

Drawing by
Guy Coleleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 59 — No. 5

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

November 2011

November Program

Inland Islands of Woodpeckers

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Stephen Shunk

The Transverse and Peninsular ranges of Southern California host a stratified diversity of flora and fauna. Nine species of woodpeckers live year-round in largely complimentary forested habitats. Winter also brings an influx of flickers and sapsuckers to the region, when some of the resident species can be found wandering beyond their normal ranges. Some of Southern California's local woodpecker populations have developed uniquely specialized lifestyles suited to their preferred islands of habitat, and at least one endemic subspecies inhabits the region's pine forests. And all of our woodpeckers play critical ecological roles in the forests and woodlands where they dwell.

Steve will discuss woodpecker natural history and adaptation, potential identification challenges, and forest ecology and conservation challenges faced by our resident and migratory woodpeckers.

General Meetings Held At:

Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N Altadena Drive, Pasadena.

President's Perch

The Big Year – when Birders compete on how many birds they can spot in 12 months.

I have not thought much about this challenging game, except in PAS's Wrentit Club (count of birds in L.A. County), but recently my interest has picked up. First, I met the author of "The Big Year" (a story of the 1998 North American birding competition won by Sandy Komito with 745 species). The

January Program

But It Doesn't Look Like...

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Kimball Garrett

...the one in the book! We've all been perplexed as to the identity of many birds we see in the field. It should be easy – just look at the bird and match it with a picture in your field guide! But of course it doesn't work that way, and the "match-the-picture" approach to field identification can cause trouble. So what's wrong? Is the problem with the bird? With the book? With the birder? Or with the world in general? Kimball Garrett will explore the art of identifying birds in the field by examining why birds so rarely look exactly as depicted in field guides. He has birded for 40 years, mainly in Southern California. He is Ornithology Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County — and author of several field guides.

author, Mark Obmascik, signed my copy of his book. Next, the book was made into a movie, and about 25 of us went to see it on October 16 (see page 3).

The book and movie were good, but the high point for me was actually meeting the "best birder," Sandy Komito. He came from his home in Florida to speak at our October general meeting. Sandy described how he was able to spot 745 birds in North America

..continued on p. 7

February Program

The Cactus Wren of Southern California

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Dan Cooper

Perhaps the most imperiled resident bird on the coastal slope of Southern California has no legal status in Los Angeles County, but growing numbers of biologists and volunteers are joining together to study and protect fragile populations of the Cactus Wren anyway!

We will examine places where these fascinating birds are found around the Southland, with an emphasis on Los Angeles County, take inventory of the forces that seem to be aligned against the wrens, and finish by reviewing conservation strategies that are being devised and implemented to give these tenacious birds a fighting chance.

Dan Cooper is the founder of Cooper Ecological Monitoring Inc. and is the author of *Important Bird Areas of California*.

Christmas Bird Count!

Pre-count meeting 12/14; Count and dinner 12/17. See page 6!

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Conservation

Hahamongna Sediment Management Update

The LA County Department of Public Works held two scoping meetings in October so that the public could comment on the County's plan to remove up to four million cubic yards of sediment from behind Devil's Gate Dam in Hahamongna Watershed Park. Each meeting was attended by between 50-60 members of the public, and the good news is that we all share many of the same concerns.

The County's Initial Report describes a plan that would decimate much of the basin in Hahamongna by scraping and denuding it. The sediment would then be trucked to landfills and gravel pits where it would be dumped. The impacts from this project are significant and many. At both meetings, the public asked that the County update their 90-year-old methods to the newest technology and the best possible practices, and that they see this project as an opportunity to create a whole new approach to sediment management. The public asked that the County research how other agencies deal with this problem, and that they develop a "forever plan," one that mimics nature, rather than simply continuing to use an unsustainable system. The public is deeply concerned about air quality issues, the loss of valuable habitat, and the cumulative impacts from all of the other projects to remove sediment around the County.

My question was, how would they be able to bulldoze all of this sediment out of Hahamongna during nesting season without violating the Migratory Bird Act of 1918, which forbids the disturbance of nesting birds? I do not yet have an answer to this question.

The deadline for sending the County your comments is November 11, 2011. I urge you to send them an email or a letter outlining your concerns and questions. The more of us that send comments, the better the chance that they will finally hear us. Please—do it for the birds.

To see the Initial Report, visit www.lasedimentmanagement.com/devils_gate or pick up a hard copy at a Pasadena or La Cañada public library.

Send emails to reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov. Be sure to put "Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Plan" in the subject line. Send regular mail to Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, ATTN: Water Resources Division—Reservoir Cleanouts, P.O. Box 1460, Alhambra, CA, 91802-9974

Laura Garrett

Pasadena Audubon and a Small Miracle

In September 2010, I was given the privilege and joy of piloting a new writing program at Cal State LA. We took a group of students who would have normally placed in our lowest developmental writing program and instead placed them in regular freshman English, but gave them thirty weeks, or the entire year, to learn the material instead of the usual ten weeks. I got to choose whatever theme for the course I wanted, and I chose "Our Relationship with Nature." We studied air and water pollution, plastics in the oceans, the history of water in Los Angeles, food issues, environmental justice, and the benefits of and threats to open space. Last spring, as part of our work together, we visited the Audubon Center at Debs Park to help restore native habitat by pulling out non-native weeds, and we helped with the Los Angeles River Clean-up in the City of Bell, far from the celebrities and TV cameras, in one of the least verdant segments of the LA River.

These experiences were transformative for my students, as many of them had not known that we had a river or that beautiful open space like at Debs even existed, let alone right in the heart of Los Angeles. In their journals, many of them wrote about how these experiences, even in the paved-over LA River, had opened their eyes to the beauty of Los Angeles. That broke my heart just a little.

My heart had already been broken last fall when I had shown them an LA Times slide show of photos of Yosemite.

As we looked at these lovely pictures, the room got so quiet that I feared my students had fallen asleep. When the show was over and I turned on the lights, a subdued voice asked, "That's in California?" They had no idea what lay beyond their own neighborhoods. I knew I had to do something to help them see the beauty and wonder of nature that lies all around us.

A week after the slide show incident, I was speaking with Graham Chisholm, the Executive Director of Audubon California and the Chair of the Board of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy. I was telling him about the Yosemite slide show and how my students had no knowledge of natural places, and he said, "Why not bring them up to the Ranch?" What a generous and thrilling offer. I knew that seeing the Tejon Ranch, with its miles of open space and expansive views of "Old California," would radically change how my students see and value such natural places. But would this even be possible? We had no money and no way to get any. But I had to figure it out; I had to take my mostly very low-income and sweetly parochial students on a little adventure.

I won't bore you with the details of how challenging it is to arrange to take a group of Cal State LA students on a field trip. But I will tell you that thanks to the Pasadena Audubon Society's grant program, I was able to pay for a bus to take my students on a day-long trip from Cal State LA to the Tejon Ranch. And it did radically change how they see the world. For most of them, it was the first time they had ever seen deer, a gopher snake, or even cows. They had never been hiking or breathed clean fresh air. They had never seen so much open space in their lives. The end of our magical afternoon was dramatically punctuated by a Golden Eagle, our school mascot no less, that soared right overhead. They loved it.

If you would like to experience a taste of our year, please check out our video by going to YouTube and searching for "CSULA students, Audubon, and the LA River." I will forever be grateful to PAS for helping to provide my students with a life-changing experience. Thank you.

Laura Garrett

Vaux Populous

My wife and I went to Fourth and Broadway last September. Not for a taco at Grand Central Market or to browse discounted jewelry, but to look for a bird. Or, more specifically, about 10,000 birds!

We went to see the roosting site for the Vaux's Swift in downtown LA. William S. Vaux was a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, and in 1839 had a little swift named (described) for him. Both the Vaux's Swift (West Coast) and Chimney Swift (East Coast) are members of the genus *Chaetura* and like to roost or nest in hollow trees. The Vaux's on its migration through the L.A. basin is stymied trying to find a hollow tree, so they go for a man-made substitute: chimneys!

The Chester Building, on Broadway between Fourth and Fifth, has a huge chimney, and Vaux's have used it as a stop-over roosting spot on their spring and fall migration the last couple of years. My wife and I drove to the top of the parking garage

Trip Reports & Sightings



next door at 440 South Broadway and watched the show.

While we watched the swifts dive into an abandoned building's chimney, there were several Common Ravens hanging around for, um, fallout. There also had been reports of a Peregrine Falcon coming in for a snack, so when we spotted a raptor we began yelling about the falcon. But it was a Cooper's Hawk that landed on the edge of the chimney. While it sat there most of the swifts avoided going in, but a few brave souls took the dive. Well, the hawk took a dive also, or actually a leap. It leapt into the air and caught a swift in its talons before flying off for a late supper.

The Vaux's Swift migration is basically April through May and September through October. No one knows if they will return to this roost next year, but it will be exciting if they do!

Ron Cyger

The Big Year

Let's face it — they don't make movies about birding very often (ever?) So, when one showed up, a bunch of Pasadena Audubon members decided to go have a look. In the process, we had a very pleasant outing, first at the ArcLight Cinema in Pasadena and then at the adjacent Yardhouse restaurant.

The movie was great from a "Big Year" participant (many years ago). I saw some of the birds they went after! I'll never do it again. I hated birding at the end of that year! — Kathi

Loved the movie — now I'm in search of a Pink-footed Goose! — Ron

The strong cast did a good job on portraying birding. — Will

It made me want to do some major birding trips. The birds and the scenery were great—I especially loved the footage of the Bald Eagles. I also thought the movie was laugh-out-loud funny, even more so for birders. — Laura

I am pleased about the careful product placement in your photo (Birds of the Los Angeles Region peeking out of a pocket). Excellent choreography! — Kimball

The movie was a lot of fun and captured the spirit of the book. — Lois

It was a lot of fun, and the movie was much better than we'd anticipated. It was almost worth seeing for the scenery alone. — Judy



Photo: Pam Dong

Field Trips

Legg Lake & San Gabriel River



Saturday, November 5, 2011

Saturday, January 7, 2012

Saturday, February 4, 2012

7:30 am — 11:30 am

These trips will cover some consistently good lake and park birding areas. Legg Lake has lots of water and scattered trees and has produced good waterfowl numbers and varieties as well as an impressive list of migrants and wintering birds. Time permitting we'll include the Pico Rivera spreading grounds or some other river locations, based on what's around. An excellent trip for beginning and young birders.

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

North Slope San Gabriels

Saturday, November 12, 2011

7:30 am — early afternoon



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. Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and Golden Eagle are possible, as are Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers. Unusual species (e.g. Lewis's Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Swamp Sparrow) have been found in some years. Time permitting, we may look for Mountain Plovers or longspurs in the nearby Antelope Valley.

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

Mark and Janet Scheel

Salton Sea

Sat-Sun, January 28-29, 2012

All day

The Salton Sea is one of the premier birding areas in North America, and it's right in our backyard! We will spend all day birding on Saturday, then bird through lunch on Sunday before heading back to Pasadena. The trip is limited to 12 members of Pasadena Audubon and it's perfect for anyone who wants to enjoy the wonders of the Sea (and adjacent areas, of course).

To reserve your space and get further information on times, accommodations, etc., please email the trip leader.

Ron Cyger

San Gabriel River

Saturday, January 14, 2012

7:30 am — noon?

The San Gabriel River Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera support a wealth of birdlife in winter. We'll bird the basins and the nearby portion of the San Gabriel River. We can expect a variety of waterbirds including herons, egrets, waterfowl and gulls. Raptors often include Osprey, Merlins and Peregrine Falcon among more common species. A few shorebirds should also be present, along with a variety of land birds such as introduced Eurasian Collared-Doves, American Pipits, various sparrows and others.

Take the Whittier exit from the 605 Freeway and go west, then left on Passons. Make another left on Mines Ave. and go to the end and park where possible. We'll meet here.

Jon Fisher

Big Santa Anita Canyon

Saturday, February 11, 2012

3:00 pm — 7:30 pm

Come join us for a late afternoon and early evening hike in Big Santa Anita Canyon. We're going to look for diurnal species before sunset and then owls after it gets dark. We intend to hike above Sturtevant Falls for up to six miles round-trip, including a steep climb out of

Field trips continue on p. 7!

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk



Sunday, November 20, 2011

Sunday, December 18, 2011

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Sunday, February 19, 2012

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 3, 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

Huntington Library Monthly Walk



Sunday, November 27, 2011

Sunday, January 22, 2012

Sunday, February 26, 2012

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 2011

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Leader
2	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
5	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	 Legg Lake/San Gabriel River	Ed Stonick
12	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	 North Slope San Gabriels	Mark & Janet Scheel
15	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	 Santa Fe Dam	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
16	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Woodpeckers
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	 Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	 Huntington Library Gardens*	Elaine MacPherson

December 2011

3	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	 Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
13	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	 L.A. County Arboretum	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
14	Wed	7:30 pm	Christmas Bird Count Prep	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Jon Fisher
17	Sat	all day	Field Trip	 Christmas Bird Count	Jon Fisher
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	 Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold

January 2012

4	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
7	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	 Legg Lake	Ed Stonick
14	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	 San Gabriel River	Jon Fisher
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	 Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	TBD	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
18	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Jon Fisher
28-29	Sat-Sun	all day	Field Trip	Salton Sea	Ron Cyger
22	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	 Huntington Library Gardens*	Elaine MacPherson

February 2012

1	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	
4	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	 Legg Lake	Ed Stonick
11	Sat	3:00 pm	Field Trip	Big Santa Anita Canyon	Lance Benner
15	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting	 Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Cactus Wren
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	 Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	TBD	Madeline West & Sid Heyman
25	Sun	7:30 am	Field Trip	 Santa Fe Dam	Mark and Janet Scheel
26	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	 Huntington Library Gardens*	Elaine MacPherson

*(PAS members only)

* 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) 319-4723	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) 285-8878	mlongbird@charter.net
Elaine MacPherson	(626) 355-9412	birdergrrl@aol.com
Hill Penfold	(818) 352-4954	hpenfold@gmail.com
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@earthlink.net
Madeline West	(626) 574-0429	west266@adelphia.net

Christmas Bird Count!

**Planning Meeting December 14,
7:00 pm**



Count Day December 17

It's hard to believe there are now 65 years of history behind this popular annual event for Pasadena Audubon and local birders. Since the first count was held in 1946 over 280 species have been recorded.

As with all land-based counts, the area covered is a circle fifteen miles in diameter. The center point is the intersection of San Gabriel Boulevard and Duarte Road. The area encompassed includes a number of excellent birding spots such as Santa Fe Dam, Big Santa Anita Canyon, the Whittier Narrows area, a good stretch of the San Gabriel River, Peck Pit, Eaton Canyon, the Huntington Gardens and the L.A. County Arboretum. The circle also reaches north and up Mt. Wilson at an elevation of 5,700 feet. This latter location offers the possibility mountain birds such as Clark's Nutcracker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red Crossbill and Cassin's Finch. Together all of these spots make for an excellent diversity of bird life.

Of course there have been changes in the area since the count began. Urban growth and development has been inexorable, yet we still regularly find over 150 species. In fact, we continue to push the species total higher.

For some birds, knowing just where to look is key. A number of Tricolored Blackbirds spend the winter at Legg Lake and are rarely seen elsewhere in the count circle. Loggerhead Shrikes, White-tailed Kites and Mountain Bluebirds—if they are present at all—are typically only found at Santa Fe Dam.

In addition, each year brings a number of vagrants which add to the count total. Some of these are found prior to the CBC, but others are discovered on count day.

The early winter count period is a most interesting one; wintering birds have arrived, irruptive and irregular species such as Lewis's Woodpeckers and Varied Thrushes can be present, and there are almost always those few unexpected rare birds in the area.

Even after six decades of counts, we add new birds to the list on a regular basis. Last year's Northern Waterthrush was a

count first and a number of good birds have been found over the last decade: Painted Redstart, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Northern Parula, Black-and-white Warbler, Pine Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and Bell's Vireo to name a few. Earlier years have turned up Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Kentucky Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Baltimore Oriole and Dickcissel. It's quite an impressive list and not knowing exactly what will be found on count day is one of the more intriguing and exciting aspects of the CBC.

Still, it should be remembered that the most important data generated by the CBCs is not the records of rarities. The main focus is to take a snapshot in time of the numbers of birds in a specific area. Over the years many hundreds of counts across the country have helped paint a picture of bird distribution and population changes. Vagrants come and go, but our own count has helped document the local decline of wintering Loggerhead Shrikes as well as increases in Great-tailed Grackles, Allen's Hummingbirds and more than a few exotics.

On the Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley CBC newcomers are always welcome. If you're new to birding or to Christmas Counts, this is a great opportunity to learn more about local birds. If your experience allows you can count an area by yourself. Alternatively you may team up with more experienced birders.

At the pre-count meeting at Eaton Canyon Nature Center on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 pm, there will be an overview of the count and checklists and other count materials will be available. We'll also review procedures and assign count areas. If you can't be at the meeting, you can sign up for an area to count via e-mail or phone.

We count on Saturday, December 17, and get together for dinner and wrap-up that evening. It's always fun to find out what was seen, what was missed, and what surprises turned up.

For additional information, please contact count coordinator Jon Fisher at (818) 800-2776 or at JonF60@hotmail.com.

Jon Fisher

Christmas Count Dinner!

After a long day in the field, there's nothing like a hot, delicious, catered dinner, preceded by free-flowing drink. And, thanks to our Hospitality Committee, that's what's in store for Christmas Bird Count participants.

Meet at **Eaton Canyon Nature Center at 6:00 pm on December 17**. We're all eager to hear what you've found.

Dinner and drinks cost \$10 per person (such a deal!) Please **RSVP by December 12** by sending payment to "PAS - Attention: CBC Dinner" at the address shown on the back of this newsletter.

Questions? Contact Linda Moore, 2medhiker@gmail.com



Education

Foothill Birding Class

This class and field trip are an introduction to birds in our Foothill area and are excellent for people new to birding. You will learn what birds to expect and how to identify them in this habitat. The field trip will be at a slow "learning" pace to allow us to concentrate on field-marks and behavior.

The class session will be on January 11, 2012 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (address on page 8). The field trip will be on January 14, 2012 from 7:30 – 11:00 am. Details will be provided during class.

Cost for for the two sessions is \$15 for Pasadena Audubon Society (PAS) members. For non-members, the cost is \$35, which includes a one-year membership in PAS. Make checks payable to "Pasadena Audubon Society" and class fees are payable on the first day of class.

For more information or to make a reservation for the class, email Birding101@PasadenaAudubon.org.

Ron Cyger

Concert Discounts for PAS Members

Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra is offering deep discounts to PAS members for two forthcoming early-music concerts in Pasadena: \$25 instead of the normal \$49. The concerts are on November 12 (Baroque chamber music) and May 5, 2012 (concerti for a variety of solo instruments and orchestra) at 8:00 pm. The concerts will be presented at the Neighborhood Church, 301 N. Orange Grove, Pasadena. To reserve your tickets, call (301) 458-4504 or e-mail info@MusicaAngelica.org, and mention Pasadena Audubon.

You may buy as many discount tickets as you like for either or both concerts. Details of Musica Angelica's entire season are at www.MusicaAngelica.org.

Field Trips, continued

Santa Fe Dam

Saturday, February 25, 2012

7:30 am -- noon

Santa Fe Dam hosts an interesting variety of habitats, including a lake, coastal sage scrub, grassy areas, and a park. This attracts many wintering birds as well as local residents. Waterfowl, Loggerhead Shrike, White-tailed Kite, Rock Wren, and wintering warblers are often found.

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. Turn left into the parking lot closest to the northeast corner of the lake, where we will meet.

Mark and Janet Scheel

Big Santa Anita, continued

the canyon at the end.

Meet at at Chantry Flat at 3 pm. Parking may be limited, so please carpool. Bring lights, warm clothing, food, and an Adventure Pass. We'll return to Chantry Flat by about 7:30 pm. Rain cancels.

Lance Benner

President's Perch, continued

during 1998 and why that record may stand for a long time (combination of changing weather patterns, loss of access to birding habitat and travel cost). Sandy Komito had an exciting birding year and some of it rubbed off on all of us that night

I asked him to sign my copy of the book, too.

Good Birding!

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 15, 2011

Santa Fe Dam
Meet at the Nature Center.

Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

(second Tuesday)
L.A. County Arboretum
Meet at the entrance.

January and February:

To be announced

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Denise Castillo, Will & Lois Fulmer, Audrey Parmiter, Norm Vargas. Thanks!

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

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

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Vice-President	Linda Moore	(818) 541-0819
Secretary	Kathi Ellsworth	(626) 524-0652
Treasurer	Grace Wong	(626) 798-6500
Members at large: Norm Arnheim (Grant Program), Bev McKenzie, Susan Gilliland, Lance Benner, Mary Jane Macy		
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Conservation	Laura Garrett	(626) 564-1890
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Hospitality	Grace Wong	(626) 798-6500
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Magpie Bird Study Group	Madeline West	(626) 574-0429
Magpie Bird Study Group	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991
CBC Coordinator	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

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Woodpeckers in the Wild Field Seminars

Saturday, November 12: Malibu Creek State Park, Los Angeles County

Saturday, November 19: Limestone Canyon Regional Park, Orange County

9:00 am—3:00 pm

(See related announcement on page 1)

Join North American woodpecker specialist, Stephen Shunk, for an inside look at the woodpeckers of Southern California. During these 6-hour field seminars, you will explore a wide variety of habitats as Steve provides detailed natural histories of the species encountered. He will also discuss the ecological roles played by each species in its respective habitat, as well as historic and current conservation challenges. Enjoy first-hand observations of feeding, climbing, and communication behaviors, while Steve discusses the adaptations that make woodpeckers one of the most specialized bird families in the world.

Space is limited to 12 people for each one-day class. Fee: \$35

Pre-register by contacting Steve Shunk at 541-408-1753 or steve@paradisebirding.com

New Members

ALHAMBRA: Waltraud Cardona, Diane Hopkins, Cheryl Kidnay, Jeannie Lin, Nora Sun, Eduardo Suquilanda, Yung Won;
ALTADENA: George Balian, Carolyn Barber, D. Ehlig, Mary Hintz, Jenny Lerew, Robert Moore, William Peer, Joanne Wildman, Peter Wood; **ARCADIA:** Angel Huang, Connie Keating, Marcelina Malig, Ferdinand Soulanille, Lily Yuan; **AZUSA:** Manuel Gonzales, Catherine Stelly; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Janice Archer, Danuta Dever, Jurate Gulbinas, Shirley Hon, Gregory Ketabgian, Jim Scholler, Joe Wojslaw; **LOS ANGELES:** Joan Roach, Wiley Roberts; **MONROVIA:** Ann Ash, Valerie Borel, Christine Dorman, San Mueting, Joan Schmidt, Nancy Wayland, Rick Wilmoth; **MONTEREY PARK:** Julie Ishii, Eunice Kamimura, Margaret Natsume, Margaret Perry, Mary Trujillo; **MONTROSE:** Annalee Davis, Dessi Sieburth, Joyce Wolf, B. Wykoff; **PASADENA:** Janet Black, Shirley Contreras, John Forsyth, Marlene Griffith, Chuck Heaton, Pat Hedlund, Cheryl Hendrix, Gwendolyn Kasler, Bryant Lee, Laura Malis, Claudine Muller, Dennis Murphy, Betty Parnell, Esther Prince, Dorothy Rogers, Vicki Salmon, Linda Sandberg, Edie Stovall, Steven Thompson, Antoinette Treling, Joyce Turner, Mckie Ullman, Forrest Warren, J. Wood; **SAN GABRIEL:** Gloria Ramos, Patricia Todd; **SAN MARINO:** Annie Chow; **SIERRA MADRE:** David & Val Hutt; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Leah Elizalde, Charlotte Nall, Diana Neder, Marion Pattenson; **TEMPLE CITY:** Marion Gilchrist, Edward Opsal, Chang Wu; **WHITTIER:** Martha MacLean