



Drawing by
Guy Coleleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 61 — No. 2

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

April-June 2013



**Looks even better in color! Check
out www.pasadenaaudubon.org**

Red Crossbills

Red Crossbills are finches with beaks that cross at the tips. The beaks act as levers that enable crossbills to pry open open cones to get seeds that other species are unable to reach. The sizes of their beaks vary considerably among the different populations and each is adapted for certain types of cones. Recently Red Crossbills in North America have been classified into ten types based on differences in their flight calls. The birds are virtually indistinguishable in the field and are only reliably identified by voice through recordings and sonograms. The birds of each call type are genetically isolated, even though they often intermingle when foraging for food. It's possible that they may actually represent a number of separate species, although currently they're classified as only one.

Although red crossbills have been recorded in southern California for many years, until recently flight call types that occur here were unknown. In 2011 type 2s were identified in the San Gabriel and San Jacinto Mountains for the first time. During the fall of 2012, type 3s underwent a major irruption from their stronghold in the Pacific northwest all the way to the east coast. In November, type 3s were found in the Antelope Valley for the first time, the southernmost type 3 Red Crossbills ever recorded. Types 2 and 3 have been found on recent Pasadena Audubon trips that visited Holiday Lake in February and Pearblossom Park in November. Type 2s were also recorded on the June, 2011 PAS hike to Throop Peak.

Lance Benner

President's Perch

Are squirrels raiding your bird feeders?

Lois's suet bricks are a big hit with Mountain Chickadee and "Peanuts", our brave Scrub Jay that will eat a peanut out of your hand. But the suet also attracts the local squirrels who leap from tree or bush to the suspended feeder and eat all the suet. The squirrels are cute, but, as our t-shirts say, "we are for the birds" when it comes to the suet. I will share with you one way to confound the squirrels and protect your suet – you buy a 5 foot tubular post (\$15 at OSH) to hang the suet from and place the post more than 5 feet from anything the squirrel can leap from. Then, either "grease" the pole or attach a blocking disk (or cone) 4 1/2 feet up the pole to keep the pesky squirrel from climbing it

Good Birding!

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Will

April Program

Saving Foothill Canyons

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

7:30 pm—9:00 pm

John Howell & Mickey Long

In December, 2011 the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy ("AFC") saved 13 remarkable acres in lower Millard Canyon from development. AFC's Executive Director and General Counsel, John Howell, will briefly share how they raised the money, including the critical role that Pasadena Audubon and other local conservation-minded organizations played in this wonderful accomplishment.

Mickey Long will show us why Millard is extraordinarily habitat. He will discuss PAS' crucial bird surveys last spring, and he'll illustrate the riparian richness of the canyon with some amphibians and plants. We can expect to learn a little history and something about trail access to Millard. We'll also hear about AFC hopes and plans for the entire lower canyon, and how PAS can participate.

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.

May Program

The Birder as an Ecologist

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Mickey Long

Birding is fun, even if you just visit a site, tally up a list and head for home. Birds and bird study can be even more fun when you learn to read habitats with just a little botanical knowledge. Amaze your birding friends when you announce "this looks like a good place for a Hermit Thrush" and up pops the bird, or understand why all those Yellow-rumps are swarming over a Laurel Sumac. Mickey will provide an eclectic series of short stories; gleaned from literature and the field, on predictable migration, changes in overwintering patterns, biogeography and variations in nesting (what do Bushtits and Quail have in common?). Recommended references and even an audience-participation quiz may be included.

June Program

Annual Dinner

Saturday, June 8, 2013

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Enjoy good catered food and drink, interesting and amiable dining companions, and blessedly short speeches at Pasadena Audubon's yearly dinner. Meet the newly elected officers for 2013-2014. Do imitation bird calls in the only socially acceptable setting in which to do so!

Tickets are \$20 per person. Make checks payable to "Pasadena Audubon Society" and make a note of "annual dinner" on the check. Send to the PAS address shown on page 8.

Questions? Contact Hospitality Chairman Grace Wong at gywseven7@gmail.com or (626) 798-6500.

Conservation

The cost of viewing chaparral as fuel. The remarkable stand of manzanita chaparral in the Cleveland National Forest that was featured on the Fall 2007 cover of the California Native Plant society's journal, *Fremontia*, was masticated by the USFS in 2008. The area is miles away from any community. (For full impact, view this in color at www.pasadenaaudubon.org.)



38 Million Acres of This??

CalFire and the California Board of Forestry are planning to burn, grind up, or poison 38 million acres of California habitat — not just the urban fringes, but a third of the entire state — in the name of fire suppression. They also want to exempt themselves from any environmental review of their actions. To learn more about this costly, incredibly misguided plan, and how you can make your voice heard, visit www.californiachaparral.org.



Education

Great Backyard Bird Count

This is the first year Longfellow Elementary School in Pasadena has participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). But, we don't think it will be the last time. About 100 intrepid third-graders, their teachers, parent volunteers, and 13 members of Pasadena Audubon Society and Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates joined forces to count birds in and around the school yard. To get up to speed, PAS members and ECNCA docents held three one-hour long workshops to convey the basics of bird identification through bird taxidermy and fun hands-on demonstrations (shapes, sizes, colors, and bills). Fifth grader and guest speaker Dessi Sieburth told the third graders about his own experiences including how he became interested in birds at age 8, his favorite bird to date (Spotted Owl), building bird feeders, and sketching and photographing birds.

February 15, the first day of the nation- and now world-wide Cornell Lab/Audubon GBBC, brought sunny skies and youthful excitement to Longfellow School. After dividing into teams and getting a quick lesson in how to use binoculars, the third graders headed out with the adult volunteers to bird the schoolyard. Armed with field checklists customized for Longfellow, we used our ears and eyes to search for birds in the grassy ball field, the shrubs, the Live Oak and Eucalyptus trees, the palms and the skies overhead. By the end of the morning we found a total of 32 species. Many of the kids had great looks at Western Scrub-Jay, Black Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and American Crow. All in all, the kids had a lot of fun and seemed to love their first birding field trip.

Susan Gilliland



Were You a Scout?

This past summer, Ron Cyger, chair of PAS Education Committee, asked for volunteers to give a bird talk at the Crescenta Valley/Glendale Girl Scout "Twilight Camp". The camp was being held at Crescenta Valley Park, 3 to 8 PM, from Monday, June 18 to Friday, June 22. On a warm Tuesday afternoon, Judy Bass and I, both former Girl Scouts, met 144 girls, ages 7-12 and their leaders. After our presentation, we gave each girl a two-page colored field guide of all the birds currently at Crescenta Valley Park, with the hope that the girls would spend some of their camp time looking for them. Later, I heard from a couple of the leaders that the girls in their units had found every



Julia and Brownies at Eaton Canyon

bird in the guide!



Longfellow Elementary third-graders

Last autumn, as the weather cooled and the leaves began to fall, my mother and I met Sierra Madre Brownie Troop 5361/15161, their troop leader, Arlene Mansour, and several parent volunteers at Eaton Canyon Park. We met in the outdoor classroom for a brief introduction to birds; then we took a nature walk. Each girl received a colored booklet of common birds present at Eaton Canyon. As we walked through the park, the girls became excited at each wing flutter, calling out the name of the bird or paging through their guides to try and identify it. We didn't find all the birds, but their troop leader said

they would continue to look for them throughout the coming weeks.

Both events turned out so well that I find myself looking forward to the next one. I started out with the idea of giving a little bit of my time to a good cause, but I ended up receiving more than I gave. I know my mother and Judy felt the same. It was a pleasure reconnecting with the Scouts. If you were a Scout, next time Ron asks for volunteers, consider raising your hand. I could definitely recommend it. However, you will have to act fast. Judy, my mom, and I will also be raising ours!

Julia Ray

Elections

Nominations for PAS officers for the coming year will be taken at the April 17 general meeting. Elections will be held during the May 15 general meeting. The slate of new officers will take office at the June annual dinner.

Field Trips

Piute Ponds

Saturday, May 4, 2013

6:30 am — 1:00 pm

During migration, the bodies of water and surrounding vegetation in the Antelope Valley attract a variety of birds taking a rest and refueling break during their journey. On May 4, Pasadena Audubon will search several of these key "oases" (sounds better than "tertiary effluent", doesn't it?) for northbound migrants. The trip starts at Piute Ponds, accessed with special permission from Edwards Air Force Base, therefore the number of participants will be limited. After Piute, we will visit Apollo Park and the (in)famous Lancaster Sewage Ponds.

Birds sought include shorebirds, Empidonax and Contopus flycatchers, warblers, and (with some luck) Bank Swallows, Black Terns, and Franklin's Gulls. To take advantage of the day's prime bird activity, trip participants should plan to meet at 6:30 (half an hour after sunrise) at a specified location in the Antelope Valley. Although migrants are the focus of this trip, as time permits, we will look for some of the resident A.V. specialties.

We will aim to conclude the tour of the primary sites by 1 PM. Spotting scopes and F.R.S. radios are recommended. This trip is open to 12 participants in addition to the trip leaders, by order of sign-up. Contact Darren Dowell at dowell.darren@yahoo.com to sign up or for further information. *Darren Dowell, Brendan Crill, Lance Benner*

Big Santa Anita Canyon

Saturday, May 11, 2013

6:30 am — noon

Santa Anita Canyon is one of the gems of the front range of the San Gabriel Mountains. We're going to explore it at a time of year when the spring migrants have arrived and many of the birds are most active. This is a particularly good trip for American Dipper and we'll make a special effort to find it. We

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, April 21, 2013

Sunday, May 19, 2013

Sunday, June 16, 2013

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

WC

will hike above Sturtevant Falls for up to six miles round-trip.

Meet at Chantry Flat. We're starting early to beat the heat and avoid the crowds. Parking can be limited, so please carpool. Bring water, food, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, a hat, bug repellent, and an Adventure Pass. We'll return to Chantry Flat by about noon.

Lance Benner

Big Morongo Preserve

Saturday, May 18, 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

Lesser Nighthawks, San Gabriel River

Saturday, May 25, 2013

7:30 pm — 9:00 pm

This short trip is designed to search for Lesser Nighthawks, owls, and other birds active at dusk along the San Gabriel River in the spring. Lesser Nighthawks were formerly common on the coastal slope but are now confined to a small number of

Field trips continue on page 6!

Hahamongna Monthly Walk

Saturday, April 6, 2013

Saturday, May 4, 2013

7:30 am — 11:30 am

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, April 28, 2013

Sunday, May 26, 2013

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

WCC

WC

WCC

WCC

WCC

WC = Wrentit Club!

Calendar
 Submit material for the next Wrentit by May 1

WCC = Wrentit Club
 Count Circle!

April 2013

3	Wed	7:00 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
6	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
6	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Tejon Ranch (full)	Ron Cyger
16	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
17	Wed	7:00 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Saving Foothill Canyons
21	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sat	All day	Birdathon!!	WC	All of Los Angeles County	Ron Cyger
28	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Huntington Library & Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

(PAS members only)

May 2013

1	Wed	7:00 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Will Fulmer
4	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Hahamongna	Ron Cyger
4	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Piute Ponds	Dowell, Crill, Benner
11	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Big Santa Anita Canyon	Lance Benner
15	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	The Birder as Ecologist
18	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip		Big Morongo Preserve	Kathi Ellsworth
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Lower Arroyo Seco	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
25	Sat	7:30 pm	Field Trip	WC	San Gabriel River Nighthawks	Lance Benner
26	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Huntington Library & Gardens	Elaine MacPherson

(PAS members only)

June 2013

1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Mt.Pinos	Ron Cyger & Larry Johnson
8	Sat	6:00 pm	Annual Dinner		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	See page 2
8	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Throop Peak	Lance Benner
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Descanso Gardens	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
22	Sat	7:30 pm	Field Trip	WC	C'est Chouette Part 2	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)
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Julia Ray	(818) 314-5127	jraymusic@att.net
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@earthlink.net

Field Trips, continued**...Lesser Nighthawks**

washes where isolated pockets of suitable habitat remain. The San Gabriel River between Santa Fe Dam and Azusa Canyon is one of their local strongholds and one of the closest places to Pasadena to find this species reliably. We'll make a special effort to see and hear lesser nighthawks trilling as part of their courtship displays. We also have a chance to find Yellow-breasted Chat, Nutmeg Mannikin, Barn Owl, and Great Horned Owl.

Please bring binoculars, headlamps, water, and bug repellent. Meet at Encanto Park in Duarte at 7:30 pm (Encanto Parkway north of Huntington Drive). We'll do an easy walk across the bridge and north for a short distance along the San Gabriel River bike path.

Lance Benner

Throop Peak

Saturday, June 8, 2013

7:30 am — 1:00 pm

Join us as we explore one of the highest altitude trails in the San Gabriel Mountains during the peak time of year for montane birds. We'll hike at a leisurely pace to the summit of Throop Peak (elevation: about 9100 feet) as we search for Williamson's Sapsucker, Townsend's Solitaire, Clark's Nutcracker, Dusky Flycatcher, White-headed Woodpecker, Green-tailed towhee, Red Crossbill, and other montane species.

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, sturdy shoes, a coat, and an Adventure Pass. The hike is about five 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

Mt. Pinos and Environs

Saturday, June 1, 2013

7:30 am — early afternoon

Mt. Pinos 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 other nearby areas.

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

Larry Johnson and Ron Cyger

Tejon Ranch Trip is Full

The April 6 outing to Tejon Ranch filled up early and there is a long waiting list. (It's a great location, thus the demand.) Watch the February and April issues of *The Wrentit* in 2014 for news of next year's trip.

C'est Chouette, Part 2**Owls in the High San Gabriels**

WC

Saturday, June 22, 2013

7:00 pm —midnight

Join us as we search for owls and nightjars in the higher parts of the San Gabriel Mountains on a moonlit night at the summer solstice. We'll start shortly 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 for Common Poorwill. If we're very lucky, we might find Mexican whip-poor-will, which was present last summer.

This trip concentrates on high elevations primarily to find flammulated owls, which do not usually occur below about 6000 feet in the local mountains. Limited to 10 people; preference will be given to people who did not attend the Pasadena Audubon owl trip on March 30. Please email the leader to reserve a spot and for logistical information.

Lance Benner

Sightings

Trip Report: Quail Lake and Vicinity

February 23, 2013

The distant raptor was large and dark. As it disappeared and reappeared behind the hills, we debated whether it was an immature Bald Eagle or a Golden Eagle. Then it turned and we saw white in the armpits...ok, Bald Eagle. But wait, there was **too much** white in the armpits, clean and not mottled... California Condor!

The bird with the longest wingspan in North America was easily the highlight of the trip, and not what we expected at Quail Lake. And by the time the Condor flew by, we had already seen two Long-tailed Ducks, an adult Bald Eagle, a Swainson's Hawk, and a Merlin. The lake held many water birds, including a White-winged Scoter, both Scaup species, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted and Common Mergansers.

Another highlight of the trip was a flock of at least 10 Red Crossbills at Holiday Lake, seen at close range. There are 10 recognized varieties of Red Crossbill, distinguished by their flight calls; we obtained audio recordings which identify the Holiday Lake birds as Type 2. Also at Holiday Lake was the Grey-headed subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco, unusual in our area.

We were not done with the raptors: after Holiday Lake we also had good looks at two Golden Eagles and another adult Bald Eagle. At Lake Hughes we found Hooded Mergansers (completing the "Merganser slam") and Canvasback.

We had a great day, and ended with 76 species including 12 species of raptor.

Mark and Janet Scheel

Birdathon!

Birdathon is Pasadena Audubon's major fundraiser of the year. Participants try to spot as many species as possible within a 24-hour period in Los Angeles County. Supporters can pledge a lump-sum donation or, for more fun, pledge a certain amount per species found. Each year the proceeds are targeted to worthwhile local causes that enhance PAS' mission statement goals of birding, education, and conservation of bird habitat. This year's causes are nature education at Longfellow Elementary School in Pasadena, and Northeast Trees, an organization working to "green" the landscapes in and near the Arroyo Seco.

You can donate online at www.pasadenaudubon.org, or use the form provided on the back of the flyer in this issue of *The Wrentit*.

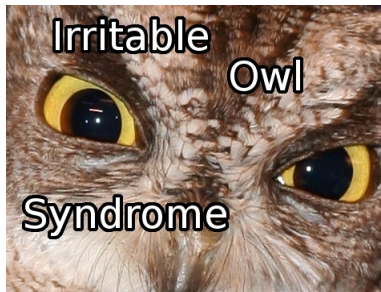
In addition to various individuals doing their own thing, three teams are competing this year:

The Green Team will be doing a third consecutive year of birding without cars, instead using bikes, hiking boots, and public transportation. The 24 hour count period will be split between an afternoon and evening hike to Henninger Flat, then a bike ride down the San Gabriel River departing Pasadena pre-dawn the next day. The goal is to beat last year's count of 130 species. Contact team leader Darren Dowell. (info on page 8) for participation or sponsorship.

If you want a lovely leisurely morning with some fresh coffee, snacks, and lots and lots of birds, come join **Team Big Sit**. We will meet at Legg Lakes at 7:30 on April 27 and stay until noon. Our spot is between the middle and south lakes. We may not get the huge numbers of species that other teams produce, but you won't have to leave your house at midnight, drive 400 miles, and eat car food all day. Here, we enjoy the beauty of Whittier Narrows and the glory of a fresh spring morning. Bring binoculars, a chair, some snacks to share, and your own coffee or tea. A scope might be useful too as the Big Sit means just that—we stay in one area the entire time. For more information, please contact Laura Garrett (info on page 8). All are welcome, from beginners to the

most experienced.

Team Irritable Owl Syndrome will attempt another no-holds-barred birdathon, starting shortly after midnight April 27 and going until dark. Team members Frank Gilliland, Susan Gilliland, Janet Scheel, and Mark Scheel will scour L.A. County in a race against the clock that will require sharp eyes and ears, precision timing, and strong bladders. We don't sit; we run. We are shooting for 200 species...can we do it?



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 16, 2013
Rancho Santa Ana

Tuesday, May 21, 2013
Lower Arroyo Seco

Tuesday, June 18, 2013
Descanso Gardens

Trip leaders: Sid Heyman, Julia Ray

DONATIONS TO PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Anna & Norm Arnheim, Lance Benner, Frank Burrows, Denise Castillo, Betty Cole & Arthur Mack, William Freeland, Lew Hastings, Audrey Parmiter, Elena Seto, Henry & Loretta Selinger, Marilyn Webster, Madeline West. Thank you for your generosity!

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

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Most of Us Just Get House Finches...

I went into the kitchen the night of March 5 to get the after-dinner cookies out of the oven for me and my daughter. I put the baking sheet on top of the stove, then hung up the potholder. That's when I happened to see the bird on top of the hanging pot rack. I recognized the species immediately: Pine Siskin. I've had many at my feeders this year. I actually screamed, then said "?@#\$, there's a bird in the kitchen!" My daughter ran from the living room & peered cautiously into the kitchen to see it. She wanted to take a picture with her cell phone, but I vetoed that (not sure why).

I closed off the kitchen & opened the back door so the bird would go outside instead of further into the house. I put on my gardening gloves in case it scratched me. I tried to capture it with a small box, but of course it flew away. Finally, after chasing it around the kitchen for a few minutes, I was able to trap it in the storage area by the back door, pick it up, and put it on the back porch railing. It stayed out there for a while - I assume it was just confused and scared. It flew to a tree branch when I came out to check on it one last time, so I hope it's OK!

Elizabeth Tatum

New Members

ALHAMBRA: Steve Powell, Juan Zurita; **ALTADENA:** Richard Granger, Nancy Holland, Howard Judkins, Loren Shirar, Alejandra Sinay, Jim Woodruff; **ARCADIA:** BMary Louise Blackstone, Margo Suzuki; **DUARTE:** Olivia Brys; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Dusty Briscoe, Richard Harris, Barbara Leach, Tracy Lee, Robert Miyake, Carolyn Murray, A.A. Riewe, John Simmons; **LOS ANGELES:** Ben Herndon, Margot Pipkin, Henry & Loretta Selinger; **MONROVIA:** John Count, Charlotte Eubanks, James Gibling, Cate Kennedy, Lana Morano; **MONTEREY PARK:** Michelle Jolliffe-Gonzalez, Jerry Wheeler; **MONTROSE:** Lynne Keller, Bob Thompson; **PASADENA:** Eugene Becker, Laura Dunklee, Keith Hansen, Richard Keys, Sharon Kratz, Yvonne LeGrice, Jane MacNett, Caroline Nelson, Carol Shelton, Thomas Smith, B. Steener, Erika Sukstorf, Philippa Tyler, Jennifer Ward, Ricki Weinberger; **REDONDO BEACH:** Anne LaHue; **ROSEMEAD:** Diana Gonzalez, The Watsons, Phineas Willis; **SAN GABRIEL:** Margaret Haskin, Betty Nelson, D.C. Reynolds, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Wood; **SIERRA MADRE:** Janda Ferris, Birgitta Gerlinger, Judy Rice; **SOUTH PASADENA:** DeEtte Barner, Barbara Field, Kent Hymel, Marlene Jones, Richard McCann, Kathleen Moore-Alpaugh; **TEMPLE CITY:** Scott & Kulwadee Puppek, Wesley Wong, Hanjie Yao