



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 54 – No. 4

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

September-October 2006

September Program

Shorebirds – ID Workshop Wednesday, September 20, 2006 Mickey Long and Jon Fisher

The image of shorebirds conjures up many thoughts and emotions for birders. They are beautiful and extremely varied. They are superb fliers and undertake long-distance migrations, thus vagrancy is common in this group. They range from some of the easiest birds to identify to some of the most difficult. Fortunately, most species aren't hard to master with a little effort. Mickey and Jon will highlight the species that regularly occur in our area, as well as the "expected" rarities. As usual, we'll cover aspects of natural history and distribution, as well as identification.

Wednesday's presentation will be followed by a field trip on Saturday, September 23 for some "hands on" in-field experience. Details for the field trip will be available at the meeting.

General Meetings held at:

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

President's Perch

This is a beginning of an exciting new year at Pasadena Audubon Society. Looking back at the past year, "it was a very good year". We put on a successful Birdfest in November. We received a large bequest in December to fund PAS and we obtained the three grants needed to fund the Cobb Estate Trail project.

Looking forward to this year, we plan to complete the Cobb Estate Trail project. We are planning a new birding event (Birding: Basics and Beyond – see

October Program

Hooked on Galapagos Birds Wednesday October 18, 2006 Tom Kaminski

Those of you who recall Tom Kaminski's "Hooked on Hummingbirds" presentation will be pleased to learn that he will join us again at our October meeting, when he will present his newest documentary: "Hooked on Galapagos Birds." Like its predecessor, it is both educational and entertaining. And it again uses slow motion, stop motion, extreme close-up videography and other techniques to help the viewer see very clearly some of the fascinating behaviors that they otherwise may miss. Among other things, viewers get to:

- Swim with Galapagos Penguins as they slice through their prey...
- See a Frigate bird literally drag a Blue-footed Booby through the air...
- Join a Lava Heron – unique to the Galapagos Islands – as it sneaks up on a Sally Lightfoot Crab...
- Observe Storm Petrels walking on water...
- Watch a Galapagos Hawk devour its prey, then sneeze...
- Be introduced to the Flightless Cormorant, "Darwin's Finches," and many, many other bird species.

Kaminski couldn't resist throwing in one of Ecuador's fabulously beautiful hummers during brief footage of places to visit in and around Quito, Ecuador's capitol city.

enclosed flyer).

Additionally, this year we will increase our focus on Conservation issues. I want to thank Laura Garrett for agreeing to be our Chair for Conservation.

And, a big welcome to *The Wrentit's* new editor, Mark Hunter!

November Program

Urban Tropicana: The Parrots of Southern California

November 15, 2006
Larry Allen

When you think of parrots, do you envision steaming tropical jungles? A pirate with a macaw on his shoulder? Well, how about Southern California suburbia? In fact, the Southland is home to more than a dozen naturalized species of parrots and parakeets. Larry will discuss origins of the local flocks, the biological factors that help them succeed here, and the identification of our locally breeding species. A handout will supplement the lecture. There will be a Parrot-viewing Field Trip on the Saturday following this presentation.

Larry Allen is Project Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas and a member of the California Parrot Project. He conducts annual gull workshops for the Los Angeles Audubon Society and the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. His research interests include gulls, psittacids, and desert birds.

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Will

Conservation

What's Happening at the Salton Sea...

As a legislative deadline approaches, the controversies over how best to reduce the size of the Salton Sea will undoubtedly intensify, making Audubon's involvement in protecting the ecosystem critical. Your voice is essential if we are to have any chance of being heard above the din of the economic interests. To add your voice to the Audubon choir, see "...Why It Matters" in the adjacent column.

The Quantification Settlement Agreement, (QSA), which was signed in September 2003, requires that the State Secretary of Resources determine a preferred alternative for the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the protection of wildlife dependent on that ecosystem, and submit it to the California State Legislature on or before December 31, 2006.

Audubon California has been participating on the Salton Sea Advisory Committee and in the Habitat Working Group, which the State put together to work on the restoration planning process. We continue to push for restoration of the entire ecosystem and not just at the Sea itself. We are also advocating heavily for those habitats that will be most difficult, if not impossible, to recreate, as well as for protection of wildlife during the construction and transition phases of whatever project is chosen.

Two of the most critical habitats to be preserved are the Imperial Valley farmland and riparian habitats, as they provide food and shelter for several dozen bird species, many of which are listed or sensitive species and highly dependent on Imperial Valley farmland for their survival. Protecting working landscapes requires a long-term commitment and presence on the ground. Audubon California has launched the Landowner Stewardship Program in Imperial Valley to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance to protect and enhance habitat on Imperial Valley farmland and to increase wildlife-friendly farming methods.

More Information on Salton Sea

- WWW.AUDUBON-CA.ORG/SALTON_SEA_MISSION.HTML
- WWW.PACINST.ORG/REPORTS/SALTONSEA
- WWW.SCI.SDSU.EDU/SALTON/SALTONBASINHOMEHTML
- WWW.SALTONSEA.CA.GOV
- WWW.SALTONSEA.WATER.CA.GOV
- WWW.SALTONSEA.WATER.CA.GOV/LINKS/

...And Why It Matters

What happens at the Salton Sea is as important to birds as was the first Audubon fight to keep them from being slaughtered in the name of fashion. Not only because of the sheer numbers of birds affected, (literally millions), but also because water is rapidly becoming so scarce for wildlife. It is imperative that we back up the fight we started at Mono Lake and continue ensuring that wildlife has a legal right to water and that providing water for wildlife is considered a "beneficial use" of water.

So, why won't the birds just go somewhere else if the Salton Sea dries up? In the 1800's California had 5 million acres of wetlands. In the year 2000 California had about 450,000 acres of wetlands left – so birds from the Pacific, Central and Atlantic flyways, all use the Salton Sea as a stopover spot. This translates into literally millions of birds using the Sea and surrounding agricultural lands, some traveling from as far north as Russia and as far south as Peru. The Sea hosts hundreds of thousands of shorebirds (44 different species) during their winter migration.

Scarcity of water is the overwhelming threat to the Salton Sea ecosystem right now. California has been forced to reduce its use of Colorado river water and an agreement, known as the QSA, was signed in September 2003 that enables the transfer of water from the Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water Authority. This is water that is currently used to irrigate agricultural fields and then runs off into the Salton Sea. Thus, when the agreement is implemented, the size of the Salton Sea will be reduced by as much as half, worsening the existing salinity problem. It is foreseeable that the agreement will also entail fallowing of agricultural lands, further reducing bird habitat in the area. An important point to remember is that many of the bird species need both the flooded fields and the sea to survive. So it isn't enough to simply save the Salton Sea – we must also save the surrounding agricultural lands that provide habitat. Or, we may wind up winning the battle, but losing the war.

It also seems likely that there will be additional water transfers in the future – further degrading this ecosystem and facilitating growth in the surrounding cities of San Diego and Riverside counties.

You can make a difference for the millions of birds depending on the Salton Sea Ecosystem. From time to time, as events warrant, Audubon California will send out mailings or urgent notices concerning actions being taken at the

Salton Sea. If you are willing to join me in ensuring the continued survival of our migratory birds, please send an email with your contact information to: ADVOCATE@AUDUBONSALTONSEA.ORG. Your private information will not be shared with anyone. If e-mail is not available for you, contact me at the address below.

Kathie Satterfield

*Salton Sea Campaign Coordinator
4830 E Crestview St, Flagstaff, AZ 86004*

Environmentalists' Rendezvous Potluck Picnic

**Eaton Canyon Nature Center
Sunday, September 10, 2006
4:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

Pasadena Audubon and many other local environmental organizations will gather under the oaks at Eaton Canyon from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm on Sunday, September 10th for a potluck picnic and get-together as summer ends. Bring your favorite entrée, salad or dessert to our reserved picnic site near the Nature Center. Beverages, plates and utensils will be provided. Invite your friends, especially those not already connected with a local environmental organization.

This is not only a picnic, but a chance to hear about each other's environmental interests and activities. The groups we'll hear from include the Altadena Foothills Conservancy, Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates, the California Native Plant Society, and the Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group, and the Sierra Club. Each group will present information about their activities and events and tell us how to get involved in acting locally.

Donations of \$10 per individual, couple, or family are requested to the participating environmental group of your choice. For more information, contact coordinator Ginny Heringer at (626) 793-4727 or GINNYH@IX.NETCOM.COM.

Conservation Notes

In each *Wrentit*, we will be briefly highlighting local, national and global conservation issues with the goal of helping members focus their conservation efforts.

Local: Northeast Trees, a group working on restoring the Arroyo, is collecting data on bird distribution in the Arroyo Seco Watershed for four species: Oak Titmouse, California Quail, Yellow Warbler and Spotted Towhee. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Jim Garrett at JAMESGAR@JPS.NET.

National: The National Audubon Society has a wonderful Action Alert

(see Conservation, page 5)

Annual Dinner 2006



PAS members, and their friends and loved ones, enjoyed an evening of tasty drinks, excellent Mexican food, cool raffle prizes, and mercifully short speeches at the PAS Annual Dinner, held June 25th at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. The officers elected at the April meeting were announced as they prepared to begin their annual terms commencing



All photos by Mark Hunter

July 1st. They are Will Fulmer (President), Norm Arnheim (Vice-president), Jean O'Hagan (Secretary), and Peggy Ogata (Treasurer).

Ron Cyger and his wife Suzie arrived a little late, fresh from a wedding in formal wear. As it turned out that was appropriate, since Ron was the surprise winner of the Crow Cup for 2006. This slightly offbeat award, first given in 2005 to Jon Feenstra for his Big Year record, honors Ron for his long, dedicated service as President at a time when Pasadena Audubon was on the verge of going extinct. He helped make it the strong chapter that it is today.

Also taking home honors were the two Birdathon teams.

This was Laura Garrett's last duty as Hospitality Chair for our chapter (she's becoming Conservation Chair.) She did a great job for us. As of press time, that position is open, and we're looking for a volunteer!

BIRDATHON: Big Days, Big Bucks

Our BIRDATHON fundraising drive, conducted in late May, raised a little over three thousand dollars for Pasadena Audubon. Top financial honors went to the G-Spotters, John and Laura Garrett, with \$1,716 in contributions and 141 species. Sharpest eyes and ears went to the Raven' Loonatics (Mark and Janet Scheel, Jon Feenstra, and Ron Cyger) with 187 species and \$735.70 in contributions.

On May 6th, BIRDATHON team The Raven' Loonatics ticked off 187 species within a 24 hour period. How did they do this? What magic was involved? What route did they take? *The Wren*it asked Ron Cyger for details. He responded:

"While the route of a successful Big Day is extremely guarded, here's a brief glimpse of the Raven' Loonatic's itinerary, all within Los Angeles County. We started in the San Gabriel Mountains and had our first bird of the day, a Western Screech-owl at 2:45 am. We then moved over the mountains to arrive on the north side of the San Gabriels by dawn. After covering the north side of the mountains (major stop [MS] Grassy Hollow) we went into the Antelope Valley (MS Saddleback Butte). We screamed up the



east side of the Antelope Valley because no Big Day would be complete without Piute Ponds!

After the ponds, the Loonatics sped down the 14 freeway about noon with 140 species in our bag! From there we covered the Valley (MS Sepulveda Basin) and headed to the Santa Monica Mountains (MS Malibu Creek SP) then over to the ocean. We did some sea-watching (MS Pt. Dune) and worked our way down the coast (MS's Malibu Lagoon and Ballona Creek) before ending up at Ballona Freshwater Marsh. It was about 6:00pm and the Loonatics had spotted over 180 species so far. But we were hungry for more! The question was where to go next?

We decided that there is no place like home, so off to Pasadena we went. Traveling through downtown Pasadena, we spotted the Pasadena Peregrine near the SBC building and went over to Eaton Canyon for number 187, a Canyon Wren singing by the falls.

No big day is complete without sharp eyes, sharper ears, strong bladders, knowledge of bird habitats and important staging areas for migrants, and, of course, a good route."



(see Birdathon, page 4)

Field Trip Reports

Mt. Pinos

June 3, 2006

While Pasadena suffered through its first heat wave, seven of us enjoyed the comfortable climes of Mt. Pinos on the June 3rd trip. As with every year, we picked up a few vagrants and usual suspects in Frasier Park and the pond just west of town, including a beautiful breeding plumage Ruddy Duck. His bill practically glowed a light blue.

At the divided road heading up to Mt. Pinos, our first bird was a female Red Crossbill. We also spotted the expected woodpeckers, nuthatches, swallows, bluebirds, etc.

We birded up the road hearing Olive-sided Flycatchers and Western Woodpeewees among many other species. While hiking around Iris Meadows we heard a Clark's Nutcracker before seeing it fly over. There were a couple of more crossbills (male and female this time) foraging on the ground. We also had Cassins and Purple finches before sighting a probable Dusky Flycatcher.

After lunch we headed over to Toad Springs Campground where we had great views of Lawrence's Goldfinches along with the tits (wren and bush). We finished the day with 48 species. Not bad for the mountains.

Ron Cyger and Larry Johnson

Buckhorn Campground

Saturday, July 1, 2006

Eight birders met on a warm, sunny morning at Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel Mountains. Although the campground was full, the birds were numerous and active. As usual, there were many juvenile birds and family groups. These included Western Bluebirds, White-headed Woodpeckers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Dark-eyed Juncos. In addition, we saw Brown Creepers, Western Tanagers, Green-tailed Towhees,

Fox and Chipping Sparrows, and several MacGillivray's Warblers as well as a number of other resident montane species. The morning's total was 30 species.

Ed Stonick

Owling Adventures in the San Gabriels

July 2006

Ever since my brothers and I discovered a small winter colony of Short-eared Owls near our home in Staten Island, NY, I have been fascinated and sometimes frustrated by owls. All owls are still among my favorite species of birds. While I have seen a fair number of owls in California and our local area, I just never seemed able to bag a Spotted or a Flammulated Owl. On many attempts, I felt like I usually do on chartered fishing trips—not only do I not catch much, if anything, but I bring bad luck for everyone else!

Fortunately July 2006 would change all that and bring success at last. On July 5th, Tom Miko and I had planned an evening hike to Sturdevant Falls in Santa Anita Canyon to look for Dippers and Black Swifts. The day before, Mike San Miguel found a Spotted Owl perched in the early morning about half way to the falls. So we eagerly anticipated a possible sighting or hearing of this elusive species.

On our way back from the falls (where we found neither the desired Swifts nor Dippers) we stopped at the spot where Mike had found the owl and listened for a few minutes. We then played the Spotted Owl call once or twice and listened again. Within one or two minutes, the calls of both the male and female Spotted Owl rang through the nearby conifers and alders. Shortly, we saw some movement and the female landed about 30 feet directly above us. Using a very bright flashlight, we were able to get a nice look at the bird. Both continued calling, and there were others hoots, moans, and whistles, indicating possible juveniles as well as the adult pair. This was exciting! I

had only seen one Spotted Owl before (in Arizona's famed Scheelite Canyon) and had never heard them. Tom had heard the call on a few occasions but had never seen one.

Fifteen days later, we hooked up with Lance Benner to hunt for Flammulated Owls. Lance had discovered several spots and had gotten the owls consistently, except for the Pasadena Audubon trip in May (which I attended). We drove up to the forests just beyond Buckhorn, played recordings and listened. No luck at the first stop, but at the second, a Flam answered after a few minutes. Hooray! But the adventure was not over. A few minutes later, the owl called again. Both Tom and I thought it must have been at least 40 to 50 yards away, but Lance pointed out that Flams are good ventriloquists. He thought the bird was very close. He was correct! There it was, on a branch about 15 feet up and a mere 30 to 40 feet away! It stayed put for nearly a full minute, enabling us to get gorgeous views in the flashlight beam. Owling remains one of my favorite things to do, but it's certainly the most fun when you hear and see the sought-after denizens of the night.

Ed Stonick

Local Dippers – Really

On July 30th, *Ed Stonick wrote*: I had an American Dipper in the West Fork of the San Gabriel River about 6:00 pm this evening. It was about a third of a mile from the Highway 39 locked gate, at the end of a fairly long pool alongside an S curve in the West Fork road to Cogswell Reservoir.

Raul Roa responds: I've had American Dippers in the same general vicinity before. I've found them north of the Bear Creek trail. As you walk up the paved fire road, often patrolled by LA Co. Sheriffs which is nice, you'll come to a bridge where Bear Creek comes from the northwest. Keep on the paved road and just past that, in the shallows of the West Fork, you might see a few more.

BIRDATHON (continued)

Then *The Wrentit* pestered the G-Spotters for their secrets, and Laura Garrett responded thus:

"I've been asked to tell you how birding novices like the Garretts could have found 141 species on only their fifth Birdathon. Our trick is that we followed a route similar to the Raven Loonatics. We started at Piute Ponds at the Edwards Air Force Base at 6:00 am, (yes, I do realize this is very late by Loonatic standards!) where the highlights were vast numbers of waterfowl, egrets, herons and warblers,

two Barn Owls, about 50 Black Terns and an adult male Hooded Warbler. After a quick stop at Apollo Park in Lancaster, we made our way to Placerita Canyon to pick up the usual jays, raptors, warblers, finches, sparrows, tanagers, flycatchers, buntings and hummingbirds. Our best find there was a flock of Lawrence's Goldfinch. By noon, we had seen over 100 species.

From there, we went to Sepulveda Basin and Balboa Lake, where we saw a gorgeous adult male Rufous Hummingbird and a Ross's Goose, and then we were off to Malibu Lagoon, where we saw the

usual shorebirds, including the endangered Snowy Plover, Western Grebes, Pelagic Cormorants, Surf Scoters and many Elegant and Caspian Terns. From the coast, we went to the San Gabriel Mountains, stopping briefly at home to feed the dog and grab some dinner. At Chilao and Charlton Flats, highlights included White-headed Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, and Purple Finch. Once it got dark, we heard Common Poorwill, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Great Horned Owl. It was a wonderful way to end our day."

Field Trips

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, September 2, 2006

Saturday, October 7, 2006

Saturday, November 4, 2006

8:00 am – noon

This monthly bird walk is for birders of all ages and experience. A good variety of birds should be in residence. Bring binoculars, birding guide, water and wear walking shoes. *No dogs.*

Exit the 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

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, September 17, 2006

Sunday, October 15, 2006

Sunday, November 19, 2006

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

Huntington Library

Birdwalks (PAS Members only)

Sunday, September 24, 2006

7:00 am – 11:00 am

Sunday, October 22, 2006

Sunday, November 26, 2006

8:00 am – 11:00 am

A special benefit for Pasadena Audubon Society members is the chance to bird the Huntington Library grounds. Attendance is by reservation only and limited to 15 participants. We have enjoyed the family of Great Horned Owls in the non-public area we are allowed to visit. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible. As his schedule allows, Dan will join Elaine MacPherson as co-leader. If you are lucky enough to be on those trips, you can expect to learn some interesting Huntington lore along with the birding and fits of floral fancy.

Contact Elaine by email (preferred) or phone, putting "Huntington" in the subject line to avoid inadvertent deletion.

Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

Galileo Hills (PAS members only!)

Saturday, September 16, 2006

7:00 am – 4ish

One of the top four Fall migrant traps in the state, this spot has produced Eye-browed Thrush, Groove-billed Ani, Veery, Painted Bunting, Yellow-green Vireo, and Blue-winged, Connecticut and Golden-winged Warblers. We won't see these, but surprises are commonplace. We may even ogle some reptiles or 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 Silver Saddle 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 L.A. Bring lunch, sun block.

Reserve with Nick and Mary using Trip Leader Information on page 6. Please do not show up without confirmation.

Nick & Mary Freeman

Shorebirds – ID Workshop

Saturday, September 23, 2006

8:00 am – noon

This trip will reinforce the shorebird ID tips and techniques presented in the PAS regular evening meeting on Wednesday, September 20th. You should attend that meeting to get the most from this trip. The location of the trip will be decided in mid-September and will be announced at the September 20th meeting.

Mickey Long and Jon Fisher

Birding Basics and Beyond

Sunday, October 1, 2006

8:00 am – noon

Members of Pasadena Audubon, including Ron Cyger and Mark and Janet Scheel, will lead several walks at Eaton Canyon Nature Center for people who attended the "Birding: Basics and Beyond" classes the previous day.

These walks are not open to the general public.

Ron Cyger, Mark and Janet Scheel

Parrot-viewing Field Trip

Saturday, November 18, 2006

2:00 pm to dusk (around 5:00 pm).

We will be searching for up to ten species of naturalized parrots and parakeets in the San Gabriel Valley. Travel to the 110 (Pasadena) Freeway and exit at Orange Grove Blvd. Turn south, and park on the west side of this residential street just beyond the offramp.

Larry Allen

Conservation (continued)

system which lets members know when important legislation is coming up for a vote or when other key issues arise. To sign up, go to www.AUDUBON.ORG and click on "take action" in the upper right-hand corner. You can choose which types of issues you would like to be notified of, and they will send you reports and suggested actions to take. This is an easy way to let your legislators know how you feel about various bird habitat issues.

Global: Save the rain forest one cup of coffee at a time. Buy Fair Trade products to help both people and birds. Fair Trade coffee and tea is organically and shade grown so it saves rain forest habitat and keeps those nasty fertilizers and pesticides out of the watershed, plus it gives growers a fair wage. The icing on the cake is that it tastes delicious. The other good news is that it keeps getting easier to find these products. Peets, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, even Pavilions and Von's now carry Fair Trade coffee and tea. Just look for a Fair Trade label. Enjoy!

Laura Garrett

Some Good News for the Environment

Ordinarily, projects involving major highway reconstruction and bulldozers moving 2 million cubic yards of soil do not bode well for local wildlife. The happy exception is Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. By the time you read this, a newly constructed channel beneath Pacific Coast Highway will reconnect the southern end of Bolsa Chica, near the Huntington Beach bluffs, to the open sea. The daily tidal flows will rejuvenate this essential wetland and will greatly increase biodiversity.

Just up the coast, where Orange County and Los Angeles County meet the sea along the lower reaches of the San Gabriel river, lie the Los Cerritos Wetlands. This 400 acres, always privately owned, has been used for oil wells and power plants. Some of the habitat is degraded, but its potential is enormous. Now the California Wildlife Conservation Board (with help from the Trust for Public Land) has bought 66 acres in the southern portion of the wetlands and is angling to buy 100 more acres on the Seal Beach side. The majority of the Los Cerritos wetlands lie in the City of Long Beach. Ironically, Long Beach has been paying environmental mitigation fees from new harbor construction, about \$50 million worth, to the restoration of Bolsa Chica. Local environmentalists are still trying to get Long Beach to pay more attention to its own biological diamond in the rough.

Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by October 1st

September 2006

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader *
2	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
10	Sun	4:30 pm	Environmental Picnic	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
13	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado (at Madison)
16	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	Galileo Hills	Nick & Mary Freeman
17	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Legg Lake	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
20	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Shorebird ID – Workshop
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Shorebird Field Session	Mickey Long and Jon Fisher
24	Sun	7:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis
30	Sun	All Day	Workshops	Birding: Basics and Beyond	Workshop Leaders

October 2006

1	Sun	8:00 am	Workshops	Workshop Bird Walks: ECNC	Workshop Leaders
7	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
11	Wed	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	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
18	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Galapagos Birds
22	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

November 2006

4	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
8	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado (at Madison)
15	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Urban Parrots
18	Sat	2:00 pm	Field Trip	Parrot Viewing: South Pasadena	Larry Allen
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Group	Whittier Narrows Nature Center	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
26	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens <i>(PAS Members Only)</i>	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

December 2006

2	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Legg Lake/Peck Pit	Ed Stonick
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***Trip Leader Information**

Mark Scheel (Chair)	(818) 366-7343	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu
Larry Allen	(626) 288-2701	larryallen@earlymusicla.org
Lance Benner	(626) 791-1187	lbenner@charter.net
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625 (before 9 pm)	ron@cyger.org (preferred)
Jon Feenstra	(626) 792-4346	feenstra@its.caltech.edu
Nick & Mary Freeman	(818) 247-6172	mnfreeman@earthlink.net
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	
Dan Lewis	(626) 398-4805	danolewis@earthlink.net
Elaine MacPherson	(626) 355-9412	birdergrrl@aol.com
Hill Penfold	(818) 352-4954	hpenfold@bigfoot.com
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@earthlink.net
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	west226@adelphia.net

Remembering Winnie Ragsdale

A memorial service was held in the Eaton Canyon Auditorium on Sunday, July 23rd to celebrate Winnie Ragsdale's life and her contributions to the local community. Winnie died June 5th, age 91, when her heart finally gave out after a brief illness.

Judy Bass spoke about Winnie's docent activities. She led school children on their tours of Eaton Canyon. She also became the school trip coordinator, sending confirmations to teachers, and making sure the school groups were on the calendar in proper form. Later she was the first person to head the monthly bag lunch programs where mini in-services training were given. Winnie was famous among the docents for her word game given in June of each year. She also served on the docent board, ECNCA, for several years until her hearing began to fail. Laughs came when Judy mentioned how Winnie was the last person she ever knew to use carbon paper, since Winnie never learned to use a computer.

When the Office of County Parks and Recreation wanted statistics long ago to show how many schools and children were using Eaton Canyon, Mickey Long asked Winnie to prepare the report for him. Mickey has all her records, done long hand, in his files. Each record is dated, and signed "W. Ragsdale."

Long active in the Pasadena Audubon Society, Winnie was remembered by Ron Cyger for her thoughtful contributions to the new Audubon Board when it was reconstituted about six years ago. Ron told how Winnie was a bylaws expert, a

Become a Chapter-only Member of PAS

Policy changes by the National Audubon Society have severely reduced the share of NAS membership dues returned to local chapters, funds which Pasadena Audubon has used to finance its programs and services. To make up for the loss of funds from National Audubon, Pasadena Audubon, like many other National Audubon chapters, now offers *Chapter only* memberships.

When it's time to renew your National Audubon membership, we invite you to instead become a *Chapter only* Member of the Pasadena Audubon Society, or make a donation to our Chapter to support our programs. Chapter-only dues are \$20 per year, or \$15 for seniors and students, all of which remains with our local chapter to fund our programs, including publication of *The Wrentit*.

We thank you all for your support!

Hospitality Chair Needed!

You could be the new Hospitality Chair for Pasadena Audubon — maybe you and a friend! There's been some job shifting over the summer, and our previous Hospitality person, Laura Garrett, is now our Conservation Chair.

We now need a person or persons to set up refreshments for our general meetings. It's not hard, but you do need to be able to get to Eaton Canyon by about 6:30 pm on third Wednesdays (September through May, except December). PAS pays for coffee and tea, and volunteers sign up to bring cookies and such.

The Hospitality Chair also makes arrangements for our Christmas Count and End-of-Year Dinners.

Does this sound like a job you could take on? Laura will be happy to provide training, supplies and help.

If you're interested, please contact either Will or Laura:

Will Fulmer at 626-798-1606 or WILLO2001@EARTHLINK.NET

Laura Garrett at 626-564-1890 or PURPLECOW@JPS.NET

senior advisor to a younger group, guiding the new board on elections, donations, and other aspects of the Audubon board's activities. Ron closed by telling how Winnie always had a treat for his dog, Winston, when she came to his home for the Audubon Board meetings. Winnie loved her animals.

From the Altadena Library, Lauren McCoy told of Winnie's being one of the group originating what is now known as the Metropolitan Library System, the

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, September 19, 2006
Legg Lake
Meet at North lake parking area south of the 60 Fwy off of N. Santa Anita Ave.

Tuesday, October 17, 2006
Eaton Canyon Nature Center
Meet at the entrance

Tuesday, November 21, 2006
Whittier Narrows
Meet at the Nature Center

*Sid Heyman
Madeline West*

largest of its kind in the state of California. It's a cooperative system here in Los Angeles County, for lending of books to other libraries. Forty libraries, including the Los Angeles Public Library, are partners in this co-op. Winnie was also credited with starting the Literacy Program at the Bob Lucas Library in Altadena.

Though a retired librarian, Winnie continued to substitute whenever she was asked.

Though she's gone, her legacy will live on at the canyon.

Ninarose Mayer

Membership Application

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 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____
 Email _____

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 or PAS Birding Guide

\$15 Senior/Full-time Student

Donation _____

Make checks payable and mail to:
Pasadena Audubon Society, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107

Kid's Corner

Ocean Pollution in Southern California

You probably have been reading the recent articles in the *Los Angeles Times* and other newspapers about how the ocean is being damaged, and you might have been wondering what you can do to help. There are actually many different ways you can help. The problems mostly involve trash, especially plastic junk; algae, which affects the brains of Sea Lions, Brown Pelicans, and other marine animals; and air pollution, which damages the ocean.

Trash: Pieces of plastic and other junk are constantly flowing into the ocean, killing and choking fish and birds such gulls

and even Laysan Albatrosses. Anything in the street ends up in the ocean. In order to help, you can recycle, avoid littering, and pick up any trash you see lying on the street, especially on trash pick-up days.

Algae: Another serious threat to marine wildlife is toxic algae, which, when eaten, can damage the brains of many animals. For example, a Brown Pelican, intoxicated by algae, recently crashed into a moving SUV. Fortunately, this pelican survived. To help prevent toxic algae from killing marine wildlife, use organic fertilizer and pesticides, if any at all, because normal fertilizer and pesticides encourage toxic algae bloom.

Air pollution: We need to reduce air pollution in the world for many reasons, and one is that air pollution also creates toxic algae. Just a few of the things you can do include using fluorescent light bulbs, walking and biking instead of driving, and carpooling. In Pasadena you can choose Green Power for electricity. One of the most important things you can do is spread the word, because the more people that are working together, the bigger the difference we can make in the world.

John Garrett

New Members

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

ALHAMBRA: Jane Gard, Shuwen Tam, Esperanza Velazquez, Margaret Wayne; **ALTADENA:** Vina Avery, Robert Carr, Leslie Culhane, Janni Funderburk, Diana Hargraves, Patty Klein, Denise Seymour, Henry Shatford, Calvin & Marie Tajim; **ARCADIA:** Lyne Allen, Sally Cole, Marion Eggers, Alice Hook, Karen Jain, Ned Joy, Alice Lewin, James Maloney, Frances Morsillo, Marvee Schulz, Ronald Smith, John Ward; **AZUSA:** Patricia Apodaca, David Pfersich; **CHINO HILLS:** Doreen Falasca; **DUARTE:** Alice Lopez, Shirley McCulloch; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Z.P. Berberian, Martin

Chetron, Thema Davee, Ann Herrmann, Jean Kennedy, M. Mudgett, Ethel Willenberg; **MONROVIA:** Jocelyn Harley; **MONTEREY PARK:** Renee Dutreaux, Beverly Franco, Sophia Sak; **MONTROSE:** Valerie Jordan; **PASADENA:** Hope Bacon, Laurel Beck, David Bowman, Diane Clark, Ven Ahangama Dhammarama, R.B. Egelston, Jane Feuerhelm, Mark Frankel, Gloria Freeman, G. Gillingham, Fred Gotha, Lila Kommerstad, Michael Kouri, Charlene Little, Linda Mangan, Terry Mills, Richard Mittleman, C. Pegram, Minh Quach, Sagar Raksit, Patricia Rankin, Kevin Sheehan, Anne Shirvanian, Rachel Soos, W.P. Stafford, Vicki Stepp, Anne Stewart, Lisa Vernon, Jack Washburn, Michael Zinzun; **ROSEMEAD:** Elaine Austria, Ikari; **SAN GABRIEL:** Megan Augustine, Betty

Pascuayaq; **SAN MARINO:** Eva Casner, Joanne Pittroff, Myriam Rasulo; **SIERRA MADRE:** Geraldine Asher, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Byrnes, Michael Geva, Donald Songster, Noreen Viljoen; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Raynee Bangar, Nick Bernal, Carol & Edward Corser, Mary Harker, Margaret Hicks, Susan Lompe, Robert Magilligan, Natalie Magistrale; **SUNLAND:** Aino Vimbi; **TEMPLE CITY:** Ted Garcia, Sid Maddocks, Isabel Mecum, Mercedes Murdock, Jack & Marva Packey, Margaret Poynter, Lois Will.



Pasadena Audubon Society Board

President	Will Fulmer	(626) 798-1606
Vice President	Norm Arnheim	(626) 405-0844
Secretary	Jean O'Hagan	(626) 792-4406
Treasurer	Peggy Ogata	(626) 398-3184

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Dan Lewis, Brian Tomikawa, Bev McKenzie

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Conservation	Laura Garrett	(626) 564-1890
Field Trips	Mark Scheel	(626) 355-3938
Hospitality Programs	(open)	
	Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625
Magpie Bird Study Group	Madeline West	(626) 574-0429
	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991

Membership	Lois Fulmer	(626) 798-1606
Publicity	(open)	
Youth Education	Norm Arnheim	(626) 405-0844
Youth Representative	John Garrett	(626) 564-1890

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Pasadena Audubon Society

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