



Drawing by  
Guy Coheleach

# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 52 – No. 2

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

March-April 2004

## 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.

General Meetings held at:

**Eaton Canyon Nature Center**  
1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena  
7:00 pm Social  
7:30 pm Program

## President's Perch

How many SOBs are out there? Many of us have a Spouse of a Birder (what did you think SOB stood for?) that supports our addiction. Loved ones who plan birding trips, who tramp through bogs, and who just come along, even if it is sitting in the car. My SOB is especially supportive, and even comes along on some field trips. She is a trooper and even spotted our life Trogan. She doesn't have the same drive for birding as I do and even fell asleep in the car as a Golden Eagle flew by. But, boy, do we love our SOBs!

## April Program

### **PAS – The First 100 Years** April 21, 2004 Don Rogers

With PAS's Centennial falling on March 25, 2004, it is nice to take a moment and recall some interesting bits of information on the first 100 years. Don will share the things he has uncovered, to date, about our founding, the early days of California's first Audubon Chapter, and some of the individuals who were involved.

Over a year ago, a small group of members set out to rediscover PAS's roots by researching the archives of the Pasadena Museum of History, Pasadena Library, Pasadena Star-News, Los Angeles Times, Natural History Museum, Huntington Library, Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society, *The Wrenit* archive, Los Angeles and San Fernando Audubon Societies, California Audubon, Cooper's Ornithological Union, and member's personal records. The researchers are Tracey Alsobrook, Jane Strong, and Karen and Don Rogers.



This is going to be a very busy Centennial Year! We have some wonderful programs lined up for this season. Our April meeting will focus on some of the history of PAS. We're also planning a Centennial Dinner on June 19 in conjunction with the Silent Auction. Finally, keep track of your Centennial year birds. We'll be compiling a total for PAS members for Los Angeles County, California, and the world.

## May Program

### **Why Birders Should Care About Subspecies** Kimball Garrett May 19, 2004

Geographical variation within species has long fascinated both birders and evolutionary biologists. This talk takes the view that birders should view subspecies as more than just "potential splits". We'll explore how migratory patterns can differ among subspecies of a single species and discuss the identification of subspecies in the field (and the appropriate cautions of carrying subspecies identification too far). The talk will emphasize examples relevant to the Los Angeles County region.

Kimball Garrett has been the Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County since 1982. He is the past president of the Western Field Ornithologists and a long-time member of the California Bird Records Committee. He has authored many works on bird identification and distribution, including (with Jon Dunn) "Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution" and the "Peterson Field Guide to Warblers of North America".

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## Conservation

### Houses vs. Habitat: The Future of Pasadena's Annandale Canyon

*(The following excerpts are from an article by Roger Wolf, Chairman of Safety and Open Space First, Pasadena, recently published in the Arroyo View, the newsletter of the Pasadena Group, Sierra Club)*

Annandale Canyon on the western edge of Pasadena is one of the last unspoiled open spaces in the city, home to oaks and sycamores and roamed by hawks, owls, deer, bobcats and coyotes. It lies in the verdant heart of the San Rafael Hills wildlife corridor shared by Pasadena, Glendale and Eagle Rock, the last sizable open space readily accessible from Eagle Rock by walking.

The U.S. Geological Survey blue line stream that originates in this canyon, along with an adjoining blue line stream in the canyon immediately adjacent to it in Glendale, form the headwaters of a riparian system that feeds a pond at the south end of the canyon and ultimately into the Los Angeles River.

Much of this natural beauty could soon be gone. A proposed housing development (Annandale Canyon Estates) would drastically change the scene. Steep hillsides would be graded and terraced for homes and a road would be built across the canyon's headwaters. Part of the streambed would be paved over and the stream diverted into a culvert. All but 5 acres of the site would be graded, and only 2 acres of oak and sycamore would be left as open space among the half-acre building parcels.

The threatened environmental damage has worried many in the community, and scores of people have visited the site. A Sierra Club tour of the canyon on January 10 attracted more than 60 people.

The three major impacts of this project are:

**ENVIRONMENT.** The project would remove a large and vital piece of San Rafael Hills wildlife habitat causing irreparable environmental impacts that extend well beyond the proposed development site.

**TRAFFIC AND ACCESS.** The site can be reached only by narrow, winding streets without sidewalks. Adding the traffic of construction workers, more homeowners, delivery and service vehicles would increase congestion and pose serious hazards.

**FIRE SAFETY.** There is now only one route to the site – narrow, winding and partially unpaved Wierfield Drive. A

fire blocking that route would prevent escape by residents and entry by fire trucks. The developer plans to provide another route. This road would provide better access, but would do nothing to reduce the peril of a single connecting road to residents of the proposed development.

Launched in 2002, the project proposal is working its way through City agencies. The canyon's natural environment can be saved through a concerted effort by neighbors and preservationists. Submit letters expressing your concerns to the City Planning Commission and City Council.

To ultimately succeed, a means must be found to compensate the property owners and to acquire the land for public ownership. Your help is needed. Annandale Canyon deserves to be kept a natural area that the people of Pasadena can treasure and enjoy.

#### How to Take Action

To view the draft environmental impact report, go to: [HTTP://WWW.CI.PASADENA.CA.US/PLANNING/DEPTORG/COMMPLNG/ANNANDALE/ANNANDALE.ASP](http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/planning/deptorg/commplng/annandale/annandale.asp).

Letters to the Mayor and City Council members may be sent to: 100 N. Garfield Ave., Pasadena, CA 91109.

Letters to the Planning Commission may be sent to: Hale Bldg., 175 N. Garfield Ave., Pasadena, CA 91109.

For more information or to join Safety and Open Space First, Pasadena, contact Roger Wolf at: [WOLFRW@EARTHLINK.NET](mailto:WOLFRW@EARTHLINK.NET).

To join Annandale Canyon Estates information and discussion group go to: [HTTP://ANNANDALE.HOPTO.ORG](http://annandale.hopto.org).

#### Other Issues

National Audubon continues to be concerned about the following national environmental issues:

#### Migratory Bird Protection

Want to help make sure that many of those beautiful songbirds that visit your backyard do so each and every year? Well, one way you can is to encourage your Members of Congress to fully fund – and reauthorize – the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund – our nation's only law that focuses on conserving critical habitat of songbirds. Approximately 5 billion birds of 500 species – including many endangered bird species – migrate to North America from their wintering grounds in Latin America and the Caribbean. For many years, neotropical migratory bird populations have been dwindling due to the destruction of their wintering habitats. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund actually does something about that – providing opportunities to enhance these

habitats to help ensure these birds make it back to our backyards each Spring. Next year is the last official year for the program, so we'll need your help not only to see that Congress fully funds the program for FY05, but that they reauthorize it for another 5-10 years at the highest funding levels possible.

#### The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

A mere two votes protected the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling in 2003. You can bet the pro-drillers are determined to try again this year to get a different outcome! In fact, they are already hard at work trying to once again tie Arctic drilling to the budget process for Fiscal Year 2005. As you know, the Arctic Refuge, including its coastal plain, is the only fully intact wilderness ecosystem in America with the full complement of Arctic birdlife. Millions of birds nest, migrate through, or spend the winter in the Refuge. Their migrations take them to each of the 50 states, and they cross great oceans and follow distant coastlines to reach the lands and water of six continents. The Refuge is truly a natural treasure! The threat to this special place is very real in 2004. We'll need your help to keep the refuge pristine and out of the hands of the special interests!

#### National Wildlife Refuges

The closest thing our nation has to bird heaven is our National Wildlife Refuge System. Over 530 national wildlife refuges that span across 50 states, host more than 700 bird species, and are the primary habitat for about 250 threatened and endangered species. These refuges are critical for protecting the majority of our country's threatened and endangered bird and wildlife populations. But in spite of their important role, they find themselves in dire need of care: many are battling incompatible activities on and near refuge lands, inadequate water supplies, and insufficient budgets for operations, maintenance and new land acquisition. Audubon will look to Congress to increase funding for these precious bird and wildlife havens this year – perhaps a more difficult task than it has been in the past, as Congressional insiders report that this program's budget may be on the cutting table! We'll need your help to make sure that doesn't happen.

*Audubon Advisory*

#### PAS on the WEB

##### Website

[HTTP://WWW.PASADENA AUDUBON.ORG](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)

##### ListServe

[HTTP://GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/PASADENA AUDUBON/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PASADENA AUDUBON/)

*Pasadena Audubon Society*  
**BIRDATHON 2004**

Pasadena Audubon Society has two fundraising drives a year, the *BIRDATHON* in Spring and the Appeal in the Winter. The appeal is directed towards you as members of PAS, but *BIRDATHON* is geared towards others. *BIRDATHON* gives every member a chance to help non-birders become aware of birds and habitat. When they read about *BIRDATHON* in the paper or see it on the news, they can say "I supported." So, please, participate! Collect pledges (lots of small amounts work just as well as a few large pledges – that's our top money-producer John Garrett's strategy) and allow everyone to help PAS. Start getting your pledges now and after the *BIRDATHON*, give each of your sponsors a list of your total species. They'll love it and love the fact that they contributed to *BIRDATHON*'s success!

Turn in the form with pledge money you collect, along with your species list

**BY JUNE 1, 2004 to:**

Pasadena Audubon Society **BIRDATHON 2004**

c/o Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107

\*\*\*Prizes will be awarded at the Centennial Dinner in June\*\*\*

Name: _____	Species _____
Street Address: _____	Count: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone, Day: _____ Night: _____	Total \$ _____
Chapter: _____ <b>Pasadena Audubon Society</b>	

Please print clearly – Make checks payable to: PASADENA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Sponsor's Name	Address	Phone Number	Pledge Per Species	Gift	Corporate Match?	Paid
<b>TOTALS</b>						

**Support Environmental Education**

As Audubon members, we recognize that teaching children about the environment is critical to the future quality of life in our communities. Now PAS is proud to play a part toward this important goal. With the help of Dr. Jennifer Yure, head of K-12 science curriculum of the PUSD, our chapter has arranged for Audubon Adventure educational kits to be distributed to a group of 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers throughout the district. These kits, developed by the National Audubon Society, provide reading materials and lesson plans to teachers to help students understand and respect the natural world around them. This is a wonderful program and a significant way for PAS to help our community and raise awareness of our organization.

However, this year we were only able to afford kits for a small group of teachers and schools. We hope you will support our efforts to expand this program. You can adopt a classroom by making a tax-deductible contribution of \$41.50 for the purchase of a kit that will supply one classroom for one school year or you can make a smaller donation. If you can help, send your check to: Pasadena Audubon Society, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107.

*Norm Arnheim*

**Cobb Estate Project**

Work on the Cobb Estate Interpretive Sign Project is progressing. We are working with the Pasadena Sign Studios to create six interpretive nature signs at the Cobb Estate, the Forest Service land at the top of Lake Avenue.

Pasadena Audubon was instrumental in purchasing the land back in the 1970s, saving it from development. We are also working with Mark Acuña of the Tongva tribe to ensure that the signs are inclusive and historically accurate. Now we are ready to work on the design of the signs. If any of you are passionate about graphic design and would like to help design these signs, please contact Laura Garrett at PURPLECOW@JPS.net

*Laura Garrett*

**Centennial Tee Shirts and Sweatshirts Now Available**



Photo by Ron Cyger

PAS Centennial tee shirts and sweatshirts are now available at \$15 and \$25 respectively.

Both are made of a light green cotton material with our centennial logo in brown.

They will sell fast and are available at general monthly meetings and some field trips.

## 2003, The Big Year

In 2003, I decided to do a *Big Year*. A *Big Year* entails recording as many species of birds as possible in a restricted geographic area. It all started while birding with friends on the Long Branch Christmas Count in New Jersey. I was bragging about the huge number of bird species that have been recorded in single California counties. The usual back and forth trash-talking and stories of birding feats ensued. One of my friends and I decided to take the next step and settle this with a bet. One year in Los Angeles County against one year in three north-eastern states (Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York). The prize was simply bragging rites to be paid in full in one year.

Once back in Los Angeles County, it began fast. I had over 200 species in by the end of February (far ahead of my east coast friend). Spring migration was off to a slow start but came through with a bunch of great stuff in late May and early June. In May, my east coast opponent threw in the towel and moved to Arizona. Although I could no longer humiliate him as I intended, I figured that since I had come so far already and put so much time and mileage into this, I should probably finish it up and see what happens. I'd be able to brag anyway and that would make it worth it. Number 300 was an adult Baird's Sandpiper at the Piute Ponds on July 26<sup>th</sup>. It was then that I realized it would be possible to break the LA County Big Year record – 344 birds, set in 1993 by Kevin Larson. Kevin and I had talked many times over the course of the year about what it would take to see that many species. He emphasized the mental and physical hardships, but was also very

helpful and told me about locations and strategies for locating some of LA County's more difficult birds.

With 300 species I had to get 45 more to break his record, and that was going to be no easy task. There were a few holes that needed filling with regular birds but I was quickly reaching the point where every bird I needed was a rarity. I picked up two more birds in July after the Baird's Sandpiper and 6 more in August. September kicked off vagrant season with a few more things and I cleaned up on an awesome deepwater pelagic. The total was 320 at the end of the month. October saw an unprecedented invasion of Red-throated Pipits as well as the arrival of some expected vagrants – 8 more birds. Only two months left and I was still missing a few things that I knew would show up; I called the Bird Box on an hourly basis. Expected vagrants were running out, and how much unexpected stuff could I depend on? November was good though, both expected (like Red-naped Sapsucker) and unexpected birds (like American Tree Sparrow) dropped in and put me at 341 by the end of the month. I had most of December ahead of me and 4 more birds to see if I was to pass Kevin's record. A White-winged Scoter showed up in the scoter flock at Dockweiler State Beach (#342). A totally unexpected Broad-tailed Hummingbird was found in Claremont (#343). The sod farms in Palmdale produced three McCown's Longspurs for me (#344). A Winter Wren in Malibu Canyon was #345. I had broken the record with a few more days to go. I birded intensely all weekend in the Antelope Valley hoping for something: a Tundra Swan, a Short-eared Owl, maybe a Rough-legged Hawk, or perhaps the Sage Thrasher I missed last winter, but

got nothing new. I had only one day left in LA before I was supposed to visit friends and relatives in New Jersey and I COULD get one more bird. I called all my LA birding contacts hoping that somebody had found something for me. Nothing. Then I called Kevin. He told me that he had found a Prairie Warbler at the Gardena Willows that morning on the Palos Verdes Christmas Count – jackpot! I was there at dawn the next day. A huge (unclimbable) fence surrounded the park, but Kevin said the bird was visible from outside. I stood on the street for a few minutes and had some Yellow-rumps but no Prairie. A guy carrying a shovel walked by me; he was inside the fence. He told me that he was with a work crew doing some restoration in the park and, importantly, he didn't mind if I walked around in there as long as I didn't get in the way. No problem. I found the Prairie Warbler in a willow tree in about 5 minutes and I watched it for another 45 to make sure it all sank in. It was over. 346. After one year of birding in LA County I had recorded 346 bird species including 26 species of warbler and 9 species of owl, put 12,000 miles on my car, been to the Piute Ponds 35 times, and had 3 encounters with law enforcement. I missed about a dozen birds that I could have easily seen had I been able to get out of being a graduate student at the right times. Most significantly, I learned a great deal about the status and distribution of birds in Los Angeles County. The huge number of birds using LA County is a statement of the diverse habitats that comprise our area. Not many places can boast ocean, lowlands, foothills, mountains, and deserts teeming with birds and all within a hundred miles. It was fun, but never again!

*Jon Feenstra*

## Field Trip Reports

### Salton Sea

January 24 & 25, 2004

The morning was overcast while thirty-one of us gathered at 6:30 Saturday morning. The size of the group spelled disaster! Sweat was already forming on my brow. But I needn't have worried, everyone was terrific and the birding was great! On Saturday we hit seven different locations. The day started with a couple of American Redstarts and Marsh Wrens at the Wister Unit; progressed to a Vesper Sparrow, then to a Hooded Merganser and a flock of Mountain Plovers by Calipatria prison. We found two Common Goldeneyes at SBSSNWRHQ (Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters); had Inca, Common and Eurasian Collared Doves; thousands of Snow Geese and a couple of Rosses. We

completed the day watching Sandhill Cranes with groups from Los Angeles and San Diego Audubon, altogether about 60 people! Saturday night we tallied up 87 birds.

On Sunday, we started our search for an Anhinga (no luck), but got a great view of a Ferruginous Hawk. We hit the marshes with great views of Common Moorhens and Black-crowned Night Herons, then ended up at Cattle Call Park in Brawley with a Vermillion and a Grey Flycatcher. After lunch, a few of us went back to Brawley to get our cars when a Zone-tailed Hawk flew over! What a way to end a weekend. On the way home, a few of the group added a Black-bellied Plover and a Reddish Egret. We had a total of 105 species for the weekend. It was a great way to start our Centennial Year.

*Ron Cyger*

### Jon's Picks

With winter coming to a close and most migrating passerines still in Mexico, it's time to head for some water and get the last looks at ducks and gulls before they head north to the breeding grounds. It's a bit remote but two places that should receive more birding pressure than they do are Castaic and Pyramid Lakes north of the San Fernando Valley. Castaic Lagoon has hundreds, sometimes thousands, of roosting gulls in addition to the usual waterfowl, and can be good for Lawrence's Goldfinches in the winter as well. Pyramid Lake, just north on I-5 is also worth a stop. The outflow from the power plant is a great place for close views of a variety of waterfowl and has been known to host the occasional rarity. Both Castaic and Pyramid are easily accessed from I-5 and can be good morning spots before continuing on to the western Antelope Valley.

*Jon Feenstra*

## Field Trips

### Hahamongna Monthly Walk

**Saturday, March 6, 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 pm)

### Piute Ponds/Antelope Valley

**Saturday, 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**

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

### Lower Arroyo Seco

**Saturday, 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 (before 9:00 pm)

### Hahamongna Monthly Walk

**Saturday, April 3, 2004**

**8:00 am – noon**

*See March 6, 2004 for details.*

### Claremont & Vicinity

**Saturday, April 17, 2004**

**7:30 am – noon**

We will look for migrants at my local patches around Claremont, including Oak Park Cemetery, the Pomona College campus, and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens. These locations are often excellent for warblers, vireos, grosbeaks, tanagers, and other migrants. We will also check the Montclair ponds for lingering ducks.

Meet at Oak Park cemetery. From I-10, exit at Indian Hill Blvd. and take it north for 1 block. Turn right (east) on San Jose, then take a left on Sycamore to the cemetery entrance. Park along Sycamore.

Josh Engel  
JENGE5230@YAHOO.COM  
(909)990-9203

### Eaton Canyon

#### Monthly Walk

**Sunday, April 18, 2004**

**8:00 am – noon**

*See March 21, 2004 for details.*

### BIRDATHON 2004

**Saturday or Sunday, May 1 or 2, 2004**

*See page 3 for details.*

### Hahamongna Monthly Walk

**Saturday, May 1, 2004**

**8:00 am – noon**

*See March 6, 2004 for details.*

### Galileo Hills & California

#### City

**Saturday, May 8, 2004**

**8:00 am – 4-ish**

These two spots are well-known migrant magnets. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline. We will study Empidonax flycatchers in depth, and may have opportunity to see herps and dragonflies.

Take Hwy 14 about 4 miles past Mojave, then turn right on California City Blvd. Drive through town about a mile past the shops, turn left on Randsburg-Mojave Rd. just past the Golf Course, and veer right on 20 Mule Team Rd. Turn left at the Galileo Hills sign before the hill, take your first paved right, your first right again, into the Silver Saddle Country Club, followed by two paved lefts into the lot. Park by the pond. About 2 hrs driving time from LA. Bring lunch, sun block. Sign up with Nick by e-

mail or phone message.

Nick Freeman (818) 247-6172 'til 11:00 pm  
MNFREEMAN@EARTHLINK.NET

(Nick will also be leading a trip for LAAS on Sunday, May 9 to Butterbrecht Springs & Galileo Hills. Phone LAAS to sign up (323) 876-0202.)

### Eaton Canyon

#### Monthly Walk

**Sunday, May 16, 2004**

**8:00 am – noon**

*See March 21, 2004 for details.*

### Debs Park

**Saturday, May 22, 2004**

**7:30 am – 11:30 am**

This is a new walk at an old place. This walk will begin and end at the new Audubon Center at Debs Park. Take the Pasadena Freeway (110) South and exit at Avenue 52. Make a left on Avenue 52 which curves to the right and becomes Griffin. Within a few hundred feet park on Griffin at the driveway leading to the Audubon Center. There is a soccer field across the street and we will gather on Griffin.

We should see much of the avifauna associated with Oak and Scrub habitat and this is always a good place for raptors. After the walk you will have time to browse through the first Audubon Center in California.

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

### 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, March 16, 2004**  
**Hansen Dam**

From the 210 Freeway, take the Osborne Street exit, turn left onto Foothill, then left onto Osborne. Go to the light at Dronfield and turn left into the park. Once in the park, go to the end of the first block, jog right and then left into the lower parking lot. We will meet there.

**Tuesday, April 20, 2004**  
**Rancho Santa Ana**  
Off Foothill Blvd. in Claremont. Meet in parking lot.

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

Calendar
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*Submit material for the next Wrentit by April 2nd*

**March 2004**

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader *
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/Antelope Valley	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 Seco	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	Rancho Santa Ana	Sid Heyman Madeline West
21	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: PAS History

**May 2004**

1	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
8	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Galileo Hills & California City	Nick Freeman
13	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church 585 E. Colorado (at Madison)	
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Cobb Estate	Sid Heyman Madeline West
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Subspecies
22	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Debs Park	Ron Cyger

**June 2004**

5	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
10	Th	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church 585 E. Colorado (at Madison)	
12	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Santa Anita Canyon	Ron Cyger
19	Sat	6:00 pm	<b>Centennial Dinner/ Silent Auction</b>	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
26	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Red Box	Ron Cyger

**\*Trip Leader Information**

<b>John Feenstra (Chair)</b>	<b>(626) 792-4346</b>	<b>FEENSTRA@ITS.CALTECH.EDU</b>
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625	RON@CYGER.ORG ( <i>preferred</i> )
Josh Engel	(909) 990-9203	JENGEL5230@YAHOO.COM
Nick Freeman	(818) 247-6172	MNFREEMAN@EARTHLINK.NET
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	
Hill Penfold	(626) 352-4954	HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	MADEBILL@EARTHLINK.NET

<b>Mark Your Calendar</b>
<b>Centennial Banquet &amp; Silent Auction</b>
<b>Eaton Canyon Nature Center</b>
<b>June 19, 2004</b>
<b>Barbecue Dinner</b>
<b>Celebrity MC    Special Guests</b>

**Centennial Notes:**

**Rediscovering Our History**

[Note: While I was researching PAS's history, Don Chaput provided me with the following from his archive.]

*"Saving Birds Their Hobby – Audubon Society Has First Annual Meeting, Good Work Accomplished for Game Preservation, Interesting Report made by Secretary [W. Scott] Way" was published in the LA Times on May 17, 1907"*

Reports on the Audubon Society of California which Dr. David Starr Jordan of Stanford University is president holding its first annual meeting yesterday in the annex to Assembly Hall, Chamber

of Commerce building. It reports efforts to appoint a So Cal person to the State Fish & Game Commission. The article states, "It began as a Pasadena organization and expanded into a State society with about 330 adult members and about 700 members in local affiliated societies."

The article goes on to list legislative efforts to protect birds. Also it noted, "The most important gain in protective legislation is a hunting license law fixing an annual fee of \$1.00 for hunters who are citizens of the State, \$10 for citizens of the US who do not reside in this State, and \$25 for aliens. This law is

*in effect on and after July 1, and is confidently expected to be a wholesome and effective check on game and songbird destruction by Japanese, Italians and Greeks, many of who are accused of sparing nothing in feathers from nesting quail to mocking birds."* It goes on to discuss others efforts regarding hunting and fishing noting, "It is very pleasing to be able to report that the Audubon Society of California has had splendid support and cooperation from local Audubon societies, granges, farmers, clubs and other organizations that represent the best popular sentiment of the State."

Don Rogers

**New Members**

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

- ALHAMBRA:** Manuel Lattuca, The Morison Family, Chuesca Tartalone;
- ALTADENA:** Rita Dunne, Joan Franco, Nancy Hotaling, Patty Kein, Shubhashish Kundu, Henry Shatford, Helen Vaughan;
- ARCADIA:** Lisa Fields, David Roy Godden, George MacDougall, Robert Schultz, Tina Shih, Joel Streng;
- AZUSA:** Mr. & Mrs. Alton Barcelow, Marian Peter, Cecilia Rodriguez, Brian Smith;
- DUARTE:** Herb Lehman;
- LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Wesley Bartera, Loadvine Girls, Bob Peterson;
- LA CRESCENTA:** Al Kisner;
- LOS ANGELES:** Elizabeth Wenker;
- MONROVIA:** Quenten London, Debrah Pinson, Beverly Pray;
- MONTEREY PARK:**

- Rhoda Codner, Humberto Plascencia, Joyce Reyes, Walter Stover;
- PASADENA:** Lynn Cooper, Elizabeth Currier, Linda Endicott, Gloria Freeman, Scott Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jenkins, Jennifer Johnson, A. Lawson, Robert Reddingius, Laura Anne Rowell, Shelva Ruszin, Julie Sheer, Neal Turner & Grace Joung, Paul Weier;
- ROSEMEAD:** Melody Avila;
- SAN GABRIEL:** Charlotte Beebe, Charlotte Marsh, Anne Stang,

- May Yau;
- SAN MARINO:** Evelyn Caulfield, James Folsom, Norman Marshall, Edmundo Troncoso;
- SIERRA MADRE:** Johnny Nemat, Marguerite Shuster, Janice Sperry;
- SOUTH PASADENA:** Richard Jones, Kristine Olsen, Rosia Pan, The Singh Family, Ann Woo, Alice Woo;
- TEMPLE CITY:** John & Jane Cox, Sid Maddocks, Sandra Pattison;
- TUJUNGA:** Vickie Collier.

**Become A Chapter Member of Pasadena Audubon Society**

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. The chapters have been encouraged to offer Chapter Only memberships.

Please fill out 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 1/30/04, PAS has received a total of \$2,055 in donations to help us continue our programs in 2004. The following is a list of our friends who sent in checks in December and January.

- Anonymous
- Harlean Carroll
- Casner Family Foundation
- Betty Cole & Art Mack
- Tilda & Terry DeWolfe
- Earl France
- Laura Garrett
- David Hansen
- Rayma Harrison
- Don & Scarlett Hibner
- Larry Johnson
- Joy Lewis
- Beverly McKenzie
- Betty Peterson
- Don & Karen Rogers

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 \_\_\_\_\_

\* Plus Chapter Pin and Tee Shirt (not Centennial shirt)

[ ] \$15 Senior/Full-time Student

NAS Introductory C06 [ ] \$20

Make checks payable and mail to:

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

**Kid's Corner**  
**Some Beginner's Rules for Bird Photography**

I have only been taking photographs for about six months, and I have only had my own camera for the last five months. As a beginning photographer, I don't know much about taking pictures, but I do know a few things. So far I've learned eleven rules to follow, most of which I learned the hard way.

1. The first rule I have learned is to **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A GOOD CAMERA**. I first took pictures using my mom's one-touch camera. The pictures were okay, but when I compare them to the pictures I have since taken with my 35mm Canon EOS Rebel with a 75mm-300mm zoom lens (see below), I find that SLR pictures are much better.



2. Unless you want a picture of a blur, **START OUT TAKING PICTURES OF NON-SHY BIRDS**. I learned this by taking a picture of a Mourning Dove and then trying to take a picture of an Yellow-rumped Warbler. When I saw the results, the picture of a

Mourning Dove looked like a Mourning Dove, while the Yellow-rumped Warbler looked like a black and yellow blur.

3. If you don't want a picture of a speck, **BEFORE YOU CLICK MAKE SURE THE BIRD YOU ARE TRYING TO PHOTOGRAPH ISN'T TOO FAR AWAY**. I admit that when I have not followed this rule, all of those pictures were just specks, and if not specks, they were dots.
4. **MANUAL FOCUS IS BETTER THAN AUTOMATIC**. Almost every picture I have taken with automatic focus is fuzzy because it often focuses on the wrong thing.
5. If you don't want to spend half an hour looking for a little black circle, **DON'T LOSE THE LENS CAP**. One time I saw an American Crow that looked easy to photograph, so I followed it, leaving my lens cap on the curb. When I got close, the crow flew a little further away. I went closer again, and the crow flew further away. I went closer again, and the crow flew further away. This process repeated itself over and over again until I was all the way down the street. Once I was down there the crow flew far away, and I, assuming the lens cap was in my pocket, walked back home. Then I realized it wasn't, so I spent a long time looking for it.
6. **BE VERY PATIENT**. A digi-scooper from Vancouver named Ed Pellizon told me this rule when we went to Morro Bay to see the Nelson's Sharp-

tailed Sparrow. He's right! (You might remember one of my earlier articles that tells that tale and includes a picture taken by Ed.)

7. Unless you want to quiz people with pictures of bird silhouettes, **DON'T SHOOT INTO THE LIGHT**. Every photograph where I aimed into the light has not turned out. All of those pictures are a yellow-orange color (the color of a Flame-colored Tanager) with a little black blur in the middle. (see gull picture below).

*(to be continued)*



**Personal Ad**

**Wanted: m/f b** (birder) any age, who loves birding, bird education and/or the environment for meaningful relationship on the PAS board. contact Ron at [RON@CYGER.ORG](mailto:RON@CYGER.ORG) or before 9 p.m. (626) 449-3625. no picture req'd.

**Pasadena Audubon Society Board**

President	Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625
Vice President	Norm Arnheim	(626) 405-0844
Secretary	Jean O'Hagan	(626) 792-4406
Treasurer	Will Fulmer	(626) 798-1606

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 1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, CA, 91107

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 Eileen Burton, Madeline West

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Magpie Bird Study Group	Madeline West	(626) 574-0429
	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991

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

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