marine mammals, particularly whales. And while the final exemptions are a bit better than the House-passed versions, the measures still – unnecessarily – sacrifice environmental protections for critical habitat for birds and wildlife. Unnecessary because according to the federal government's own studies, adhering to environmental laws has not hampered national security nor has it negatively impacted military readiness and training – the reasoning behind DoD's request.

The final bill also includes compromise language on the House-passed provision that sought to exempt DoD from following provisions of the ESA at Ft. Huachuca. This exemption allows DoD to tap into water resources (critical habitat) necessary for the survival of endangered and threatened species relying on the San Pedro River near Ft. Huachuca in Arizona, where DoD is looking to expand its facilities. The new provision, while falling short of granting DoD the overall exemption being requested, charges the Upper San Pedro Partnership – a group comprised of 20 agencies and organizations, including Audubon Arizona – to create and implement a plan to balance the area's water resources and show annual progress towards that goal. In other words, supply additional water to allow the base to expand and yet still protect the San Pedro River by the year 2011. A difficult task indeed, as there is no means by which to ensure the Partnership plan is ultimately adhered to – but Audubon Arizona will do its part to keep the partnership focus.

We're disappointed in the final bill. Please know how much we appreciate the thousands upon thousands of letters, calls and visits Audubon supporters made in opposition to these exemptions. There

would not have been compromise provisions without your support! Keep in mind that we'll likely need your support again in 2004, as we expect DoD to push for more exemptions – from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

Audubon Advisory

Forest Bill Awaiting Final Approval

At press time, House and Senate negotiators had reached an agreement on national forest legislation that they believe would pass both chambers. This compromise bill was on schedule to pass. And while Audubon and our partners in conservation are reviewing the compromise proposal – which may change prior to the final vote – initial review showed that while better than the House-passed proposal, the final version still relaxes environmental and judicial review of tree-thinning in national forests, and offers more to the logging industry that it does for the families and their property at risk of forest fires. An analysis of the bill will be made available as soon as possible!

Audubon Advisory

Clean Water Act

Help encourage the U.S. Congress to reinstate Clean Water Act protections for all of America's waterways by signing on as a co-sponsor to the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act, bill number S.473 in the Senate, and H.R.962 in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Act reaffirms the original intent of the Clean Water Act, which is to restore, maintain and provide clean, safe, swimmable and fishable water, reinstate protections for isolated wetlands that provide habitat for fish and wildlife, help with flood control, and filtering pollutants from our water, making it safer for birds, wildlife and most importantly, people. Remember, the more co-sponsors a bill has, the better chance it has to move through the legislative process!

Audubon Advisory

Invasive Species

Audubon's campaign aimed at addressing a major threat to birds by tackling the widespread threat of invasive species is underway! We've pulled together scientists, public policy experts, on-the-ground managers and concerned citizens to develop a science-based, targeted, and results oriented solution that will protect birds and the critical habitat they need to survive. Check out our special website by visiting the following link for more information and to find out what you can do to help! [HTTP://WWW.STOPINVASIVES.ORG](http://www.STOPINVASIVES.ORG).

Audubon Advisory

Debs Audubon Center Dedication



Photo by Donald G. Rogers

Los Angeles, CA Thursday, November 6, 2003 –The grand opening of the Audubon Center was marked by an All Species Parade, which wound up the driveway to the Audubon Center. Nearly 100 students from local schools carried papier mâché masks and giant puppets of the birds and bugs of Debs Park. Mayor Jim Hahn, City Councilman Ed Reyes, National Audubon Society President John Flicker, and representatives from the dozens of area businesses joined the students and the organizations that helped bring the Audubon Center at Debs Park to life. Children and families throughout East and Northeast Los Angeles were among the many who celebrated today as the much-anticipated Audubon Center at Debs Park opened its doors in the Highland Park/Montecito Heights community.

For Your Information

- **Lemonade/Bake Sale Results**
Hahamongna Roots & Shoots earned \$200 this year's sale. They sent \$100 to the Peregrine Fund to help condors, \$50 to Operation Migration to help Whooping Cranes and \$50 to the Nature Conservancy to help California Gnatcatchers. They said, "We are very grateful for the strong support

we received from Pasadena Audubon Society. Thank you!" And PAS is proud of all of you and your dedication to our environment.

- **Call to All Interested PAS Members**
You are invited to attend the PAS Board Meetings. Find out how decisions are made *or* become involved. It's fun and it's for a wonderful cause. Meeting dates are listed in the Calendar section or

contact any Board Member for more information.

- **Change the Date**
California Chapter Meeting
Correct Dates: January 30-February 1
Everything else remains the same
Everyone is encouraged to attend
For Information: (949) 261-7963
WWW.SEAANDSAGEAUDUBON.ORG

(see FYI, page 4)

Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary

The Cedar Fire in November burned through all of the Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary, owned and operated by San Diego Audubon Society. The Sanctuary extends over 728 acres and is the largest privately owned nature refuge in San Diego County.

All three of the on-site residences were burned completely, but fortunately all personnel were either out of the region or safely evacuated. San Diego Audubon is assisting all three individuals and will accept donations to assist them.

San Diego Audubon will monitor the post-fire ecology on the Sanctuary, to see how various species of flora and fauna respond and recover. The Sanctuary is closed until further notice.

For further information contact Phil Pryde at 619-465-9492 or 619-594-5525, or Wayne Harmon at 858-488-2250.

Classroom Volunteers Needed

Would you like to spend a short time (from a couple of hours to a couple of days a year) in a sixth grade classroom sharing your interest in our natural world, working with the teacher to provide a field experience to their classroom, or working with students on their field lab notebooks? We know of three teachers who would welcome your assistance right now! We discovered the need for these volunteers while setting up Audubon Adventures. If you're interested, let us know where you live and we will try to match you with a Pasadena school near to your home. We are targeting 6th grade students.

Contact Norm Arnheim (ARNHEIM@EARTHLINK.NET) with the information below or send it to him c/o Pasadena Audubon Society, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107

Your Name _____
Your contact information _____

Number of days you feel you could volunteer? _____
Time of day you have available? _____
Type of expertise you can provide? _____

[] Elementary school with 6th graders [] Middle school? (check your preference)

New Field Trip Chair

We'd like to thank Jon Fisher for his years of enthusiastic service to Pasadena Audubon Society! He is stepping down as Field Trip Chair, but will continue as our Christmas Bird Count compiler. Jon's knowledge and passion for birding has introduced many to birding and he will be sorely missed.

We welcome another Jon to the job of Field Trip Chair. Jon Feenstra is a graduate student at Cal Tech. Both his enthusiasm for birding and his knowledge of the subject are remarkable and, as he puts it, birding is what keeps him sane. As of this writing, he is closing in on the Los Angeles County Year List (most birds seen in Los Angeles County in one year). Check out the next Wrentit to see if he did it!

Field Trip Reports

Eaton Canyon Bird Walk and Lab Results

September 27, 2003

About 22 birders met at Eaton Canyon for a morning walk and follow-up lab study, Saturday September 27. From 8:00 am to about 10:00 am we walked the lower canyon and looped back south through the wash. The morning was cool and conditions were good for birding.

The leader, arriving early, got to see two Cooper's hawks flushing a group of band-tailed pigeons near the Nature Center. As we all worked through the lower trails, distant studies were made of a black-headed grosbeak and a female Western tanager. About six Western meadowlarks passing overhead were only the second recorded in the Park in the memory of the leader, and one male hairy woodpecker working a dead Century plant stalk was an uncommon fall visitor. Four other woodpeckers, acorn, downy, Nuttall's and Northern flicker made for nice variety.

A flight of cedar waxwings, a blue-gray gnatcatcher, one yellow-rumped warbler, several orange-crowned warblers and a number of white-crowned sparrows signaled Fall arrival time. An adult nutmeg mannikin, along the road halfway up the canyon was unusual, the few other sightings of this Asian import being around the more irrigated gardens at the Nature Center.

The leaders tally was 35 species. We finished up for the last hour in the Nature Center classroom pouring over bird study skins to look closer at sizes, shapes, sexes and plumages, using these valuable specimens, some of which were prepared 40 years ago!

Mickey Long

Antelope Valley. Northside of the San Gabriel Mountains

November 22, 2003



Lewis' Woodpecker



Stellar's Jay



So, where did that sapsucker go?



Red-naped Sapsucker

Photo Report by Ron Cyger

FYI (continued)

- **Starr Ranch Bird Observatory Workshops** March through May. Learn about their fledgling bird observatory through a series of four programs to be presented by Gail Hall, Biologist – Educator for Bird Programs at the Ranch March 4 and 6 and May 15 and 27. Free to chapter members and you can sign up for any or all days of the series. Reservations (949) 858-3537).
- **PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things About Your Personal Computer** is a new book written by PAS member Steve Bass and published by O'Reilly Publishing Co. Check it out at [HTTP://SNURL.COM/ANNOYANCES](http://SNURL.COM/ANNOYANCES).
- **Photographer Speaks** Our own Don Rogers has been invited to speak at the LA Public Library's Photographer's Eye series on Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at 12:15-1:15 pm. It will be held in Meeting Room A of the Central

Library, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles. Bring a sack lunch. Parking available but public transportation is a better option.

Jon's Pick March & April

Note: In future issues, Jon Feenstra will be recommending other local places to bird.

Personally, it's all about migration. I like to watch streams of birds doing what they do best - fly. In March thousands of loons and scoters will be heading north along the coast. Shearwaters, jaegers, and alcids are all migrating as well.

That said, Jon's Pick for March and April is Leo Carillo State Beach in Malibu. This is a quiet, pleasant location where you can have prime sea birding without even getting on a boat. Gray Whales, Common and Bottlenose Dolphins, and California Sea Lions are likely from this location as well. Go check it out.

Jon

Field Trips

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, January 3, 2004

8:00 am – noon

This is a monthly bird walk for birders of all ages and experience. A good variety of resident and wintering species should be in residence.

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

Ron Cyger RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred)
(626) 449-3625 (before 9:00 p.m.)

Santa Fe Dam

January 10, 2004

8:00 am – noon

This trip will highlight the avian diversity of the basin at Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area in Irwindale. The lake collects many wintering herons, ducks, grebes, and gulls. The region surrounding the lake with trees and scrub can be very good for chaparral birds, wintering passerines, and the occasional visitor from high elevations. Meet at 8:00 am in the first parking lot encountered when entering the park. Admission is \$6.

Jon Feenstra FEENSTRA@CALTECH.EDU
626-792-4346 (H)

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, January 18, 2004

8:00 am – noon

Pasadena Audubon and Eaton Canyon Nature Center are cosponsoring monthly walks at Eaton Canyon. The walks are led by Hill Penfold who has been leading them at ECNC for many years. Hill is wonderful with birders of all levels and Eaton Canyon is one of the best locations to learn the birds of the Pasadena area.

The walks are held on the third Sunday of each month. Meet at the flagpole: bring water, binoculars, hats, *but no dogs*.

Hill Penfold (818) 352-4954
HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM

Salton Sea

Saturday/Sunday, January 24/25 2004

The Salton Sea has been a traditional way for PAS members to begin their year list for many years now. Species lists for the weekend regularly run into the 100's at one of the premier birding spots on the continent. We will bird all day Saturday and half a day on Sunday, heading home after lunch.

Ten rooms are reserved at the Brawley Inn, in beautiful downtown

Brawley, CA at \$65/night for January 23 and 24 (Friday and Saturday nights) under Pasadena Audubon Society. Rooms include a continental breakfast in the morning and will be held until January 13th.

To reach the Brawley Inn, take Interstate 10 East, through Indio and past the Monroe and Auto Center Drive exits, and then take State Route 86 South into Brawley. The Brawley inn is on the North/left side of 86 when heading South. Look for the heron on the sign. Bring water and lunch for both days (though we will never be far from civilization). Also bring an FRS radio for communication between cars.

We will meet in the Brawley Inn parking lot at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday. This trip will be a great way to start your 2004 year list!

Ron Cyger RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred)
626-449-3625 (before 9:00 pm)

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, February 7, 2004

8:00 am – noon

See January 3, 2004 for details.

Malibu Area

Sunday, February 8, 2004

7:30 am – noon

Just about every family of bird will be possible on this trip. We will begin by scoping for seabirds from the bluffs at Leo Carrillo State Beach and work our way east through the interior to Malibu Creek State Park and finally end up at Malibu Lagoon.

Meet at 7:30 am in the beach parking lot at Leo Carrillo State Park – and bring a scope, if possible. Admission is \$5.

Jon Feenstra
FEENSTRA@CALTECH.EDU
626-792-4346 (H)

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, February 15, 2004

8:00 am – noon

See January 18, 2004 for details.

Ballona Freshwater Wetlands

February 21, 2004

7:30 am – noon

These wetlands have recently opened to the public and area already tallying up quite a bird list. Walking is easy and scopes will help. From the 90 West off the 405, take Culver Blvd. South (left). At Jefferson, make the hairpin left turn and park on the right side of the road at the beginning of the wetlands before you reach Lincoln Blvd. Time and enthusiasm permitting, we will bird the Ballona Marsh as well.

Ron Cyger
RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred)
626/449-3625

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, March 6, 2004

8:00 am – noon

See January 3, 2004 for details.

Piute Ponds/Antelope Valley

March 13, 2004

7:30 am – noon

Our target bird on this trip will be LeConte's Thrasher, which lives in the open brushland near Palmdale. After searching for this bird we will continue north to the Piute Ponds, an always exciting birding adventure. We should see the thousands of waterfowl and waders that use the ponds for wintering and staging.

Note: The Piute Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base which has restricted entry. Please notify me via email if you would like to attend. The meeting place and time will be arranged.

Jon Feenstra FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU
(626) 792-4346

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, March 21, 2004

8:00 am – noon

See January 18, 2004 for details.

Lower Arroyo Seco

March 27, 2004

7:30 am – noon

The lower Arroyo is a gem in the heart of Pasadena and we hope to see lots of early migrants on this trip.

Meet in the Lower Arroyo parking lot by the casting pond off Arroyo Boulevard. Enter the driveway off Arroyo Boulevard at Norwood (north of California Street).

Ron Cyger RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred)
(626) 449-3625

Magpie Bird Study Group



The group meets the third Tuesday of each month. We bird 9:00 am to about 11:30 am, eat sack lunches and have a short business meeting. *All PAS members welcome.*

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

**San Dimas Nature Center
San Dimas Park**

Meet at the Nature Center.

Tuesday, February 17, 2004

Lower Arroyo Seco

Meet in parking lot near casting ponds.

Sid Heyman (626) 571-5991
Madeline West (626) 574-0429

Calendar

*Submit material for the next Wrentit by **February 2nd***

January 2004

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader *
3	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
8	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church 585 E. Colorado (at Madison)	
10	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Santa Fe Dam	John Feenstra
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	San Dimas Nature Center San Dimas Park	Sid Heyman Madeline West
21	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Bats
24/25	S/S	All day	Field Trip	Salton Sea	Ron Cyger

February 2004

2	Mon	6:00 pm	Wrentit Deadline	Email material to LBMAC2@EARTHLINK.NET	Bev McKenzie (626) 355-9842
7	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
8	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Malibu Area	John Feenstra
12	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church 585 E. Colorado (at Madison)	
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Lower Arroyo Seco	Sid Heyman Madeline West
18	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Baja Adventures
21	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Ballona Freshwater Wetlands	Ron Cyger

March 2004

6	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
11	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church 585 E. Colorado (at Madison)	
13	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Piute Ponds	John Feenstra
16	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Hansen Dam	Sid Heyman Madeline West
17	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Monterey Bay
21	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Lower Arroyo	Ron Cyger

April 2004

3	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
8	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church 585 E. Colorado (at Madison)	
17	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Claremont & Vicinity	Josh Engel
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Group	TBA	Sid Heyman Madeline West
21	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: TBA

***Trip Leader Information**

John Feenstra (Chair)	(626) 792-4346	FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625	RON@CYGER.ORG (preferred)
Josh Engel	(909) 990-9203	JENGEL5230@YAHOO.COM
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	
Hill Penfold	(626) 352-4954	HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	MADEBILL@EARTHLINK.NET

**Great Backyard Bird Count
February 13-16, 2004**

Bird your backyard and report
the number of species to:

[HTTP://BIRDSOURCE.TC.CORNELL.EDU.GBBC/](http://birdsourc.tc.cornell.edu.gbbsc/)

**Centennial Notes:
Rediscovering Our History**

[Note: While researching PAS's history, I was sent a copy of the November 1954 issue of National Geographic Magazine.]

In an article entitled, "Saving Man's Wildlife Heritage." John H. Baker, President of NAS writes the following about the founding of the national organization.

"Though we long ago learned that, in the long run, we could not successfully protect birds without also protecting their habitats, some people still identify the National Audubon Society solely with bird protection.

"Yet even the society's original name, which was agreed upon at the time when the member's concern was primarily with birds, included other wildlife as well. When the national society incorporated in January, 1905, it was called the

National Association of Wild Birds and Animals, Inc. We changed it in 1940 to National Audubon Society.

"People whose interest in conservation dates from little more than a quarter of a century ago can scarcely grasp the enormous changes that have taken place since 1886, when the very first Audubon Society was formed. This was a local group started by George Bird Grinnell, of New York City, the editor of Forest and Stream. A former pupil of Lucy Bakewell Audubon, he suggested the group call itself the Audubon Society in honor of his teacher's husband. The famous artist-naturalist, in a period of great abundance of wildlife, had foreseen the coming need of its conservation.

"Though the original society lasted but three years, it planted a seed. It soon was followed by other local societies, and finally by the national organization whose annual meeting in November, 1954, will

celebrate its forthcoming 50th anniversary.

The article goes on, "The principle obstacles to conservation, we have found, lie in certain qualities of human nature, exemplified by such expressions as 'What do I get out of this?' and 'Let me get mine while the going's good!' We are not so naive as to think human nature can be changed. But we do earnestly believe that through education voting citizens realize more and more that intelligent treatment and wise use of wildlife, plants, soil, and water are in their own best interests."

*from The National Geographic Magazine
Page 581-619*

Donald G. Rogers

Become A Chapter Member of Pasadena Audubon Society

As a reader of the Wrentit newsletter you are:

- a member of the National Audubon Society (NAS), affiliated with the Pasadena Audubon Society (PAS),
- a chapter member of Pasadena Audubon Society, or
- a subscriber to the Wrentit.

Recent policy changes by the National Audubon Society have severely reduced and will soon eliminate the share

of NAS membership dues returned to local chapters. These funds are needed to provide the program and services of PAS. The chapters have been encouraged to offer Chapter Only memberships.

The PAS Board, like many other Audubon chapters, has voted to offer Chapter Only memberships. The Basic level of dues to PAS is only \$20, all of which remains with Pasadena Audubon Society. Donations over \$20 are always welcome, and they are also tax-deductible.

Pasadena Audubon Society needs your commitment to survive and continue to offer field trips, nature programs, educational opportunities, and conserva-

tion action for our community. We cannot do it without you.

Please look at the application below. For a renewal of \$35 or more, you are entitled to a Pasadena Audubon Society tee shirt and pin. You can pick them up at any of our general meetings!

Pasadena Audubon Society is a 501 (c) (3) corporation, which entitles you to deduct your contributions on your federal and state tax returns.

Ron Cyger

Donations

As of 11/19/03, PAS had received \$835 in donations. We want to thank the following PAS donors for their generous support of this year's funds appeal.

- Ruth Bailey
- Eileen Burton
- Wilbur & Pamela Dong
- Sarah Fuller
- Esther & Dave Harpster
- Muriel Horacek
- Ninarose Mayer
- Bob & Betsy Neuwirth
- Lyelle Pearing
- Elena Seto
- Susan Shum
- Lora Smith
- Richard Winslow
- Margaret Yonekura

Remember, it's not too late to send in your contribution.

Membership Application

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Donor's address for gift membership:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Yearly Membership for Individual or Family

PAS Chapter Only \$20 \$35* Other _____

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Kid's Corner

Birding at Mono Lake (Part II)

Note: In our last issue, John was telling us about his first trip to Mono Lake. We left his story just after he had identified his third life bird of the day, a Wilson's Phalarope.

Then I began to notice that some of the non-breeding Eared Grebes were a little bit bigger than the others and had white cheek patches instead of gray. This indicated that there were Horned Grebes out there. I told everyone about the Horned Grebes I saw, which was another lifebird. Dave then asked me how many lifebirds I had. When I told him I had 269 on my lifelist, he asked me if I had Pinyon Jay. "No," I said. "Oh," said Dave "we often get those flying around here." He paused, then he pointed behind himself and without even looking he said "In fact there they go right now." I looked in astonishment at my fifth lifebird for that day. All I could see were tiny little dots. If Dave wasn't there we wouldn't have noticed them. Dave also pointed out their call. It wasn't loud and scratchy like a Scrub-Jay's but calm and whistling.

After birding from the lookout for several more minutes, we told Dave that we were going to the South Tufa. He mentioned that some unusual birds we might find there included Sage Thrashers and Brewer's Sparrows. When we got to the South Tufa, we saw Sage Thrashers everywhere, just as Dave said we would. These abundant birds were lifebirds for me. Also abundant were California Gulls. It was hilarious to watch them gulp into mounds of brine flies. Some people may think that the brine flies are disgusting, but actually they're nice flies. They have no interest in people. They won't bite or land on you. In fact, they won't brush against you even if you stand amongst them.

It wasn't long before we noticed Savannah Sparrows feeding on the brine flies. We searched through them for any rarities. Eventually we found several Vesper Sparrows amongst them! These were the seventh lifebirds I found that day. Just then, my mom said "Hey John, there's a Sage Sparrow over here!" I ran over to see my eighth and final lifebird at Mono Lake, perched high on a bush. We also saw a pair of Brewer's Sparrows (they seemed to follow us wherever we went). This time, fortunately, everyone got to see them.

We birded a little longer, mostly finding Sage Thrashers, Vesper, Sage, Brewer's, and Savannah Sparrows, Brewer's Blackbirds, California Gulls, Wilson's Phalaropes, and a Say's Phoebe that Dave had told us nested in the area. We also got a much better view of a Horned Grebe.

We got back in the car for the long drive home, and after a few minutes of driving, a flock of about 20 dusty blue-gray medium-sized birds flew right in front of our car. "Hey, what are those?" asked Dad. "Oh those are just some starlings," said Mom. But then Mom and I said at the same time, "Oh wait, no, those were Pinyon Jays!" I was glad to get a better view of these birds, as I didn't get a very good view before. As we drove home I thought about the amazing times Mono Lake had been through and the eight lifebirds we found.

John Garrett

New Members

PAS is pleased to welcome the following new western SGV members. We hope you will get involved in our many activities.

Alhambra: Claire Ricci, Stephen King Family, Caroline Lugo, Camille Rutkowski, Marietta Schug; **Atadena:** Laurie Barre, Sarah Livingstone, Jim & Sandra Miller; **Azusa:** Theresa J. Trent; **Arcadia:** Donald

Hoagland, Maren Kopp, Ward & H. Olson, Mary Roudebush, Dorothy Tyson; **LaCañada:** Edward P. Kyburz, Stephanie Thornton, Noah Tucker; **Los Angeles:** Gloria Jean Valerio; **Monrovia:** Sue Wheeler Ayers, S. Harvey, Rene Lehman, Virginia T. Pappalardo, Dennis Radersma, the Wulfensmiths; **Pasadena:** Mary Baert, Ed Butterworth Jr., Mr. Christensen, Jon Feenstra, Joan Fingon, Gautam Ganguly, Ethel Hayes, Steve Hymon, Robert Kaufman, Mary

McDaniel, K. Sankar Narayan, Bob & Betsy Neuwirth, Stacie Quintanilla, Trudy L. Ralph, Zoe Ann Williams; **Rosemead:** David Sun; **San Gabriel:** Mary Longo, Mr. & Mrs. Nakleh Tawil, Jennifer Yee, Sunny Yeh; **San Marino:** Gillula, Susan Josenhans, Guy K. Man; **Sierra Madre:** Harold & Stephanie Chias, Maria Metzger; **South Pasadena:** Leslie Brill, John Brosio, Betty Foster, Mary Harker, Henry Lester, John Newuman & Karen Urban; **Temple City:** Eleanor Kemble.

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

Editor	Beverly McKenzie	(626) 355-9842
Desktop Publishing	Donald G. Rogers	(626) 286-2546
Printing	Pasadena Print Stop	(626) 577-0510
<i>Wrennit</i> Mailing	Alex Strong	(626) 799-3364

Pasadena Audubon Society Chapter only—\$20. National Audubon Society membership fees—\$35; one-year introductory—\$20, two-year introductory—\$30; Seniors (62+) & Students—\$15; National members receive *Audubon* magazine and *The Wrennit*. Messages or queries for Pasadena Audubon may be left at (626) 355-9412. For change of NAS address call: (800) 274-4201.

Pasadena Audubon Society

1750 N. Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107

DATED MATERIAL

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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No. 1880
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50% recycled paper