

# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 62 — No. 5

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

June–September 2014

## Northern Mockingbird

Northern Mockingbirds are one of the most widespread and recognized birds in Southern California. Known for their ability to mimic other birds, they can also imitate frogs, machinery, and even car alarms.

Mockingbirds produce more than 150 sounds. Male mockingbirds exhibit two annual intervals of singing: late winter and spring and again in fall. Curiously, the sounds they make show relatively little overlap between the two singing seasons, but during the spring of the *next* year, about a third of the sounds are repeats from the previous year. Unmated males regularly sing vigorously between midnight and dawn during the summer.

Why do mockingbirds sing such a wide variety of sounds? Males that produce the greatest diversity of songs with the fewest repetitions tend to attract mates and nest earliest. Mimicry may also help drive away other species that might compete for resources in the same territory.

Mockingbirds range across much of North America, throughout much of the Caribbean, and through most of Mexico and into Central America. They're migratory at the northern edge of their range but resident elsewhere. In recent decades their range has expanded northward by hundreds of miles. Within California, prior to extensive settlement in Southern California in the last century, Northern Mockingbirds were apparently restricted to the deserts in the southeastern part of the state but, with urbanization, their range has exploded northward. They eat a variety of fruits and insects and are clearly thriving in southern California.

The large number of sounds mockingbirds make is impressive but it pales in comparison with the vast vocal repertoires of Sage Thrashers, which can sing more than 2000 songs.

*Lance Benner*



**Photo by Mark Scheel**  
**See the photos in color - check out**  
**[www.pasadenaaudubon.org](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)**

## President's Perch

Greetings, birders! I want to let you know how much I have enjoyed getting to know you as we went through this birding year together and I appreciate your vote of confidence going forward. We have a solid active membership, incredible field trips, education offerings for new birders, and now a blossoming young birders group. Please join me in thanking our Board Members who have worked tirelessly to bring programs, communication, knowledge, and cookies(!) to us all.

When birding during the summer months, bring your camera along. No matter where your travels take you I hope you snap a few shots to enter our first-ever photo contest, detailed in this issue of the Wrentit. Winning entries will be announced at our General Meeting in September; we are looking forward to some fabulous shots.

We are always looking for you to get more involved with PAS and help to keep our vital membership growing and contributing to the enjoyment of birding. If you have ideas or can serve on a committee just let me know.

Happy Birding,

*Deni Sinnott*

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## June Dinner

### Annual Dinner

Saturday, June 14, 2014

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

#### Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Enjoy good catered food and drink from Stonefire Grill, interesting and amiable dining companions, and blessedly short speeches at Pasadena Audubon's yearly dinner. Meet the newly elected officers for 2014-2015. See who won the Crow Cup! Vie for raffle prizes. Bid on silent auction items. Watch the favorite-photos presentation—or bring some photos of your own on a thumb drive (limited to 5 minute's worth).

Tickets are \$20 per person. Make checks payable to "Pasadena Audubon Society" and make a note of "annual dinner" on the check. Send to the PAS address shown on page 8 before June 12.

Questions? Contact Hospitality Chair Chrystal Watson at (626) 794-9233.

## Summer Vacation

Many Pasadena Audubon activities take the summer off. There are no general meetings and many of the regular monthly walks are also suspended. But that doesn't mean there's nothing to do!

Get high! The monthly **mountain walks** at Chilao Visitor Center (page 6) continue, and there are special trips to even higher spots (pages 4 and 6).

Smile! There's a **photo contest** going on all summer. Even if you don't have high-end equipment to win prizes in the "Birds" category, there is also a "Birders" category. And, let's face it, birders are easy targets. See page 7 and see our web site.

Hit the books! **Birding 101**, the excellent introduction to birding, is happening in July. If you're a beginner, or if you know someone who is not a birder but has some interest, this is the class for you. Your skills will greatly increase. See page 8. Sign up early—this class *always* sells out.

## September Program

### Building Birding Skills

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

7:30 pm—9:00 pm

#### Jon Fisher and Mickey Long

Birders at all skill levels will enjoy Jon and Mickey rotating through illustrated examples of "easy", "difficult", and "diabolical" field ID challenges. Just when you think you know a species along comes an age, sex, or subspecies difference in plumage. As always, knowing where and when to expect the regularly appearing species helps greatly in being ready for the unexpected.

Shifting gears, the presenters will discuss how you can get the most out of birding by using eBird. They will cover the numbers game, and the value of estimating vs. dropping in an "X", and how best to enter a confusing variety of birds (swallows for example). Included will be brief discussion of care needed when entering your birds, and tips for avoiding pitfalls (are Ladder-backed Woodpeckers moving into L.A.?).

*General meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (address on back cover). Refreshments and socializing begin at 7:00 pm and programs are presented from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm.*

## Conservation

### Hahamongna Sediment Plan Evolves

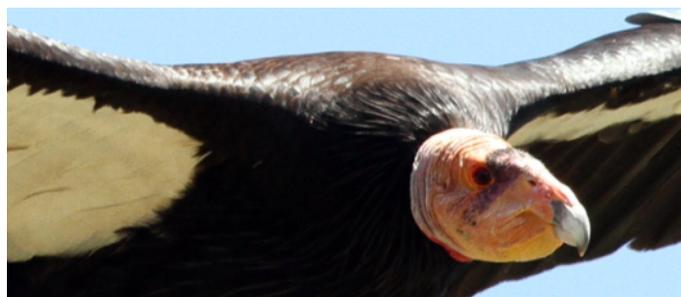
As you probably know, the L.A. County Department of Public Works is planning to remove 2-4 million cubic yards of sediment from Hahamongna Watershed Park over five years. As part of CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), the County had to conduct an EIR (Environmental Impact Report). All of the County's plans would devastate the wildlife in Hahamongna, and would negatively affect its role as a wildlife corridor. After they released a draft of the EIR last fall, the City of Pasadena took notice and organized a Working Group to develop an alternate plan. That plan, which is more sustainable and has smaller impacts than any of the County's plans, was presented to Pasadena City Council on May 12, 2014, and was approved unanimously.

The Working Group's alternate plan proposes moving no more than 220,000 cubic yards per year, using a much smaller footprint in Hahamongna, creating a seasonal conservation pool by the dam that allows for bird habitat, limiting the number of trucks per day to 120 as opposed to the County's plan of 450 trucks per day, limiting the trucking from April 15 through October 15 and from 8:45 am to 2:45 pm every week day to avoid rush hour traffic, and using low emission trucks to avoid filling the region with more diesel exhaust. While we still need

to be vigilant to ensure that the County does effective and appropriate bird surveys during nesting season prior to starting any work, this alternate plan is far superior to any that the County provided. It provides flood control while preserving much more Hahamongna habitat.

What was especially heartening during the May 12 City Council meeting was that several Pasadena Councilmembers were vehemently insisting that Pasadena be vigilant in its protection of Hahamongna. They are simply not willing to accept the County's unnecessarily draconian and damaging plan. If the County is smart, they'll work with the City. Otherwise, this could get very interesting. Watch this space for further updates!

Laura Garrett



*California Condor during the PAS trip to Tejon Ranch, April 2014. Photo by Frank Gilliland.*

## Varied Bunting!

On March 26, 2014, late morning, I decided to try birding alone in Encanto Park in Duarte, and the adjacent San Gabriel River edge, hoping for a spring-arrival Cassin's Vireo or perhaps some warblers.

On the west river bank trail, just south of the pedestrian/bike trail bridge over the river, I had just started to turn east on a small path leading to the low-flow, rip-rap "dam" across the river, when I stopped to scan to my right and saw a dark-maroon colored bird on an open mulefat branch just 15 feet to the south. Thinking it was a remarkably dark reddish male House Finch, I raised my camera and through the lens saw the multi colors of the bird with dark reddish upper breast, blue fore-crown and side of face, black around base of pale bill with down-curved culmen (like a House Finch) and brighter red on back crown and nape area. I noted a pale scaly look to breast and belly.

While photographing and looking at the bird through the bins I assumed initially that this was a cage escape, and struggled to remember what an Avadavat looked like, and then briefly considered a Painted Bunting, but knew the color pattern was wrong and this bird was darker and more muted. I had no guide with me but got home to flip through *Pet Birds* (Simon & Schuster's Guide, Friends) and eliminated the Avadavat (Strawberry Finch) and all small passerines in the book. I then turned to Sibley to check Painted Bunting and there saw Varied Bunting on same page and all field marks matched a male Varied Bunting (I've only had three before, in southeast Arizona.)

I quickly emailed photos to Kimball Garrett and he confirmed the ID and urged that I spread the word. I was aware of the difficulty in proving birds like out-of-range male Painted Buntings as wild occurrences vs. cage escapes/releases, so was interested in what we know of Varied Bunting as a captive. To me, the photos show no obvious evidence of cage damage in the tail tips or feet/claws and I thought this one looks awfully clean. Kimball later commented that tiny, whitish pin feathers around the face indicate perhaps out-of-season molt, and might be from scraping its face on cage bars.

The bunting, while apparently missed the next day, was seen sporadically by many observers through April 18, 2014 (when Laura Garrett and I saw the bird last). This occurrence,

## Sightings and Reports

about the fifth for California and first for Los Angeles County, will be considered carefully by the California Bird Records Committee, as to the origin of the bird as naturally occurring or possibly "assisted".  
*Mickey Long*

## Birdathon: Team Big Sit

April 26, 2014

Birdathon 2014 dawned lovely and cold. We think. After all, we were still in bed at dawn.

At 7:30, Big Sitters started showing up at our usual spot between the middle and south lakes at Whittier Narrows, chairs and thermoses of coffee in hand, and we were almost immediately struck, not quite literally, by swallows and swifts. We were in the middle of them—they were flying at eye level—so they provided an excellent workshop on telling Vaux's from White-throated Swifts, as well as Barn, Northern Rough-winged, Cliff, and Tree Swallows.

The splendidly beautiful morning also produced 8 species of warbler, the sight of many nesting Great Blue Herons and Double-crested Cormorants, and multiple Warbling Vireos and Green Herons.

We added an innovation this year—The Stroll—so people would not get too bored sitting/standing in one spot for almost five hours. Hey, it can be a real challenge for some! We always kept a team at the Sitting Spot, but small teams of two or three slowly ambled around the lakes in search of more birds. This innovation (Ron Cyger calls it "cheating") meant we got a few birds we would not have otherwise seen, like Common Yellowthroat, Western Grebe, and Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Sadly, it also meant two of us witnessed a crow steal and eat a brand new baby Black Phoebe, while the parents desperately but futilely mobbed it. Very sad.

On a happier note, we also saw Canada Geese goslings, along with the aforementioned heron and cormorant nests. Spring was definitely in the air!

We saw 57 species, and we didn't help the America's Birdiest County at all. (Sorry Lance!). But we had a wonderful morning and we raised some money. In fact, we welcome your donations. It's all for a good cause—to support the Youth Scholarship with the Western Field Ornithologists started in honor of Mike San Miguel. Mike loved mentoring kids and young adults, my son included, and he would be very pleased that Pasadena Audubon is helping young people attend WFO conferences and events. So please visit the PAS website and donate if you haven't already. THANK YOU!!

Good birding!

*Laura Garrett*

Other members of Team Big Sit: Mark Hunter, Deni Sinnott, Liz Cordero, Cecilia Lowenthal, Carol Smith, and Elaine MacPherson

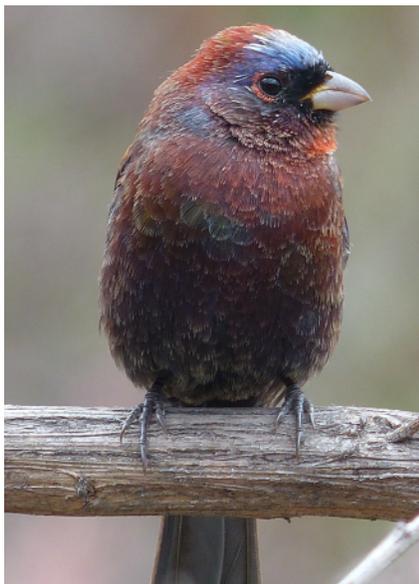


Photo and text by Mickey Long

**More Birdathon reports on page 6!**

## Field Trips

### Throop Peak

**Saturday, June 7, 2014**

**7:30 am — 1:00 pm**

Join us as we explore one of the highest altitude trails in the San Gabriel Mountains during the peak time of year for montane birds. We'll hike at a leisurely pace to the summit of Throop Peak (elevation: about 9100 feet) as we search for Williamson's Sapsucker, Townsend's Solitaire, Clark's Nutcracker, Dusky Flycatcher, White-headed Woodpecker, Green-tailed towhee, Red Crossbill, and other montane species.

Meet at Dawson Saddle at mile 69.6 on the Angeles Crest Highway, about 45 miles from I-210 in La Canada. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent, sturdy shoes, a coat, and an Adventure Pass. The hike is about five miles round-trip with possible snow patches; a few sections are steep, and all of it is at altitudes in excess of 7900 feet. Please carpool and plan for about 90 minutes to drive up from Pasadena.

*Lance Benner*

### Mt. Pinos and Environs

**Saturday, June 21, 2014**

**7:30 am — early afternoon**

**M**t. Pinos is one of the best places in Southern California to enjoy a wide variety of montane birds. We'll hear singing Yellow-rumped Warblers along with many other species of warblers, thrushes, raptors, woodpeckers, flycatchers and finches. We will visit Iris Meadows and other nearby areas.

We will meet at the city park in Frazier Park. Take the Golden State Freeway (I-5) north to the Frasier Park turnoff and continue west for about 5 miles to the stop sign in Frazier Park. Take a left at the stop sign then a right into the park. Don't forget lunch, water, and sunblock.

*Larry Johnson and Ron Cyger*

### San Gabriel Mountains: Buckhorn

**Saturday, July 12, 2014**

**7:00 am — noon**

**B**uckhorn Campground comprises some of the most lush, scenic and easily accessible mountain habitat in the San Gabriel Mountains. The high elevation forest with a running stream (I hope...) is a great place to find the typical breeding birds of the mountains. Species like White-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, MacGillvray's Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, and Thick-billed Fox Sparrow are regular. Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Dipper, Hermit Warbler, and Cassin's Finch are sometimes present, as well. We'll start at the Burkhart Trailhead below the campground and bird our way up through the campground and along the access roads. We may also do some exploring in the area stopping at Islip Saddle and Cortleyou Springs or perhaps some highway turnouts in the vicinity.

From the 210 freeway, go north on Angeles Crest Highway for about 34 miles. The campground entrance is about one mile past Cloudburst Summit, at mile marker 58.3. Meet in the parking area for the Burkhart Trailhead. The lot is reached by driving through the campground and following the signs. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required or you may receive a \$5 ticket.

*Jon Feenstra*

### Los Angeles River

**Saturday, August 2, 2014**

**8:00 am — noon**

**T**he calendar may say summer, but it's fall migration if you are a shorebird. We'll hunt for them along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach, searching among the usual suspects for

**Field trips continue on page 6!**

### Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

**Sunday, June 15, 2014**

**Sunday, July 20, 2014**

**Sunday, August 17, 2014**

**8:00 am — 11:00 am**

**P**asadena 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*

### Hahamongna Monthly Walk

**Saturday, September 6, 2014**

**7:30 am — 11:30 am**

**T**his 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 north 210 at Berkshire and make a right, then a left at Oak Grove. The Hahamongna Watershed Park entrance is on the right at the next stop light. Take the first left after entering Hahamongna, and park by the ballfield.

*Ron Cyger*

### Huntington Library Monthly Walk

**Sunday, September 28, 2014**

**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. Members may bring one non-member guest, space permitting. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible.

For reservations contact me (see bottom of calendar page) by email (preferred), or by phone. Trip leaders vary.

*Mark Hunter*

 = Wrentit Club!

## Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by May 1

 = Wrentit Club  
Count Circle!

### June 2014

|    |     |         |                    |   |                            |                          |
|----|-----|---------|--------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4  | Wed | 7:00 pm | Board Meeting      |   | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Deni Sinnott             |
| 7  | Sat | 7:30 am | Field Trip         |  | Throop Peak                | Lance Benner             |
| 8  | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip         |  | Chilao Visitor Center      | Hill Penfold             |
| 14 | Sat | 6:00 pm | Annual Dinner      |   | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | See page 2               |
| 15 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip         |  | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Hill Penfold             |
| 17 | Tue | 9:00 am | Magpie Study Group |  | Descanso Gardens           | Julia Ray & Sid Heyman   |
| 21 | Sat | 7:30 am | Field Trip         |   | Mt. Pinos                  | Ron Cyger, Larry Johnson |

### Summer 2014

|      |      |         |                     |   |                            |                        |
|------|------|---------|---------------------|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 7/10 | Thur | 7:00 pm | Birding 101 Begins! |   | See page 8                 | Ron Cyger, Mark Scheel |
| 7/12 | Sat  | 7:00 am | Field Trip          |  | Buckhorn Campground        | Jon Feenstra           |
| 7/13 | Sun  | 8:00 am | Field Trip          |  | Chilao Visitor Center      | Hill Penfold           |
| 7/20 | Sun  | 8:00 am | Field Trip          |  | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Hill Penfold           |
| 8/2  | Sat  | 6:30 am | Field Trip          |  | L.A. River                 | Larry Allen            |
| 8/10 | Sun  | 8:00 am | Field Trip          |  | Chilao Visitor Center      | Hill Penfold           |
| 8/17 | Sun  | 8:00 am | Field Trip          |  | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Hill Penfold           |

### September 2014

|    |     |         |                    |   |                              |                           |
|----|-----|---------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3  | Wed | 7:00 pm | Board Meeting      |   | Eaton Canyon Nature Center   | Deni Sinnott              |
| 6  | Sat | 7:30 am | Field Trip         |  | Hahamongna                   | Ron Cyger                 |
| 13 | Sat | 6:30 am | Field Trip         |  | Piute Ponds                  | Mark and Janet Scheel     |
| 14 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip         |  | Chilao Visitor Center        | Hill Penfold              |
| 16 | Tue | 9:00 am | Magpie Study Group |  | Legg Lakes                   | Julia Ray & Sid Heyman    |
| 17 | Wed | 7:00 pm | Kid's Corner       |   | Eaton Canyon Nature Center   | Bluebird Nest Box Project |
| 17 | Wed | 7:00 pm | General meeting    |   | Eaton Canyon Nature Center   | Building Birding Skills   |
| 21 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip         |  | Eaton Canyon Nature Center   | Hill Penfold              |
| 28 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip         |  | Huntington Library & Gardens | Mark Hunter               |

*(PAS members only)*

#### \* Trip Leader Information

|                         |                                 |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mark Scheel (chair)     | (626) 765-5408                  | 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 9:00 pm) | ron@cyger.org (preferred)       |
| Darren Dowell           | (626) 344-4003                  | dowell.darren@yahoo.com         |
| Kathi Ellsworth         | (626) 564-0652                  | pandionsky@yahoo.com            |
| Jon Feenstra            | (626) 319-4723                  | feenstra@alumni.caltech.edu     |
| Jon Fisher              | (818) 800-2776                  | jonf60@hotmail.com              |
| Frank & Susan Gilliland | (626) 441-8487                  | gillilandsusan@gmail.com        |
| Sid Heyman              | (626) 571-5991                  | sidheyman@sbcglobal.net         |
| Mark Hunter             | (818) 369-6627                  | mark.hunter@pasadenaaudubon.org |
| Mickey Long             | (626) 285-8878                  | mlongbird@charter.net           |
| Hill Penfold            | (818) 352-4954                  | hpenfold@gmail.com              |
| Julia Ray               | (818) 314-5127                  | jraymusic@att.net               |
| Ed Stonick              | (626) 796-0595                  | edstonick@earthlink.net         |

## Field Trips, continued

anything out of the ordinary. This area often hosts Orange Bishops, if you need one for your year list. Take the 710 (Long Beach) Fwy S to the Willow Street offramp, head E over the LA River, and take the first left on Golden Ave, the first left on 26th, and follow this past the pump station onto DeForest Ave. Park near the river access by the bridge and meet along the river. We may later convoy to Dominguez wetlands if time permits. Scopes are very helpful; I'll have an extra if someone wants to carry it.

Larry Allen

## Piute Ponds

Saturday, September 13, 2014

6:30 am — early afternoon

What do you find in September in a wetland oasis in the desert? Shorebirds! Join us for a hot day at the Piute Ponds and other nearby Antelope Valley locations where every year thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage during their southbound migration. We should find over a dozen shorebird species, and we may see Baird's or Pectoral Sandpipers. We will also look for desert birds such as Bell's Sparrow, and we may have a chance for LeConte's Thrasher.

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

Mark and Janet Scheel



## Chilao Visitor Center

Second Sunday of every month

8:00 am — 10:00 am

The Chilao Visitor Center walks will continue each month, weather and road conditions permitting. (If things look rainy, snowy or brush fire-y, check first.)

Chilao, 26.5 miles north of I-210 on State Hwy 2, is a good place to see woodpeckers and we often see four or more species on a walk. Mountain Quail are somewhat elusive but still seen or heard about half the time. You can also expect Purple Finches, Steller's Jays, Dark-eyed Juncos and several species of nuthatches and others totaling about 30 species during the 2-hour walk.

Hill Penfold



## More Birdathon

### Locavores

We searched for as many species as possible within 20 miles, as the raven flies, of Eaton Canyon. We reached a total of 142 species, counting some free-flying introduced species (and excluding Peafowl). This is slightly above the species projection, and we thank our sponsors for their donations to the PAS cause this year: the WFO youth scholarship fund dedicated to the memory of Mike San Miguel.

Our route took us to the San Gabriel River near Encanto

Park, Santa Fe Dam, Peck Road Water Conservation Park, Legg Lake, Whittier Narrows Dam, Rio Hondo from Rush St., San Jose Creek, and Angeles Crest Highway. Conditions were good overall, although we seriously struggled with the nocturnal species on the Crest in cold and high wind. Here were some of the highlights of the day:

- 1) skillful driving (what a luxury!) by Christopher, Nathan, and Lance through the day, from dark to dark.
- 2) a prompt Lesser Nighthawk at the first stop.
- 3) pleasant conditions in the San Gabriel Valley area, with lots of migrants continuing to pass through, allowing us to find the 11 expected warbler species.
- 4) an unexpected Cattle Egret at Santa Fe Dam, spotted by Christopher.
- 5) a Semipalmated Plover with other shorebirds on the Rio Hondo, spotted by Jon.
- 6) afternoon boost to the species count from a trip along the Angeles Crest Highway, including continuing Lewis's Woodpeckers and Red Crossbills.
- 7) The well-functioning heater in the car as the Crest temperature dropped toward freezing and the wind picked up at sunset.
- 8) Lance, Ron, & Christopher making the best of a half-hour transport of lost hikers who flagged us down in the dark. (6 in a Prius!) Thanks to all our supporters!

Darren Dowell

## Irritable Owl Syndrome

We left at 1:00 am on a route designed to take us through a large number of different habitats in the smallest amount of time, in order to maximize the bird diversity we would encounter. Our longest planned stop of the day was Piute Ponds (an hour), but many stops were 10 minutes or less, sometimes much less. Our schedule was packed: if we had trouble finding a bird, we couldn't afford to wait around for it, or we wouldn't have time to get to all our planned locations before dark.

Team "Irritable Owl Syndrome" was Frank Gilliland, Susan Gilliland, Janet Scheel, and myself. We ended up with 194 ABA species, plus one non-ABA bird (Nanday Parakeet), for a total of 195 species, beating last year's count of 187.

We had a few Birdathon firsts: Costa's Hummingbird (Bob's Gap Road) and Hooded Merganser (Apollo Park). Other highlights included Brewer's Sparrow and many migrants at Apollo Park, a few Black-chinned Sparrows (which we usually miss) at Bob's Gap, and an out-of-place Black Turnstone at Piute Ponds. Lowlights included a road blocked by 2 empty parked cars at Piute Ponds (requiring a long drive in reverse around the berm) and a helicopter hovering low over a whale--- and directly in front of us---at Zuma Beach. Our last bird was a Blue-winged Teal in the LA River after dark, made visible by light reflected off the clouds.

Of course, no Birdathon description is complete without the "list of shame". This year our most embarrassing misses were Black-bellied Plover, Black-chinned Hummingbird, and Red-breasted Merganser.

We thank our sponsors very much, and we had a great time.

Mark Scheel

**Photo Contest!**

Pasadena Audubon's first photography contest is underway this summer! You can get full details, rules, conditions, and an entry form from our web site, [www.pasadenaaudubon.org](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org). You can also have those materials sent to you by mailing a request to PAS at the address shown on the back cover. Here are a few of the highlights:

The Grand Prize is a \$300 gift certificate to Samy's Camera. We will also award First Place and Honorable Mention prizes.

The contest runs from June 1 until August 31. Your photos must be taken during that timeframe. You must be a member of Pasadena Audubon to compete. There is no entry fee.

You can shoot your photos anywhere in the world. You can enter in one or both of two categories: (1) Birds and (2) Birders. You may submit a maximum of two photos, not to exceed 5MB each in size. Use little to no software photo manipulation.

Photos will be posted anonymously to a private Flickr online photo album to assure impartial judging. That photo album will be made public after judging is complete in early September. Prizes will be awarded during the PAS general meeting on September 17.

Judges include PAS member and Huntington Library curator Dan Lewis; award-winning professional photographer Catherine Ledner; and a judge to be provided by Samy's Camera.

**Samy's Camera**

**Election Results**

Elections were held during the May general meeting. Here are the PAS officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014:

- President: Deni Sinnott
- Vice-President: Mickey Long
- Secretary: Ira Blitz
- Treasurer: Eileen Burton

This issue of the newsletter shows the roster of officers as of June 2014. The September *Wrentit* will display the new roster.

**Kid's Corner**

PAS has been increasing its efforts to bring the excitement of birding to young people by partnering with other organizations and creating events tailored specifically for kids. In September, immediately prior to the general meeting on September 17, young birder Dessi Sieburth will give a presentation for kids on the Bluebird Nesting Project that has set up so many nest boxes in the Pasadena area. Watch the September *Wrentit* for more details.

Recently San Fernando Valley Audubon started a monthly Young Birders' walk with a pace and a level of coaching that are designed for kids. For more information, e-mail Rose Leibowitz at [sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com) or call (818) 990-5405.

**Magpie Bird Study Group**

The group meets the third Tuesday of most months. We bird 9:00 am to about 11:30 am, have a sack lunch, and have a short business meeting. All PAS members welcome!



**Tuesday, June 17, 2014**  
**Descanso Gardens**

**Tuesday, September 16, 2014**

**Legg Lake**  
Meet in Santa Anita Ave parking lot

**Trip leaders: Sid Heyman, Julia Ray**

**DONATIONS TO PAS**

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Lance Benner, Harlean Carroll, Denise Castro, Christine Hessler, Elliott Mazur, Students of Saint Mark's, Chrystal & Claire Watson. Special appreciation goes to all the supporters of our 2014 PAS Birdathon. Thank you all!

**Become a Chapter-only Member of PAS**

Local chapters of the National Audubon Society, such as Pasadena Audubon, receive only a small share of NAS membership dues. In order to finance our programs and services, including publication of *The Wrentit*, PAS 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, per family, or \$15 for seniors and students, all of which remains with our local chapter to fund our programs. We thank you all for your support!

**Chapter-only Membership Application**

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Yearly dues:

- \$20 (individual or family)     \$15 (senior or student)
- \$35 (T-shirt or Birding Guide, plus a PAS pin)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ (donation)

Make checks payable to, and mail to:

**Pasadena Audubon, 1750 N Altadena Dr, Pasadena, CA 91107**

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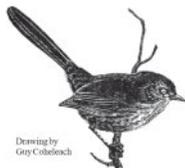
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See chapter-only dues on previous page. Wrentit subscription only—1 year \$10. National Audubon Society membership fees—\$35. National members receive Audubon magazine and The Wrentit. Messages or queries for Pasadena Audubon may be left at (626) 355-9412. For change of NAS address call: (800) 274-4201.

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## Birding 101

Sponsored by Pasadena Audubon Society and Eaton Canyon Nature Center

**B**irding provides enjoyment and challenge throughout life. Birding gets you outdoors in your neighborhood or around the world. Birding increases your ability to observe and appreciate the world around you. And finally, Birding is just gosh darn fun! So, why would you put off learning how to be a better birder any longer?

This class is designed for beginners, but all are welcome. We will cover identification, optics, field guides, note-taking, habitats, birding ethics, and many other topics. Class size is limited so don't delay!

Classroom sessions: July 10, 17, and 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Field trips: July 12 and 19, 2014 from early morning to early afternoon.

Location of the class and field trips will be sent to the class participants.

Cost: \$50 for Pasadena Audubon members, \$70 for non-members (but will include membership in Pasadena Audubon Society). This fee will cover all three classes and two field trips. Fee is payable to "Pasadena Audubon Society" and is due at the first class session.

For questions or to make reservations, contact leaders Ron Cyger and Mark Scheel at [Birding101@pasadenaaudubon.org](mailto:Birding101@pasadenaaudubon.org).



Young birders with Kimball Garrett, May 2014 PAS general meeting

## New Members

**ALPINE:** Nancy Gavett; **ALTADENA:** James De La Loza, Brenda Hurst, Joel Polinsky, Erica Shelton; **AZUSA:** Ann Merrick; **DUARTE:** Marion Eggers; **LA CAÑADA**  
**FLINTRIDGE:** Helen Lareau, Phyllis Mouw; **LOS ANGELES:** David Johnson, James Odling, Joan Probst; **MONROVIA:** Gary Hughes; **MONTEREY PARK:** Dina Beaumont; **MONTROSE:** Tom Petersmeyer; **PASADENA:** Matt Adrian, Margaret Benya, Emmeline Clougherty, Tessie Clougherty, Evelyn Cole, Gwyneth Cole, Susan Flaming, Karen Gilio, Christine Hessler, Barbara Leider, Paul Scranton, Ben Stapleton; **SAN**  
**MARINO:** Charlotte Edgington; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Nancy Spear; **TEMPLE CITY:** Linden Gray