



Drawing by
Guy Coheleach

THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

Pasadena Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 65 — No. 2

To bring the excitement of birds to our community through birding, education and the conservation of bird habitats. November 2016–January 2017

Varied Thrush

The Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*, is a resident of the temperate rainforests of the Pacific Northwest. Varied Thrush can usually be found in Southern California during fall and winter from October to March in small numbers. However, on occasion irruptions occur, resulting in greater numbers of birds being seen in Los Angeles County and Southern California, the most recent of which happened in the fall of 2014. This irruption lasted from October to March, with birds being seen in greater concentration and more frequently than expected in Los Angeles County.

The Varied Thrush moves up the western coast of North America and into Alaska and Western Canada to breed from April through August. Varied Thrush is unique among North American thrushes and among thrushes globally, being the only member of the genus *Ixoreus*. Males are gray tinged with blue in the crown, back and tail and vibrant orange on the breast and throat, bearing a contrasting black eyestripe and collar. Females are distinctly browner on the crown, back and tail where the males are blueish gray. Both sexes have orange wingbars and black primaries with orange patterning. In its year-round range in the old growth conifer forests of the Pacific coast, Varied Thrush feeds mostly on forest invertebrates, berries and fruits with the diet primarily consisting of invertebrates during the summer months and berries and fruit during the winter. Insects and other invertebrates are taken while feeding on the ground and fruit and berries while hopping among tree branches. Acorns also represent a large portion of the Varied Thrush's diet during the fall and winter, and irruptions are thought to possibly coincide with cycles of availability and excess of acorns in areas south of the bird's residential range. Vocalizations by the Varied Thrush include short "husk" calls and an ethereal, even-toned whistle song given in spring during the early morning, often delivered from the top of a high conifer in the dense temperate rainforest.



Photo: Mark Scheel

Diego Blanco

President's Perch

In just a few short years, we've taken PAS from being a nice place for fellow birders to meet and learn to a much more active, engaging and impactful community resource. It has been an exciting transition that has helped us to increase our membership and truly make a difference. But there's so much more that PAS can do.

We know that when we educate kids about birds and get them out in nature, it can have a lasting impact that they carry with them throughout their lives. We know that when we restore habitat or, in the case of the "Big Dig" – prevent habitat loss, we are improving the quality of life in our community for people as well as nature. When we combine our efforts with other environmental or conservation groups, our voices and efforts have more influence.

The only limitation is our resources. That's why this year we are asking our members to consider making an end-of-the-year special contribution. There's an envelope tucked into this newsletter, and I hope that you will get out your checkbook and support our goals. Please be generous. For those who contribute \$250 or more, we are planning a special event that any bird-lover would enjoy. If that's more than you can spare, give what you can. Thank you for your support.

Happy Birding,

Deni Sinnott

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November Program

Butterfly Speciation

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Bas van Schooten's talk will look at a colorful group of tropical and subtropical butterflies in the genus *Heliconius*. He will cover his research on smell and taste evolution in *Heliconius* butterflies and how this could relate to species boundaries. The talk will focus on the current scientific thought about the genetics of speciation. How we think of what a species is has important implications for conservation for local birds like California Gnatcatcher. Come find out more about this interesting topic.

Bas, a birder since age seven, completed his bachelor and master degrees in ecology and evolution in the Netherlands and worked as an ecologist for two years before continuing with a PhD in Puerto Rico on the evolution of smell and taste in *Heliconius* butterflies. Here he met his Californian wife which is what brought him to Pasadena and PAS.

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. Programs for youth begin at 6:30 pm; check the insert in this issue.

Problems with Plastic and What You Can Do about It

Problem Plastic #1—Plastic Bags and Prop 67

In 2014, Governor Brown signed a law banning single-use plastic bags throughout the state of California. Over 150 municipalities had already banned them with excellent results, and the new law filled in the gaps between those cities. And these bans work. For example, since 2012, when San Jose banned the bag, they've had an 89% reduction in plastic bags in their storm drain system and a 60% reduction in bags in their rivers and streams. Anyone who's done a river or beach clean-up knows how pernicious they are, their flimsiness falling to bits but never biodegrading, wreaking havoc in bird habitats everywhere. So a state-wide ban seemed like a no-brainer.

Ah, but not to the plastic bag industry. Out-of-state companies have poured mostly out-of-state money into a campaign to overturn our state ban on these bags. Proposition 67 preserves the ban, so please VOTE YES on Prop 67. Please ignore Prop 65 by voting NO. It was introduced to confuse the issue and the voters.

Even though over 150 municipalities have already banned the bag, Californians still use over 15 billion single-use plastic bags every year. The plastic bag industry claims that these bags can be recycled, but in fact, very few are. The industry also argues that plastic bags are only 1% of the waste stream, which is true by weight, but not in terms of the environmental damage they cause.

December Events

Christmas Bird Count Prep

Wednesday, December 14, 2016
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Jon Fisher

This meeting helps coordinate areas to be counted and who will count them. Beginners are welcome! See Jon's article about the CBC on page 3.

Christmas Bird Count Dinner

Saturday, December 17, 2016
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Join your fellow birders for a post-count dinner celebration. Share the day's events and a delicious catered dinner. Dinner is \$12.00 per person, beverage included.

RSVP by December 10th with a check for \$12.00 per person, made out to Pasadena Audubon Society. Write "CBC" on the check memo field. Mail to Pasadena Audubon CBC Dinner, at the address on the back of this newsletter.

January Program

Breaking Point – The Salton Sea

Wednesday, January 18, 2017
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

As California's largest lake, the 350-square-mile Salton Sea provides critical stopover, breeding, and wintering habitat for huge numbers of birds each year, including endangered species like Ridgway's Rail. A casualty of "water wars," it is, however, rapidly disappearing. During this meeting we will watch a special 40-minute long version of the acclaimed documentary "Breaking Point." This film will bring us all up to date on the history of the Sea both politically and ecologically.

Garry George, Audubon California's Chapter Network Director/Renewable Energy Director, will introduce the documentary and talk about Audubon's work at the Salton Sea. Our annual field trip to the area is a perennial favorite. Come find out more about this unique place.

Conservation

So what can you do to help birds? Vote YES on Prop 67. Think of the millions of lives you'll save!

Problem Plastic #2—Plastic Water Bottles

Just as problematic as plastic bags are plastic water bottles. Did you know that in the U.S., we consume 1,500 plastic bottles per second? We've all been told that A) we need to drink more water, B) tap water is bad, and C) the plastic bottles get recycled. A gold star to anyone who knows which of those statements is true. It's A! Yes, we should drink lots of water, but tap water is held to a higher federal standard than bottled water. In fact, bottled water might be harmful to you and the bottles are certainly harmful to the planet, the birds, and other animals that call it home.

Bottled water might be harmful to consumers because chemicals like BPA and phthalates leach from the plastic into the water. These are endocrine interrupters, which means they can interfere with your hormones. The longer the water sits in the bottle and the more it heats up, the more chemicals leach into the water. Not good.

Do you think bottled water tastes better? Not according to dozens of blind taste tests. When I go out to eat, I order a glass of Pasadena's finest.

Bottled water is also harmful to the planet. It takes a lot of oil and water to make and transport the bottles. It takes water to

Continued on page 3

Pasadena / San Gabriel Valley Christmas Bird Count Turns 70

Jon Fisher

Can it already be that time again? Spring and summer have come and gone and we're well into fall. Christmas Bird Counts will begin in mid-December. And there's none better than our very own Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley CBC. Then again I may be a bit biased...

Ours has been a long-running count. In fact, this year will mark its 70th anniversary. It's been a rewarding experience to have been count compiler for twenty-five of those years and it's an event that many local birders look forward to, all of whom have helped make it a very successful CBC.

By November, most of the familiar flycatchers, warblers and orioles that have been present since spring have headed south. Replacing them are a good number and variety of waterfowl, sparrows and other birds typical of the southern California winter.

Though some things have stayed pretty much the same over the years, there have been noticeable changes. Great-tailed Grackles arrived from the east in the 1980s and introduced Eurasian Collared-Doves have exploded in numbers quite recently. No one who lives in the area is unaware of our noisy flocks of introduced parrots and parakeets, yet none of these were present until the 1970s.

More recently, the numbers of Northern Red Bishops and Scaly-breasted Munias (both also introduced) have been rapidly increasing. Open country birds such as Loggerhead Shrikes, Western Meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows have declined with the loss of open spaces. Once common, non-native Spotted Doves have vanished.

We record all of these on the count and document their population trends over time. The mid-December CBC produces a snapshot of early winter birdlife in the San Gabriel Valley and local mountains. Over 280 different species have been recorded during the history of the count and the data from every count resides in the CBC database available where anyone can access it.

The count area is a circle, 15 miles in diameter, with the center point at the intersection of San Gabriel Boulevard and Duarte Road. Some of the areas that we count that add diversity to the count include Big Santa Anita Canyon, the sprawling Whittier Narrows area, the San Gabriel River, Peck Road Water Conservation Park, Eaton Canyon, the Huntington Gardens, the L.A. County Arboretum and a portion of Santa Fe Dam.

The northern border of the circle reaches 5,700 feet at the top of Mt. Wilson, offering the potential for mountain birds. Williamson's Sapsuckers and Cassin's Finches have been recorded here. In past years, residential neighborhoods have produced good birds. This variety of habitats typically produces well over 150 species each year.

The 2016 Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 17. We'll have the usual pre-count meeting at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30pm. At the meeting there will be an overview of the count and checklists and other count materials will be available.

We'll also review count rules and procedures and assign count areas. If you can't attend the meeting, you can sign up for an area to count via e-mail.

Newcomers are always welcome on the Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley CBC. If you're new to birding or to Christmas Bird Counts, this is a great opportunity to learn more about our local birds and to meet others who share that interest.

We will hold the traditional post-count dinner and wrap-up on count night. We'll not only have some good food, but be among the first to find out what good birds turned up on the count. Check page 2 for details.

For additional information, contact count coordinator Jon Fisher at JonF60@hotmail.com.

Grants

Call for Grant Applications

The Pasadena Audubon grant policy has changed and the next application deadline is December 15, 2016. For details about the grant policy and applying for a PAS grant, see our web site: www.pasadenaaudubon.org.

Conservation, continued

drill for the oil needed to make the bottle. According to onegreenplanet.org, it takes about two gallons of water to produce every drinkable gallon of water, and if you fill a bottle one-quarter full of water, that's about how much oil it takes to make that one bottle and transport it. Contrary to what we've been told, most of these bottles are not recycled. If you helped with the clean-up at Peck Road Watershed Park, you know this to be true. Instead, they slowly break down, either in landfills or in the wild, their chemicals leaching into the soil and water supply. It takes about 1,000 years for a plastic bottle to fully break down.

Still thirsty? Maybe these facts about animal impacts will convince you. Plastic bottle caps are not recyclable. They are remarkably strong and they float, even all the way to Midway Island where they are one of the killers of the 200,000 albatross chicks that die at Midway every year. I know it's sickening, but of the 500,000 albatross chicks hatched on Midway every year, 200,000 die, mostly from ingesting plastic that their parents feed them. And not long ago, a sperm whale that had washed up on a beach was found to have a plastic bottle blocking its intestine. More and more, we are finding dead marine birds, mammals, and reptiles that have died because of plastic bottles and caps.

So what can you do? Stop using plastic water bottles. If you make one change to help birds this year, this is the one I would urge you to make first. And if you love carrying water with you the way I do, then invest in a steel or aluminum water bottle and refill it from home. My \$15 investment has been serving me well for over five years. Your wallet, the planet, and the birds will thank you!

Questions? Email me at purplecow@jps.net.

Laura Garrett

Big Santa Anita Canyon**Field Trips****Newport Back Bay by Kayak****Sunday, November 6, 2016****6:30 am — noon (first day of Pacific Standard Time)**

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***North Slope San Gabriels****Saturday, November 12, 2016****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. Although we will get to higher elevations, all locations on this trip are accessible by car, and there is no strenuous hiking involved. We will be out most of the day, but anyone who needs to leave early will be able to do so.

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***Saturday, November 19, 2016****10:00 am — 1:00 pm**

This is a happy outing with many species of waterfowl, terns, and shorebirds. The tide table gods have not smiled upon Upper Newport Bay on weekends this fall. Even November 19 will require some significant paddling as we leave the shore and head up the marsh. Things will be easier on the return trip. Later in the trip the water will fall to an unusually low level, exposing more feeding areas than usual, and hopefully shorebirds will be very numerous and active. PAS members only and reservations required: email me. Meet at Newport Aquatic Center (newportaquaticcenter.org for directions). Allow enough time to rent a kayak at the center — details are available on their web site.

Santa Ana winds or significant rain will cancel the trip. I'll provide a phone number for participants to check if things are in doubt.

*Mark Hunter***C'est Chouette: Mountain Owls****Saturday, December 3, 2016****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 three 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 will drive to a few nearby spots to search for species we missed during the hike. Participants must be able to hike 3 miles round trip with an elevation change of 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***More field trips on page 6!****Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk****Sunday, November 20, 2016****Sunday, December 18, 2016****Sunday, January 15, 2017****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***Legg Lake & Vicinity****Saturday, November 5, 2016****Saturday, December 3, 2016****Saturday, January 7, 2017****7:30 am — 11:30 am**

These trips will cover some consistently good lake and park birding areas. Legg Lake has 1 produced good waterfowl numbers and varieties as well as an impressive list of migrants and wintering birds. Good for young and beginning birders. Time permitting we'll include the Pico Rivera spreading grounds or some other San Gabriel River locations.

From the 60 freeway, take Santa Anita Ave. south a short distance to the lake and parking lot on your right.

*Darren Dowell and Ed Stonick***Huntington Library Monthly Walk****Sunday, November 27, 2016****December 25, 2016 Canceled****Sunday, January 22, 2017****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.

Mark Hunter

WC = Wrentit Club!

Calendar
 Submit material for the next Wrentit by January 1

WCC = Wrentit Club
 Count Circle!

November 2016

2	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
5	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Legg Lake	Darren Dowell
6	Sun	6:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Big Santa Anita Canyon	Lance Benner
9	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E Colorado Blvd	See page 7
12	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
12	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	North Slope San Gabriels	Mark & Janet Scheel
13	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
15	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Santa Fe Dam	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
16	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Butterfly Genetics
19	Sat	10:00 am	Field Trip		Newport Back Bay Kayaks	Mark Hunter
20	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*	WCC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

December 2016

3	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Legg Lake	Ed Stonick
3	Sat	4:00 pm	Field Trip	WC	Mountain Owling	Lance Benner
7	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
10	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
11	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
14	Wed	7:30 pm	CBC pre-meet		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	See page 3
17	Sat	All Day	Christmas Bird Count	WCC	CBC Circle	See page 3
17	Sat	6:00 pm	CBC Dinner		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	See page 2
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman

January 2017

4	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
7	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Legg Lake	Ed Stonick
7	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Sapsuckers	Brittany O'Connor
8	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
11	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E Colorado Blvd	See page 7
14	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
15	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
17	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	San Gabriel Coastal Spreading Basin	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
18	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Salton Sea Future
22	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*	WCC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter
29	Sun	7:30 am	Field Trip		Seal Beach NWR	Frank & Susan Gilliland

* - reservations required, PAS members only

* Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (chair), (626) 765-5408, scheel@tapir.caltech.edu	Frank & Susan Gilliland, (626) 441-8487, gillilandsusan@gmail.com
Larry Allen, (626) 797-1810, larryallen@earlymusicla.org	Mark Hunter, (626) 344-8428, mark.hunter@pasadenaudubon.org
Lance Benner, (626) 791-1187, lbenner@charter.net	Mickey Long, (626) 285-8878, mstrongbird@charter.net
Ron Cyger, (626) 840-2566, ron@cyger.org (preferred)	Hill Penfold, (818) 352-4954, hpenfold@gmail.com
Darren Dowell, (626) 344-4003, dowell.darren@yahoo.com	Julia Ray, (818) 314-5127, jraymusic@att.net
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Jon Feenstra, (626) 319-4723, feenstra@alumni.caltech.edu	Luke Tiller, streatham2003@aol.com
Jon Fisher, (818) 800-2776, jonf60@hotmail.com	

Field Trips, continued

Santa Fe Dam

Saturday, December 10, 2016

7:00 am — noon

The flood basins are some of the last hold-outs of quality lowland riparian and alluvial fan scrub habitat in the Los Angeles Basin. Add irrigated grass, exotic fruiting trees, and a permanent lake and it makes for a nice mix of wintering birds. At the lake we'll seek ducks, gulls, and real geese among the barnyard crowd. We'll also walk through the treed park in hopes of interesting songbirds and maybe spend some time working the scrub near the dam for sparrows.

Entrance fee \$10. Meet at 7:00 in the first parking lot straight ahead at the bottom of the hill after passing the entrance kiosk. We'll leave our cars there and continue on foot.

Jon Feenstra



Veterans Park Sapsuckers

Saturday, January 7, 2017

8:00 am — 10:30 am

Who wouldn't like to spend a morning looking for sapsuckers?

Veteran's Park in Sylmar is known for having several different species of sapsuckers during the winter, and we'll try to find all of them! We'll also be on the lookout for Varied Thrushes, Mountain Chickadees, and maybe Golden-crowned Kinglets or a Plumbeous Vireo if we're really lucky. From the 210, exit Hubbard St. and turn north (a right from the westbound 210). Turn left on Eldridge, then right on Sayre until it ends at Veteran's Park. Turn right and park. Meet near the building at the southeast area of the park.

Brittany O'Connor



Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, January 29, 2017

7:30 am — noon

Be part of the lucky few Pasadena Audubon Society members to enter Seal Beach tidal salt marsh habitat. We'll look for several interesting species including Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Light-footed Clapper Rail, Red Knot and others.

Sign-up is required. To reserve your space, and to receive directions and rules, contact Susan at gillilandsusan@gmail.com before January 16, 2016 and provide the following information: Full name (first, middle initial, last), address (street, city, state, zipcode) and home phone number.

Only US citizens are allowed (per Navy rules). Bring government-issued photo ID.

Frank and Susan Gilliland

Salton Sea

Sat-Sun, February 4-5, 2017

All day

The Salton Sea Trip is a great way to get your year-list cookin'! The sea is one of the premier birding areas in

North America, but is in major transition at this time. On the weekend we usually end up with over 100 species and a few surprises. We will bird all day on Saturday and through lunch on Sunday.

This trip is limited to 12 PAS members (it's easy to become a member on our web site). Preference is given to those who can do the entire weekend. Please email me for more information or to make reservations.

Ron Cyger

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



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



November Meeting

See page 2 for a description of the special program about Heliconius butterflies, such as this Crimson-patched Longwing. Photo by Luke Tiller.

Young Birders at the WFO

Pasadena Audubon Young Birders Diego Blanco and Dessi Sieburth presented their work at the annual Western Field Ornithologists meeting in Fortuna, California in October.

Diego and Dessi are volunteering at Occidental College in the Moore Lab of Zoology with Dr. James Maley. The two young birders studied the geographic variation and intergradation in Elegant Quail from Mexico as well as the morphological variation in Golden-cheeked Woodpecker from Mexico. See more at www.pasadenaaudubon.org

Photo: Amber Blanco



Announcements

Magpie Bird Study Group

We meet 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, November 15, 2016
Santa Fe Dam
Meet at the Nature Center.

Tuesday, December 20, 2016
L.A. County Arboretum

Tuesday, January 17, 2017
S. G. Coastal Spreading Basin
Mines St. entrance off Rosemead Blvd., just south of Whittier Blvd.

Trip leaders: Sid Heyman, Julia Ray

DONATIONS TO PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Edwina Berg, Nicole Diaz-Ordaz, Elizabeth Jordan, Susan McCurdy, Marcia Miller, Hendrika Namikas, Ann Parish, Hill Penfold, Lois Tandy, Richard Taylor, Dave Weeshoff. Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunities

Pasadena Audubon is growing, and we need your help! In addition to conservation volunteers, who can sign up for projects as they are announced, we are looking for:

Hospitality — Hospitality volunteers are the glue that holds our meetings together! We really need people to help set up the room before the meeting, bring cookies, and clean up afterwards. If we get enough people to sign up, then we can rotate the responsibility. If you're interested, please contact Liz Cordero at ecordero@ph.lacounty.gov

Bilingual Assistance — We would really love to have our outreach brochure translated into Spanish and Chinese. If you are fluent in either of those languages and would like to help, please get in touch with Kym at kym.buzdygon@pasadenaaudubon.org.

Graphic Artist — We are looking for help to make our communications, outreach materials, and eventually our website look even more awesome and beautiful. If you have some experience in graphic design and would like to assist, please contact Deni Sinnott at denisinnott25@gmail.com.

The PAS crew is full of talented, friendly people, and we will be glad to welcome you.

Birds 'n Beers

Good food, good beverages, and good bird talk at this casual monthly gathering led by Luke Tiller, Catherine Hamilton, and David Bell. Everyone is welcome! 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, the second Wednesday of each month, at Lucky Baldwin's at 1770 E. Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena.

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 Wren*, 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)
 \$_____ (donation)

Make checks payable to, and mail to:

Pasadena Audubon, 1750 N Altadena Dr, Pasadena, CA 91107

Or pay with PayPal at www.pasadenaaudubon.org

Pasadena Audubon Society Board

President	Deni Sinnott	(626) 233-4128
Vice-President	Mickey Long	(626) 285-8878
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The Mother of Pasadena Audubon

At the first meeting of the Pasadena Audubon Society on March 25, 1904, one woman both addressed the meeting and became a signatory to the formation of the organization. That woman was Elizabeth Grinnell, who had a long-time interest in birds and whose home had been referred to as “Birds’ Retreat.”

The large home where she lived at 572 North Marengo in Pasadena is now replaced by apartment buildings, but the block on which it was located is still surrounded by many elegant homes with their porches characteristic of the era. In the 1890s and early 20th century this home was also where her husband, Fordyce Grinnell, a prominent local surgeon, pursued his practice and where her son Joseph Grinnell also resided. Joseph Grinnell became a famous ornithologist and will be featured in a future *Wrentit* article.

Together with Joseph, Elizabeth wrote several bird-related books including “Our Feathered Friends” (1898) and “Birds of Song and Story” (1901). Elizabeth also wrote a number of monographs on various individual species of birds whose study she had pursued.

All of these activities occurred before the formation of Pasadena Audubon. Might she be considered the “Mother of Pasadena Audubon?”

Ira Blitz

New Members

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