



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 55 – No. 5

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

November-December 2007

November Program

The Northern Saw-whet Owls of Angeles Crest

Wednesday, November 21, 2007
Mary Freeman

During the five years of the Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas survey, data on this owl species was sorely lacking. In response, Mary set out over the past eight years to study the status and distribution of this little-understood owl in the San Gabriel Mountains. Come and listen as Mary gives an overview of her findings relating to Saw-whets, other owls and wildlife encountered during the project.

Mary is a native of Los Angeles and has led trips for both the Los Angeles and Pasadena Audubon Societies. She likes to bird by ear, has a degree in art design, illustrates birds, designs jewelry, and has searched out owls throughout the Americas. But her greatest passion is surveying Saw-whets in our local mountains.

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

December Program

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Pre-count Meeting

7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 12, 2007
Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 15, 2007

Count Dinner

6:00 pm

Saturday, December 15, 2007
Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Details and Reservations
See Pages 2 & 4



January Program

A Century After the Vinegaroon

Recent Bird Studies at the Salton Sea
Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Kathy Molina

In 1908 California's premier ornithologist, Joseph Grinnell, embarked upon the maiden voyage on the present day Salton Sea aboard his leaky rowboat dubbed the Vinegaroon. In the following 100 years the Salton Sea's bird life has seen some remarkable changes. In her presentation, Kathy Molina will briefly trace these changes and discuss some of her studies of the birdlife of the Salton Sea since the early 1990's. These studies range from investigations of the breeding biology of gulls, terns and skimmers, to inventories of waterbirds and shorebirds using the Sea and the adjacent agricultural landscape.

Kathy C. Molina, a native Angelino, is a Research Associate at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and manages the UCLA-Dickey Bird and Mammal Collections. Kathy recently co-edited (with Dave Shuford) "Ecology and Conservation of Birds of the Salton Sink: An Endangered Ecosystem" in the Studies in Avian Biology Series Volume 27, a publication of the Cooper Ornithological Society.

President's Perch

I'm sorry to report that, for health reasons, Jean O'Hagan has asked to be relieved as Secretary. Jean has been a faithful Board member for several years and we hope she will be able to rejoin us soon.

Kathi Ellsworth, who has been on the Hospitality Committee, has agreed to finish Jean's term as Secretary.

Pam Dong has now joined the Board, taking Kathi's place on Hospitality – welcome aboard Pam!

You will find a Financial Report in the Wrentit this issue. The Board felt an annual report on how we are doing financially would be good and this past year has been very good. Back about five

years ago, we barely had the funds to publish *The Wrentit*. Then members' donations and a generous bequest have put us back on track to fulfill our mission to support Birding, Education and Conservation. We still need your tax-deductible contributions to keep PAS financially healthy.

The Christmas Bird Count is one of Audubon's best-known events. We want to encourage a good turnout this year, so PAS will provide the "after-count" dinner on Saturday, December 15, at Eaton Canyon free to those who participate. There will be a \$12 cost for non-participants. Hope to see you at the CBC!

Will

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Conservation

Getting Involved with Conservation

Whether you are new to Pasadena Audubon or you've been around for a while, we invite you to become more involved with conservation. You can do this in many ways, and here it's broken down into three categories: at home, as a citizen, and as a PAS member.

At Home: You're probably already aware of the many ways you can help birds and the environment at home, so here's just a quick refresher. The best action you can take to help birds at home is to plant some native plants in your garden. If you do this, not only do you provide birds and other animals with food, but you also get to enjoy watching them. To help birds world-wide, change your light bulbs to florescent, recycle what you can, conserve water and electricity, and use canvas shopping bags. For more ideas, see *101 Ways to Help Birds* (2006), *365 Ways to Change the World* (2005), *The Ten Minute Activist* (2007) and *Hold Your Water* (2006).

As a Citizen: Here, the most powerful tools you have are your pen, telephone and computer. How? To contact your federal, state, county and city representatives. Let your voice be heard on the many issues they deal with that affect birds and other animals. They do pay attention how many people contact them regarding various subjects, and all too often, birders are silent on the issues we say we care about the most. If you are not sure what is going on at the federal, state and local levels, join some groups that will keep you informed. Try Birders United (www.birdersunited.com), Defenders of Wildlife (www.defenders.org), National Wildlife Federation (www.nwf.org), the Center for Biological Diversity (www.biologicaldiversity.org), National Audubon Society (www.audubon.org) and the Arroyo Seco Foundation (www.arroyoseco.org). These groups have newsletters, some online, some not, and they make it very easy to contact our representatives regarding any current environmental issue. If you need snail mail addresses, please call Laura Garrett at the number below.

As a PAS Member: We need your help. We have many local issues facing us right now, from problems at Whittier Narrows, Hansen Dam and the Cerritos Wetlands, to joint projects with the Audubon Center at Debs Park and educational fairs at local parks, including Eaton Canyon Nature Center. If you can pick up a few pieces of trash on a bird walk, write a letter or an article, sit at a table and

answer a few questions, attend the occasional city council meeting, send an email, or make a telephone call, then we could use your help. You can take a leadership position, or provide support for others, but either way, we need you. To get connected with conservation, email Laura Garrett at PURPLECOW@JPS.NET or call at (626) 564-1890. If each one of us does just a little bit to help birds, we can transform our community.

Laura Garrett
PURPLECOW@JPS.NET

Saving Tejon Ranch

The problem: The owners of the Tejon Ranch want to develop the Tejon Ranch with 3,450 luxury vacation homes and extensive resort facilities over 28,253 acres of sensitive condor habitat.

What you can do: Pasadena Audubon Society is joining a broad coalition of organizations including the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity to save this land. To help, come to a General Meeting and sign a postcard to Supervisor Antonovich asking him to stop the Centennial development and instead work to preserve the land as a State Park. He needs to hear from all of us so that he knows his constituents care deeply about this issue. Or, you can visit www.angeles.sierraclub.org/tejon for more information.

Arroyo Funding Goes Forward

Despite being cut from President Bush's budget for FY2007, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are recommending funding for a Watershed Management Plan Feasibility Study in the Arroyo Seco. The House Committee approved \$200,000, while the Senate Committee approved \$400,000; the differences will be ironed out in a joint House/Senate conference committee.

Once the study receives funding, the US Army Corps of Engineers will analyze hydrology, water resources and environmental issues in the Arroyo Seco watershed in order to help create a plan to manage the watershed in an environmentally sound way. Other funding will come from Los Angeles County, the cities of Pasadena, Los Angeles, La Cañada-Flintridge, and South Pasadena, the Raymond Basin Management Board, Foothill MWD, and the Arroyo Seco Foundation. The plan itself is supported by the Arroyo Seco Foundation, North East Trees, the California Coastal Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and the cities in the watershed.

Both Congressman Adam Schiff and Senator Dianne Feinstein worked diligently to secure this funding. Schiff said, "Restoration and conservation of our scarce open spaces is vitally important to ensuring a good quality of living. This funding will help ensure that the Arroyo Seco returns to its natural state – an environmental gem. Once it's restored, it will provide enjoyable open space and recreation areas for generations to come." Kudos to both!

Laura Garrett
PURPLECOW@JPS.NET

2007 CBC Dinner Dinner's On Us!

This year, the PAS Board would like to thank Christmas Bird Counters (and maybe increase participation) by making the post-count dinner **free to participants**. Guests (significant others, friends, other interested non-counters) will be welcome to attend for only \$12/person. Dinner will be catered and will include beverages. It'll be at Eaton Canyon Nature Center on December 15 at 6:00 pm.

Please RSVP by Friday, December 7, 2007 by email [JUDYBASS@EARTHLINK.NET](mailto:judybass@earthlink.net).

2007 CBC *(continued)*

expertise, be sure to join us for this year's Christmas Count and be a part of the process of learning and discovery. It's a great chance to find out more about local birds and it's also worthwhile since it contributes to our knowledge of bird distribution and population trends. The count this year will take place on Saturday, December 15. A pre-count meeting will be held at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm. At the pre-count meeting we will hand out count materials and checklists, review procedures and assign count areas to participants. If you can't be at the pre-count meeting, don't worry – it's just as easy to sign up for an area to count via e-mail or phone.

See the announcement on page 1 for information about the fun, post-count dinner.

For additional information, please contact count coordinator Jon Fisher at 818-800-2776 or at JONF60@HOTMAIL.COM

Jon Fisher



PASADENA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Founded April 1904

1750 N. Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107
WWW.PASADENAUDUBON.ORG

November 2007

Dear Supporters of the Pasadena Audubon Society,

It's time to start thinking about your end-of-the-year tax-deductible contributions, so before you finish writing your checks, please consider what the Pasadena Audubon Society offers you. Unlike many other organizations, you can see your contribution in action. The past 2 years has seen these PAS-sponsored programs and activities:

- We present eight nature-oriented programs a year, free to the community. Subjects have included conservation, bird identification and behavior, and adventure.
- We offer over 35 field trips a year to local and more distant locations, led by knowledgeable and enthusiastic birder/naturalists.
- We publish our newsletter five times a year. *The Wren* is jam-packed with information on conservation, activities, education and, yes, birding.
- We maintain an active website (www.pasadenaaudubon.org) and listserv.
- We initiated the Pasadena Birdfest in Fall 2005 and Birding Basics & Beyond in Fall 2006. These two-day events offered a variety of classes and field trips for beginning, intermediate and advanced birders in our community. Look to 2008 for our next class.
- We have established ties with the Debs Park Audubon Center, and will continue to actively support some of their educational programs for children and youth.
- We provided modest financial grants to Eaton Canyon, Descanso Gardens, L.A. County Arboretum and Huntington Gardens to support their conservation and birding programs.
- We are involved in conservation issues at the Hahamongna Watershed Park, the Arroyo Seco and the Salton Sea.
- We are now installing new Nature Trail signage at the Cobb Estate in the Angeles National Forest above Altadena. The improvement of this nature trail and placement of interpretive signs with the cooperation of the Forest Service has been our major public service project for 2007.

Please consider how the Pasadena Audubon Society helps to enrich your life and improve your community. Most of the funding for our activities comes from you, our members and friends.

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

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

Thank you for your support, and good birding!

Will Fulmer, President
Pasadena Audubon Society

Field Trips

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, November 3, 2007

Saturday, January 5, 2008

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 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

Eaton Canyon

Monthly Walk

Sunday, November 18, 2007

Sunday, December 16, 2007

Sunday, January 20, 2008

8:00 am – 11:00 am

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, November 25, 2007

Sunday, December 23, 2007

Sunday, January 27, 2008

8:00 am – 11:00 am

A special benefit for Pasadena Audubon Society members is the chance to bird the Huntington Library grounds. Attendance is by reservation only and limited to 15 participants. We thank our member and Huntington curator, Dan Lewis, for making these trips possible.

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

Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

North Slope of the

San Gabriels

Saturday, November 10, 2007

7:30 am – 2:00 pm

We will explore areas on the northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, such as Grassy Hollow Visitors Center, Jackson Lake, and locations in Valyermo. We will search for high-altitude species as well as wintering raptors. Unusual species (e.g. Lewis' s

Woodpecker, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, Swamp Sparrow) have been found in some years. Time permitting, we may look for longspurs in the Antelope Valley.

It may be cold, especially at higher elevations, so bring warm clothes. We will meet at the Park & Ride on Ave. S in Palmdale, just off the 14 Freeway.

Mark and Janet Scheel

San Gabriel Valley Parrots

Saturday, November 17, 2007

2:00 pm

Contact leader for details.

Larry Allen

Northwest San Gabriel Mountains

The "Other" North Slope of the San Gabriels

Saturday, December 8, 2007

7:30 am – 3:00 pm

If such great birding places as Jackson Lake, Grassy Hollow, and St. Andrew's Abbey are getting old, come join us as we bird some even less visited ground in L.A. County – the northwestern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains. We'll be making a few stops at such often ignored locations as Quail Lake, Holiday Lake, Lake Hughes and Lake Elizabeth in the search for interesting wintering passerines and waterfowl.

Meet in the parking lot at the western end of Quail Lake. Bring a scope and dress warm. Contact me if you'd like to go so carpools can be arranged.

Jon Feenstra

Salton Sea

Saturday/Sunday, January 26-27, 2008

All day Saturday and until afternoon on Sunday

The Salton Sea has been a traditional way for PAS members to begin their year list!

We usually find over 100 species for the weekend and over the years we have seen the following number of species: 27 geese & ducks, 13 hawks, 15 waders, 8 gulls, 6 terns, 11 flycatchers, 10 warblers and 16 sparrows. This is one of the premier birding spots on the continent. We will bird all day Saturday and a half day on Sunday, heading home after lunch.

This trip is only for Pasadena Audubon members and is limited to 12.

(What!? Not a member yet? Download an application from our website and send it in today!)

To reserve a spot on the trip and get accommodation information and meeting location/times, please email (highly preferable) or call Ron.

Ron Cyger

Santa Fe Dam

January 12, 2008

7:30 am – noon

Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale is an interesting area containing multiple habitats. We'll bird coastal sage scrub, a man-made lake, riparian and grassy park areas planted with many non-native trees. This variety of habitats attracts many birds. In winter, waterfowl, sparrows and a variety of raptors are the specialties here. Cactus and Rock Wrens are also present. In the past few winters there have been White-fronted, Ross's and 'Aleutian' Canada Geese here as well as a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Take Irwindale Ave. south 1.5 miles from the 210 Freeway and turn right on Arrow Highway and watch for the park sign and entrance on your right in half a mile. After paying the entry fee at the kiosk, continue straight through the intersection at the bottom of the hill. We'll meet at 7:30 am in the parking lot closest to the northeast corner of the lake.

Jon Fisher

2007 Christmas Count

Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Saturday, December 15, 2007

The Pasadena count traces its origins to the mid 1940's, and even with the tremendous changes that have taken place since that time, our species counts are now higher than ever. Participants and count compilers have refined the count over the years and made it more accurate and more productive.

Each count area is a circle of fifteen miles in diameter, unchanged from year to year. The intent of the count is to provide data over time on the avifauna of a specific area.

Our Pasadena circle encompasses such interesting and productive birding spots as Santa Fe Dam, Big Santa Anita Canyon, Whittier Narrows, Peck 'Pit', Eaton Canyon, the Huntington Gardens, Mount Wilson, and the Arboretum.

The circle has lakes, streams, marshes, montane and oak woodland, chaparral, riparian, coastal sage and exotic plantings. These habitats create a wide diversity of birdlife. Aside from all the regular and expected species, new and rare birds are still found on the Pasadena count on a regular basis. The list of vagrants is a long and impressive one: Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Painted Redstart, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Dickcissel, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue and Kentucky Warblers, and nominate 'eastern' Bell's Vireo (a first LA County record) to name just a few.

Whatever your level of birding

(see 2007 CBC, page 2)

Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by December 1st

November 2007

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader*
3	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Monthly Walk	Ron Cyger
4	Sun	3:00 pm	Special Program	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Resplendent Quetzal Conservation in Guatemala
7	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
10	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	North Slope, San Gabriel Mountains	Mark and Janet Scheel
17	Sat	2:00 pm	Field Trip	San Gabriel Valley Parrots	Larry Allen
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Whittier Narrows Nature Center	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
21	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: Northern Saw-whet Owls
25	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

(PAS Members Only)

December 2007

1	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Legg Lake/Peck Pit	Ed Stonick
5	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
8	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Northwest San Gabriel Mountains	Jon Feenstra
11	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Arboretum, Arcadia (<i>Date Change</i>)	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
12	Wed	7:00 pm	CBC pre-count mtg.	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Jon Fisher
15	Sat	all day	Christmas Bird Count	Pasadena Area	Jon Fisher
		6:00 pm	CBC Dinner	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hospitality Committee
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: ID Workshop
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

(PAS Members Only)

January 2008

2	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
5	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Monthly Walk	Ron Cyger
12	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Santa Fe Dam	Jon Fisher
15	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	San Dimas Canyon	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
16	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: A Century After the Vinegaroon
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
26-27	S-S	7:00 am	Field Trip	Salton Sea	Ron Cyger
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson & Dan Lewis

(PAS Members Only)

***Trip Leader Information**

Mark Scheel (Chair)	(818) 366-7343	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu
Larry Allen	(626) 288-2701	larryallen@earlymusicla.org
Lance Benner	(626) 791-1187	lbenner@charter.net
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625 (before 9 pm)	ron@cyger.org (preferred)
Kathi Ellsworth	(626) 564-0652	pandionsky@yahoo.com
Jon Feenstra	(626) 792-4346	feenstra@alumni.caltech.edu
Jon Fisher	(818) 800-2776	JonF60@hotmail.com
Nick & Mary Freeman	(818) 247-6172	mnfreeman@earthlink.net
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	
Dan Lewis	(626) 398-4805	danoilewis@earthlink.net
Mickey Long	(626) 398-5420	mlongbird@charter.net
Elaine MacPherson	(626) 355-9412	birdergrrl@aol.com
Hill Penfold	(818) 352-4954	hpenfold@gmail.com
Mike San Miguel	(626) 355-5058	sanmigbird@aol.com
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@earthlink.net
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	west226@adelphia.net

Backyard Birds

(continued from last issue)

Don't go away yet; we haven't gotten to our backyard-nesting raptors yet. Well, nearly in our backyard, anyway. For some years running, Great Horned Owls have frequented trees and telephone poles just outside the house. True, we have not discovered them actually nesting in our yard, but we hear them singing, sometimes very close by, and sometimes a pair will perform a duet. The female will start with a few very deep tones and the male will join in with his higher, tenor-like register. They may repeat this several times and the performance may occur anytime from dusk to dawn.

The Cooper's Hawks have not nested within the boundaries of our backyard, but one hundred yards away, across the Glen Wash. They are doing so as I write this. It's a first year female, that is, not in full adult plumage, and a much smaller, very handsome mature-plumaged male. I know this because they quite often perch in our oak or in the sycamore just across the wash whence we see them swoop down swiftly and in ghost-like silence in pursuit of their prey. More often, we hear them and sometimes watch them calling, a sustained rapid series of single notes, not unlike a chicken. "Chicken Hawk" is the name farmers had given them in an earlier era when, indeed, they were seen as the bold scourge of the hen yard. Unflattering and perhaps unfair as that derivation of the term may be, I think it preferable and a little more romantic than to associate it

with the clucking of a chicken. Female Cooper's are known to sometimes breed in their first year, while still in sub-adult plumage. We are now awaiting the blessed event. The other raptor which makes itself obvious around here is the Red-shouldered Hawk. They are very loud, persistent screamers. They can be heard at all times of the day, from early morning wake-up to dark. For at least the past two years they nested, not in our yard, but in our next door neighbor's sycamore tree. Sometimes they scream continuously while perched conspicuously in nearby trees; sometimes they wheel overhead in spectacular screaming pairs. Red-shoulders have been conspicuous for one more reason: mortality. Two years ago a fledgling was found almost comatose in the neighbor's yard and last year a breeding plumage adult was found dead on our street. Top of the food chain casualties? Last year I saw one drop down into the wash from the sycamore and come up with a lizard, but that would not be the food chain villain. We no longer put out rat poison because of that possibility, and we talk to our neighbors about it. Roof rats there are. That is one tradeoff for having all those seed feeders around.

As fall and winter approach there are changes. Some birds leave seemingly overnight; the variety diminishes; different birds appear. White-crowned Sparrows show up in fall and gradually their numbers increase until they become the dominant species around the feeders. Black-headed Juncos appear in numbers.

Black-chinned Hummingbirds are no longer to be seen at their feeders, no longer whirring back and forth in great arcs in courting displays. All those newly fledged Black-chinned and Selasphorus that mobbed the feeders and fought over them all summer are not nearly so numerous, so that we can change from the big capacity feeders to smaller ones and don't have to forever refill them. Of course the Linnets never go away and are equally if not more numerous than the White-crowns. They are noisy year round, but they are a native species so we must be tolerant.

This roster must not be taken as comprehensive. Over the years we have seen more than one hundred different species in or around the immediate vicinity. One recent spring I just happened to look skyward to see several dozen Swainson's Hawks soaring just above the house, gradually circling northward. Another time quail sauntered past us on the street. Orioles occasionally come down from the height of the palms, the top of the sycamore or the ash to examine a hummer feeder but for some reason they don't stay long. One winter a White-throated Sparrow was found right under the front yard feeder, among the usual White-crowns.

One never knows what satisfactions and surprises are to be found with little or no physical effort. All it takes is a little birdseed, some sugar water and some attention to the world around us. There's a whole world to be discovered out there.

Bob Neuwirth

Trip Report

Audubon California Assembly

October 7-9, 2007

Asilomar Conference Grounds
Pacific Grove

Over 250 Audubon California members attended this year's assembly (actually held every 18 months these days). Besides myself, Pasadena Audubon was represented by Barbara Pachano and Jon Feenstra.

On the way up to Asilomar, Jon and I stopped at the Buena Vista Recreational Area in Kern County. This is part of Jon's never ending search for great birding spots. We walked away with 47 species. The best bird was probably a Western Kingbird that should have been in Mexico by now.

Sunday Jon helped lead and I was a



seasick participant on a Monterey Bay pelagic trip. We had about 25 Black-footed Albatross but the most unusual sighting was a Short-eared Owl crossing the bay! That evening the assembly opened with a plenary session and

banquet featuring Glenn Olson, Executive Director of Audubon California and John Flicker, President of National Audubon.

Monday began with a bird-walk followed by an excellent presentation by Dr. Lara Hansen of the World Wildlife Fund on Global Warming and Wildlife. Smaller workshops that day included Wind Power and Birds, Fundraising FAQ, Conservation Tools, Seabird Conservation, Recruiting and eBird among others.

That evening there was a wine and desert reception at the Monterey Bay Aquarium where Audubon California presented Governor Schwarzenegger with an honor

dubbed the "lead award." He was not present to accept since he was busy signing into law the ban on lead ammunition in condor habitats. The next morning began with a bird-walk (this is Audubon, after all) and a few workshops followed up by plenary sessions to finish the assembly.

The Audubon Assembly offers the chance to meet other chapter members and staff of Audubon in a beautiful setting. Attendees come away with many good ideas, information and contacts to use in helping to make chapters serve their members and society better.

Not to forget why we belong to Audubon, our trip ended with stops at Montana de Oro and Oceano Campground in San Luis Obispo County. There Jon and I had about 50 species including a Magnolia and Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Ron Cyger



Pasadena Audubon Society
 Financial Report for the Fiscal Year
 07/01/2006 through 06/30/2007

A. Statement of Gain and/or (Loss):

Income:			
	National Audubon "base-line" Payment	\$2,710	
	Pasadena Membership Dues	\$3,445	
	Income from Investments	\$2,553	
	Grants and Member Contributions	\$5,009	
	Fundraising Events (net)	\$2,863	
	Income from T-shirts & Birdguide (net)	\$364	
	Total		\$16,944
Expense:			
	Administration	\$1,178	
	Newsletter/Postage/Mailing	\$4,309	
	Grant to Debs Park	\$2,000	
	Grant to Eaton Canyon Nature Center	\$1,000	
	Grant to Descanso Gardens	\$1,000	
	Grant to Huntington Gardens	\$1,000	
	Total		\$10,487
	Gain		\$6,457

B. Balance Sheet as of 6/30/2007:

Assets:			
	Cash (Checking & Savings Accts)	\$9,585	
	Investments (Fidelity Brokerage Acct.)	\$264,148	
	Total		\$273,733
Liabilities:			
			\$0
Fund Balances:			
	Restricted Bequest (Jackson Endowment)	\$212,421	
	Reserve for projects in process *	\$13,500	
	Unreserved	\$47,812	
	Total		\$273,733
	* Cobb Estate Signage	12,000	
	Debs Park Programs	1,500	

**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, November 20, 2007
Whittier Narrows

Meet at the Nature Center

Tuesday, December 11, 2007
Arboretum

(Note change in Tuesday, from third to second)

Meet outside the entrance

Tuesday, January 15, 2008
San Dimas Canyon

Meet at the Nature Center

*Sid Heyman
 Madeline West*

PAS on the WEB

Website

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

ListServe

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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 Wrenitit*.

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John's Corner
Book Review: Guide to Birding Hot Spots of the United States

To see more species of birds, one needs to travel to other parts of the country. While the internet or other birders can provide good advice, the best and simplest way is in the many trip-planning and regional bird guides. A newer guide, *The National Geographic Guide to the Birding Hot Spots of the United States*, by Mel White with Paul Lehman and a foreword by Jonathan Alderfer, is geared for casual to serious birders.

The NGS guide comes with excellent color maps, illustrations, and scenic photographs. It covers fairly extensively all of the lower 48 states, and divides them by region into thirteen chapters. California and Eastern Texas each receive their own chapters, not only

because they are both geographically large but also because they each possess lengthy species lists. Each chapter is concise and easy to use.

However, it has some minor shortcomings. For example, while at the beginning of each chapter there is a list of "special birds," regrettably it does not list the best locations to find them in captions next to them. Instead, one must search through the entire chapter in order to find out where each species can be found. Also, although it is called *Guide to the Hot Spots of the United States*, this book leaves out both Hawaii and Alaska. Omitting Hawaii is more understandable, but Alaska should have been included. Towards the end of the book is a list of additional books designed for more local bird-finding that, somewhat ironically, includes Alaska and Hawaii. I, however,

think that this is just a minor flaw, and the book is terrific in other ways.

The main failing of this guide is that, like any national bird-finding guide, it simply cannot cover every location. Many 'hot spots' were completely left out of this book, at least for California (e.g. the Los Angeles River or the Antelope Valley). If there is a bird-finding guide for a more specific location, get it instead of either of these, as it will be much more detailed. However, if you are going somewhere without a local bird-guide, such as Iowa, I recommend the NGS guide. This book, though not perfect, will make a great addition to your library.

John Garrett

New Members

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

ALHAMBRA: Cynthia Cuevas, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kapic; **ALTADENA:** Maureen McGrath, Madhavi Nayar, Tracy Stillwater, Donald Strayer, Suzanne Weintrub, Mr. & Mrs. J. Witt; **ARCADIA:** Sukumarn Aueyong, Helen Finke, Pat Toska; **AZUSA:** Gurdev Dhillon; **CLAREMONT:** Richard Moore; **DUARTE:** Carol Ciminelli, Mrs. Wallace

Martin; **LA CAÑADA-FLINTRIDGE:** E. Dzurilla, Kindra Girard, Ruth Goldstein, Ann Meyer, Doris Patterson, Tom Rae, Barry Salwasser, Isabel Whitney, William Young; **LA MIRADA:** Jean Casselman; **MONROVIA:** Tim Addis, Georgia Jallo; **MONTEREY PARK:** Olga Hamilton, Thomas McCarthy; **PASADENA:** Christopher Anderson, Karl Balz, Shirley Bellemur, Ms. Blanquart, Jennifer Carey, Andrew Delscamp, Jessica Hausman, Bertha Hidalgo, Virginia Hollywood, Jennifer Kelly, Jerry Ludwig, Patty Margaret, Scott Moreno, Douglas Morse, Paige Myers,

Ralph Perry, Conrad Reyes, Carol Robbins, Peter Schulz, Stephen Schweitzer, Elsa Seifert; **SAN GABRIEL:** Debra Fetterly, Sue Juang, Masako Nakata; **SAN MARINO:** Gregory Paul Evans; **SIERRA MADRE:** Peggy Mueller, Natalie Weber; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Natalie Alexander, T. Birk & D. Ignagni, Valerie Cline, Kevin Gardner, John Sinclair, Margie Whalen; **TEMPLE CITY:** Linda Donato, Geraldine Greiner, Susan Jittlov, Stephanie Ann Jones, Trudelle Price.

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