



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 64 — No. 1

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

September-October 2015

Spotted Towhee

Diego Blanco is an avid birder and a sophomore at Polytechnic School in Pasadena.

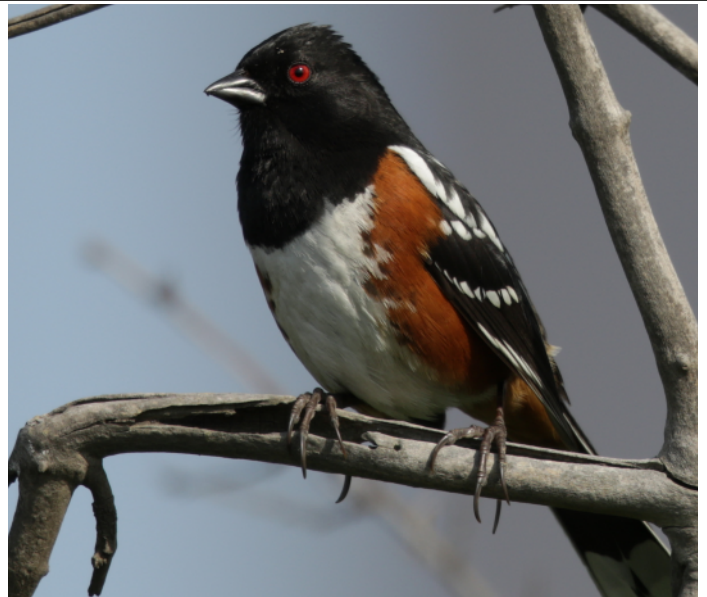
The Spotted Towhee is a member of the sparrow family and is a year-round resident in the Pasadena area. Formerly considered synonymous with Eastern Towhee, both were lumped together as the same species, “Rufous-Sided Towhee,” *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. More recently, Rufous-Sided Towhee has been split into two species, Spotted (*P. maculatus*) and Eastern (*P. erythrophthalmus*) Towhee. Spotted and Eastern Towhees appear very similar, almost identical in pattern except for the namesake white spots on Spotted Towhee’s wings and back. Despite their similar appearance, the two species’ ranges can help to separate them, with Spotted found mainly in the west, and Eastern in the east.

Since Spotted Towhees prefer to forage on the ground in the leaf litter or in dense thickets, they are more commonly heard rather than seen, except when the strikingly patterned males rise to the tops of trees to sing their characteristic trills. While on the ground, Spotted Towhees often make a softer growling or mewling call, rising in pitch and often

accompanied by the sounds of the bird scratching and rustling through the leaves. The rufous coloration on the bird’s flanks also helps it to camouflage in the dead, brown leaves where it collects its food. Spotted Towhees build sturdy nests lined with available materials like pine needles, leaves, twigs, papery bark, and grass, where they raise on average two broods of three to five eggs every season. The nests are placed in areas with good cover, like in dense shrubbery. Other towhee species, including Green-Tailed Towhee, California Towhee, and occasionally even Eastern Towhee have been known to hybridize with the Spotted Towhee in places where their ranges overlap. In addition to the variation that can be caused by hybridization with other towhees,

Spotted Towhee populations vary in their appearance geographically. The Spotted Towhee population found on Mexico’s Socorro Island is sometimes classified as its own subspecies, *P. m. socorroensis*, the Socorro Towhee, and are generally grayer overall than the towhees on the mainland. Spotted Towhees are particularly vulnerable to a number of threats. Feral or outdoor cats are especially dangerous to both nestlings and adults, since the towhees forage and nest so close to the ground. Brown-Headed Cowbirds are known to parasitize the nests of Spotted Towhees.

Photo: Mark Scheel



Continued on page 7

President's Perch

Robert Browning once said "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what's a heaven for?" Using that as a jumping-off point for our Board Retreat in August, we spread our proverbial wings :) and thought of ways to expand PAS in bigger and better ways. Some ideas were to expand our successful kids' program, increase our grants budget, and continue to support local conservation efforts in the community. All this takes work and planning, but I know we can do it! Can't wait to see the result as we grow in outreach, conservation, education, and birding in the year to come.

Happy Birding,

Deni Sinnott

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September Program

Building ID Skills

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Jon Fisher and Mickey Long

Whether seen poorly or well, in birding there's perhaps nothing more frustrating than being unable to identify what you are looking at. Many species are distinctive enough that they are simple to name. But others can confuse us and challenge us. These challenges range from common birds to the rarest vagrants. Though we may at times be perplexed, this does keep things interesting.

In this program we'll take a look at a number of these similar species and discuss how to tell them apart. We'll also cover the vocalizations, seasonal status and behavior that often offer clues to identification. Almost all birders strive to maintain "clean" lists and to make accurate eBird entries. To that end, it's always helpful to review field marks and perhaps learn some new ones.

General meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (address on back cover). Refreshments and socializing begin at 7:00 pm and programs are presented from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Occasionally programs for kids begin at 7:00 pm; check the announcements.

October Program

Biking for Birds

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Dorian Anderson

365 days, 18,000 miles, 617 species, one amazing adventure! On January 1, 2014, Dorian Anderson embarked on a year-long biking and birdwatching odyssey. "Biking for Birds" took him through 28 states. Along this route, he found 617 species of birds and raised close to \$50,000 for bird conservation. This trip served not only as the adventure of a lifetime, but also highlighted conservation issues affecting the continent's birds. He will speak briefly about the genesis of the trip and his decision to leave his established career. He will touch on particularly exciting bird chases as well as the physical and mental challenges that a year of bicycle travel present. With stories of snowstorms, accidents, animal hoarders, lightning, nudists, and rattlesnakes, there won't be a dull moment.

November Program

Bringing Butterflies, Birds and Beneficials to your Garden

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Tempt butterflies and birds to your backyard using colorful native plants that also save water. Join Orchid Black, a native plant expert and garden designer who teaches at the Theodore Payne Foundation and President of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and find out how planting native plants can bestow new life on your garden by providing a food source and living space for pollinators like birds and butterflies.

With the right plants, it is possible to attract a host of hummingbirds, songbirds and beneficial insects, and yourself! to the garden. Some butterfly species have had population losses of 90% due to loss of habitat. Come and find out how to turn your yard into an important backyard habitat!

Conservation

Hahamongna Lawsuit Update

The L.A. County Department of Public Works plans to scrape out over 2 million cubic yards of sediment behind Devil's Gate Dam and turn over fifty acres of this prime bird habitat into a permanent maintenance yard for sediment removal. They plan to begin this project next year. The City of Pasadena has objected, and their Working Group developed a less-damaging alternate plan that would destroy less habitat, create less traffic and air pollution, and still maintain the safety of the dam. At public hearings and in public comments, the public overwhelmingly spoke out against the County's plan and many spoke out in favor of the Pasadena plan. The County ignored the people and Pasadena's plan, and is going ahead with its own.

Because the County violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when it ignored Pasadena's plan, and for other CEQA violations as well, the Pasadena Audubon Society joined the Arroyo Seco Foundation in a CEQA lawsuit. Our goal is not to stop the project, but to modify it so that it more closely mirrors the Pasadena plan. We met with the County last winter for a mandatory settlement meeting, and as we expected, they rejected our settlement demands. The County has to get permits from several governmental agencies (California Fish and Wildlife, for one) and we have been supplying them with more

detailed biological information than they received from the County. We hope to encourage them to require that the County do its job properly and choose the least environmentally damaging project alternative.

Now an El Niño is building up and the County is using this to instill fear in you, the public, and the County Supervisors. This is unfounded fear, as the dam is safe. If we do get 100-year storms, we will no doubt see damage in Southern California, but cleaning out the dam will not determine the difference between an idyllic winter and a catastrophic one. What frustrates those of us who have been following this story closely is that they could have started the project by now if they had not violated CEQA, triggering the lawsuit. Even more frustratingly, they would not be in this position now if they had cleaned out behind the dam as they should have. Instead, they allowed it to build up over decades, and now they are panicking because they did not do their job properly. And the birds will pay the price for their negligence unless we are vigilant.

So please do not believe everything you read in local media about the Rose Bowl getting destroyed because of our lawsuit. It isn't true. All we ask is that the County treat Hahamongna like the precious habitat that it is, and that they follow CEQA. Thank you for all you do!

Laura Garrett

WFO 2015 Conference

I was one of 8 young birders who attended the Western Field Ornithologists (WFO) conference in Montana. My trip was funded by Pasadena Audubon Society. The WFO conference is a meeting where amateur and professional ornithologists come together. The meeting included presentations of scientific papers, workshops and field trips. This was the second time I participated in the WFO conference. My goal was to see lots of new birds, to connect with other young birders and to learn more about bird conservation.

Thursday, June 11— I arrived in Billings last night. Today, I went on an all-day field trip west of Billings, to West Rosebud. The drive was quite scenic and we passed through miles of grasslands, farmlands, and bits of riparian areas here and there. At our first stop, we birded some riparian areas and refound Montana's 20th record of Eastern Phoebe, and we saw two rather late Broad-winged Hawks. We worked our way higher in elevation, seeing Bobolinks along the way. We visited a person's private feeders and saw a gorgeous male Evening Grosbeak (lifer!), several noisy Pinyon Jays (also a lifer!), and Clark's Nutcrackers. Then we visited the mountains, where on a lake we saw three Barrow's Goldeneyes. We picked up several mountain birds like Red Crossbills, Green-tailed Towhees and Cassin's Finches. That wrapped up the trip. Once we got back to the hotel, all the young birders met with the organizers of the conference and shared how they got interested in birds and their birding stories.

Friday, June 12— I left for the morning field trip to Four Dances Natural Area, where we got a spectacular view of Billings and the Yellowstone river from the top of the rock rim. Grasshopper (lifer!) and Brewer's Sparrows were singing all around us. A Plumbeous Vireo started singing, and we were able to locate it. Our group came upon a pair of very agitated robins. They were defending their nest, but from whom? When we looked closely at the nest, we realized there was a large bull snake that had probably been feeding on whatever was in the nest. Then we went over to Pictograph Cave State Park, where we saw Mountain Bluebirds, and Canyon and Rock Wrens. When we got back to the hotel, it was time for the science sessions. One presentation was about the status of the Osprey in Montana. The researcher said that Ospreys have been increasing due the use of artificial platforms for nesting. Another person talked about the birds of Sheyma Island, in the Western Aleutians. After the science sessions, there was the sound ID quiz ran by Nathan Pieplow. I teamed up with Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn to identify the bird calls being presented. Our team, called the Wrong-eared Owls, got second place, which isn't bad. Afterward, all the people at the conference gathered for dinner outside. I sat at the young birders table, and we played a game where someone chooses a letter and we all take turns naming a bird that starts with that letter. If you run out of birds, you're eliminated from the game. While we were playing, a Common Nighthawk (lifer!) flew over our heads.



The young birders' table on Friday night. Photo by Beatrix Schwarz.

Saturday, June 13 — I went to Two Moon Park today. This is a small riparian area. Ovenbirds were singing and we got good looks at a couple of them. American Redstarts were flitting around, and Ring-necked Pheasants were calling all around us, and we almost ran one over on the way back. We saw several Least Flycatchers and a "Yellow-shafted" Northern Flicker. There were more science sessions, about the Le Conte's Thrasher status in Nevada, Northern Saw-whet Owl status in Montana, and the birds added to the California Rare Birds Records Committee (CBRC) checklist this year. One of the birds was Great Black-backed Gull, which was seen at the Salton Sea. After the science sessions, there was the photo ID panel. Ed Harper would present a bird photo and five experts would comment on what they thought it was and why. At the banquet that followed, Dave Quady, the president of WFO, talked about WFO's history and early presidents. The keynote presentation was about a Mountain Plover population in Montana that has been studied for the past 20 years. We learned about the relationship between prairie dogs and Mountain Plovers. I learned that a female plover builds two nests at once and lays one set of

eggs in each nest. The male plover incubates the eggs in one nest, while the female incubates the eggs in another nest. They raise the young separately, too.

Sunday, June 14— Today, I went on the field trip that I was

looking forward to most: a trip out to the prairie of Judith Gap. Many grassland birds can be found here. We first stopped at Broadview Pond, which was covered in ducks. We saw Canvasbacks, Redheads, and a Black Tern. Then, we went out into the prairie, where we immediately saw Lark Buntings, McCown's Longspurs (both lifers!) and Sage Thrashers. We heard Baird's Sparrows (lifer!) and got a fantastic look at one 20 feet away perched on a fence. We saw Sprague's Pipits (lifer!) displaying. The pipits go up and up and sing from the sky. They do that for about 30 minutes and finally come down. After lunch, we found a Short-eared Owl, a Sharp-tailed Grouse (Both lifers!), and several Chestnut-collared Longspurs. That ended the conference, and I said bye to my new birding pals.

By the way, I extended the trip and went up to Beartooth Pass at 11,000 feet and saw Black Rosy-Finch and American Three-Toed Woodpecker (both lifers!).

All in all, the Montana conference was great. I made lots of new birding friends, learned a lot, and got 12 lifers. Montana is a great place because you've got Western birds like Western Kingbird, Bullock's Oriole, and Spotted Towhee, you've got Eastern birds like Eastern Kingbird, Veery, and Black-billed Magpie, you've got Great Plain's birds like Baird's Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, and Lark Bunting, and you've got Northern birds like Evening Grosbeak and American Three-toed Woodpecker. It was nice to see some birds I usually only see in winter in Los Angeles, like American Pipit and White-crowned Sparrow.

Dessi Sieburth

Field Trips

Piute Ponds and Vicinity

Saturday, September 12, 2015

6:30 am – early afternoon

By September, southbound migration will be in full swing. Join us at the Piute Ponds, a wetland oasis in the desert, where every year thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage on their way south. We should find over a dozen shorebird species, and we may see Baird's or Pectoral Sandpipers. We will also look for desert birds such as Bell's Sparrow and we have a chance for LeConte's Thrasher. After Piute Ponds, we will visit nearby Apollo Park, where we will look for migrating songbirds such as warblers and flycatchers. We may also visit the Lancaster Sewage Ponds, a well-known spot where rarities tend to show up. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

Piute Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base, which has restricted entry, so space is limited. Please email Mark Scheel if you would like to attend. We will be meeting in the Antelope Valley at dawn (6:30am); the meeting place will be arranged. Don't forget lunch, water, and sunblock.

Mark & Janet Scheel

Elysian Park Redstart Hunt

Saturday, September 19, 2015

7:30 am — noon

On this morning walk we will search out residents, migrants, and vagrants (all the feathered kind). A stray fly ball or a Painted Redstart is not unheard of, and either will be pretty exciting! We do expect to see fall warblers, woodpeckers, and other perching birds while we explore Solano Canyon and possibly other locations.

From Pasadena, take the Pasadena (110) Freeway south, exit on Academy Way and go straight about 0.3 miles to the traffic light (Park Dr./Solano Canyon). Turn Right and go about 0.3 miles to the parking area on your left.

Sue Horton & Ron Cyger

Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Sunday, October 18, 2015

Sunday, November 15, 2015

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, September 5, 2015

Saturday, October 3, 2015

Saturday, November 7, 2015

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 Hahagmongna, and park by the ballfield.

Leaders vary; see calendar

Harbor Breezes Whale Watch

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Noon — 3:00

Join us for a public whale watch and pelagic birding trip run by Harbor Breeze Cruises in Long Beach. Experienced pelagic birders will provide ID help. On this public trip we won't be the only people on the boat nor will we be able to stop for the birds, but we could see many of the common fall pelagic species such as Black-vented, Sooty, and Pink-footed Shearwater; several gull species; all three cormorants; jaegers; Red-necked and Red Phalaropes; Cassin's Auklets and Scripps' Murrelets; and whales, dolphins, sea lions, and seals.

Advance reservations, driving directions, and some discount coupons are available at the web site, www.2seewhales.com, or call (562) 432-4900. Walk-up prices are slightly lower (mention at the dock that you saw Harbor Breezes on Facebook for \$10 off the adult fare.) Discounts from Groupon are sometimes available. We encourage everyone to carpool and to arrive by 11:30 am.

Lance Benner, Mark & Janet Scheel

Sunday in the Park with Luke

Sunday, October 4, 2015

7:30 am — 10:30 am

Join me as we search for migrant birds in the little local parks of Pasadena. As well as my local "patch," Vina Vieja Park, we'll explore some of the areas other green spaces and see what we might find in terms of migrant birds.

We will meet in the parking lot at Vina Vieja at 7:30 am and carpool where possible from there. Vina Vieja is on the south side of East Orange Grove Blvd between Canyon Wash Drive and Lomora Avenue.

Luke Tiller, streatham2003@aol.com

Field trips continue on page 6!

Huntington Library Monthly Walk

Sunday, September 27, 2015

Sunday, October 25, 2015

Sunday, November 22, 2015

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.


For reservations contact me (see bottom of calendar page) by email (preferred), or by phone. Trip leaders vary.

Mark Hunter

 = Wrentit Club!

Calendar









Submit material for the next Wrentit by October 1

 = Wrentit Club
Count Circle!

September 2015

2	Wed	7:15 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
5	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
12	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip		County Arboretum	Julia Ray
12	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip		Piute Ponds	Mark & Janet Scheel
13	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
15	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Legg Lake	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
16	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Building ID Skills
19	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Elysian Park	Ron Cyger, Sue Horton
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
26	Sat	9:00 am	Class		Field Sketch and Bird Drawing	Catherine Hamilton
26	Sat	Noon	Field Trip		Harbor Breeze Cruises	Lance Benner, M&J Scheel
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*		Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

October 2015

3	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
3	Sat	10:00 am	Field Trip		Moore Lab	Kathy Sturdevant
4	Sun	7:30 am	Field Trip		Pasadena Parks	Luke Tiller
7	Wed	7:15 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon	Deni Sinnott
10	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip		County Arboretum	Julia Ray
11	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
17	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Ventura County	Luke Tiller
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Peck Road Park	Julia Ray & Sid Heyman
21	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon	Biking for Birds
24	Sat	4:00 pm	Field Trip		C'est Chouette	Lance Benner
25	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*		Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

November 2015

4	Wed	7:15 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon	Deni Sinnott
7	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
8	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
14	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip		County Arboretum	Julia Ray
14	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip		North Slope San Gabriels	Mark & Janet Scheel
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group		Santa Fe Dam	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
18	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Birds, Butterflies, Beneficials
21	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip		Big Santa Anita Canyon	Lance Benner
22	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*		Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

* Trip Leader Information

* - reservations required, PAS members only

Mark Scheel (chair)	(626) 765-5408	scheel@tapir.caltech.edu
Larry Allen	(626) 797-1810	larryallen@earlymusicla.org
Lance Benner	(626) 791-1187	lbenner@charter.net
Ron Cyger	(626) 840-2566 (before 9:00 pm)	ron@cyger.org (preferred)
Darren Dowell	(626) 344-4003	dowell.darren@yahoo.com
Kathi Ellsworth	(626) 524-0652	pandionsky@yahoo.com
Jon Feenstra	(626) 319-4723	feenstra@alumni.caltech.edu
Jon Fisher	(818) 800-2776	jonf60@hotmail.com
Frank & Susan Gilliland	(626) 441-8487	gillilandsusan@gmail.com
Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991	sidheyman@sbcglobal.net
Mark Hunter	(626) 344-8428	mark.hunter@pasadenaaudubon.org
Mickey Long	(626) 285-8878	mlongbird@charter.net
Hill Penfold	(818) 352-4954	hpenfold@gmail.com
Julia Ray	(818) 314-5127	jraymusic@att.net
Ed Stonick	(626) 796-0595	edstonick@att.net

Field Trips, continued**Moore Lab of Zoology****Saturday, October 3, 2015****10:00 am — 11:30 am**

We will tour the extensive Robert T. Moore collection at Occidental College under the direction of its director and curator, Dr. John McCormack, who is one of the world's preeminent experts on Mexican bird species. This is the largest Mexican bird collection anywhere in the world, and contains more than 60,000 bird specimens from Mexico, Ecuador, and the United States. The collection is especially strong in hummingbirds. It also contains specimens of extinct birds such as Passenger Pigeon, Imperial Woodpecker, and Carolina Parakeet. For more information on the Moore Lab, see <http://www.oxy.edu/moore-lab-zoology>

Limit: 15 people. Please RSVP to kathy.sturdevant@sbcglobal.net

*Kathy Sturdevant***Ventura County Migrants****Saturday, October 17, 2015****7:30 am — 11:30 am**

Join PAS for a trip out to a couple of Ventura's most highly prized spots for interesting migrants. At Arnold Road we will have our eyes peeled for open country birds, shorebirds and raptors and have our fingers crossed for a rare Red-throated Pipit or Pacific Golden Plover. At Laguna Tamarisks we will be searching out migrant songbirds, with the hope of finding perhaps an interesting eastern warbler or two.

Space will be limited in order to make the group size manageable, so please email me for a meeting place and time: streatham2003@aol.com

*Luke Tiller***C'est Chouette: Twilight Owl Hike****Saturday, October 24, 2015****4:00 pm — 11:00 pm**

This trip will start with a late afternoon hike to look for diurnal montane species before sunset and then owls after dark. We will hike up to four miles round trip on a dirt road as we search for Spotted, Northern Pygmy, Western Screech, Northern Saw-whet, and Great Horned Owls. After we return to the cars, we may drive to a few nearby spots to search for species we missed during the hike. Participants must be able to

L.A. County Arboretum**Second Saturday of every month****8:00 am — 10:00 am**

This easy walk is for birders of all ages and experience levels. Meet on the steps leading to the entrance of the Arboretum. Admission is \$5 – free for members of the Arboretum or Audubon, and free for children under 12.

Julia Ray

hike 4 miles round trip with an elevation change of up to 700 feet.

Limited to 10 people who have not attended a PAS owl trip within the last year. Please email the leader to reserve a spot.

*Lance Benner***North Slope San Gabriels****Saturday, November 14, 2015****7:30 am — early afternoon**

We will explore areas on the northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, such as Grassy Hollow Visitor's 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 Pearblossom Park, which is at the corner of 121st st. East and East avenue V14 in Pearblossom, just south of Hwy 138 (Pearblossom Highway).

*Mark & Janet Scheel***Big Santa Anita Canyon****Saturday, November 21, 2015****6:30 am — noon**

Join us for a fall hike as we search for Pacific Wren, American Dipper, Canyon Wren, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Hutton's vireo, and other lower montane species.

We're planning to hike past Sturtevant Falls as far as the Cascade Picnic Area for a total of about six miles. Parking at Chantry Flat is crowded on weekends so please carpool and arrive early if possible.

Bring sturdy shoes, water, some food, sunscreen, a hat, warm clothing, and an Adventure Pass for your car. Heavy rain cancels but drizzle does not.

*Lance Benner***Chilao Visitor Center****Second Sunday of every month****8:00 am — 10:00 am**

The Chilao Visitor Center walks continue each month, weather and roads permitting. (If things look rainy, snowy or brush fire-y, check first.)

Chilao, 26.5 miles north of I-210 on Angeles Crest (State Hwy 2), is a good place to see woodpeckers and we often see four or more species on a walk. Mountain Quail are somewhat elusive but still seen or heard about half the time. You can also expect Purple Finches, Steller's Jays, Dark-eyed Juncos and several species of nuthatches and others totaling about 30 species during the 2-hour walk.

Hill Penfold

Window Strikes

Debbie Prohias sends this sad photo of a male Hooded Oriole landing next to a female that had just died after flying into a window.



National Audubon Society has tips about making your windows more visible to birds and about positioning your feeders to reduce bird injuries and deaths. Visit bit.ly/1MAgZ4s for more information.

Page 1 Bird, continued

Although the Spotted Towhee shares its year-round range with the ecologically similar California Towhee, both birds are able to coexist by exploiting slightly different food sources, with Spotted Towhee mainly taking insects and supplementing its diet with seeds, and California Towhee mainly consuming seeds and plant matter while supplementing its diet with insects and other small invertebrates. In addition, the two species avoid competition by tending to place their nests in different locations. Spotted Towhee nests closer to or on the ground, while California Towhee generally nests higher up or in trees. Even with their slightly differing dietary and nesting trends, the ability of both species to generalize and take advantage of a variety of different food sources and nesting areas if needed allows them to coexist without outcompeting each other.

Diego Blanco

Announcements

Birds 'n Beers

**Second Wednesdays of Each Month
5:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

A continuing series! David Bell, Catherine Hamilton, and Luke Tiller invite birders, and anyone who can tolerate birders, to a very casual session of food and drink. Occasionally we even talk about birds!

The venue will once again be the Lucky Baldwin's, 1770 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91106 near Colorado Blvd and Allen Ave. This is the one near the City College, not in Old Town.

Magpie Bird Study Group

The group meets the third Tuesday of most months. We bird 9:00 am to 11:30 am and have a sack lunch and a short meeting. All PAS members welcome!



Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Legg Lakes

Meet in parking lot on Santa Anita Ave

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Peck Road Park

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Santa Fe Dam

Meet in first parking lot, directly ahead as you enter the park.

Trip leaders: Sid Heyman, Julia Ray

DONATIONS TO PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Denise Castillo, Elizabeth Cordero, Beth Gertmenian. We also received a gift from Marie Whelan in memory of Pat Little. Thank you all!

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, per family, 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 (individual or family) \$15 (senior or 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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Field Sketching and Bird Drawing With Catherine Hamilton

September 26, 2015
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Join accomplished illustrator Catherine Hamilton in a Field Sketching and Bird Drawing Workshop at Eaton Canyon Nature Center on September 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Open to birders and artists (and especially non-artists!) of all levels, this workshop will focus on learning to understand birds better through drawing them.

Drawing from life and from photos, the workshop will provide an opportunity to gain further skills in perception and technique. Anatomy will be introduced, and use of color discussed. Participants should bring pencils and paper, or their favorite medium. A list of suggested materials can be provided upon request.

Cost is \$15 per participant. 12 and under are free if accompanied by a paying adult. Please make reservations by sending an email to ron.cyger@PasadenaAudubon.org. Payment will be taken at the door. Please make your check payable to Pasadena Audubon Society. Class size is limited, so don't wait! Come on down and draw!



New Members

ALHAMBRA: Susan Kolm, Kenneth Ray;
ALTADENA: Constance Jordan, Dolores Scott, Philip Walker; **ARCADIA:** Caroline Bennett, Nancy Mudnich; **AZUSA:** James Martin; **CALABASAS:** Lisa Dumke; **COSTA MESA:** Donald Hoechin; **DUARTE:** Jeannine Lubeshkoff; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Claudia Ferguson, Paulett Liewer; **LA CRESCENTA:** Marilyn Smith; **LOS ANGELES:** Jane Hirschowitz, Viveca Sapin; **MONROVIA:** Gillian Harden, Edward Kellum, Jo Ann Merkle, Richard Waite; **MONTEREY PARK:** Maria Diaz; **PASADENA:** Fred Alcantar, Susan Considine, A. Crowell, Leslie Johnson, Maria Maldonado, Beverley Peterson, John Rowden, Jane & David Stover, Billie Youngblood; **ROSEMEAD:** Leo Vanboof; **SAN GABRIEL:** Jennifer Hunt; **SAN MARINO:** Anne & Tracey Coats; **SIERRA MADRE:** Sybil Anne Davis, Lauri Godfrey, Bonnie Lee; **SOUTH PASADENA:** T. Birk & D. Ignagni, Karen Kano, Christopher Robinson, Richard Stietz