

# VRENTIT

Founded 1904

### Pasadena Audubon Society A Chapter of National Audubon Society

*Volume 61 — No. 4* 

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

September-October 2013



Photo by Mark Scheel Looks even better in color! Check out www.pasadenaaudubon.org

#### **White-crowned Sparrow**

very common bird in open, brushy habitats and in suburban neighborhoods, white-crowned sparrows are a true harbinger of fall and one of our most common winter visitors. They are among the most widespread, numerous, and conspicuous sparrows in North America, and as a result, they are also among the most widely studied.

There are five subspecies, four of which occur regularly in California. One is the resident (non-migratory) *nuttalli* subspecies that lives in a thin strip only a few hundred meters wide along California's central coast as far south as Santa Barbara County. Due to the mild climate there, this is the only subspecies that reguarly raises multiple broods each nesting season. The short breeding season at high latitudes and altitudes limits the other species to one brood annually. The others subspecies are migrants that include the ubiquitous gambelii birds that breed in Alaska and northwestern Canada and overwinter in enormous numbers in our area.

Migrants begin to arrive in southern California in mid-September and then return north starting in April. By early May the

vast majority of them have left.

White-crowned sparrows sing throughout the year, which is unusual for a songbird, and migrate at night individually or in small groups. They eat seeds, buds, grasses, and arthropods (mostly insects, particularly while breeding).

A small, isolated population of the interior mountain oriantha race nests at high elevations in the San Bernardino Mountains on Mt. San Gorgonio. They also breed at high elevations in the Sierra Nevada. Its closest relative is the Golden-crowned Sparrow, which also overwinters in our area, albeit in much smaller numbers. Genetic evivdence suggests that White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows split from a common ancestor only about 50,000 years ago.

Lance Benner

#### **President's Perch**

I ello, birders! Thank you for electing me your new President. Like any new President I am ■ filled with ambition and ideas, especially since I was able to attend this summer's National Audubon Convention (the first one held in 13 years). I was able to meet so many people and get a sense of how awesome our organization really is...reaching out and working in the name of birds across all the flyways.

I have been a birder since my college days at the University of Michigan where I studied Botany and Ornithology. Over the years I have been on a variety of non-profit boards; I am now privileged to tie together my experience with non-profit organizations and my love of birds in order to serve our mission: To bring the excitement of birds to our community through birding, education and the conservation of bird habitats.

With the inspiration from the Convention, the hard work from our board, and your

support, I am sure we will be able to continue on a positive track. I welcome your thoughts, ideas and comments either in person or via email at deni.sinnott@pasadenaaudubon.org. I'm looking forward to hearing how you feel we can increase our reach to the greater Pasadena Community. Think about getting more involved with our education and conservation projects as we extend our reach. After all, we need to protect our most important asset: the birds.

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#### September Program

#### What IS That??

#### Wednesday, September 18, 2013 7:30 pm—9:00 pm Jon Fisher & Mickey Long

his ID Workshop will feature a variety of interesting- and often challenging-photos from PAS birders/photographers as well images from our own collection. The program should offer something to interest everyone and will be a good opportunity to sharpen identification skills, and provide cautions and the pitfalls of making a quick call. While having a photograph of a bird is often valuable, it can also present its own challenges since context such as behavior and vocalizations are lacking. As usual, we'll take a holistic approach to ID and touch on habitat, seasonal timing, natural history, behavior and similar species as well as the field marks of the bird at hand. We hope you'll join us for what should be a fun and informative first program of the year.

#### **October Program**

### Warblers: Overlooked Easy ID Points

#### Wednesday, October 16, 2013 7:00 pm—9:00 pm\* Tom Stephenson

Note the earlier start time: social at 6:30, program at 7:00. Identifying the warblers by sight and sound in the field is one of the most enjoyable and satisfying aspects of birding. However, learning and remembering the important ID points of difficult and similar vocalizations can be challenging. Tom Stephenson presents some easy and effective learning aids. Read a review of his recent book, *The Warbler Guide*, on page 6. And don't forget the day-long warbler ID workshop at Eaton Canyon on October 19 - see page 7.

#### Go to

http://blog.press.princeton.edu/2013/0 7/25/downloadable-warbler-guidequick-finders/ to download excellent PDF files showing side-by-side comparisons of all warblers.

#### November Program

## Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey

#### Wednesday, November 20, 2013 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Khara Strum

he Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey (PFSS) helps guide the conservation of shorebirds and their habitats along the Pacific Coast of North America. In California, over 40 projects participate in this annual survey. Shorebird counts and habitat data, collected by professional biologists and over 300 Citizen Scientists, are compiled through online data entry in the California Avian Data Center. Interactive user applications on the website (www.prbo.org/pfss) provide summaries of shorebird data at different scales, by habitat type, or by region. The PFSS will help us understand the needs of shorebirds in our changing environment. Come learn from Khara Strum, waterbird ecologist with Point Blue Conservation Science, how you can be part of the team and help count shorebirds!

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

#### Conservation

#### **Rescuing the Condor**

One out of five free flying condors is at risk of dying from lead poisoning. The California condor can't survive on its own and it needs our help. The good news is AB711, which bans lead ammunition in California, passed the assembly and now we need to get enough support that this bill makes it into the California Senate. That's why representatives of California Audubon, Debs Park, Leo Politi Elementary school and Pasadena Audubon went to see Senator Kevin DeLeon on August 7, 2013.

We told the Senator why this bill is important for both birds and humans. Over 130 wildlife species such as golden eagles, vultures, or any animal that feeds on carcasses are in danger of dying from lead poisoning. The California condor is especially important because of its limited range that is restricted to California, Utah, Arizona and Baja California. The condors can never really be wild if they have to be trapped continuously and tested for lead. We would like the senator to support the bill and bring it into the California Senate so that every condor can be wild and free. Please support AB711 by writing a letter or e-mail to the senator.

Dessi Sieburth (6th grader at Progressive Montessori school in La Canada)

### **Sepulveda Basin Restoration on the Horizon?**

ast winter, the Army Corps of Engineers clear-cut a giant swath of habitat near Haskell Creek at Sepulveda Basin. Kris Ohlenkamp, Conservation Chair of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, has been working tirelessly to compel the ACOE to restore this area. The SFVAS has submitted an excellent restoration proposal, which PAS supports. This proposal is based on one created by the Army Corps back in 1984, but it was never implemented. It calls for restoring the seasonal pond, and adding a small lake and marsh. It improves on the Army Corps' plan by adding some hiking trails. We are hopeful that this plan will be adopted and implemented, and that the habitat at Sepulveda Basin will be better than ever.

Laura Garrett

Sepulveda Basin is the theme of this year's Environmentalists' Rendezvous at Eaton Canyon on September 7. See the detailed announcement on page 8.

#### Education

#### **Longfellow Elementary Says Thanks**

#### **Birdathon Funds at Work**

On behalf of the Longfellow Elementary Parent-Teacher Association, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your generous contribution of \$2259 to put toward our garden in order to install native plantings, add bird-attracting features, and add to our nature-study supply items that will help us teach the students about local birds and other local wildlife. We plan to seek your counsel and share our ideas on how to make the garden areas the most vibrant learning spaces possible.

We are extremely grateful for the investment that that Pasadena Audubon Society has made in Longfellow this year. The participation of your volunteers during the Great Backyard Bird Count, on our Science and Stargazing Night and at our Centennial event added enormously to each event and enriched the experience of each student who was lucky enough to be part of your activities.

We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with the Pasadena Audubon Society, and we look forward to sharing the wonderful additions made to our garden area with your financial support!

Thank you again for appreciating the value of our Longfellow school community and for supporting us in our efforts to make the school a wonderful place to learn.

Kitty Cahalan, President, Longfellow PTA

#### **Book Review: The Warbler Guide**

In as few words as possible, Tom Stephenson and Scott ■ Whittle's new book, *The Warbler Guide*, is **everything** you want and need to know about North American warblers. The authors offer their unique approach to warbler identification. They include visual finders to help you quickly identify any warbler you see. These pages provide "typical" views of the warblers – face, side, 45-degree and underside (and that is often the only way we see the bird). Stephenson and Whittle also provide a basic understanding of sonograms and how to listen to warbler songs, chip and flight calls. They provide a guide, called "What to notice on a Warbler," that looks to be a very valuable identification tool. They provide species accounts for 56 species of warblers in the United States and Canada. Within the species account they provide information on how to age and sex the warbler along with sonograms for each species with comparisons for similar sounding birds. The authors believe that quizzes help with retention so they provide some real-world identification problems to solve. Because the taxonomy of warblers has changed significantly over the last few years, Stephenson and Whittle have placed the species accounts in (are you sitting down?) alphabetical order. Wow! Warblers are amazing and I can't wait to use this great new guide.

Susan Gilliland

#### **Even More Birdathon Results**

[Editor's note: The June issue of The Wrentit couldn't fit all the content available that month. Here's the long-delayed report from Laura Garrett's Birdathon team. Don't forget, the next Birdathon is only seven months away!]

Our third annual Big Sit was record-breaking—55 birds! That may not seem like much, but it's eight more than we had last year. Twelve of us, Elaine McPherson, Deni Sinnott, Mark Hunter, Cecilia Lowenthal, Mickey and Jan Long, Carol Smith, Liz Cordero, Judy Bass, Leslie Duremberg, Carolyn, Woman of Mystery (we don't know her last name) and Yours Truly spent over four whole hours between the south and middle lake of Legg Lakes at Whittier Narrows searching for birds—it's amazing how quickly time flies when one is having a grand time!

Whittier Narrows is truly spectacular in April. The Great Blue Herons are nesting everywhere, and they glide by majestically carrying nesting material; we watched one parent feed her two huge chicks. The Double Crested Cormorants have taken over several trees for their nests as well. The Canada Geese roam around fearlessly, as do the Mallards. Robins and Common Yellowthroats are singing, and spring migration is at its peak.

A Big Sit is a little different from other birding trips; rather than driving or biking all over the place, trying to see as many birds as possible, we stay in one spot and wait for the birds to come to us. It works pretty well, and the birds mostly cooperate.

We reached forty species very quickly, with all the usual suspects like very bright Western Bluebirds, House Finches, and Great-tailed Grackles putting on courtship displays right before us.

As the morning wore on, bright orange Bullock's Orioles zoomed across our circle. As the air warmed up, the swallows arrived; we loved the acrobatics of dozens of Barn swallows, Tree Swallows (we saw them going into a nest), Cliff Swallows, and Violet-green Swallows as they chased after insects.

Birdathon always produces surprises, and this year was no different. I couldn't believe that yet again we missed some very easy birds for Whittier Narrows, especially Osprey, Great Egret, Red-winged Blackbird, and Cedar Waxwing, to name a few. Warblers were also in somewhat short supply, with only Wilson's, Yellow-rumps, Yellow, Yellowthroats, and Orange-crowned. The others were in a tree just outside our count circle—too far to see. Oh well.

The biggest surprise of all was a few Canada Geese sitting high up in a tree. None of us had ever seen that before, so we have no idea what they were doing up there. The first one we saw looked like he had finally figured out that if he sat high up in a tree, he could see everything in the park—Master of all he surveyed. Pretty funny.

While we all enjoyed our morning, we were starting to get a wee bit restless by about 11 o'clock, and we REALLY wanted to walk around the lakes and see what was there. Maybe next year we'll modify our team. What about the Sit and Stroll?

Laura Garrett

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#### Field Trips

#### **Ventura County Game Preserve**

Saturday, September 21, 2013 7:30 am — noon

Join us for this opportunity to bird a unique area whose coastal location and wet habitat attracts a variety of migrating shorebirds in the fall. Ventura County Game Preserve is a private hunting club which we have been given permission to bird.

We should find a variety of shorebirds, including Pectoral Sandpipers in numbers, as well as more common species. This location has been particularly good for rarities in late September; past rarities include Ruff, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and even once a Yellow Wagtail! Of course, none of these are likely; there's a reason they're called rarities. We'll just bird the area and see what we can find.

The meeting time and place will be arranged. Please email Mark Scheel if you would like to attend.

Larry Sansone, Mark & Janet Scheel

#### **Placerita Canyon**

Saturday, September 28, 2013 7:00 am — noon



lacerita is a wonderful canyon on the western edge of the San Gabriel Mountains. We will explore the Walker Ranch area of the canyon with its oaks and foothill canyons.

To get there from Pasadena take the 210 West, 5 North, 14 North, off at Placerita Canyon Road and take a right at the stop sign. In 1.5 miles you will come to the entrance to the Nature Center. Go 1.7 miles PAST this entrance to the pull-off for the Walker Ranch area on the right. Parking is limited, so carpooling is recommended. And, you will need an Adventure Pass if there is still a requirement at that time.

Ron Cyger

#### L.A. County Coastal Migrant Traps

Saturday, October 12, 2013 7:00 am — 11:30 am



ll are welcome as we look for interesting passerines in coastal parkland habitat at the end of fall migration. Our starting point, Ken Malloy Harbor Park, could easily keep us occupied for a full morning of birding, but there is also the possibility of diverting to another location on the coastal plain in hopes of chasing an L. A. County rarity.

Meet by the playground off Vermont Ave., south of P.C.H., in Harbor City. A scope is helpful for scanning Lake Machado, but most of the time we will be looking through the trees, bushes, and lawn. Allow 45 minutes driving time from Pasadena; carpooling is encouraged.

Darren Dowell

#### **Elysian Park**

Saturday, November 9, 2012 7:30 am — noon



**X** Te will search out residents, migrants, and vagrants (the feathered kind, that is) on this four and a half hour walk. Besides finding many of the expected woodpeckers and perching birds, some fall visitors may have arrived, including possibly a Redstart or two (Painted or American)! We will bird in Solano Canyon and other locations as time permits.

Take the Pasadena (110) Freeway south, exit on Academy Way and go straight about 0.3 mile to the traffic light (Park Dr/ Solano Canyon). Turn right and go about 0.3 mile to the parking area on your left.

Sue Horton & Ron Cyger

### Field trips continue on page 6!

#### **Eaton Canyon Monthly** WCC

Sunday, September 15, 2013 Sunday, October 20, 2013 Sunday, November 17, 2013 8:00 am — 11:00 am

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 WCC

Saturday, September 7, 2013 Saturday, October 5, 2013 Saturday, November 2, 2013 7:30 am — 11:30 am

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 Hahagmongna, and park by the ballfield.

Ron Cyger

#### **Huntington Library** Monthly Walk



Sunday, September 22, 2013 Sunday, October 27, 2013 Sunday, November 24, 2013 8:00 am — 11:00 am

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 nonmember guest, space permitting. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible.

For reservations contact me (see page 5) by email (preferred), or by phone.

Mark Hunter



wc = Wrentit Club!

### Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by October 1



wcc = Wrentit Club Count Circle!

September	2013
September	-010

4	Wed	7:00 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
7	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
8	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WCC	Legg Lake	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
18	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	What IS That??
21	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Ventura County Game Preserve	Larry Sansome, M. & J. Scheel
22	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Huntington Library & Gardens	Mark Hunter
			(PAS members only)			
28	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Placerita Canyon	Ron Cyger
Oatal		12				

#### October 2013

Octo	DCI 20	13				
2	Wed	7:00 pm	<b>Board Meeting</b>		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
5	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
12	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Harbor Park	Darren Dowell
13	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
15	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Bonelli Regional Park	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
16	Wed	6:30 pm*	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Warbler ID Enlightenment
19	Sat	9:00 am	Warbler Workshop		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	See page 7
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Huntington Library & Gardens	Mark Hunter
			(PAS members only)			

#### November 2013

NOVE	mber 4	2013				
2	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
6	Wed	7:00 pm	<b>Board Meeting</b>	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
9	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Elysian Park	Sue Horton & Ron Cyger
10	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
16	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	North Slope San Gabriels	Mark & Janet Scheel
17	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Santa Fe Dam	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
20	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	To be announced
23	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Big Santa Anita Cyn	Lance Benner
24	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Huntington Library & Gardens	Mark Hunter
			(PAS members only)			
30	Sat	9:00 am	Field Trip		Newport Back Bay - kayaks	Mark Hunter

<sup>\*</sup> Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (chair) Larry Allen Lance Benner Ron Cyger Darren Dowell Kathi Ellsworth Jon Feenstra Jon Fisher Nick & Mary Freeman Frank & Susan Gilliland Sid Heyman Mark Hunter Mickey Long Elaine MacPherson Hill Penfold	(626) 765-5408 (323) 288-2701 (626) 791-1187 (626) 449-3625 (before 9:00 pm) (626) 344-4003 (626) 564-0652 (626) 319-4723 (818) 800-2776 (818) 247-6172 (626) 441-8487 (626) 571-5991 (818) 369-6627 (626) 285-8878 (626) 355-9412 (818) 352-4954	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu larryallen@earlymusicla.org lbenner@charter.net ron@cyger.org (preferred) dowell.darren@yahoo.com pandionsky@yahoo.com feenstra@alumni.caltech.edu jonf60@hotmail.com mnfreeman@earthlink.net gillilandsusan@gmail.com sidheyman@sbcglobal.net fishingyak@yahoo.com mlongbird@charter.net birdergrrl@aol.com hpenfold@gmail.com
Julia Ray	(818) 314-5127	jraymusic@att.net
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@earthlink.net

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#### Field Trips, continued

#### Chilao Visitor Center

Second Sunday of every month 8:00 am — 10:00 am



A fter a long closure, the Chilao Visitor Center re-opened in late May. I have led a regularly scheduled monthly birdwalk there since then. The walks will continue each month, weather and road conditions permitting. (If things look rainy, snowy or brush fire-y, check first.)

Chilao is a good place to see woodpeckers and we often see four or more species on a walk. At one time Chilao was an almost guaranteed place to see Mountain Quail, but they became a very elusive species once the center and its feeders shut down. Now after a few months of weekends-only feeding they have been showing up again. 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

#### North Slope, San Gabriels

Saturday, November 16, 2013 7:30 am — early afternoon



We will explore areas on the northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, such as Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center, Jackson Lake, and locations in Valyermo. We will search for high-altitude species as well as wintering raptors. Ferriginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and Golden Eagle are possible, as are Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers. Unusual species (e.g. Lewis's Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Swamp Sparrow) have been found in some years. Time permitting, we may look for Mountain Plovers or longspurs in the nearby Antelope Valley.

It may be cold, especially at higher elevations, so bring warm clothes. Also, bring lunch. We will meet in the eastern lot of the Park & Ride on Ave S. in Palmdale, just east of the 14 freeway.

Mark and Janet Scheel

#### Big Santa Anita Canyon

Saturday, November 23, 2013 6:30 am — noon



Join us for a fall hike into Big Santa Anita Canyon as we search for American dipper, Pacific wren, canyon wren, rufous-crowned sparrow, and other lower montane species. Pacific wrens were present here in November of 2010, 2011, and 2012 and are probably regular fall/winter visitors.

We're planning to hike past Sturtevant Falls as far as the Cascade Picnic area for total of about six miles. Parking at Chantry Flats is often tight on weekends, so please carpool.

Bring sturdy shoes, plenty of water, some food, sunscreen, a hat, warm clothing, and an Adventure Pass for your car. Heavy rain cancels but drizzle does not. Expect to see some lovely fall colors and gorgeous scenery.

Lance Benner

#### National Audubon's 2013 Convention

A fter a long day at work full of emails & spreadsheets, I was whisked away to the pristine north, a place that felt untouched by the world I had left behind. Finally arriving at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA on that warm Friday evening, I was taken by the incredible vista of the Columbia Gorge and the excitement of the National Audubon Convention; wonderful things were afoot as the first convention in 13 years was just getting underway!

The opening reception was friendly and welcoming, folks greeting each other, exchanging travel stories, and generally abuzz with excitement. Audubon is heading into a new future of mutual respect between the national staff, regional and states offices and the chapters, and it was easy to overhear stories of optimism coming from everyone in attendance. It was clear that the time has come to take the Audubon Society to the next level.

I was able to attend only a fraction of the sessions, making me wish I had more Pasadena Audubon members in tow! Next time I hope PAS will be well represented. Some of the sessions I was able to attend were: Saving Important Bird Areas, Marketing and Membership, Working with Volunteers, Diversifying the Audubon Community, plus a special session on the issues facing the Pacific Flyway. The speakers were well prepared and encouraged open discussion, resulting in sharing of ideas that worked and some that didn't.

The Convention gave me some valuable tools that will help me to be an effective president. I learned what other chapters are doing to make their communities more bird-friendly and methods to get more people interested in birds and conservation, especially younger folks. The best part of the convention was the opportunity to meet people from around the nation who share my passion for birds and conservation. It was wonderful to learn about the impact we are collectively making on a national and even international basis. With such an inspirational gathering it wasn't hard to come away with a renewed sense of purpose for Pasadena Audubon.

Deni Sinnott

#### Newport Back Bay by Kayak

Saturday, November 30, 2013 9:00 am — noon

This is a beautiful, relaxing outing on the water cleverly disguised as a birding trip. We see dozens of species and often get dramatically closer looks than land-bound birders do. Wintering ducks, shorebirds, Black Skimmers, and many other species are well represented. This trip is timed to take advantage of mild currents, ending at low tide, when shorebirds take to the mud flats in large numbers.

Both single and double kayaks are available for rent at our launch point, Newport Beach Aquatic Center. I will also have a couple of loaner kayaks available. Trip size is limited, so please contact me for reservations and more info.

Mark Hunter

#### **Identifying and Learning Warbler Vocalizations**

on Saturday, October 19, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, PAS and Los Angeles Audubon Society will host a warbler workshop at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Advance signup is required. There is a \$20 fee and the workshop is open to the first 80 people. We encourage you to bring a brown bag lunch. Mail checks payable to "LAAS Warbler Vocalization Workshop" to: Los Angeles Audubon-Field Trips, Attn: Susan Castor, PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041. Include name, address, phone number, and email addres. Confirmations will be sent by email.

This workshop by Tom Stephenson will cover many new techniques that make it easier to identify singing warblers and other species. This workshop will first cover how to understand and use sonograms to learn what makes a vocalization unique and how to differentiate similar-sounding species.

Based on a new system outlined in *The Warbler Guide* Tom will explain and demonstrate how understanding a song's structure, and the characteristics of the Elements and Phrases that make up the song, can speed up the identification process and make it easier to remember all kinds of vocalizations. There will also be a discussion of how to use a song finder to quickly identify a singing warbler using the objective, easy-to-hear qualities of a song.

The author will also explain a simple 3-step memorization system that he has used many times to memorize 300 or more songs for a trip to a new country.

And, if time permits, there will be a discussion of how to study and identify the vocalizations of groups of similar-sounding species, such as western thrashers, and also how to learn the very short chip and flight calls of warblers and other species.

#### **Magpie Bird Study Group**

The group meets the third Tuesday of each month. 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, September 17, 2013 Legg Lake

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 Bonelli Regional Park

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 Santa Fe Dam

Trip leaders: Sid Heyman, Julia Ray

#### **North East Trees Says Thanks**

#### **Birdathon Funds at Work**

Thank you very much for your generous contribution of \$2,259 to North East Trees. Your gift will enable us to forward our mission of "Restoring Nature's Services to Improve the Quality of Life in Our Neighborhoods".

We have been funded by the State to do a larger stormwater "best management practices" demonstration project at Ascot Hills Park. As part of that project, which helps capture storm runoff back to the soil instead of into cement ditches, your contribution will specifically help enhance the riparian habitat at the park, and also expand it to provide fruit, seeds, nectar and pollen for songibrds and other small wildlife, including insects. Many of the smaller shrubs and grasses will be planted near the amphitheater in the demonstration rain gardens and bioswales. We will also be planting canopy trees, like oaks, and shrubs like toyon, elderberry, and coffeberry on the nearby slopes.

Thank you again for your support.
We will ensure that it is used wisely to augment the bird habitat in the park.

Mark Kenyon, Executive Director, North

East Trees

#### **DONATIONS TO PAS**

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Denise Castillo, Elizabeth Cordero, Beth Gertmenian, Patty Margaret, Stacey Masci, Linda Rourman, Sylvia Stachura, Elizabeth Stoakes, Norm Vargas, Amy Williamson. Thank you for your generosity!

#### **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 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!

<b>Chapter-only</b>	Membership	<b>Application</b>
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Name		Phone
Address		
City	State	ZIP
Email		
If this is a gift, please also provi	de donor's information	n below:
Name		Phone
Address		
City	State	ZIP
Yearly dues:		
] \$20 (regular)		
] \$35 (T-shirt or Birding	g Guide, plus a PAS	S pin)
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### **Environmentalists' Rendezvous and Potluck Picnic**

September 7, 2013 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm Eaton Canyon Nature Center "History, Controversy, and Opportunities at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas"

Join fellow environmentalists from throughout the area at this low-key picnic. Dave Weeshoff, President of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, and Kris Ohlenkamp, the Society's Conservation Chair, will bring us up to date on the efforts to restore habitat in the Sepulveda Basin. In December 2012, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers destroyed the 48 acre "South Reserve". Come and find out about the flora and fauna; history and management; and the controversies and plans for the area. Learn how you can help restore and protect this local treasure.

Gather at the outdoor classroom at Eaton Canyon for socializing at 5:30, dine at 6:00, and listen to the program at 7:00. Bring a dish serving six to eight people. Beverages, plates and utensils will be provided.

Hosted by the Angeles chapter of the Sierra Club. Coordinators: Ginny Heringer: 626-793-4727 ginnyh@ix.netcom.com; David Czamanske: 626-458-8646, dczamanske@hotmail.com.

#### New Members

ALHAMBRA: Jiahao Li; ALTADENA: William Akutagawa, Jill Gold, Kingsley Hines, Angela Strauss; ARCADIA: Donna & Roger Bignell, Helen McCartney, Loretta Smith, Benjamin Stafford, Christopher Thompson, Michelle Tremblay; BRADBURY: Martha West; CLAREMONT: Doris Popoff; DUARTE: Gail La Sota; GLENDALE: Anaïs Lignan; LOS ANGELES: Sharon Shorer; MONROVIA: Edith Wuensch; MONTEREY PARK: Mei Ma: PASADENA: Fran Allen. Margaret Bruning, Maria Sol Caro, Carolyn Coleman, Amelia-Juliette Demery, Virginia Goodrich, Antoinette Hudson, Anais Lignan, Denise Mazzarella, Diana Menkes, Earl & Dawn Miller, Donald Oliver, Mariann & Tim Reardon, Margo Reid, Marie Zelenka; REDLANDS: Laurie Cosme; SAN GABRIEL: Judith Avery, Ruth Falck, Wynne Thursby, Glenn Yoshida; SAN MARINO: Carl Wolffradt; SANTA MONICA: Brittany O'Connor; SIERRA MADRE: Claire Drean, Arline Golden, Jennie Green; SOUTH PASADENA: Debra Beadle, Maryl Peltzie, Nick & Laura Pendorf, Donald Rapp, Barbara Sinclair, Kathleen Thomas; TEMPLE CITY: Hazel Benscoter, Robin Ellis, Linda Rourman