



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

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Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 54 – No. 2

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

March-April 2006

March Program

Southern California Bight

Todd McGrath

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Put on your rain jacket, take your seasickness medication and join veteran pelagic trip leader Todd McGrath for a journey to see some of the remarkable seabirds and marine mammals that call the waters off southern California home. As part of this journey we will see how the ocean topography and currents in the Southern California Bight combine to provide the conditions for marine life to flourish. We will also examine some of the life histories of these fascinating birds and mammals.

Todd McGrath has spent nearly 200 days at sea off California, and regularly leads pelagic trips off both coasts of the United States. His interest in seabirds has taken him to Mexico, South America, Australia, South Africa, and Antarctica. When not out to sea, he can usually be found birding somewhere in southern California, or spending time with his wife Pamela and their two daughters, Katelyn and Sarah. He serves on the board of directors for Audubon California and is a regular leader on LAAS pelagic trips.

General Meetings held at:

Eaton Canyon Nature Center

1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena

7:00 pm Social

7:30 pm Program

President's Perch

In December, we were very grateful to receive confirmation that PAS was one of five charitable organizations named in the will of the late Marie Jackson. Our benefactor had left us \$201,675.

The Board has formed an investment committee and approved the transfer of the funds to a Fidelity Investment account where it will be professionally invested to preserve the principal and provide a constant flow of interest into our operating budget. The investment committee will oversee the types of investments to assure they agree with our commitment to conservation and habitat.

This additional investment income will

April Program

Birds of Puerto Rico

Lance Benner

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Puerto Rico is a Caribbean island about the size of Connecticut that has been isolated geographically since its formation millions of years ago. About 350 bird species have been recorded there and about 130 species breed there. Due to its isolation, Puerto Rico is home to only sixteen endemic bird species. One species, the Elfin Woods Warbler was discovered only 35 years ago, and another, the Puerto Rican Parrot, is among the most endangered bird species in the world.

This talk will describe Puerto Rico's endemic and non-endemic birds, their geographic and seasonal distributions, birding locations, and tips for traveling to and within the island.

Lance Benner is a Research Scientist at JPL who specializes in radar imaging of near-Earth asteroids, which he conducts at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico and the Goldstone Solar System Radar in the Mojave Desert. He has visited Puerto Rico more than 25 times and has become particularly fond of Puerto Rican Lizard Cuckoos, Todies and Screech-owls, all common near Arecibo Observatory.

help make up for the loss of our share of dues from National Audubon. For the last several years we have asked for donations to make up the difference. We will still ask for donations and have fund-raisers but now they will be to fund Birder's projects and Birder's causes. This is a big step in the right direction to meet our goals in education and conservation. For example, refurbishing the nature trail at the Cobb Estate has been stalled for lack of funds – now I think we can go ahead with it.

Remembering Pasadena Audubon in your Will or a Charitable Remainder Trust is a great way to insure that PAS will continue to exist into the future. Amounts great and small are welcome. *Will*

May Program

Jewels of Ecuador

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Special joint meeting with LA Audubon at Audubon Center at Debs Park, see box below.

No bigger than the state of Colorado, Ecuador's altitudinal habitats range from the Pacific coast up the western slope to the highest Andes, down the eastern slope to the Amazon rainforest, and from Northern humid forest to dry scrub in the south. It's position on the equator means there isn't the traditional cool and hot seasons but wet and dry instead. All this helps to generate an astounding list of 1,537 species seen in a country with just 12 endemic species.

Herb Clarke, Ron Cyger, Gary George and Bill Principe share photos and videos from their recent trips of some of the "Jewels of Ecuador".

Special Notice!!

In May, PAS will hold a combined meeting with Los Angeles Audubon Society at Audubon Center at Debs Park, 4700 North Griffin Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90031. (323) 221-2255

7:00 pm Social

7:30 pm Meeting

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Conservation

Endangered Species Act

Last fall the House of Representatives approved H.R. 3824, the bill introduced by Representative Pombo (R-CA) to change the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Before it can become law, a bill modifying the ESA must first be passed in the Senate. Last December S 2110 was introduced into the Senate by Senator Crapo (R-ID) and another bill is expected soon. Given that any bill passed in the Senate must be reconciled with the Pombo bill in committee before becoming law, it is important that any bill passed in the Senate should be extremely favorable to wildlife. If that is not the case, then the best scenario might be for no bill to be passed in the Senate.

The language of the original 1973 Act recognizes that other wildlife, from plants, fish and amphibians to birds and mammals, provide "esthetic, educational, ecological, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people."

Due to overexploitation of resources by humans, we are living in what most scientists characterize as the sixth massive extinction to have occurred in the last half billion years. In fact, the percentage and number of species of animals and plants threatened with extinction is staggering. Globally, approximately 30% of all amphibian species, 12% of all bird species and 20% of all mammal species are threatened with extinction.

The cause of declining populations of animals and plants is thought to be habitat destruction. This is largely due to conversion of natural habitat, such as woodlands or grasslands, to agricultural lands.

However, there is another habitat that we usually don't think of within this context: fresh water. In fact, in the U.S., freshwater ecosystems are the most degraded of all habitats. This is largely due

to pollution from both point sources, such as chemical spills, wastewater or industrial effluent, and non-point sources, such as acid rain, nutrient overloading, or heavy metal and sedimentation accumulation. In addition, competition with non-native freshwater species is a significant threat.

Fresh water fishes and mussels are significantly impacted by the declining quality of our freshwater lakes, rivers and streams. I want to focus though on the later group of animals.

Saltwater mussels can often be found washed up on our beaches, or seen attached in large numbers to rocks just below the surf line. Their shells are purplish-gray and have two sides jointed at one side, like the shells of a clam. Freshwater mussels are bivalve mollusks and have a curious life cycle that involves spending time attached as a parasite to a fish. At the time of encysting into their host, they initially consist only of a shell and a rudimentary mouth and intestine. After 6-120 days they have developed into juveniles with a heart, liver, and a muscular foot. After falling off their host, they must soon find and attach to a substrate where they spend the remainder of their life.

Since they spend their whole life in water, freshwater mussels are sensitive to water pollution. 300 species are found in North America, out of approximately 1000 found worldwide. Unfortunately, here in the U.S. 62 are endangered and 7 are threatened. Further, only 25% are thought to have stable populations, and 12% are thought to be extinct.

For more information on this issue, go to WWW.PASADENAUDUBON.ORG

There you can find more detailed criticisms of the Pombo bill. Send a letter to Diane Feinstein at Senator Diane Feinstein, 11111 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 915, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (310) 914-7300.

Michael Graesser



Cobb Estate Update

Pasadena Audubon's plan to provide signage and native plantings for a nature trail at the Cobb Estate in Altadena is becoming a reality. We have almost half the funding needed, thanks to two grants: \$2000.00 from Avery Dennison Corporation and \$1500.00 from Audubon California.

Special thanks go to PAS Vice President Norm Arnheim, who wrote and submitted the grant requests. "Your proposal was clear and...[explained] how the signage can involve volunteers and the community.... Also the ecological message of the signage is quite appealing," wrote Claudia Eyzaguirre, Chapter Coordinator for Audubon California. Claudia visited Pasadena Audubon in early February, when President Will Fulmer with other PAS members showed her around Eaton Canyon and the Cobb Estate. As Chapter Coordinator, she acts as a resource for Audubon Chapters, provides communication between Audubon California and the state Chapters, and coordinates grassroots campaigns on key conservation issues at the state level.

Coming Events

Saturday, March 25, 2006

**Sparrow Identification Lecture
Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett**

Location: ECNC

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Details: Send SASE and \$30 with phone & e-mail to LA Audubon Society to reserve. Check WWW.LAAUDUBON.ORG for more lecture details and mailing address.

**Audubon California's Starr Ranch
May 19 – 21, 2006**

Bird Research Camp (including an "Owl Prowl")

June 3-4, 2006

Wildlife Research Camp

Bunkhouse or tent camping for both camps available at a nominal cost.

For more information: (949) 858-0309

New Members *(continued)*

John & Lou Ann Sobieski, Gene & Patricia Ster, Ruby Walkers; **Rosemead:** Valerie Basquette, Carolyn Felden; **San Diego:** Barbara Guerin; **San Marino:** Barbara Kinney, Myron Oakes; **Sierra Madre:** Larry Carnighan, Sue Hanks, Harriet Lyle, Jean Richardson, Marguerite Shuster; **South Pasadena:** Yvonne DeWit, Marjorie Flynn, John Halls, Paul Messina, Rowene Nalle, Scott Parker, Velia Rivera, Deborah Schwartz, Stephanie Shum, Chi Wen; **Temple City:** Jerry Gillette, P. Hillemeier, Phillip Kessler, Warren Packer, Theresa Shaw, Linda Vennard, Lovie Wong.

PAS Elections

Officer Elections for Pasadena Audubon Society will be held at the General Meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2006. Nominated for election are:

President	Will Fulmer
Vice President	Norm Arnheim
Treasurer	Peggy Ogata
Secretary	Jean O'Hagan

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Election results will be formally announced at our Annual Dinner in June.

2005 Christmas Bird Count

While I often note that the importance of the Christmas Bird Count is to document and track population trends of regularly occurring and often common species, it can't be denied that turning up vagrants on the count adds a definite dimension of excitement to the event. This year was truly an exciting one in terms of finding those rarities. In addition, we had an above average but not record species count of 159.

The weather certainly cooperated. Temperatures were cool but not cold with mostly overcast skies. That's just about perfect for finding birds all day. We also had adequate coverage of the circle and good fortune in finding a number of unusual birds. As is typical for the Pasadena CBC, the majority of good finds weren't discovered until the day of the count.

Until this year, the last **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** in LA County were recorded way back in 1981. The Pasadena count this year changed that statistic and, interestingly, the duck was found by a birder not even participating in the count. Eventually a number of CBC birders did get to see it. This presumably naturally-occurring and unbanded bird was found along the San Gabriel River at Whittier Narrows. It's a first for this species on the count and, as mentioned, it's the first LA County record in nearly a quarter of a century.

Other waterfowl of interest included the first **White-fronted Goose** since 2000 at Legg Lake and **Hooded Mergansers** (four individuals) for the second year in a row.

The first **American Bittern** in over a decade of Pasadena counts was at Whittier Narrows, and the **Green Heron** count rebounded from last year's shocking single bird (obviously a fluke) to a more normal fourteen birds.

Raptors included the count's first **Bald Eagle** since 1999 over the Livingston-Graham Gravel Pits near Irwindale. We also had a high count of three **Peregrine Falcons**. **Cooper's Hawks** continue to do well in the area with a highest ever count of twenty-four birds compared to just five **Sharp-shinned Hawks**. A few of these hawks are inevitably misidentified to species, but the trend for Cooper's appears clear.

A **Herring Gull**, a **Glaucous-winged Gull** and two hybrid **Glaucous-winged X Western Gulls** (aka **Nelson's Gull**... no, I can't keep up with gull nomenclature either) were of interest, with these all being found along the San Gabriel River in the Whittier Narrows area. **Western Gulls** were down from last year's 263

with 150 counted; a good number nonetheless. This gull has dramatically increased in numbers on our CBC in just the last five years and this echoes the trend for inland LA County over the past decade.

Spotted Dove was missed for the third year in a row, though one was recorded during count week last year. Many tie the decline of this species to the increase in Cooper's Hawks.

Introduced parrots and parakeets were in abundance with new high counts for **Red-crowned** (1,318) and **Lilac-crowned** (687) Parrots, and a very good count of 26 **Yellow-headed Parrots**, which have been declining and in short supply in recent years.

Seven **Western Screech-Owls** were tallied during a pre-dawn search of several foothill canyons in and around the Altadena area. It's clear that these birds are relatively common at the edge of our suburban areas if one makes the effort to look for them.

Vaux's Swifts were regular on the count in the 1990s, but hadn't been recorded since 1999. This year a flock of about 30 birds was in the Whittier Narrows area, the expected location for this species in winter. **Allen's Hummingbirds** tallied a high count of 128 birds, easily topping the previous high of 100. Not only are these hummingbirds common at the Huntington Gardens and Arboretum, but they have become widespread in residential areas and in the scrub habitats bordering them.

A **Yellow-shafted Flicker** at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino was the first since 1999. Interestingly, that 1999 bird was also found at the Huntington.

Flycatchers did something of a turnabout, with none of the expected **Empidonax flycatchers** ("**Western**" or **Gray**) found this year. More than making up for that was a well-documented **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** at the Arboretum in Arcadia (only the second count record). Also, there was a stunning male **Vermilion Flycatcher** near the Rio Hondo north of Whittier Narrows. This was the count's first Vermilion since 1998. Forty-three **Cassin's Kingbirds** more than doubled the previous high count for this species.

Loggerhead Shrikes are just hanging on with one bird recorded on this year's count. As recently as the late 1990s, counts averaged eight birds and counts of two decades ago reached double to triple that number.

One **Tree Swallow** and four **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found along the San Gabriel River near Whittier Narrows. Swallows wander widely when

foraging and this makes locating them on count day a tricky proposition.

Red-whiskered Bulbuls entered the highest count since 2001's 128 birds with 94 this year. Nearly all of these birds are found at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino and at the Arboretum in Arcadia and they appear to be stable at those locations.

Wood-warblers offer species diversity even in winter and the count this year illustrated that very well. In all, we recorded twelve species. Three **Yellow Warblers** and one **Palm Warbler** were along the San Gabriel River and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Peck Road Park in Arcadia. Thirty-eight **Townsend's Warblers** was a record high count and a single **Hermit Warbler** at 5,400 feet at Mt. Wilson was unexpected and the first since 2002. A **Black-and-White warbler** was at Legg Lake and three **Wilson's Warblers** at various locations were the most on the count since 2001.

Most exciting, though not altogether unexpected this year, was a **Painted Redstart** reported a few days before the count at Monrovia Canyon. It was easily picked up on count day. Four others had been recorded in LA County prior to the count and another was found later in the month. This winter the region as a whole has experienced a surfeit of birds typically associated with southeast Arizona.

Two **White-throated Sparrows** were tallied as were three of the often hard-to-find **Rufous-crowned Sparrows**. Another very exciting find was an adult male **Lazuli Bunting** at Santa Fe Dam. This species is very rare in winter and previously unrecorded on the count.

The **Great-tailed Grackle** count of 153 birds was just below last year's count of 155 with both well above average. The last decade has seen a surge in the population of this species on the CBC. A single **Bullock's Oriole** this year was the first recorded since 2000.

What did we miss? Phainopepla, Western Meadowlark, Northern Cardinal and Red Bishop. Not too bad, although Western Meadowlark is a tough miss. Species with small populations and/or specific habitat requirements pose a challenge on the Christmas Count when there is only one day to find all the birds occurring in the circle.

A lot stays the same each year on the Pasadena CBC. And then there are those surprises that make each count exciting. Therein lies the attraction of the CBC and birding in general. A big thank you once again to each and every participant. See you all again on December 16, 2006.

Joh Fisher

Trip Reports



Salton Sea

January 28 - 29, 2006

Saturday morning dawned in Calipatria with clear skies and the promise of lots of birds! We started the morning in search of doves, and found Mourning, Common Ground, and Eurasian Collared (Eurasian Collared-Doves seem to have exploded in population since last year). From there we headed over to the Calipatria State Prison and picked up our first Burrowing Owls along with about 100 Mountain Plover, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Lapland Longspur, and a brief view of a Smith's Longspur.

We then went up to the Wister unit and picked up two American Redstarts along with all the other expected species. We worked our way down the sea picking up lots of ducks and terrestrial birds. By the end of the day we ran into tens of thousands of Snow Geese including two blue-phase geese, lots of Ross's Geese, and two Greater White-fronted Geese. We also watched a coyote lope through the field and catch an unsuspecting goose.

Hats, T-shirts and more

Do you need a hat to keep the sun out of your eyes while birding? Pasadena Audubon has just the thing! We have a new supply of hats in two styles – the ever-popular adjustable billed caps, as well as several sizes of “bucket” style hats. Both are embroidered with our Wrentit logo on the front and “Pasadena Audubon Society” on the back. The cost is just \$20.

We also have a good supply of t-shirts and sweatshirts in all sizes with our Wrentit logo. Adult tees come in light tan, dark tan or pale green; sweatshirts are pale green. Youth tees and sweatshirts are gray. The T-shirts are \$15, and the sweatshirts are \$25.

All our PAS clothing is available for purchase at our general meetings on the third Wednesday of the month. Profits from sales help fund our day-to-day expenses.



At the southern tip of the sea we had the thrill of watching Sandhill Cranes and White-faced Ibis come in to roost as we listened to a Clapper Rail.

The next morning started with a few missed terns (sp) going down to Fig Lagoon. When we finally arrived, we were greeted by a flock of about 250 American White Pelicans crowded together on the water. We picked through swallows and grebes and then went on a hawk watch. All together we had eight raptors (nine if you count the Turkey Vultures).

We finished the day watching a Gray Flycatcher while eating lunch and our last bird of the trip was a female (unfortu-



Photos L-R: Mountain Plover, American White Pelicans, Snow Geese by Will Fulmer

nately) Vermilion Flycatcher, both at Cattle Call Park in Brawley. All told, we found 109 species and one beautiful sunset over the sea.

Ron Cyger

PAS on the WEB

Website

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

ListServe

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

Helen Mary Williams passed away in January at age 86. She was a good friend of PAS and served as Youth Education Chair for many years. (She will be missed.)

ARBORETUM BIRD WALK

Have you wondered what to do when the Hahamongna/Peck Pit first Saturday Bird Walks end for the season? Wonder no more; you can take part in a bird walk on first Saturdays all year long.

The Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden now offers a Bird Walk on the first Saturday of the month, starting at 8:00 am. Led by birder and naturalist Ray Jillson, the walk is open to all ages and all levels of birding knowledge. And there is no admission charge. Meet at the main entrance gate to the Arboretum.

Field Trips

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, March 4, 2006

Saturday, April 1, 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.

Will and Lois Fulmer

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, March 19, 2006

Sunday, April 16, 2006

Sunday, May 21, 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, March 26, 2006

Sunday, April 23, 2006

Sunday, May 28, 2006

8:00 am – 11:00 am

Thanks to the persistent efforts of several members, and especially Huntington curator Dan Lewis, we offer walks on the fourth Sunday of the month. Attendance is by reservation only and is limited to 15 PAS members. There will be chances to see some of the "back country" areas.

Contact Elaine MacPherson by email

(preferred) or phone. Please put Huntington in your subject line so you don't get deleted! Reservations will be taken only for the month you call or write. No advance reservations. Elaine and Dan will co-lead and other leaders may also participate.

Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

Piute Ponds

Saturday, March 11, 2006

7:00 am – Full day

When is the best time to bird Piute Ponds? Anytime! The ponds are located at the extreme north end of Los Angeles County on Edwards Air Force Base and require a permit to bird. We should see a good array of later winter and early spring migrants along with the great resident birds.

Bring a scope, food and water and meet at 7:00 am at the Park & Ride on Avenue S in Palmdale (off the 14 Freeway, about 1:15 minutes away from Pasadena. We will form carpools and go from there. Dress warm and be prepared for a full day of birding. For info contact co-leaders.

Larry Allen and Ron Cyger

Owling the San Gabriel Mountains

Saturday, March 18, 2006

Saturday, May 20, 2006

6:00 pm – midnight

Six species of owls breed in the San Gabriel Mountains. ****This trip will start early evening at Buckhorn Campground. We'll look for diurnal montane species and Northern Pygmy Owl while it's light, and then look for Flammulated, Northern Saw-whet, Western Screech, and Great Horned Owls after it gets dark. Common Poorwill is also possible, and we may find a Spotted Owl.**

Take the Angeles Crest Highway (California Route 2) east from 210 in La Cañada for about one hour to the large turnout at the ****Buckhorn Campground exit (about one mile east of the entrance), where we'll meet at 6:00 pm. Limited to 15 people.**

****Confirm time and meeting place when you call or email Lance to reserve a spot.**

Lance Benner

Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park

Saturday, April 15, 2006

7:30 am – 12:00 noon

Over 300 species have been documented at this regional park in San Pedro. The lake attracts various gulls, terns, egrets, grebes, ducks, and shorebirds, and the marshes may contain Soras, Common Moorhens, and a variety of blackbirds. Almost anything may be likely to show up during migration, and the lakeshore tules are one of the most reliable places in Southern California for Least Bittern.

From the Harbor Freeway (Interstate 110) go northwest on Pacific Coast Highway for about half a mile and turn left at Vermont Ave. Turn left and enter the parking lot near the south end of the Lake (where Normandie Ave. connects with Vermont).

Ed Stonick

Kern County Lowlands

Saturday, April 29, 2006

8:00 am – ?

This trip name may be misleading since we may cover a mountain or two. We will meet in Frazier Park to break into carpools. Have a full tank for a long day of driving in beautiful country. About a third of this trip is on a dirt road that is in good condition as of this writing.

Take the Golden State Freeway (#5) north to the Frasier Park turnoff and continue west for about 5 miles into Frazier Park. At the stop sign take a left into the small city park. We will meet at 8:00 am. Bring lunch and water and an FRS radio (channel 5, sub channel 10).

Ron Cyger

Butterbredt Springs & Galileo Hills

Saturday, May 14, 2006

6:00 am – 4ish

These are incredible Spring migrant traps for songbirds, flycatchers and other migrants. We will study Empidonax flycatchers in depth, and may have opportunity to see herps and dragonflies.

Meet at the Jawbone Canyon ranger station lot by Hwy 14, and we will carpool up to Butterbredt Springs. (OR meet at Galileo Hills in the main lot at 9:00 am). Allow 2 hrs. driving time from LA, or stay at the Mojave Motel 6 or elsewhere. Must be a PAS member for this event! 12 max. Contact Nick to reserve (818) 247-6172 until 11:00 pm or MNFREEMAN@EARTHLINK.NET and specify your meeting preference for confirmation and directions.

Those showing up without confirmation cannot be accommodated! Bring lunch, sun block, bird & lizard books.

Nick & Mary Freeman

Magpie Bird Study Group

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

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 – TBA

Tuesday, April 18, 2006 – TBA

Tuesday, May 16, 2006 – TBA

Contact leaders for location and directions.



*Sid Heyman
Madeline West*

Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by **April 3rd**

March 2006

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader *
4	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Lois & Will Fulmer
8	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
11	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Piute Ponds	Larry Allen & Ron Cyger
15	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Southern California Bight
18	Sat	TBA	Field Trip	Owling in the San Gabriels	Lance Benner
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	TBA	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
26	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

(PAS Members Only)

April 2006

1	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Lois & Will Fulmer
12	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
15	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park	Ed Stonick
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	TBA	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Birds of Puerto Rico
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis
29	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Kern County Lowlands	Ron Cyger

(PAS Members Only)

May 2006

6	Sat	ALL DAY	Field Trip	BIRDATHON	See Page 7 for details
10	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Pasadena Presbyterian Church	585 E. Colorado Bl. (at Madison)
14	Sun	6:00 am	Field Trip	Butterbrecht Springs/Gallieo Hills	Nick and Mary Freeman
16	Tu	9:00 am	Magpie Group	TBA	Sid Heyman & Madeline West
17	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Audubon Center at Debs Park	Program: Jewels of Equador
20	Sat	TBA	Field Trip	Owling in the San Gabriels	Lance Benner
21	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
28	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

(PAS Members Only)

***Trip Leader Information**

Mark Scheel (Chair)	(626) 355-3938	SCHEEL@TAPIR.CALTECH.EDU
Larry Allen	(323) 221-2022	LARRYALLEN@EARLYMUSICLA.ORG
Lance Benner	(626) 791-1187	LBENNER@CHARTER.NET
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625 (<i>before 9 pm</i>)	RON@CYGER.ORG (<i>preferred</i>)
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	(626) 352-4954	HPENFOLD@BIGFOOT.COM
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	EDSTONICK@EARTHLINK.NET
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	WEST226@ADELPHIA.NET

Pasadena Audubon Society
BIRDATHON 2006

**You have a choice to bird one of these days:
Saturday, May 6, 2006 (Only one day this year)**

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

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

BY JUNE 1, 2006 to:

Pasadena Audubon Society **BIRDATHON 2006**
c/o Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107

Results will be announced at the Annual Dinner in June

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

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

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

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 Wren*.

We thank you all for your support!

Membership Application

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Donor's address for gift membership:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Yearly Membership for Individual or Family

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

* Plus Chapter Pin and Tee Shirt 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 How to Attract Birds into Your Backyard *(continued)*

The last Wrennit article talked about different kinds of plants that attract birds. This article talks about feeders and water.

Part 2: Feeders and Water

You've probably seen many types of bird feeders, including hopper, tube, platform, ground, thistle, suet, and nectar, each one with benefits and potential problems.

Hopper feeders look like miniature houses, can hold more seeds than most other feeders, and attract almost all seed-eating birds. Unfortunately, squirrels like them too. If possible, place your hopper feeder several feet (at least) from anything. Even then, some of the more determined squirrels will find a way to get to the seeds. Although rare, spring-loaded squirrel-proof hopper feeders do exist.

A tube feeder is long and skinny with holes and perches on the sides. These are best for smaller seed-eating birds like

sparrows and finches, but Scrub Jays, Mourning Doves, and even Band-tailed Pigeons will try. Squirrels get on these fairly easily. You can either use a baffle, or get a spring-loaded tube feeder.

Platform feeders are elevated platforms for seeds, peanuts, or sliced citrus. Both birds and squirrels are attracted, and there isn't much you can do about the latter.

A ground feeder is just seeds spread on the ground. Spread the seeds out so that the House Sparrows won't attack shyer birds. Juncos, White-crowned Sparrows, doves, and squirrels are especially attracted.

Thistle feeders are tube feeders with smaller holes that only niger thistle seed can fit through. Many species of finches will come.

Suet feeders hold blocks of peanut butter, seeds and other delicious stuff mixed together and put in a little cage. They attract Scrub Jays, woodpeckers, and squirrels, but many others come too.

'Nectar feeder' essentially means hummingbird feeder. Be sure to get ones that have perches so tanagers and orioles might come. Two or more nectar feeders in

different sections of your backyard curtail the local dominant male Anna's Hummingbird so that you can get a wider variety of species. Clean them out regularly.

Black-oil sunflower seeds are birds' favorites, but other seeds are great too. I usually combine mixed seed and sunflower seed together before putting them into any feeders. For Scrub Jays, put out raw peanuts; finches, thistle seed.

You can buy most of these items at any pet store, and though some of the feeders can be harder to find, even Target now has birdseed and squirrel-proof tube feeders.

For water, just the sound of it can attract anything. Anything from large puddles to man-made birdbaths to small ponds is greatly enjoyed by all sorts of birds. Since we've installed a small pond in our garden, it regularly attracts thrushes, kinglets, wrens, and nine species of warblers.

For more information, see the National Audubon Society's *Birdfeeder Handbook* (1995) by Robert Burton and the Stokes' *Bird Gardening Book* (1998).

New Members

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

Alhambra: Jane Chang, Hermine Lees;
Alhambra: Jean Aichele, Harold Bishop, Cecil Cash, Eliot Middle School Library, Joan Fritz, Rhonni Hallman, Mr. & Mrs. C. Montgomery, Jean Patterson, Pamela Rogers; **Arcadia:** Arcadia Animal Management, George Bogosian, Eileen Chen,

Jennie Green, Carol Libby, Ellyn Murphey, Valerie Provines, Nan Yu;
Azusa: Daryl Cane, Margaret Peterson;
Bradbury: Katherine Bishop, Betty Irvine;
Catalina: J. Marshall; **Duarte:** Arnis Richters; **La Cañada Flintridge:** Diane Burke, Martin & Jane Beth Chetron, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Holmes, Leo & Sharon Milan, James Owens; **Monrovia:** Jessica Cormalis, Ignacio Gutierrez, Rick Krutil, Bee Shuster, Barb Stevens; **Monterey Park:** Jack Parsons, Mary Lujan, Masaru Nobuto; **Montrose:** V.M. Kaufman;

Pasadena: David & Claudette McKenzie Albin, Amy Bartoloth, Kandice Blakely, Greg Carbone & Hannah Dvorak-Carbone, P. Richardson Garcia, Dorothy Goodall, Simon Guevrekian, Scott Harris, Norma Heaton, Gilbert Herrera, Catherine Hogan, Cheryl Hubbard, Meighan Jackson, Arvydas Kliore, Linda Kranen, Wyatt Korff, W.A. Luxemburg, Sona Mardikyan, Albert Martin, Berne Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Miller, Bruce Myers, Laura Neill,

(see New Members, page 2)

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Pasadena Audubon Society

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