



Drawing by
Guy Coleleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 58 — No. 2

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

May-June 2010

May Program

Birds Can Save the World Wednesday, May 19, 2010

John Fitzpatrick

Dr. Fitzpatrick is the L.A. Fuertes Director of the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. He is on the forefront of many conservation and birding movements. In his illustrated lecture he will emphasize the vital roles that birds continue to play in fostering conservation of worldwide biological diversity. Most importantly, birds represent our most accessible and sensitive indicator of environmental health and ecological change.

Dr. Fitzpatrick has published over 130 scientific articles and books. He is an expert on the Florida Scrub-jay and has described seven new bird species of tropical birds that he discovered. He has led scientific expeditions to South America and the South Coast of the U.S. in search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

Elections

Election of officers will take place at the May general meeting.

Annual June Dinner and Celebration

Saturday, June 12, 2010

6:00 pm — 9:00 pm

Save the date! Join us on the patio for drinks and appetizers, followed by a delicious catered dinner at the beautiful Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Visit with old friends and make new ones!

After dinner we will be hosting a slide show with photos and narration from our members. Round up a few of your favorite shots, put them on a USB flash drive, and bring them with you! We'll have the raffle for great birding-related loot. We will also present the slate of officers for the upcoming year. And there will be one or two surprises, too.

Your \$20 ticket covers all food and drink, including fine wines and beers. **RSVP by June 1st**, with a check payable to Pasadena Audubon Society, and indicate the number of guests attending. Send to:

Grace Wong
c/o Pasadena Audubon Society
1750 N Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107

September Program

Adding Depth to Your Birding

September 15, 2010

Jon Fisher and Mickey Long

You would like to find a Clay-colored Sparrow but you don't know where to look. Even if you did know their preferred habitat, could you distinguish it from a Chipping Sparrow or a Brewer's Sparrow? Oh, it's mid-September, the middle of Autumn migration, and the alternate plumages are fast disappearing, plus there is an influx of juvenile birds.

Don't fear! "Adding Depth To Your Birding" will go beyond just pure identification. It will cover habitats, seasonality and the subtle timing of migrants, as well as where to look for specific species. Come hone your ID skills!

General Meetings Held At Eaton Canyon Nature Center

1750 N Altadena Drive

Pasadena CA

Social 7:00 pm, Program 7:30 pm

President's Perch

Good News! Pasadena Audubon will again offer its popular class "Birding 101". Ron Cyger & Mark Scheel will conduct three evening classes and two field trips in mid-July for beginning and intermediate birders. More details on signing up for "Birding 101" are included on page 4.

The month of June will conclude this fiscal year for PAS and we will celebrate with a June Dinner Meeting on Saturday, June 12th. Please mark your

calendars! Our Hospitality Committee has arranged for a catered dinner at Eaton Canyon. We will install our new Officers, recognize Birdathon participants, have a little bird photo contest and enjoy the company of our fellow members of Pasadena Audubon Society. See you there.

In This Issue

Conservation	2
Trip Reports	3
Field Trips	4
Calendar	5
Announcements	7
New Members	8
John's Corner	8

Conservation and Education

Whittier Narrows Lawsuit

In February, the Friends of the Whittier Narrows Natural Area filed a lawsuit against the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority aimed at protecting the Whittier Narrows Natural Area and the community's access to firsthand experiences of nature there. The new Discovery Center is huge at 14,000 square feet, and will replace the old historic nature center. The new parking lot will hold hundreds of cars, and will destroy dozens of mature sycamores and other trees, homes for many birds like grosbeaks, warblers and flycatchers. (Many members of the community believe that the real purpose of the center is to provide meeting space for county employees.) Perhaps most weirdly, this new center, which purports to be a watershed education center, will house an indoor fake watershed system, though a real watershed system is only a few yards away—the San Gabriel River. This emphasizes learning about nature indoors, when real nature is outdoors—but there will be less of it if this Discovery Center is built. To learn more about the lawsuit, please visit <http://naturalareafriends.net/eir>.

The group sees the new Discovery Center as oversized, unneeded, and opening the door to development in the Natural Area of Whittier Narrows. After studying the plan for the new nature center and listening to hundreds of public comments (including a letter from PAS), the group concluded that the project puts

- buildings and meeting space above habitat and wildlife,
- political ambitions above the needs and desires of the community,
- tourism and entertainment above authentic environmental education.

To support this lawsuit and the efforts to keep Whittier Narrows natural, please send your tax-deductible contribution today to:

Friends of the Whittier Narrows Natural Area

P.O. Box 3522

South El Monte, CA 91733

Or, you can go to

<http://naturalareafriends.net> to donate.

Together we can save the Whittier Narrows Natural Area.

Laura Garrett

Save Hahamongna!

The City of Pasadena is going ahead with its plan to install at least one athletic field and a parking lot in Hahamongna Watershed Park. I can hear you ask, “But how can they do that?”

The place is full of water!” Yes, which is why the City plans to dredge the “lake” and willow area (home to migrating waterfowl and breeding Yellow Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats) and use the soil to fill in and raise an area next to the current soccer field.

This new field will be big enough to house two smaller fields. Imagine the traffic, pesticides, and noise. Will the City install lights so people can use the field more hours a day? Is this what a natural area should become? Why is the City building a field there when it already owns over 30 athletic fields, and has access to many more through schools and other institutions?

The City argues that groups like AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) do not get as much playing and practice time as they need (AYSO says that they must turn away about 5% of the kids who want to play), and so the City needs to accommodate them by destroying a natural area to build another field. While we can see the value of youth sports, it does not follow that a natural area, which is also of value to children and their parents, should be lost so that a few more kids can play soccer.

If you are concerned about losing Hahamongna, then please visit www.savehahamongna.org. This website, started by Tim Brick of the Arroyo Seco Foundation, has information about Hahamongna, the City's plans, and a petition that you can sign. We must do all that we can to save this treasure. The birds are counting on us.

Laura Garrett

Great Backyard Bird Count Results

Look, it's the millionth robin of spring!

Two months after the other major annual bird counting event comes the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada, recently announced the results of the 2010 GBBC, held from February 12-15.

More than 97,200 bird checklists were submitted by an estimated 63,000 volunteer bird watchers from across the United States and Canada. That's a new record for participation. Clearly we here in Southern California didn't do our part. Look at the list of most frequently reported species, below:

- 1) Northern Cardinal
- 2) Dark-eyed Junco
- 3) Mourning Dove
- 4) Downy Woodpecker
- 5) Blue Jay
- 6) American Goldfinch
- 7) Tufted Titmouse
- 8) House Finch
- 9) American Crow
- 10) Black-capped Chickadee

If there had been more Southern California checklists submitted, Yellow-rumped Warbler would certainly be on that list! And now, some excerpts from the summary of results:

This year, participants recorded more American Robins than any other bird species—primarily because of a massive roost in St. Petersburg, Florida. Participants reported 1,450,058 robins in Saint Petersburg alone. For perspective, the entire rest of the continent tallied 400,321 robins. Reports such as these help document hotspots for robins and year-to-year changes in their movements across the continent.

At the other extreme, one of the most dramatic results from this year's count was the absence of other bird species, including winter finches such as Pine Siskins and redpolls. Pine Siskins moved south in such great numbers last year that they burst onto the GBBC Top-10 list of most numerous birds for the first time ever. Over time, the GBBC has captured dramatic swings in the

continued on page 3

GBBC, continued

numbers of these species reported from year to year. These fluctuations may be influenced by the birds' food supply and reproductive success far to the north. This year, they presumably didn't need to travel as far south to find enough food.

Results from this year's GBBC also documented the continuing expansion of an introduced species across the continent. A dozen years ago, the Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported in 9 states during the GBBC. This year more than 14,000 doves were reported in 39 states and provinces.

Tree Swallows showed dramatic increases in numbers reported compared to years past. Although the number of states reporting the species was down from 25 in 2009 to 20 this year, the number of individuals reported increased nearly four-fold, from 22,431 to 84,585. Whether this is a result of warmer temperatures and earlier migration is not yet clear.

"The new and the unusual are always a thrill during the GBBC," said Robert Petty, Western Director of Field Support at Audubon's Education and Centers. "Notable sightings this year included a Crimson-collared Grosbeak in McAllen, Texas--the first time the species has been reported during the count since 2005." Birders off the coast of San Diego were treated to a Red-billed Tropicbird—the first verified sighting of this species for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Highlights from Canada included a Rustic Bunting seen in Creighton, Saskatchewan. In Marathon, Ontario, a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was a spectacular sighting because it was far outside its normal range in the Rocky Mountains.

"GBBC data become more and more valuable with each passing year," said Dick Cannings, program director for Bird Studies Canada. "Over time we'll be better able to see significant changes that may occur in the numbers and distributions of birds which may be tied to climate change, habitat loss, disease, or other factors."

On the web, you can visit the "Explore the Results" pages on the GBBC web site at www.birdcount.org to find the list of Top 10 birds reported in your state, province, or city.

The next Great Backyard Bird Count is February 18-21, 2011.

Trip Reports**Elysian Park****April 10, 2010**

Nestled in the middle of LA, between Dodger Stadium and the LAPD Academy, is Elysian Park with its manicured lawns and a frisbee golf course. Eighteen excited birders met for the first annual Elysian Park Bird Walk.

All were satisfied with a very birdy morning, almost fifty species.

We found a few stragglers that hadn't left for northern nesting grounds yet. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was scratching under a bush before most birders arrived. There were a few Yellow-rumped Warblers in beautiful breeding plumage and singing. We also found a couple of American Pipits still hanging around.

Spring was evident when we found a Pacific-slope and Ash-throated Flycatcher. There were also a couple of Nashville Warblers that just arrived along with Black-headed Grosbeaks. Nesting evidence was plentiful with many birds carrying nesting material, copulating Western Bluebirds, displaying Anna's Hummingbirds, and an active Raven's nest well hidden under the crown of a tree.

With such a great morning, we can't wait for the second annual Elysian Park walk to come around!

Sue Horton and Ron Cyger

Northern California Coast**August 2009**

This past August, Will and I took a trip north to see California's magnificent redwoods and scenic Pacific coast (and birds, of course).

In Humboldt County, we drove through the majestic Avenue of the Giants to the little town of Trinidad (which has two excellent restaurants), and made daily trips from there. In Redwood National Park, we discovered the beautiful Lady Bird Johnson Grove, and found it interesting to see a California site dedicated to a Texan (the former first lady evidently loved our redwoods). An 8-mile dusty dirt road led to Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. It was well-worth the trip, as we saw several Roosevelt Elk, including a huge buck, and walked through the lush Fern Canyon.



Photo: Lois Fulmer

Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Winter Wrens entertained us, and we discovered that there are a lot of Wrentits in the redwoods and the coastal areas. We almost ran over a Banana Slug, a yellow creature that looks like it's from another planet. Some of the interesting plants in the redwood groves include Rhododendron, Tan Oak, Madrone, Huckleberry Bushes and Blackberry Vines (with both flowers and berries), Sword and Five-Fingered Ferns, and Redwood Sorrel, a plant with a trefoil leaf that carpets the forest floor.

Our Descanso Gardens membership gave us in free entry into Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg (both are among the over 200± gardens that participate in the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions program.) There were a variety of birds there, in addition to the blooming dahlias and fuchsias. Cedar Waxwings were flycatching; a family of Olive-sided Flycatchers were constantly calling; and a Swainson's Thrush popped briefly into view. The gardens border the coastline, so we also found Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, Black Oystercatchers, and Pigeon Guillemots on the rocks and in the sea below.

Driving down Highway 1, we stopped at an overlook near Manchester State Park in Mendocino County. Out came the scope, as we spied a Xantus' Murrelet just off shore.

continued on page 6

Field Trips

Birding 101

Wednesday, July 14, 21, 28, 2010

7:00 pm — 8:45 pm

(plus field trips 7/17 & 7/24)

Birding provides enjoyment and challenge throughout your life.

Birding gets you outdoors on your street or around the world, increases your ability to observe the world around you, increases your appreciation of nature, and is darned fun. So, why put off learning how to be a better birder any longer?

Join us to learn the sights and sounds of our local birds. We will cover identification, optics, sound players, field guides, note-taking, habitats, birding ethics, and many other topics. Class size is limited to about a dozen people, so don't delay!

Location: Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Field trips: July 17 and 24. Time and location to be announced at the first class

Cost: \$50 covers all three classes and two field trips. Payment is payable to "Pasadena Audubon Society" and is due at the first class session.

Leaders: Ron Cyger and Mark Scheel. For questions or to make reservations, contact Birding101@pasadenaudubon.org.

Sponsored by Pasadena Audubon Society and Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

Big Morongo Canyon

Saturday, May 8, 2010

7:30 am — afternoon

The desert oasis at Big Morongo Canyon is one of the ten largest cottonwood and willow riparian (stream) habitats in California. The upstream end of the canyon lies in the Mojave Desert, while its downstream portion opens into the Colorado Desert.

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve is an internationally-recognized birding site. Several rare or unusual species are known to nest here, and many other species are abundant during the spring and fall migration seasons.

Meet with Pasadena Audubon to walk the easy-paced trail in the preserve led by Kathi Ellsworth and Lance Benner. Bring lunch and lots of water. See you there!

Go east on Interstate 10, then north on Hwy 62 to Morongo Valley. Turn east on East Drive for one block to turn left at Preserve Sign (11055 East Drive). Park in the lot at the end of the lane. It usually takes about two hours to get to the preserve from Pasadena.

Kathi Ellsworth & Lance Benner

East Mojave

Sat-Sun, May 22-23, 2010

(note change of date)

This is the year to visit the East Mojave Preserve! Due to recent rain, there should be carpets of wildflowers and their ephemeral beauty

is something everyone should see. We will search for Gray Vireo, Gilded Flicker, Gray Flycatcher, Bendire's Thrasher, LeConte's Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, Lucy's Warbler, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Black-chinned Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow (singing like a canary!), "Woodhouse" Western Scrub-Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Chukar, Scott's Oriole, and many, many others. We will camp for one night on Saturday, May 15th. We will meet at 7:00 am on Saturday morning and then travel the dirt and paved roads of the East Mojave Preserve near Cima Dome, Kelso, the New York Mountains, the Mid-Hills, and the northern Lanfair Valley.

The trip will be limited to 10 people. Email or call Lance Benner for more information and to sign up.

Kathi Ellsworth and Lance Benner

Mt. Pinos & Environs

Saturday, June 5, 2010

7:30 am — early afternoon

Mt Pinos is one of the best places in Southern California to enjoy a wide variety of montane birds and see California Condors. We will definitely do the former. Several species of warblers, thrushes, raptors, woodpeckers, flycatchers, and finches are usually abundant. Williamson's Sapsucker, Calliope Hummingbirds, and Hermit

...continued on page 6

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, May 16, 2010

Sunday, June 20, 2010

Sunday, September 19, 2010

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



Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Saturday, September 4, 2010

7:30 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



Huntington Library Monthly Walk

Sunday, May 23, 2010

Sunday, June 27, 2010

Sunday, September 26, 2010

8:00 am — 11:00 am

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

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

Elaine MacPherson



Calendar

Submit material for the next Wrentit by August 1st



= Wrentit Club!

May 2010

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader*
1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
5	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
8	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Big Morongo	Kathi Ellsworth, Lance Benner
22-23	Sat-Sun	All day	Field Trip	East Mojave	Kathi Ellsworth, Lance Benner
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Lower Arroyo Seco	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: John Fitzpatrick
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip <i>(PAS members only)</i>	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

June 2010

5	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Mt. Pinos	Ron Cyger, Larry Johnson
15	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Descanso Gardens	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
12	Sat	6:00 pm	Annual Dinner!	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	see page 1
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip <i>(PAS members only)</i>	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

Summer 2010

7/14	Wed	7:00 pm	Birding 101	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Ron Cyger, Mark Scheel
7/17	Sat	TBD	Field Trip	Birding 101	See page 4
7/21	Wed	7:00 pm	Birding 101	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Ron Cyger, Mark Scheel
7/24	Sat	TBD	Field Trip	Birding 101	See page 4
7/28	Wed	7:00 pm	Birding 101	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Ron Cyger, Mark Scheel
8/7	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	L.A. River	Mike San Miguel
8/14	Sat	TBD	Field Trip	Antelope Valley	Jon Feenstra

September 2010

1	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
4	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Ron Cyger
11	Sat	7:00 am	Field Trip	Pt. Vicente Sea Watch	Mike San Miguel
15	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Program: In-Depth Birding
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	Frank Bonelli Park	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
25	Sat	Dawn	Field Trip	Galileo Hills	Mark & Janet Scheel

* Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (Chair) (626) 355-8707
Larry Allen (323) 288-2701
Lance Benner (626) 791-1187
Ron Cyger (626) 449-3625 *(before 9 pm)*
Kathi Ellsworth (626) 564-0652
Jon Feenstra (626) 792-4346
Jon Fisher (818) 800-2776
Nick & Mary Freeman (818) 247-6172
Sid Heyman (626) 571-5991
Mickey Long (626) 398-5420
Elaine MacPherson (626) 355-9412
Hill Penfold (626) 352-4954
Mike San Miguel (626) 355-5058
Ed Stonick (626) 796-0595
Madeline West (626) 574-0429

SCHEEL@TAPIR.CALTECH.EDU
LARRYALLEN@EARLYMUSICLA.ORG
LBENNER@CHARTER.NET
RON@CYGER.ORG *(preferred)*
PANDIONSKY@YAHOO.COM
FEENSTRA@ALUMNI.CALTECH.EDU
JONF60@HOTMAIL.COM
MNFREEMAN@EARTHLINK.NET

MLONGBIRD@CHARTER.NET
BIRDERGRRL@AOL.COM
HPENFOLD@GMAIL.COM
SANMIGBIRD@AOL.COM
STONICKS@EARTHLINK.NET
WEST266@ADELPHIA.NET

New Faces, New Places, on the Board of Directors

The March meeting of Pasadena Audubon's Board of Directors resulted in some changes in our roster, which is found on the last page of *The Wrentit*.

The long-vacant Publicity chair has been filled by Deni Sinnott. Deni has been a birder since her college days at the University of Michigan where she studied Botany and Ornithology. Professionally, she has enjoyed a successful career in marketing and advertising. Deni now works with Internet advertising for a major online publisher. She looks forward to bringing her expertise and spirit of volunteerism to the Pasadena Audubon Society and to continually brushing up her birding skills.

Our able Programs chair, Ron Cyger, is now in charge of Education instead. Replacing him as Programs chair is Lew Hastings. Here's some background info from Lew:

I have always been interested in the outdoors and all the beauty that nature provides, but I have consistently gravitated towards birds. When I was 7, I found an injured Common Flicker in our yard and tried to nurse it back to health. I was struck by its beauty and saddened when it died. I also remember getting the Boy Scout Bird Watching merit badge and dragging my dad down to Whittier Narrows a number of times to see a Northern Cardinal.

What really got me excited in birding was working at the Southern California Edison Company in the same department as Michael San Miguel. He was a patient and inspiring teacher. Every year we would see who could see the most species but he was impossible to beat!

I lived in Flagstaff for a number of years and was involved with the local Audubon Chapter, primarily leading field trips. After moving back to La Canada, I quickly joined the Pasadena Audubon Chapter. I am impressed with the level of participation and the diversity of knowledge and interests of its members. The overall enthusiasm is catching and I decided I wanted to participate in a bigger way than just going to meetings. When the opportunity of working on

monthly programs became available I jumped at the chance. Ron Cyger has done an outstanding job of providing interesting and thought-provoking programs, and I plan to continue down the same path. I will be emailing all the chapter members a brief questionnaire on Programs to make sure we continue to meet your expectations.

Feel free to email me with any comments or suggestions you may have at curlw46@gmail.com.

No. Cal. Coast, continued

Our last stop was Monterey, where we needed no alarm clock; the Western Gulls woke us early each morning. We took 17-mile Drive to Seal and Bird Rocks, where about 50 Ruddy Turnstones were flitting here and there, apparently on their way south. We also found a couple of Wandering Tattlers, some 100 Heermann's Gulls resting on one rock, and many more Brown Pelicans and Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants. Several Sea Otters, Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions entertained us, and Pygmy Nuthatches foraged in the Cypress trees.

We also visited Elkhorn Slough, which is not terribly birdy in the summer. However, we found a Sanderling still in breeding plumage, which was a treat.

Although we did a lot of driving (over 2000 miles), this was a restful trip, and we enjoyed seeing the flora and fauna of the northern part of our great state.

Lois Fulmer

Field Trips, continued

Warblers are target species. We will visit Iris Meadows and several other areas where the birding is usually reliable.

Take I-5 north to the Frazier Park turnoff and continue west about 5 miles to the small city park in Frazier Park, on your left at the first stop sign. We will meet there. Don't forget lunch, water, and sunscreen.

Ron Cyger and Larry Johnson

L.A. River

Saturday, August 7, 2010

7:00 am — 1:00 pm

The Los Angeles River remains the best place in coastal Los Angeles County to see a great variety of shorebirds. Join us for a casual walk up the Los Angeles River to see what we

can find. We can expect to see good numbers of returning sandpipers and may even be able to find a rarity. A few Solitary Sandpipers, Baird's Sandpipers and dowitchers should be in and we could even find a Semi-palmated Sandpiper or something even more unexpected. We will start at Willow Street in Long Beach and work our way up the River and finish at the recently restored Dominguez Gap wetland. Meet at the bike path entrance along De Forrest Avenue. Take the Willow Street exit east off the 710 Freeway and turn north at golden Avenue just east of the River. Take an immediate left on 26th and proceed to De Forest and the bike path entrance.

Mike San Miguel

Piute Ponds

Saturday, August 14, 2010



The main focus of this trip will be to observe shorebirds at the Piute Ponds and other west Mojave "hot spots" (literally and figuratively) in the Antelope Valley of northern Los Angeles County. Thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage at these isolated wetlands during their southbound migration and we will be there to meet them. Baird's Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper are likely possibilities. In addition to shorebirds (if this weren't enough), the surrounding desert can produce Prairie Falcon, LeConte's Thrasher, and lots of Horned Larks and Sage Sparrows.

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

Jon Feenstra

Pt. Vicente Sea Watch

Saturday, September 11, 2010

7:00 am — mid-morning



In September there are large and sometimes impressive numbers of seabirds moving along the coast of Southern California. When conditions are good these birds can be moving close to shore at places like Point Vicente. Bring a chair, your favorite cup of coffee, and join me for a casual morning of birding. We

...continued on page 7

Field Trips, continued

should be able to observe shearwaters, gulls, terns and possibly a few jaegers and alcids. Frequently, there are also whales and dolphins feeding just offshore. We will also bird the Bluff Trail from the parking lot out to Long Point for California Gnatcatcher and more.

From San Pedro take Palos Verdes Drive South to the entrance of the Point Vicente Interpretive Center, then make a U-turn back for 0.3 miles to the parking lot.

Meet at the Public Fishing Access Parking Lot at Long Point. A spotting scope is a necessity.

Mike San Miguel

Galileo Hills

September 25, 2010

Dawn — ?

Galileo Hills is the home of Silver Saddle Resort, a small green patch of trees, ponds, and lawns surrounded by miles of desert. During spring and fall, migrating passerines are attracted to this oasis, often in large numbers. Eastern species such as Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and others will sometimes join the western migrants; this is arguably the best inland location in California for eastern vagrants. You never know what will show up---40 species of wood warbler have been recorded here, and various mega-rarities (like Arctic Warbler and Eyebrowed Thrush) have occurred. We'll just see what we can find.

Galileo Hills is about a 2.5-hour drive from Pasadena, so we will be carpooling. Please email Mark Scheel for further information if you wish to attend.

Mark and Janet Scheel

Cobb Estate Volunteers

Many thanks to the following people who have offered to help keep the Cobb Estate signs clean (once they are restored!):

Mary Barrie, Darren Dowell, Linda Roberts, Mike Kelcy, Leah Thomson, Gerald Cichlar, Mary Jane Macy, Melody Comfort, Kathi Ellsworth, Susan Gilliland, Judy Howell, Grace Wong, Patty Margaret, Pam and Wilbur Dong, and Janet Sporleder.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact Laura Garrett at purplecow@jps.net or 626-564-1890.

New Members, continued

Link, Ann Luscombe, Gary Maraviglia, Gerald Orcholski, Warren Pierpoint, Clifford Pollock, Linda Reuter, Joan Roudenbush, Kimberly Rubal, Patricia Schlanser, Shirley Shivers, Melinda Sweeney, Rob Tollesan, Dolores Velling, H. Vocan, Marguerite Wright; **ROSEMEAD:** Inez Jauregui; **SAN GABRIEL:** Kenneth Miller, Margaret Petterutto, Barbara Sohal, Judy Zdravje, George Zimmerman; **SAN MARINO:** Paul & Linda Maurin; **SIERRA MADRE:** Jim Taylor; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Mark & Lisa Grabow, Amy Jones, Donna Potts, Ty Upshaw, Mike Walker, Gary Young; **TEMPLE CITY:** Nelle Green, Betty Jackman, Maryann Rachford

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, May 18, 2010
Lower Arroyo Seco
Meet at the casting pond

Tuesday, June 15, 2010
Descanso Gardens
Meet at the entrance

Tuesday, September 21, 2010
Frank Bonelli Park
Meet at ranger station at entrance

Donations to PAS

Norm & Anna Arnheim, Lance Benner, Harlean Carroll, Linda Donato, John Odell & Margaret Gonder-Odell, Lew Hastings, Judy Howell, Audrey Parmiter, Ellen Rennick, Madeline West, and Judy Wheeler have recently made donations to our chapter. **Thank you!**

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!

Chapter-only Membership Application

Name Phone
Address
City State ZIP
Email

If this is a gift, please also provide donor's information below:

Name Phone
Address
City State ZIP

Yearly dues:

- [] \$20 (regular) [] \$15 (senior, or full-time student)
- [] \$35 (T-shirt or Birding Guide, plus a PAS pin)
- [] \$_____ (donation)

Make checks payable to, and mail to:

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

Pasadena Audubon Society Board

President	Will Fulmer	(626) 798-1606
Vice-President	Norm Arnheim	(626) 405-0844
Secretary	Kathi Ellsworth	(626) 524-0652
Treasurer	Grace Wong	(626) 798-6500
Members at large: Bev McKenzie, John Garrett, Susan Gilliland, Peggy Ogata		
Auditor	Eileen Burton	(626) 585-9076
Conservation	Laura Garrett	(626) 564-1890
Field Trips	Mark Scheel	(626) 355-8707
Hospitality	Mary Jane Macy	(626) 355-7678
Programs	Lew Hastings	(626) 710-8264
Magpie Bird Study Group	Madeline West	(626) 574-0429
	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991
CBC Cordinator	Jon Fisher	(818) 544-5009
Membership	Lois Fulmer	(626) 798-1606

Publicity	Deni Sinnott	(626) 233-4128
Website	Janet Scheel	(626) 355-8707
Education	Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625

The Wrentit is published by the Pasadena Audubon Society
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, CA, 91107
WWW.PASADENAAUDUBON.ORG

Editor	Mark Hunter	(818) 957-5044
Printing	Pasadena Print Stop	(626) 577-0510
Wrentit Mailing	Alex Strong	(626) 799-3364

Pasadena Audubon Society Chapter only—\$20. Wrentit subscription only—1 year \$10. National Audubon Society membership fees—\$35. National members receive Audubon magazine and The Wrentit. Messages or queries for Pasadena Audubon may be left at (626) 355-9412. For change of NAS address call: (800) 274-4201.

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

DATED MATERIAL

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
No. 1880
Pasadena, CA



Printed on
50% recycled paper

John's Corner

PAS is starting a tradition this year: The Wrentit Club (WC). To join The WC, one must see or hear at least 250 species in a calendar year in Los Angeles County (for more details, see the PAS website or previous issues of The Wrentit). I think of the WC not so much as merely a competition, but an opportunity (or excuse) to see more birds, spend more time in the field, and learn more about our county's avifauna and other wildlife. Entering your sightings on eBird (www.ebird.org) will not only simplify the process of proving your status in The WC, but increase your note-taking skills and further your understanding of our birdlife.

There are many ways to go about

joining The WC. One would be to drive non-stop from the Antelope Valley to the coast and back, chasing vagrants and any other new birds for your county year-list. Another method would be the 'Bigby' (Big Green Bird Year) way. The Bigby is a year-listing competition, like The WC, but world-wide and without using fossil fuels. This includes walking, biking, skiing, skateboarding, and many other modes of transport, originating from a single location (e.g. your house), and no motorized vehicles allowed. Also, as becoming environmentally conscious is the whole purpose of the Bigby, public transportation is permitted (some disagree with this; I don't). So far, my Bigby list stands at 234 (218 excluding exotics), while

my total year-list on eBird is currently at 236 (including the exotics that eBird accepts). Last year, my Bigby list totaled 247; this year, I'm hoping to join The WC, Bigby-wise, well before this year is over. For more information on the Big Green Bird Year, see www.sparroworks.ca/bigby.html.

Listening to others brag about their lists can sometimes be annoying, but I guarantee that it's a fun and worthwhile pursuit to build your own. While engaging in an absolutely carbon-free year is far from necessary, I ask anyone building any form of bird list to remain environmentally aware. You might be surprised at how many birds you'll find just in your neighborhood.

John Garrett

New Members

ALHAMBRA: Karen Bhutia, Tami Bryant, Ruth Cushman, Cristina Deuriarte, Susan Morrison, David Noreiga, Leon Vangordon;
ALTADENA: Sara Carnahan, M. Cummings, Ross & Gloria Kinsler, Carla Robbins, Gertrude Rugland, Bruce Shih, Alejandra Sinay;
ARCADIA: Dave Kalinger, Joannie

Liao, Jennifer Martin, Thomas Moore, Thomas Ormond, Mike Tsou, Deepa Wong;
AZUSA: Peter Barta, Barbara Corella, Juanda Davis, Diana Offen;
ENCINO: Fabienne Melkanov;
HUNTINGTON BEACH: Laurence Korn;
LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE: Diane Balisy, Tom Gilfoy, Celeste Havey, Peter Kim;
MONROVIA: Dorothy Eaton, Jackie Eldridge, Cynthia Mushet, C.A. Stabolepszy;
MONTEREY

PARK: Mario Espinosa, Lisa Martinez, Thomas Moore;
MONTROSE: Juliette Gordon;
PASADENA: Jean Aichele, Adrienne Bass, Linda Calla, Pek Chong, Wendy Cobleigh, Wendy Collins, Patricia Colville, Kathryn Fogarty, Jean Freshwater, Leo Graham, Natalie Hope, Robbie Jackson, Nehama Jacobs, Mrs. Moulton Johnson, Nathalie Johnson, Elizabeth Lent, Richard ...*continued on page 7*