



Drawing by
Guy Coleleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 58 — No. 5

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

November-December 2010

November Program

25 Years of Birding the Western Antelope Valley

Wednesday, November 17, 2010
Dr. Callyn Yorke

Join us to listen to Callyn give an in-depth history on seasonal occurrences and abundance of birds in the Antelope Valley. He has been a professor of biology at Antelope Valley College since 1984. As most of you know, the Antelope Valley provides a great diversity of species and numbers of birds throughout the year and often provides some great rarities for Los Angeles County. What better way to put it all into perspective than to have him share his observations for the past 25 years. Talk about list-keeping!

General Meetings Held At

Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 N Altadena Drive
Pasadena CA
Social 7:00 pm, Program 7:30 pm

Christmas Bird Count

Planning Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 2010
7:00 pm — 9:00 pm

See the detailed info about the pre-count planning meeting on page 6.

Christmas Bird Count Dinner

Saturday, December 18, 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. Dish the dirt on the day's count activities. To reserve a spot, send a check for \$10 to PAS, attention CBC Dinner, at the address shown on page 8. Payment is due on or before December 11.

January Program

Climate Change and Its Impact on Birds

January 19, 2011
Gary Langham

Gary Langham will be speaking to us this evening on climate change and how it threatens our wildlife with a particular emphasis on birds. It is hard to imagine that climate change could cause up to 110 of 310 California native bird species to disappear from at least 25% of their current ranges by the end of the twenty-first century.

His approach will combine the latest in science with old fashioned bird-watching skills to provide solid data, and then to promote actions that balance risk and opportunity and help guide conservation efforts well into the future.

Dr. Langham, Director of Bird Conservation, joined Audubon California in 2007 as their lead scientist. He has been an active birder since childhood, and in 2003 received his Ph.D. from Cornell University.

President's Perch

We are starting our second year of granting funds for activities that promote birding, bird habitat and education. Last fiscal year we made \$4,000 available. This year the Board has authorized a total of \$8,000 for the program. (See our call for grant applications on page 7.) The Grants committee, headed by Vice President Norm Arnheim, will review grant applications by March 15 (the Fall

application deadline was October 15) and make their recommendations to the Board for approval so that funds can be disbursed by May 15. If you or your organization has a project that you think PAS might be interested in supporting, please let us know by applying for a PAS grant.

Good birding!

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Conservation and Education

Rubio Canyon Progress

Thanks to a generous donation from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains and Recreation and Conservation Authority, plus the generosity of donors like you, the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy has purchased a three acre parcel of land in the mouth of Rubio Canyon. Especially generous was PAS member Ninarose Mayer who contributed \$10,000. This land was slated to be developed with five homes, but now it will be open space and bird habitat forever. The Conservancy is still raising funds to purchase the remaining 18 acres of Rubio Canyon that is not protected. If the AFC is able to purchase the land before December 31, 2010, it will be able to do so at a 20% discount.

Rubio Canyon was once home to the Mt Lowe Railway, which took passengers on a harrowing journey to Echo Mountain and its hotel. Now, only the foundations of the buildings and some remnants of the tracks remain. But what still abides is excellent hiking and birding. An unconfirmed Roadrunner was seen up there recently—will you be the first with a confirmed sighting?

To help preserve *all* of Rubio Canyon, please visit www.altadenafoothills.org to make a secure online donation, or send your check made out to “Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy” to Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, P.O. Box 3, Altadena, CA 91003. All donations are tax-deductible as the AFC is a 501(c)3 organization. Questions? Contact me at purplecow@jps.net.

Laura Garrett

Whittier Narrows to Become More Natural

Last February, the late (and greatly missed) Mike San Miguel was birding at Whittier Narrows when he noticed that some Marsh Wrens were carrying nesting material, while at the same time, crews were ripping out the Marsh Wren nesting habitat in a misguided effort to remove trash. After several phone calls, we had a meeting with the LA County Parks to work on solving this problem. How could we keep the lakes free of trash and safe for people but still support the wildlife?

Though sadly Mike did not live to see the results of his work, we now have a plan in place of which he would no doubt approve. On the Legg Lake side, the middle lake will be left in as natural a state as possible, and will be designated a wildlife sanctuary. The other two lakes will also be left more natural, but with room for human recreation like small boats. Grates are being installed to catch more of the trash before it enters the lakes. More of the trees and shrubs are being allowed to grow naturally, with less pruning. County Parks has adopted the Bird-friendly Tree and Shrub Trimming Protocol developed by Los Angeles Audubon. Mickey Long, the Natural Areas Administrator for the County Parks, and Hayden Sohm, the County Parks Deputy Director, developed and presented new training for park staff. Mickey reported at a follow-up meeting that many of the staff had no idea that they worked at such a special place, and that the training gave them a new sense of pride.

Perhaps best of all, plans are underway to restore and refill the mitigation lakes in the natural area of Whittier Narrows. Then, in honor of Mike and his rich legacy of protecting birds, we can name them after him. Many thanks to (among others) Mickey Long, Joyce Gibson (Superintendent of Whittier Narrows), Hayden Sohm, Garry George (Conservation Chair, LA Audubon), and of course, to Mike.

Laura Garrett

Understanding and Describing Bird Sounds

Sylvia Gallagher
Sunday, November 14, 2010
Check-in 8:30 am
Workshop 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Learning bird sounds is often hampered by your inability to write down what you hear. In this workshop you'll receive a checklist of characteristics of bird sounds and practice describing sounds using them. Raven Lite, free sonogram-making software from Cornell Lab. of Ornithology, will be demonstrated. You'll learn how to "read" sonograms, powerful visual tools for learning and describing sounds. Birds produce sounds differently from mammals, and you'll learn what an amazing organ the syrinx is.

Sylvia Gallagher has conducted beginning and advanced Birding Skills Workshops for Sea and Sage Audubon in Orange County since 1980. She started recording bird sounds in 1984 and has been teaching various Learning Bird Sounds workshops since 1992. These sounds workshops are also available as self-study learning packages, containing worksheets and CDs of introductory and practice sounds (available from seaandsagesudubon.org). She was also the Director of the Orange County Breeding Bird Atlas and is Bird Information Chairman for Sea and Sage Audubon.

This is an all-day workshop that will include lunch.

Price: \$30. Send check payable to PAS to reserve your space (sorry, no refunds):

Bird Sounds
 Pasadena Audubon Society
 c/o Eaton Canyon Nature Center
 1750 N Altadena Dr
 Pasadena, CA 91107

(Walk-ins are welcome, but may be disappointed – space is limited.)

Purple Gallinule

Trip Reports & Sightings

For the fourth time in ornithological history, a Purple Gallinule (normally a resident of the Gulf Coast) was found in Southern California. And after that, things got interesting.

PAS member Norm Vargas was birding on the San Gabriel River on September 2 when something unusual caught his eye. "I knew it was a rail type bird and since I was able to get some photos of it, I figured I would just look it up when I got home. I had no idea it was a PUGA, just knew it would be a lifer when I found it in the books. Because it was wading and not swimming, I didn't associate it with a Moorhen, which would have clued me in on its identity a lot sooner."

The photos were soon confirmed by local expert birders and the hunt was on. The bird, a newly fledged juvenile, was a great rarity. Despite the efforts of many birders, no one saw it for many days. Norm continued to search for it and, on September 13, he briefly found it. One other birder also spotted it on September 15, and then it was gone again.

To complicate things, the Flood Control District de-watered

that part of the river in preparation for some brush-clearing operations. Norm continued to search for other parts of the river that still carried water, hoping that the juvenile bird had simply moved somewhere else and he would find it yet again.

Not exactly. On September 21, very late in the day, in the South El Monte area, something different happened. "I almost missed this one as I had passed over the area before and was on my way back to the car when I made one last stop near the bank and just caught a little motion in the grasses across the way. As I watched for the bird to come out, I saw blue then green and my heart started racing. I took some shaky pictures for proof as the light was quite low by then. A few hasty phone calls were made as I observed it and I had to put the phone down a few times as it got out in the open and I could get some clearer shots of it."



Photo: Raul Roa

Norm had found a second Purple Gallinule, a sub-adult. This one, while shy and elusive like the first one, stuck around for weeks for many more sightings by local birders, and many excellent photos. Congratulations to Norm Vargas for his fine initial discovery, and his ongoing persistence and keen eye.

Galileo Hill

September 25, 2010

A pre-dawn Osprey on a pole in the middle of the desert provided an impromptu meeting spot on the way to Silver Saddle, one of the best migrant traps in southern California. The location is on private property, but we had obtained prior permission to bird there. Like us, the birds were there bright and early and full of energy. And this wasn't a place where you look around for a while and eventually find a bird; in the morning there were birds in almost every tree, waiting for us to sort through them. One of our first birds was a female Black-and-white Warbler that had just bathed in one of the ponds. Creeping along the branches like the Black-and-white were a few Red-breasted Nuthatches. We had a great time following the flocks (mostly Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, and Warbling Vireos) to look for anything unusual, such as a Magnolia Warbler that led us in a circle around one of the ponds. Besides the warblers, there were also large flocks of Horned Larks and Sage Sparrows at the edge of the resort. A Green-tailed Towhee made a brief appearance, and we saw desert species like Verdin, Black-throated Sparrow, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker.

One of the highlights was a roosting Long-eared Owl peaking back at us through the branches. We also found Willow and Hammond's Flycatchers, and we witnessed a battle between two male sapsuckers, a Red-naped and a Red-naped/Red-breasted hybrid: crests raised, they chased and fought from the treetops to the ground.

We ate lunch at California City Park, a short drive from Silver Saddle; there there were two Ross' Geese, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, and more western warblers and flycatchers. A few of us stopped at Piute Ponds on the way home and found two Pectoral Sandpipers and other shorebirds, a Peregrine Falcon, Yellow-headed Blackbird, many White-faced Ibis, and more. We found 72 species (98 counting the Piute Ponds stop), and most of them were good looks... not bad for a day in the desert! Special thanks to the other helpful birders who were there, announcing finds over the radio.

Mark and Janet Scheel

Field Trips

Legg Lake & Peck Road Park



Saturday, November 6, 2010

Saturday, January 1, 2011

7:30 am — 11:30 am

This trip will cover several consistently good lake and park birding areas. Legg Lake has lots of water and scattered trees with good waterfowl numbers and varieties and an impressive list of migrants and wintering birds. Peck Road Park has a huge hourglass-shaped lake with a wide variety of water birds, including grebes, ducks, gulls, terns, egrets, and shorebirds. We may include the Livingstone/Graham Reservoir, with hundreds of ducks and gulls, and often one or two Ospreys and other raptors.

Meet in the Santa Anita Ave. parking lot, closest to the 60 freeway. Take the Santa Anita exit and turn south from the off-ramp (going south). The lake and parking lot will be on your right.

Ed Stonick

Newport Back Bay Kayaks

Saturday, November 13

(date change)

See the full announcement on page 6

Morro Bay Weekend

Sat.-Sun., November 20-21, 2010

Morro Bay is an important stopover on the Pacific Flyway and a critical winter home to numerous bird species. The bay and its 48,000-acre watershed rank perennially among the top sites in the nation during the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Morro Bay is located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Join us for a weekend trip that will include Morro Bay, Montana de Oro, and possibly the north end of the Carrizo Plain.

Please contact Kathi Ellsworth (see page 6) if you are interested. We will be staying at Morro Bay on Friday and Saturday night at the Tradewinds Motel, (805) 772-7376. If you plan to be with us, you should make your reservation as soon as possible. We will meet Saturday at 7:30 am in the parking lot of the Tradewinds, 225 Beach Street.

Kathi Ellsworth

Bonelli Park



Saturday, January 15, 2011

7:30 am — noon

Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas offers a nice variety of habitats and birds. We should find miscellaneous juncos and sparrows, waterfowl, possible Bald Eagle and California Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wrens, raptors and many others. Take the 210 Freeway east from the Pasadena area, then take the transition to the 57 and 10 Freeways. Before you get to the 10, take the Via Verde/Raging Waters exit and go left, then immediately left again into the Park and Ride lot for a 7:30 start. We'll carpool into the park from here (thus reducing our entrance fees) and bird until about noon.

Jon Fisher

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk



Sunday, November 21, 2010

Sunday, December 19, 2010

Sunday, January 16, 2011

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, December 4, 2010

Saturday, February 5, 2011

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

Salton Sea

Sat.-Sun., January 29-30, 2011

All day

The Salton Sea is one of the premier birding sites in North America! 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.

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? Down-load 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 the trip leader.

Ron Cyger

Huntington Library Monthly Walk



Sunday, November 28, 2010

Sunday, December 26, 2010

Sunday, January 23, 2011

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 January 1st

 = Wrentit Club!

November 2010

2	Tue	7:00 pm	Birding 101	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	(full)
3	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
6	Sat	TBD	Field Trip	Birding 101	(full)
6	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip 	Legg Lake/Peck Road	Ed Stonick
10	Wed	7:00 pm	Birding 101	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	(full)
13	Sat	9:00 am	Field Trip	Newport Back Bay Kayaks	Mark Hunter
14	Sun	8:30 am	Bird Sound Class	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Sylvia Gallagher
16	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group 	Santa Fe Dam	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
17	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	25 Years in Antelope Valley
20-21	Sat-Sun	All day	Field Trip	Morro Bay	Kathi Ellsworth
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

(PAS members only)

December 2010

1	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
4	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip 	Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
14	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group 	Arboretum	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
15	Wed	7:00 pm	CBC planning meet	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Jon Fisher
18	Sat	All day	Christmas Bird Count 	Everywhere	Jon Fisher
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
26	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

(PAS members only)

January 2011

1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip 	Legg Lake/Peck Pit	Ed Stonick
5	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
15	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip 	Bonelli Park	Jon Fisher
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group 	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
19	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Climate Change Impact
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip 	Huntington Library Gardens	Elaine MacPherson
29-30	Sat-Sun	All day	Field Trip	Salton Sea	Ron Cyger

* Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (chair)	(626) 355-8707	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu
Larry Allen	(323) 288-2701	larryallen@earlymusicla.org
Lance Benner	(626) 791-1187	lbenner@charter.net
Ron Cyger	(626) 449-3625 (before 9:00 pm)	ron@cyger.org (preferred)
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	
Mark Hunter	(818) 957-5044	fishingyak@yahoo.com
Mickey Long	(626) 398-5420	mlongbird@charter.net
Elaine MacPherson	(626) 355-9412	birdergrrl@aol.com
Hill Penfold	(818) 352-4954	hpenfold@gmail.com
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	stonicks@earthlink.net
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	west266@adelphia.net

Christmas Bird Count!

Be sure to make time in your holiday schedule for the 2010 Christmas Bird Count on December 18. The Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley count was initiated in 1946 and is a significant event for Pasadena Audubon and local birders each year. Even though the first-ever CBC took place nearly a half century before that, we've still got a lot of history behind us.

There have been significant changes in the area since the 1940s, but we typically find 150 species or more each year. In fact, we're now finding more than ever before. Our knowledge of bird identification has grown as has our ability to find particular species. Knowing just where to look for a certain bird is often the key to success, and we also have a dedicated group of participants whose talents help us find many good birds each year.

In spite of extensive urbanization, a variety of habitats still exist in the count circle. Lakes, streams, marshes, montane and oak woodland, chaparral, riparian, coastal sage and exotic plantings can all be found. And don't forget the parking lot at McDonald's for House Sparrows and Brewer's Blackbirds... always a highlight. Joking aside, our mild climate in combination with these diverse habitats results in a wide variety of winter birdlife.

As with all land-based CBCs, our area of coverage is a circle fifteen miles in diameter. The center of ours is at the intersection of San Gabriel Boulevard and Duarte Road. The area it encompasses includes a number of great birding spots such as Santa Fe Dam, Big Santa Anita Canyon, Whittier Narrows, San Gabriel River, Peck 'Pit' (officially "Peck Road Water Conservation Park", but that's a bit of a mouthful), Eaton Canyon, the Huntington Gardens and the L.A. County Arboretum. The circle also reaches Mount Wilson, offering the possibility of high mountain birds such as Clark's Nutcracker, Williamson's Sapsucker and Cassin's Finch.

The early winter count period is interesting because all the winter birds have arrived, irruptive and irregular species such as Lewis's Woodpeckers and Varied Thrushes can be present, and there are almost always lingering or wintering vagrants in the area.

We add new birds to the count list on a regular basis and we've recorded a number of great rare birds over the last decade—Painted Redstart, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler and Bell's Vireo being some of the more recent ones. Other years have turned up Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Kentucky Warbler and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. What unexpected birds will be found this year? Not knowing what will turn up is one of the more intriguing aspects of the Christmas Count.

As always, newcomers are welcome. Just a beginning birder or new to Christmas Count birding? It doesn't matter what your abilities are or your level of experience, because anyone can take part. Come to the pre-count meeting December 15, and we'll fix you up. If you feel up to it you can count an area alone, or go with other more experienced participants. It's a great opportunity to learn more about local birds and the count data also contributes to our knowledge of distribution and population trends.

This fall has already seen an influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches, an above average number of Pine Siskins and even a couple of Evening Grosbeaks. It's hard to predict what things will look like by mid-December, but you should watch for these species and others. This could be a very interesting year.

This year's Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Christmas Count will take place on Saturday, December 18. A pre-count meeting will be held at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center on Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 pm. At the pre-count meeting there will be an overview of the count and we will hand out materials and checklists, review procedures and assign count areas. We collect a \$5 fee from participants to cover the costs of compiling and distributing the count results. If you can't be at the pre-count meeting, don't worry—it's easy to sign up for an area to count via e-mail or phone.

As always, we will hold the traditional post-count dinner and wrap-up on count night. It's always fun to see who saw what, what was missed, and what surprises turned up. (See the announcement on page 1.)

For additional information, please contact count coordinator Jon Fisher at

(818) 800-2776 or at JonF60@hotmail.com. Hope to see you on the count!

Wrentit Club's First Year

As 2010 wraps up, so does the first year of the Wrentit Club. Many made the club but, more importantly, many came close and got out more than ever! You will be able to use your newfound knowledge for the 2011 edition.

As the year ends, send your name and total species count via email to wrentitclub@PasadenaAudubon.org so we know you want to be acknowledged and receive a really cool prize (yeah, we're still working on prizes...) Remember, anything that has feathers and flies free is countable, so include those parrots and condors you saw this year!

As always, if you have any questions, please see Mark Scheel, John Garrett or Ron Cyger at a meeting/outing or email us at the address above..

Ron Cyger

Newport Back Bay Kayaks

Saturday, November 13, 2010

9:00 am — noon

This is a peaceful, happy outing in a rich bird habitat with wintering waterfowl, a wide variety of shorebirds, several species of gulls and terns, Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, and (visible!) Marsh Wren. Clouds of "peeps" sometimes sweep over us while we're on the water, and shorebirds are very approachable by slow-moving kayaks.

Early November is usually warm, but take extra clothing layers in water-resistant bags. Wear old shoes or sandals that won't be bothered by salt water and mud. Bring sunscreen, snacks and drinking water. The trip leader may have a couple of kayaks to lend — otherwise kayaks are readily available for rent by the hour at the launch site, Newport Aquatic Center. Be prompt and, if you're renting a kayak, arrive about twenty minutes early to handle the paperwork.

Group size is limited. fishingyak@yahoo.com or (818) 957-5044 for info and reservations.

Mark Hunter

PAS Grant and Scholarship Program

Twice each year Pasadena Audubon Society invites grant applications, with application deadlines of October 15 and March 15. There are three categories of grants that will be considered:

- Scholarships to help support Pasadena area birders, teachers, and others to attend conferences, classes, and workshops, or to study ornithology.
- Research grants for collecting data on birds, birding, habitat conservation, and education. Preference will be given to projects in Southern California but national and international studies will also be considered.
- Grants for specific projects or unrestricted donations for general support to organizations that have missions similar to Pasadena Audubon Society.

This article is only a brief notice of the PAS grant program. There are specific formats and requirements for grant applications. Full details of the program can be found on the Pasadena Audubon web site at <http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org/grants>

John's Corner, continued from p. 8

Rufous Hummingbird. The next day we led a field trip to the Whitewater River Delta at the north end of the Salton Sea. While many days at the Sea can be described as "unpleasant", this was Salton Sea heaven. Good birds abounded, but the main highlights were an adult Black-legged Kittiwake, and an early adult Thayer's Gull. Jon had the pleasure of leading a Mountain Quail quest the next day, but due to the organized but casual nature of WFO conferences, I was able to bail and instead went on Nathan Pieplow's field sound recording workshop, which was very enlightening. I realized I could probably get some decent recordings if I just bought a shotgun microphone. As we were recording, a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flew over our heads: a fun surprise.

I somehow ended up on the photo ID panel, probably because I'm so photogenic, but admittedly my, er, palms were wet by the end of it. Next to Jon Dunn, Paul Lehman, Joe Morlan and Kimball Garrett, there's not much you can say. On the sound ID quiz, we organized into teams, and achieved new faith in the power of teamwork...depending on the team.

I'm thankful to Pasadena Audubon, WFO, and everyone behind these groups who honored me with this scholarship. I could go on and on about the conference but, frankly, it's better if you experience it for yourself.

John Garrett

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, November 16, 2010
Santa Fe Dam
Meet at the Nature Center

Tuesday, December 14, 2010
L.A. County Arboretum
Meet at the entrance

Tuesday, January 18, 2011
Eaton Canyon Nature Center
Meet in the parking lot

Tuesday, February 15, 2011
Whittier Narrows
Meet at the Nature Center

Donations to PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: June Gregson, Larry Johnson, Avelina Miller, Dorothy Tyson. **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, Mary Jane Macy, Lance Benner		
Auditor	Eileen Burton	(626) 585-9076
Conservation	Laura Garrett	(626) 564-1890
Field Trips	Mark Scheel	(626) 355-8707
Hospitality	Linda Moore	(818) 541-0819
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
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John's Corner

In honor of the late Mike San Miguel, the incredible, dedicated birder and conservationist, the Pasadena Audubon Society has started a youth scholarship fund for young birders to attend Western Field Ornithologists conferences. This year, I attended the WFO 2010 Conference as the first (and so far only) recipient of this scholarship. All WFO conferences are very well done, and this year's, set in the Coachella Valley, was no exception. For those unacquainted with these conferences, there are excellent field trips led by experienced birders, workshops to improve birding skills, a well-crafted photo ID panel and a challenging sound quiz, lots of smart and brief scientific presentations, and plenty of down-time for birding and socializing. Kurt Leuschner, who recently presented a program to PAS on his Palms-to-Pines birding trails, organized much of the event. Paul Lehman's keynote talk on the history of California vagrants was enlightening for people like me, and made a good trip down Memory Lane for many. And of course, Cat Waters, who is stepping down as WFO's president, made the whole thing work.

Jon Feenstra and I, assigned to co-lead several trips, rode up on the evening of Oct. 13, and the next morning did a hot but fairly productive field trip to several high desert migrant traps, such as Whitewater Reserve and Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Highlights included a mostly-Yellow-shafted Flicker, two sapsucker species, and a late

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New Members

ALHAMBRA: Vivian Yamamoto;
ALTADENA: Edwina Berg, Thomas Castaneda, Richard Chamberlain, Brendan Crill, J.K. Greenlee, John & Susan Trauger; **ARCADIA:** Maria Axtell, Edna Curtis, Linda Doyle, Lavada Hancock, James Kurten, C. Murphy; **AZUSA:** Pamela Roberts, Frank Uballez; **BRADBURY:** Virginia Martens;
DUARTE: Rebecca Brown, Mattie Osborn; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Mathew Franklin, Karen & Joe King, Dzintra Svarcs; **MONROVIA:** Barbara Arnold, Pauline Bailey, Claudia Keith, Helen Love, Dana Mamary, Dorothy Wiles; **MONTEREY PARK:** Hsiao & Yuan Fang; Pasadena: Dominic D'Arduini, Carol Delong, Jesus Flores, Linda Hargrove, Mary Ann Heidsman, Timothy Maxwell, Anne McCann, Judy McCord, Ann Parish, Max Parish, Carol Pearson, Cindy Schall, Linda Siggins, Beverly Silva, Elizabeth Weigand; **ROSEMEAD:** Jean Lathorn, Eugene Miller, Philip Yu; **SAN GABRIEL:** Janis Chew, Rosalie Lugo, Michael McDermott, Edith Zarate; **SAN MARINO:** Diana Callery, S. Josenhans, Jeanne Kruif; **SIERRA MADRE:** Peggy Burhenn, Benjamin Hitz, Joanne Mortimer; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Valerie Cline; **TEMPLE CITY:** Roberto Garibay.