



Drawing by  
Guy Coleleach

# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

**Pasadena Audubon Society**  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 60 — No. 2

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

April 2012

## Bug Plucker: Western Kingbird



Photo: Jon Fisher

For most of us the confirmation that spring has truly arrived is the appearance of a multitude of northbound songbirds. Among the earlier arrivals in this group are Western Kingbirds. Appearing locally by mid-March, and often observed migrating in loose flocks, their twittering dawn song is a reminder that spring has arrived. A fond memory one spring in Lone Pine long ago is that of being awakened before sunrise by several of these very vocal “song” birds.

Western Kingbirds spend their summers throughout most of the western United States, feeding and breeding in open country where their insect prey is plentiful. They are a common sight on fence posts, wires and other open perches from which they hawk insects and chase unwanted birds away. They will also take prey on the ground.

Kingbirds are well named. They are highly aggressive defenders of their territories and nests and are fearless and energetic when protecting them. Western Kingbirds have even nested successfully in the same tree with Cooper’s Hawks and other raptors.

By summer’s end these birds are almost entirely gone. A few linger later into the fall and even winter records have been increasing, but they are still very rare at that time. Most spend their winters in southern Mexico and Central America. As a bird that prefers open habitats, Western Kingbirds have benefited from the deforestation that has adversely affected many other species. The addition of wires, poles and tree plantings have allowed them to expand their range in the prairie region as well.

Jon Fisher

*Looks even better in color! Check out [www.pasadenaaudubon.org](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)*

## President's Perch

Tired of lugging that National Geographic or Sibley bird book while birding? I was. So I joined the 21st Century and bought an iPod “Touch” and loaded it with “apps” (digital copies) of three of my favorite bird books plus one on butterflies, reptiles, spiders and wildflowers. The device also plays bird songs, takes pictures and will play your favorite music. The iPod is a lot more expensive than a book but, if you’re out birding a lot, it is worth it to be able to hear

what the bird’s song is like — to help identify that singing bird hidden in the tree.

Bird-watching doesn’t have to be an expensive hobby, but it does require a little extra expenditure once in a while.

Good Birding!

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**April Program****Birding Among the Beasts**

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

**Frank & Susan Gilliland, Mark & Janet Scheel, Kathi Ellsworth, Lance Benner, Jon Feenstra, Marilyn Morgan, Larry Allen, Russell Kokx**

With its unique animals, East Africa has long been part of every traveler's dreams. The large mammals are easily summoned to mind (big scary cats anyone?). But Tanzania is also a land of vast landscapes, rolling grasslands dotted with acacia and baobab trees and endless horizons. It is also home to one of the seven summits, Mount Kilimanjaro, and to Lake Victoria, the second largest lake in the world.

And did we mention that there are more than 1000 species of birds?

Join Pasadena's Pride as they share photos from one of the best places in the world for nature and bird watching.

**May Program****Northern Saw-whet Owl**

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

**Nick and Mary Freeman**

What has bright yellow eyes, is the size of a Robin, has a short tail, densely feathered legs and feet, loves the dark, and many of you have not seen?

The Northern Saw-whet Owl! Mary and Nick Freeman will present an overview of their studies locating the Northern Saw-whet Owl after the Station Fire of the Angeles National Forest, which consumed over 160,000 acres of forest in the San Gabriel Mountain range of Los Angeles County during the summer of 2009. They will discuss their methods and the results of their small owl surveys performed in 2010 and the summer of 2011.

**June Annual Dinner****Eat, Drink, Applaud**

June 9, 2011

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

The Annual Dinner is always a good time. The awards for the Wrentit Club will be handed out, and other honors and treats will be bestowed. The newly elected slate of officers will be installed. Raffles for door prizes? Maybe. There's always the chance of a slide show, too, but don't let that stop you! Enjoy free-flowing beer and wine, and a delicious catered meal. The venue, as usual, is Eaton Canyon Nature Center. The Hospitality Committee is finalizing the details, which will appear in the June issue of the *Wrentit*. Tickets are \$20 per person. Send checks payable to PAS by June 3 to "PAS June Dinner" at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (address on the last page). Questions? Contact Mary Jane Macy at [mjmacy@aol.com](mailto:mjmacy@aol.com) or (626) 355-7678.

General meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (address on back cover). Socializing begins at 7:00 pm and programs are presented from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

**Open Space & Conservation Element Adopted**

On January 27, 2012, the Pasadena City Council voted to adopt the Open Space and Conservation Element for the General Plan. The City had not updated its Open Space plan since the 1970s, so it was time! So what does this mean for us? Pasadena now has a much stronger and more coherent plan for conserving natural resources like water, clean air, and open space, and has strengthened its efforts to reduce air pollution and the amount of solid waste we send to landfills. The City now has plan to protect, increase, and restore its open spaces and to create a more bird-friendly city. What are our responsibilities? To hold them to it! For example, by adopting this element, the City has also adopted the Bird-friendly Tree and Shrub Trimming Practices developed by the Los Angeles Audubon Society. We need to keep our City accountable to this practice. If you see tree-trimming during nesting season, call your City Councilmember to let them know they are violating their own policy. Together, we can keep Pasadena bird-friendly.

*Laura Garrett*

**Saving Millard Canyon**

Some of us remember the heated battles over the development at the La Vina property in Millard Canyon. Many people worked very hard in court to defeat this development but lost.

It was out of this defeat that the Altadena Foothills Conservancy, now the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, was born. This year the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy has a wonderful chance to preserve a pristine 14 acre parcel in Millard Canyon. This land has a blue-line stream and incredible biodiversity, with the potential to be a home for many listed and special species, including Arroyo Toad and Spotted Owl. The project costs \$675,000, and with the Seller's donation of a \$50,000 discount and a promised grant for \$25,000, that leaves \$600,000 to be raised by the end of the year. Pasadena Audubon has pledged that all monies raised from our April Birdathon will go to this project and, if you wish to help, you can either sponsor a birder for Birdathon or, better yet, participate in Birdathon. Questions? Contact Laura Garrett at [purplecow@jps.net](mailto:purplecow@jps.net) or 626-564-1890. For information about the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, please visit [www.arroyosfoothills.org](http://www.arroyosfoothills.org).

*Laura Garrett*

## Trip Reports & Sightings

### My Wrentit Club, Year Two

Even more fun and adventure was had in this second year of the Wrentit Club. I really didn't know what goal was reasonable for myself the first year and was happy to get 217 birds and Owl level with moderate effort. At the start of this second year, I decided to try for Wrentit level (250 species). Having first joined Pasadena Audubon in the early 70's and then being what was charmingly called a young matron, I felt it wise to carpe annus. With the support and encouragement of spouse/driver/photographer and lapsed birder, Stuart, the quest began. About 70% of the birding was done in the local San Gabriel Valley by ourselves. We made many repeat trips to the most productive areas such as Santa Fe Dam and the Whittier Narrows complex.

One memorable morning I was standing in a light snowfall in February at Deukmejian Park watching the White-Throated Sparrow. We enjoyed a trip with Mickey Long on March 1 and saw Blue-Gray and California Gnatcatchers in the same ravine and the target Harris's Sparrow at Filiorum Nature Preserve. The newly opened road to the local mountains provided some birds missed last year, and the most energetic single day effort was hiking up the Throop Peak trail, giving us gorgeous views and thrilling intimate looks at Williamson's Sapsuckers. Several visits to Malibu Lagoon were very rewarding and the change of topography through the year was fascinating. An extremely low tide in October revealed a thin, bird-encrusted, angled rock breakwater in the surf I'd never before seen, and the very last bird out was an immature Common Tern!

After steady progress, August gave everyone bountiful numbers of new birds with shorebird rarities starring. I went with the group on the annual PAS trip to the Piute Ponds on the 6th and came back adding 17 birds thanks to Jon Feenstra. A very exciting time was shared by many birders in mid-August when it was possible to see a Xantus Murrelet and a Pigeon Guillemot in the same field of view at Playa de Rey. After Judy Bass and I went on Jon Fisher's Willow Street trip on the 20th, my count was at 225!

Bird 233 was an astonishing surprise. While I prowled in the Eaton Canyon Flood Basin on September 27, just before the big clear out of vegetation, a yellow colored bird flashed into a nearby willow. Making up for the many times a bird flies in and disappears, this one popped back out giving me a great view of the head and most of the body. Calming myself to properly inventory the marks displayed, I was satisfied it was a female Hooded Warbler!

A setback was a case of 100 year flu that took me out of the field for an entire month. This was followed by the single, most fantastic and unbelievable birding day in years! With a back patio and feeders atop a hillside in La Canada, Mark Hunter is building an enviable yard list and shared a photo of a young male Rose-breasted Grosbeak on November 19. The next morning, we joined birders waiting for it to return and got a great look at this beautiful bird. Darren Dowell and Ron Cyger were in a photo frenzy! Returning home, the light was

blinking on the answering machine. I share our phone line with Pasadena Audubon for folks who have bird-related questions or messages and there was a call from a lady, also in La Canada, reporting a Long-eared Owl in her driveway. After some needed nourishment following the exciting morning, I phoned her to explain about her Great Horned Owl. She was quite sure it was not a Great Horned and emailed a phone photo. Letting out a small scream, I called her back and said we were on our way and alerted the user group after she gave me permission. By now, it was pouring rain and all landmarks were obscured as we returned. When we got to her house, there it was, drenched and miserable looking [*see photo in February's Wrentit*]. So, mostly recovered from flu and at bird 241 with over a month to go, we were confident.

Stuart was by now equally obsessed with my reaching 250 and would often ask what had been seen that was needed. Number 248 was a Horned Grebe in the Livingston-Graham Quarry, only seen by standing on a retaining wall with the scope, which I couldn't open properly because the wall was too narrow. I wish I had a video of those contortions with Stuart holding onto me while I wrestled with the scope. I hit 250 with the Gray Flycatcher on December 20 at 4:00 pm, while covered with burrs after crashing out of the bushes when a trail petered out (easy to happen at Santa Fe Dam). Not wanting to seem complacent we added a Lilac-crowned Parrot at the Temple City roost on December 31, humbled by both of us being blessed with parrot poop, lest we think too highly of ourselves.

*Elaine MacPherson*



### Uncommon Local Treat

A huge flock of Lawrence's Goldfinches, estimated at 160 birds, entertained local birders for many weeks, beginning in mid-February. Kathy Moyd posted the first sighting, and this photo by Brendan Crill shows how accessible the birds were at times, as they moved from one part of the Altadena Golf Course to another. Many additional PAS members took advantage of this viewing opportunity.

## Field Trips

### Tejon Ranch!

**Saturday, April 14, 2012**

**8:00 am — afternoon**

A small group of PAS members will visit the Tejon Ranch. The Ranch, at 422 contiguous square miles, is the largest piece of privately held property in California. The Ranch also came to an agreement with major environmental organizations (including the National Audubon Society) regarding conservation and development. You can visit [www.TejonRanch.com](http://www.TejonRanch.com) for more information.

A quick eBird check for the Ranch lists California Condor, Burrowing Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, Scott's Oriole, and Lawrence's Goldfinch among the many species we may see that day.

The Ranch is private property and is only open for visits by reservation. This trip filled up early, but watch the *Wrentit* for future opportunities!

*Ron Cyger*

### Hansen Dam

**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

**7:00 am — 11:00 am**



Hansen Dam is a fantastic birding location that includes riparian habitat, parkland, a lake, and a seasonal pond. Over 280 bird species have been recorded here. Among the birds we will look for are Bell's Vireo, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, and Rock Wren.

It is a moderately long walk through the large park, so bring appropriate footwear. Meet at the Hansen Dam Recreation Center parking lot, along Foothill Blvd. just southwest of the Osborne/Lake View Terrace exit off the 210 freeway (this is NOT the parking lot off of Dronfield Ave).

*Mark and Janet Scheel*

**Field trips continue on page 6!**

### Big Morongo Preserve

**Saturday, May 12, 2012**

**8:00 am — 1:00 pm**

This desert oasis and migrant trap offers great birding in the spring. Warblers, flycatchers, hummingbirds, and orioles are among the birds expected. At least one pair of Vermilion Flycatcher has been seen every spring in memory. Join us as we walk the trails in Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and into adjoining Covington Park, where you will enjoy one of the finest birding locations in Southern California, with over 250 species making stops at the preserve annually.

Directions: Allow 2 hours to drive from Pasadena. Take Interstate 10 east to route 62. Go north to the town of Morongo Valley and turn right on East Drive to the Big Morongo Preserve at 11055 East Drive. Meet at the information kiosk. Bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, and a good broad-rimmed hat.

*Kathi Ellsworth*

### Big Santa Anita Canyon

**Saturday, May 19, 2012**

**7:00 am — noon**

Join us for a morning at Big Santa Anita Canyon, on the edge of the San Gabriel Mountains above Arcadia. The canyon hosts a shaded permanent stream, as well as Sturtevant Falls. We will be at high enough altitude for Steller's Jays, and we will look for American Dipper, Canyon Wren, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Purple Finch, and other low mountain species.

Take Santa Anita Avenue north from the 210, past the gate, where it turns into a winding mountain road. Continue all the way up to the Chantry Flats parking lot. We will hike to the waterfall and back, a 4-mile round trip that requires a bit of rock-hopping across the stream. So bring water, snacks, and sturdy shoes.

*Mark and Janet Scheel*

### Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk



**Sunday, April 15, 2012**

**Sunday, May 20, 2012**

**Sunday, June 17, 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, April 7, 2012**

**Saturday, May 5, 2012**

**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.

*Mark Hunter, Deni Sinnott, Lance Benner, et al*

### Huntington Library Monthly Walk



**Sunday, April 22, 2012**

**Sunday, May 27, 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 May 1st






 = Wrentit Club!

**April 2012**

|    |     |         |                    |   |                              |                            |
|----|-----|---------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4  | Wed | 7:30 pm | Board Meeting      |   | Eaton Canyon Nature Center   | Will Fulmer                |
| 7  | Sat | 7:30 am | Field Trip         |  | Hahamongna                   | Darren Dowell              |
| 14 | Sat | 8:00 am | Field Trip         |   | Tejon Ranch                  | Ron Cyger                  |
| 15 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip         |  | Eaton Canyon Nature Center   | Hill Penfold               |
| 17 | Tue | 9:00 am | Magpie Study Group |   | Rancho Santa Ana Gardens     | Madeline West & Sid Heyman |
| 18 | Wed | 7:00 pm | General Meeting    |   | Eaton Canyon Nature Center   | Tanzania                   |
| 21 | Sat | 7:00 am | Field Trip         |  | Hansen Dam                   | Mark and Janet Scheel      |
| 22 | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip         |  | Huntington Library & Gardens | Elaine MacPherson          |

*(PAS members only)*

**May 2012**

|     |     |         |                    |   |                              |                            |
|-----|-----|---------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2   | Wed | 7:30 pm | Board Meeting      |   | Eaton Canyon Nature Center   |                            |
| 5   | Sat | 7:30 am | Field Trip         |  | Hahamongna                   | Lance Benner               |
| 5-6 | Sat | 9:00 am | Garden Festival    |   | L.A. County Arboretum        | PAS & L.A. Audubon         |
| 8   | Tue | 9:00 am | Magpie Study Group |  | L.A. County Arboretum        | Madeline West & Sid Heyman |
| 12  | Sat | 8:00 am | Field Trip         |   | Big Morongo Reserve          | Kathi Ellsworth            |
| 16  | Wed | 7:00 pm | General Meeting    |   | Eaton Canyon Nature Center   | Northern Saw-whet Owl      |
| 19  | Sat | 7:30 am | Field Trip         |  | Santa Anita Canyon           | Mark and Janet Scheel      |
| 20  | Sun | 7:00 am | Field Trip         |  | Eaton Canyon Nature Center   | Hill Penfold               |
| 27  | Sun | 8:00 am | Field Trip         |  | Huntington Library & Gardens | Elaine MacPherson          |

*(PAS members only)*

**June 2012**

|    |     |         |                      |   |                            |                            |
|----|-----|---------|----------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2  | Sat | 7:30 am | Field Trip           |   | Mt Pinos                   | Ron Cyger & Larry Johnson  |
| 9  | Sat | 7:30 am | Field Trip           |  | Buckhorn Campground        | Ed Stonick                 |
| 9  | Sat | 6:00 pm | <b>Annual Dinner</b> |   | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Mary Jane Macy             |
| 17 | Sun | 7:00 am | Field Trip           |  | Eaton Canyon Nature Center | Hill Penfold               |
| 19 | Tue | 9:00 am | Magpie Study Group   |  | Descanso Gardens           | Madeline West & Sid Heyman |
| 23 | Sat | 7:00 pm | Field Trip           |  | Owling: San Gabriels       | Lance Benner               |
| 30 | Sat | 8:00 am | Field Trip           |  | Throop Peak                | Lance Benner               |

**\* Trip Leader Information**

|                     |                                 |                             |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mark Scheel (chair) | (626) 765-5408                  | 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        |

## Birdathon! April 27, 28, or 29, 2012

**B**irdathon is the main fundraiser for Pasadena Audubon. This exciting event challenges PAS members to sight as many species as possible in Los Angeles County during one 24-hour (or shorter!) time period. Participants are encouraged to get pledges from friends and relatives for each species sighted.

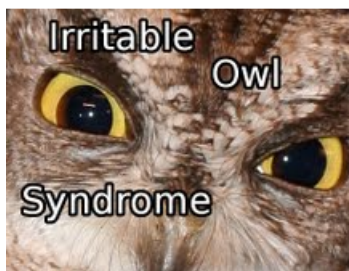
All funds raised this year go toward protecting critical habitat in Millard Canyon (see page 2.)

Birdathon teams exhibit highly differing approaches to this challenge. One team is known for its take-no-prisoners approach, starting high in the San Gabriel Mountains just after midnight and logging 400 miles through different habitats throughout the day and into the following evening. Another team organized a "Big Sit" at Legg Lake last year, tallying 47 species in an outing that featured coffee, donuts, and lawn chairs. Choose your own approach, from mild to wild, and take the challenge! To see what teams are available, send email to [birdathon@pasadenaudubon.org](mailto:birdathon@pasadenaudubon.org). Here are the teams known at press time:

The Green Team will be leaving behind families and cars for a full-day birding adventure by foot, bike, and public transportation. The route will likely focus on sites along the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo, plus a hike in the local mountains. 118 species were seen last year; 140 may be possible with a more optimized route. Other participants are welcome to join by bike or bus, for as much or as little as you like. Contact team co-leaders Brendan Crill ([bcrill@gmail.com](mailto:bcrill@gmail.com)) and Darren Dowell ([dowell.darren@yahoo.com](mailto:dowell.darren@yahoo.com)).

Team "Irritable Owl Syndrome" will attempt another wee-hours-till-after-dark birdathon on April 28, and try to break the species count of 204 that they had last year.

And... the "Big Sit" is back this year, led by Laura Garrett (contact info on page 8).



### Field Trips, continued

## Mt. Piños & Environs

**Saturday, June 2, 2012**

**7:30 am — early afternoon**

**M**t. Piños is one of the best places in Southern California to enjoy a wide variety of montane birds. We'll hear singing Yellow-rumped Warblers along with many other species of warblers, thrushes, raptors, woodpeckers, flycatchers and finches. We will visit Iris Meadows and several other nearby areas.

Take the Golden State Freeway (I-5) north to the Frasier Park turnoff and continue west for about 5 miles to the small city park in Frazier Park and take a left at the only stop sign into the park. We will meet at the park. Don't forget lunch, water and sunblock.

*Larry Johnson and Ron Cyger*

## San Gabriel Mountains: Buckhorn

**Saturday, June 9, 2012**

**7:30 am — 11:00 am**

**A**t an elevation of 6,300 feet, Buckhorn Campground is a beautiful and comfortable retreat from the hot, smoggy valleys below. There is a small shaded stream, tall evergreens of several varieties, and some open dry slopes. This is an excellent mixture for montane species, including several species of woodpeckers, nuthatches, and flycatchers, Cassin's and Purple Finches, Green-tailed Towhees, Fox Sparrows, and MacGillivray's Warblers. Occasionally other mountain birds, such as Brown Creepers and Pine Siskins may be found.

From the 210 freeway, go north on Angeles Crest Highway for about 34 miles. The campground entrance is about one mile past Cloudburst Summit, at mile marker 58.3. Proceed through the campground, following signs for the Burkhart Trail. Allow at least 1 hour and 15 minutes for the drive from Pasadena.

*Ed Stonick*

## Owling in the San Gabriels

**Saturday, June 23, 2012**

**7:00 pm — midnight**

**S**ix species of owls regularly breed in the San Gabriel Mountains and this trip will search for all six by checking locations for where each species has been recorded recently.

We'll start in the early evening before sunset when we'll look for Northern Pygmy Owl and diurnal montane species, and then after dark we'll look for Flammulated, Northern Saw-whet, Spotted, Western Screech, and Great Horned owls and Common Poorwill.

Limited to 10 people. Please email or call the trip leader to reserve a spot and for directions on where and when to meet.

*Lance Benner*

## Throop Peak

**Sunday, June 30, 2011**

**8:00 am — 2:00 pm**

**J**oin us as we explore one of the highest altitude trails in the San Gabriel Mountains during the peak time of year for montane bird activity. We'll hike at a leisurely pace to the summit of Throop Peak (elevation: about 9100 feet) as we search for montane specialties such as Williamson's Sapsucker, Townsend's Solitaire, Clark's Nutcracker, Dusky Flycatcher, White-headed Woodpecker, Red Crossbill, and Cassin's Finch.

Meet at Dawson Saddle at mile 69.6 on the Angeles Crest Highway, about 45 miles from I-210 in La Canada. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent, a coat, and sturdy shoes. The hike is about 5 miles round-trip, with possible snow patches; a few sections are steep, and all of it is at altitudes in excess of 7900 feet.

Please carpool and plan for about 90 minutes to drive up from Pasadena.

*Lance Benner*

### Laura Garrett Wins Arroyo Verde Award

In December 2011 our Conservation Chair, Laura Garrett, received the Arroyo Verde Advocacy award from the Arroyo Seco Foundation in a ceremony at the South Pasadena Public Library. The Advocacy award is presented annually to the person who made the best contribution in improving policy, programs, or funding for the Arroyo.. Here are the Foundation's remarks about Laura:

Laura Garrett has been a member of the Pasadena Open Space and Conservation Committee, which has worked for more than two years to craft the recently adopted Open Space and Conservation element for Pasadena's General Plan. On that committee she has shown outstanding leadership for protecting open space, particularly environmentally sensitive areas. She has worked hard to reshape Hahamongna planning to recognize the unique habitat and wildlife values in that basin at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains, and now serves as a member of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Long Term Sediment Management Working Group.

More information about the Arroyo Verde awards is available at [www.arroyoseco.org](http://www.arroyoseco.org).

### Adventure Pass Program Severely Curtailed

The Pasadena Star-News reported a ruling by the 9th District Court of Appeals that will greatly reduce the need to purchase an Adventure Pass for activities in the Angeles National Forest. For years the Forest Service has insisted that everyone visiting the Forest must purchase a pass for \$5 a day or \$30 a year. In the unanimous ruling, released Feb. 9 in favor of four hikers who objected to paying a fee to visit the forest, Judge Robert Gettleman wrote: "Everyone is entitled to enter national forests without paying a cent."

Under this ruling most activities, including parking, hiking, walking, picnicking or visiting undeveloped areas, would not require a pass. Only visits to developed sites, involving use of amenities, might still potentially require a pass.

Read more at [www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci\\_19974329](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci_19974329).

### T-Shirts Are In

A big Thank You to all the folks who ordered a new Pasadena Audubon T-Shirt. The last day to order a custom color/size combination was February 16th, but we do have a few extra shirts and hats that are ready for sale. If you missed the order period please come to the April meeting and you can buy one of the shirts we will have on hand. If you have any questions, or have placed an order but are unable to come to the general meeting to claim the shirt, please contact Deni Sinnott at [denisinnott25@gmail.com](mailto:denisinnott25@gmail.com)

### 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, April 17, 2012  
Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens

Tuesday, May 8, 2012  
Los Angeles County Arboretum  
(Note: 2nd Tuesday, this month only)

Tuesday, June 19, 2012  
Descanso Gardens

### DONATIONS TO PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Norm & Anna Arnheim, Dr. Paul C. Burton, Denise Castillo, College Women's Club of Pasadena, Neil Turner, Madeline West. 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 .....  
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If this is a gift, please also provide donor's information below:

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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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| Magpie Bird Study Group  | Sid Heyman      | (626) 571-5991 |
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|           |              |                |
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| Publicity | Deni Sinnott | (626) 233-4128 |
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**Pasadena Audubon Society**  
1750 N. Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91107

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## PAS Presents at the Arboretum

### Call for Volunteers

**May 5-6, 2012**

The Los Angeles County Arboretum is sponsoring "Grow! A Garden Festival," an event to educate and inspire the community. Los Angeles Audubon and Pasadena Audubon have agreed to participate.

Volunteers will staff a table in the Education section of the festival and help the public learn more about birds and the relationship between birds and plants. There will also be a few short bird walks on both Saturday and Sunday, targeted to absolute beginners, to introduce newcomers to the pleasures of birding.

PAS is looking for volunteers to assist with this festival. We need people to staff the table and "trip leaders" for the beginner walks. Volunteers get free admission to the Arboretum and free parking. You'll socialize with members of Los Angeles Audubon. It will be a fun event, and it serves the important goal of introducing PAS to prospective new members. For more information, contact Mary Jane Macy at [mjmacy@aol.com](mailto:mjmacy@aol.com)

## New Members

**ALHAMBRA:** Mark Keppel High School, Elaine Williams;  
**ALTADENA:** Catherine Babcock, Betty Buchanan, Bonnie & Tim Callahan, Barbara Koenig & Bradley Smith, Debra Noble;  
**ARCADIA:** K. Campbell, Annie Choi, Robert Greenshields, Cindy Yu; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Roger Fish, Lisa Novick, Don & Susan Riechel, Michel Vincent; **LOS ANGELES:** Courtenay Valenti; **MONROVIA:** Rey Tadosa, Edward Young; **MONTROSE:** Hildegard Pitters; **PASADENA:** G. Arnell, Tanya Benzinger, Betsy Birkenbeuel, Marc Blain, Jacqueline Coulette, Gilda Fathi, Nancy Hadley, Michel Horton, Sherry Marrier, Pearl Newman, Pauline Ondic, Anna Ruggiero, Lance Slaton, Tana Wong; **ROSEMEAD:** Jannette Schneider; **SAN GABRIEL:** Lisa Chan, Debbie Haustein, D.F. Marcus; **SAN MARINO:** Olive Kemp; **SIERRA MADRE:** Mary Jo Dungefelder, Sarah Heilemann, Peter Iles, Frances Powell & Shirley Rosenkranz, Joyce Siglock; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Anne Eastwood, Margarita Gordon, John Lange, Rasa Mikalonis;  
**TEMPLE CITY:** John Solis