



Drawing by  
Guy Coheleach

# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 65 — No. 3

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

February–March 2017

## Western Screech-Owl

**W**estern Screech-Owls are one of the most widespread raptors in Southern California. They are common in the San Gabriel Mountains across a wide range of elevations up to at least 8000 feet at Dawson Saddle and Blue Ridge Campground.

Common places to find Western Screech-Owls are in Eaton Canyon, Rubio Canyon, Millard Canyon, Big and Little Santa Anita Canyons, Cherry Canyon, at the Cobb Estate, and in the Arroyo Seco upstream from JPL. There are also scattered populations in suburban areas of Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, and La Canada-Flintridge.

Elsewhere their range extends from southern Alaska through Southern California, east to southeastern Colorado and western Texas, and deep into Mexico.

They eat a wide variety of prey including small mammals, insects, lizards, and birds. They nest in woodpecker holes and other cavities.

Western Screech-Owls are well known for their "bouncing ball" calls but actually produce an enormous variety of vocalizations. They can be heard all year but are most vocal in the spring. Western Screech-Owls closely resemble Eastern Screech-Owls in appearance but their vocalizations are distinctly different, which led to their species split in the 1980s.

*Lance Benner*



**Photo: Lance Benner**

## President's Perch

**H**appy New Year! 2017 promises to be a great one for PAS. This year marks 113 years that Pasadena Audubon has worked to bring the excitement of birding to the community. Our Pasadena Membership is at an all-time high and we have many new initiatives ahead including a revamped Birdathon we hope you will find engaging and fun! Our young birders are making history—two were featured speakers at the WFO conference (several others attended) and one of them was recently featured on CBS News to relate the joy of birding to an even larger audience!

Never underestimate the remarkable power of asking for help. If you are one of the many donors who has stepped up to donate to PAS in the past year, let me say "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart. We are so pleased to announce that our annual appeal and Facebook campaign resulted in donations from over 100 of our members who are committed to help us grow our outreach and conservation efforts in the coming year.

Looking forward to birding with some (or all) of you in the coming year. We need you to help us continue our growth; you know it takes a village! So roll up your sleeves-- help us with outreach, fundraising, baking cookies, cleaning-up habitat, or assisting with meeting set-up and stand up as a proud member of the most vibrant Audubon Chapter in the State!

Happy Birding,

*Deni Sinnott*

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## February Program

### Breeding Bird Atlas

Wednesday, February 15, 2017  
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

The Los Angeles Breeding Bird Atlas is a labor of love that has taken almost 20 years to go from initial surveys to the printed page. The atlas is based on over 28,000 records provided by over 300 volunteer observers contributing more than 10,000 hours of coordinated field effort covering every nook and cranny of L.A. County. It is the most in-depth study of Los Angeles's 240-plus species of breeding birds. The project was supported by PAS and our membership. Come learn what the atlas can tell us about the breeding birds of L.A.

Larry is the lead author and also an expert tour leader who regularly shares his knowledge on all things gull, shorebird or parrot. Larry will have copies of this important volume available to purchase at the meeting.

## March Program

### PAS: The Next Generation

Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Jon Fisher

As many of you know, PAS's Young Birders Club continues to go from strength to strength. Come hear what fires the passions of the next generation of Pasadena birders. We will have three short presentations from Young Birders Club members Diego Blanco, Teodelina and Justina Martelli. Topics will include keeping a field sketchbook, birds in art, and unravelling the mysteries of intergradation and speciation in birds.

Come meet the next generation of Pasadena birders and ornithologists and find out more about the PAS Young Birders Club.

## April Program

### Million-Munia March

Wednesday, April 19, 2017  
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

Scaly-breasted Munias, a rapidly increasing exotic species from South Asia, have had a good run in Southern California since they escaped captivity in sufficient numbers to form breeding populations. Weedy fields and flood basins provided plentiful seed, and nest sites were available. Then *they* came — attractive but menacing invaders from Africa: Pin-tailed Whydahs. Brood parasites, like Brown-headed Cowbirds. Lacking their usual targets, estrildid finches, the whydahs chose to parasitize... Scaly-breasted Munias! Come witness the massive munia protest and the calls for whydah deportations.

OK, you got me. We don't actually know what the April program will be yet. But by the time the next *Wrentit* hits mailboxes on April 1, we will have full details. Hmm, April 1. You probably won't believe *that* announcement, either.

*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.*

## Hahamongna Lawsuit Update

In December 2014, Pasadena Audubon Society and the Arroyo Seco Foundation sued the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works over their plan to remove over 2 million cubic yards of sediment from Hahamongna Watershed Park. Their plan would take five years, involve hundreds of diesel truck trips through neighborhoods and near schools, and would leave a permanent 50-70 acre wasteland right in the middle of the willow-mule fat forest behind Devil's Gate Dam. We sued the County because their EIR (Environmental Impact Report) violated CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) in some major ways. In February 2015, we made a settlement offer to the County, which they ignored. In our offer, we asked them to remove the sediment using the plan approved by the City of Pasadena, one that was developed with a lot of community and expert input and support.

We go to trial January 31, 2017.

For the last two years, we've hoped that the County would come to its senses and reach an agreement with us. They've refused, and instead, launched a PR attack on us, especially last year when El Nino threatened to bring a lot of rain. In article after article, they implied that it would be our fault if the Rose Bowl flooded and washed down to the sea. Ok, that might be a slight exaggeration of what they said, but only slight. Yes, it's true that the lawsuit has delayed their project. But not for the

## Conservation

reasons they claim. The lawsuit has delayed the project, not because we filed an injunction (we haven't) or because a judge has stopped them (one hasn't). Their project is delayed because they have not been able to get any of the four permits they need. Not one.

So here's where I'd like to give a shout-out to our brilliant attorney, Mitch Tsai. His diligence is one key reason the County has not gotten those permits. He and the rest of the legal team made sure that the four permitting agencies received as much data and information as possible so that their permitting decisions would be based on all the available information, and not only what the County wanted them to know. Mitch also uncovered County documents that connected the sediment removal project to the enormous Eaton Canyon Pipeline, a project that has not been designed or planned yet. It is illegal to separate the EIR of one giant project into two smaller EIRs, but that is apparently what the County has done.

I'm also extremely grateful to our members for providing that key data to Mitch. Lance Benner, Darren Dowell, Mark and Janet Scheel, and Dave Bell, to name just a few, have all scoured the basin looking for birds like 'Least' Bell's Vireo, Yellow Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Most importantly, they reported it on ebird, so the data is there for anyone to access. These birds are protected, so their findings have been invaluable.

If it feels like we've been fighting since forever to save

**Continued on page 4**

## Pasadena San Gabriel Valley CBC— 2016

After a lengthy anticipation, it's hard to believe that another Christmas Bird Count has come and gone. We've now seen the completion of a remarkable seventh decade for the Pasadena CBC. That substantial period of time has generated a great deal of useful data, many good rare birds, and resulted in countless hours in the field. It's also been a lot of fun for the many participants over the years.

For an inland count, the Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley does quite well, consistently turning in a species count well into the 160s. This year it was no surprise that we broke the 160 barrier, although not by much (162). Even the Los Angeles CBC, which includes coastal habitats that we lack, doesn't exceed us by too much.

The count is traditionally held on the first Saturday of the count period and we're stuck with whatever weather we get on count day. Even the worst case for the San Gabriel Valley isn't bad compared to much of the country, but this year we were fortunate. We missed the rain by a day or so and temperatures were pleasantly cool but not cold.

We know that development and urbanization has had a negative impact on many native species, but in some ways it's also had a positive one. Ornamental and other non-native plantings have attracted rare wintering flycatchers, warblers and orioles over the years and this count was no exception.

Intrusive species such as Varied Thrushes, Pine Siskins, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Lewis's Woodpeckers were essentially absent on the 2016 count. Numbers of American Robins were also notably low.

Waterfowl highlights included a Snow Goose at Lincoln Park and a Cackling Goose, a Ross's Goose and a Greater White-fronted Goose at Legg Lake. Single Common Goldeneyes— rather rare on the count— were at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia and along the San Gabriel River.

In addition to our usual Ring-billed, California and Western Gulls, both Thayer's Gulls and Herring Gulls were found along the San Gabriel River on count day. Also of note was a Mew Gull at Legg Lake.

An early morning start at Legg Lake produced a Least Bittern. This species is regular there, but generally difficult to locate by sight or sound after sunrise.

Allen's Hummingbirds were unknown historically on the Pasadena CBC, but in recent decades have expanded inland and are now common in the lowlands throughout the year. As usual, many were recorded on this year's count.

During a spell of warm weather just prior to count day, a Common Poorwill was recorded on the Mt. Wilson Toll Road within the count week period.

Owling efforts tallied a small number of Western Screech-Owls and Great Horned Owls. The real prize however was a Northern Saw-whet Owl in Big Santa Anita Canyon. They are probably present in the circle every winter, but it requires determination and a bit of luck to find them.

The release of non-native species both here and elsewhere has resulted in well-established local populations. A variety of parrots and parakeets thrive today in the San Gabriel Valley and environs. Whichever camp you're in as far as the desirability of these introduced birds, they appear to be here to stay... and of course we count all of

them. We recorded five species of parrots and parakeets this year. Red-crowned Parrot, Yellow-chevroned Parakeet, White-winged Parakeet, Mitred Parakeet and Blue-crowned Parakeet.

Fairly common as a spring migrant but rare in winter was a Hammond's Flycatcher at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino.

Moist foothill canyons with tangled undergrowth are great places to look for Pacific Wrens, yet they are scarce and often missed on the count. This year we were fortunate that one turned up in Monrovia Canyon.

The continuing Black-and-white Warbler was present at Legg Lake on count day. In a departure from most recent counts, this was the only unusual warbler recorded.

Sparrows of interest included a Vesper Sparrow at Santa Fe Dam, a White-throated Sparrow at Legg Lake and a rare for us "Red" Fox Sparrow at Hahamongna Watershed Park.

All too often missed on count day was a Northern Cardinal at Whittier Narrows. One would think the bright red males at least would be hard to overlook, but when not singing they can be difficult to find.

Wrapping things up was a pair of rare in winter Hooded Orioles and a scarce but more expected Bullock's Oriole at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino. These birds are generally attracted to the various flowering plants found at the north end of the desert garden.

It was another rewarding count, though we were a few species below the recent average. Each year we miss a few expected birds, but this year the misses were few. Mountain Quail, Pine Siskin and Wilson's Warbler were about it.

For now there's a great bird year to enjoy before the next count, with spring migration for some species already underway. At our latitude migration is nearly a year round phenomenon. One intriguing aspect of this is that it's hard to predict what changes we'll see throughout the year and of course by next December, but that is part of the fun of birding and the CBC.

Thank you to all who participated and helped make it such a success. I hope to see everyone back for the 2017 count as well as a few new faces.

*Jon Fisher*

## Birdathon!

Maybe you have heard of Birdathon? Maybe not. It is our annual fundraiser where we all go out trying to find as many species as possible in a day or for the whole weekend. This year we will kick it up a notch (just like the Food Network) and have some extra activities and prizes! We already have a commitment from Eagle Optics for a pair of binoculars...and we are going to solicit a few local restaurants for gift certificates. We welcome small teams, big teams, individual efforts, and everything in-between. We will be adding a barbecue to celebrate the day and give all participants some swag for just being a part of the day. Mark your calendars for April 28-30. Birdathon is a celebration of birds as we raise dollars for our programs and operating expenses. BIRDATHON is all weekend with the barbecue on the 29th. (Many more details in the April issue of *The Wrentit*, including information about participating teams.) We need folks to help, so call Deni Sinnott or Kym Buzdygon if you want to get in on this! You don't want to miss out on the best birding fun of the year!

*Deni Sinnott*

## Birding 101

March 14—28

**B**irding provides enjoyment and challenge throughout life, getting you outdoors on your street or around the world. Birding knowledge is also a great cocktail party topic and this is a great opportunity to explore the world of Birding in a classroom environment.

This class is designed for beginners, but all are welcome. We will cover the basics of identification (sight, sound, behavior), optics, field guides, habitats, birding ethics, and many other topics. Our goals are to help class participants become familiar with local birds and to be comfortable on birding field trips. Class size is limited so don't delay!

Classroom sessions: Tuesdays, March 14, 21, and 28, 2017 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Field trips: Saturdays, March 18 and 25, 2017 early morning to about noon.

Participants should plan on attending all classes and field trips. Location of the class and field trips will be sent to the class participants.

Cost: \$60 for Pasadena Audubon members, \$80 for non-members (but, will include membership in Pasadena Audubon Society). This fee will cover all three classes and two field trips. Payment is payable to "Pasadena Audubon Society" and is due at the first class session (there are scholarships available for young birders).

Sponsored by Pasadena Audubon Society and Eaton Canyon Nature Center. For questions or to make reservations, contact Mark and Ron at [Birding101@pasadenaaudubon.org](mailto:Birding101@pasadenaaudubon.org).  
*Mark Scheel and Ron Cyger*

## Great Backyard Bird Count

February 17-20, 2017

**T**he GBBC is an annual event sponsored by the Cornell Lab, which also administers the eBird reporting system and the Merlin bird ID app for phones and tablets. The GBBC encourages you to count birds in your "backyard," whatever form that takes, and submit the results using eBird. The citizen science data that you submit is extremely valuable in studying population trends in bird species.

If you are new to eBird, you will be surprised at its ease of use and its ability to "give back" by providing you with maps and lists of bird sightings in your area, both very recently and over many previous years. You can also generate life lists for your own back yard, a particular region or state, or the entire planet. It's also easy to share lists with others, for example, in group outings.

Last year GBBC participants submitted almost 150,000 checklists, with over 5,000 species reported and over 18 million individual birds counted. Please resolve to join them this year and make this big event even bigger. For more information, point your web browser to [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org).

If you need an "alternate back yard" in which to count, attend the February 19 walk at Eaton Canyon (see page 5 for details.)

## Conservation, continued

Hahamongna, you're not far off. Though other groups have been working even longer, our efforts began in 2006. Remember the misguided plan to put athletic fields there? And we've been trying to correct this ill-begotten sediment removal plan since 2008. You might be just the tiniest bit tired of these battles; I know I am. But this is not the time to let down. Your efforts, whether logging your bird observations into eBird or donating to the legal fund, are paying off. And who knows? Maybe by the time you read this, the County will have settled and we can focus more of our energy on birding there for fun!

*Laura Garrett*

## Annual Appeal 2016

**T**hanks to everyone who participated in our end of year fundraising campaign! Pasadena Audubon is in the process of growing and becoming even more involved in the community through outreach, education, and conservation projects. The overwhelming support we've received from you, our membership, shows how engaged and committed our chapter is to sharing the excitement of birds and birding with the community.

**California Condor** (\$1000 and higher): Deni Sinnott.

**Golden Eagle** (\$500-999): Ira Blitz, Michael & Jan Long.

**Raven** (\$250-499): Emily Allen, Tracey Alsobrook, Susan Kosar Berry, Hannah Carbone, Elizabeth Cordero, Chris Dean & Rosie Veniegas, Sydney Feeney, Mark Hunter, Larry Johnson, E.J. Remson.

**Oriole** (\$50-249): Margaret Adams & Joel Edstrom, Larry Allen, Lance Benner, Joanne Clopper, Elizabeth Cole, Dorothy Currier, Linda Donato, Steve & Hilary Dorsey, Laura Garrett, Garry George, Frank & Susan Gilliland, Wendy Gordon & Michael Gottlieb, Lew Hastings, Marilynn & James Hildebrandt, Brenda Kuo, John & Diane Landrum, Richard A Luczyski, Kenn & Hweili Miller, Jeff Moore, Marilyn Morgan, Diana Neder, Joan Probst, Phil Richardson, Lois Tandy.

**Warbler** (up to \$49): Susan Bagby, Sally Beer, Pam Gibson Bingham, Harry & Karen Brumer, Lee & Carole Bush, Ann Carlton, Cindy Carson, Dr & Mrs Richard Cooper, Kathy Degner, Diane Dennis, Merrilee Fellows & Robert Mackin, Genette Foster, Karen Freeburg, Julia G Garnant, Sharon Gillman, Evelyne Glaser, Bettina Graf, Marsha Grieco, Candace Gunther, Gayle Hagegard, Lindy Hardman, Alan Harris, Kingsley Hines, Dan Holguin, Daniel D Hutchinson, Pattie Fee Komai, Mako Koiwai, Michelle Kuczma, Elayne Landy, Catherine Ledner, Donald A Lieu, Margaret, Little, Cecilia Lowenthal, Tom & Becky Lynn, Elaine Macpherson, Carl Matthies, Paul & Linda Maurin, Ninarose Mayer, Shirley Mcculloch, Beverly V. Mckenzie, Heidi Owen Mitchell, John Moran, Kerry Morris, Erica Moyer, Charlotte Oventile, Dennis & Margaret Page, Lori Paul & Robert Staehle, Hill Penfold, Bill Principe, Sharon & Bill Ramsey, Jean Richardson, Karen Rogers, Shirley Rundell, Anne Shapiro, Kathy Sharum, Nancy Shobe, Diane Sipieter, Keith Skelton, Carol Smith, Bob & Jan Stull, Karen Suarez, Heather Sweeny, Yvonne Tsai, Lisa Vernon, Becky Waters, Chrystal Watson, Roland Wilhelm, Tracy Wise, Daniel & Grace Wu.

**Parrot Chase**

**Sunday, February 12, 2017**  
**4:30 pm — nightfall**



Most PAS members now know that the famous “Temple City” parrots have moved to Pasadena! Join us as we follow the evening flock as it gathers size and moves to roosting sites in suburban Pasadena. Study and compare the looks and vocalizations of Red-crowned, Lilac-crowned, Red-lored, and Yellow-headed Parrots and perhaps other parrot and parakeet species as well. Birders of all ages and non-members welcome. Bring scopes if you have them.

Meet at La Pintoresca Park in Pasadena, at the northeast corner of Fair Oaks Ave. and Washington Blvd. Exit the 210 Freeway at Fair Oaks and proceed north c. 1 1/4 miles. Park on the surrounding streets and gather around the small parking lot on the east side. Depending on the location of the roosts, we will either walk or drive from there.

*Larry Allen*

**Tejon Ranch**

**Monday, February 20, 2017**  
**8:30 am — 3:30 pm**

California Condors and Golden Eagles can be found soaring above the canyons of the Tehachapi Mountains. If we are lucky we can see pronghorn antelope, Burrowing Owls and some of California’s largest diversity of Oaks. At 422 contiguous square miles, or 240,000 acres, Tejon Ranch is the largest piece of privately held property in California. Tejon Ranch is a hotspot of biological diversity and lies at the confluence of four major biogeographic regions.

Trip requirements: (a) be a PAS member, (b) sign up with gillilandsusan@gmail.com, (c) pay the Tejon Ranch fee - new in 2017, (d) details and directions will be provided to registered participants.

*Frank and Susan Gilliland*

**Field Trips****Quail Lake & Vicinity**

**Saturday, February 25, 2017**  
**7:30 am — 2:00 pm**



Join us for a trip to the extreme northwest corner of LA County, where we will look for waterbirds, raptors, and other winter visitors that are hard to find elsewhere in the county. Both Scaup species are usually present, along with Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser.

Both Bald and Golden Eagles are possible, as are Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon. Past rarities seen on this trip include Barrow's Goldeneye, California Condor, Long-tailed Duck, and White-winged Scoter. We will bird Quail Lake and then move to other hot spots in the area. If people are especially enthusiastic, we can bird past 2pm.

Meet in the parking lot at the west end of Quail Lake at 7:30 am. To get there, take the I-5 Freeway north, then take the Hwy 138 off-ramp east for about two miles. Quail Lake is on your left. Bring food and water, and a scope and an FRS radio if you have them. Note that we will be walking the entire length of Quail Lake, which is slightly more than a mile each way on level gravel. It can be cold and windy, so don't forget warm clothes. It takes about 1.25 hours to get to Quail Lake from Pasadena, so please don't drive alone. Also keep in mind that there are no gas stations in the area.

*Mark and Janet Scheel*

**Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park**

**Sunday March 5, 2017**  
**7:30 am — 11:30 am**



Come join us for a morning of birding in Bonelli Regional Park. The habitat is primarily coastal sage scrub, with some chaparral, mixed woodland, riparian, park land, and a big reservoir, Puddingstone, that supports wintering waterfowl and, OK, maybe some gulls too. We'll be on the lookout for Bonelli

**Continued on page 7**

**Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk**

**Sunday, February 19, 2017**  
**Sunday, March 19, 2017**  
**Sunday, April 16, 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, February 4, 2017**  
**7:30 am — 11:30 am**



These trips will cover some consistently good lake and park birding areas. Legg Lake has 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*

**Huntington Library Monthly Walk**

**Sunday, February 26, 2017**  
**Sunday, March 26, 2017**  
**Sunday, April 23, 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 March 1

**WCC** = Wrentit Club  
 Count Circle!

**February 2017**

1	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
4	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	<b>WCC</b>	Legg Lake	Darren Dowell
8	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E Colorado Blvd	See page 9
11	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	<b>WCC</b>	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
12	Sun	10:00 am	Field Trip*	<b>WC</b>	Pelagic: Redondo Beach	Kym Buzdygon
12	Sun	4:30 pm	Field Trip	<b>WCC</b>	Parrot Chase	Larry Allen
15	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Breeding Bird Atlas
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	<b>WCC</b>	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
20	Mon	8:30 am	Field Trip*		Tejon Ranch	Frank & Susan Gilliland
21	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	<b>WC</b>	Bonelli Regional Park	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
25	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	<b>WC</b>	Quail Lake	Mark and Janet Scheel
26	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*	<b>WCC</b>	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

**March 2017**

4	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	<b>WCC</b>	Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
5	Sun	7:30 am	Field Trip		Bonelli Regional Park	F. & S. Gilliland, D. Sieburth
8	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers	<b>WCC</b>	1770 E Colorado Blvd	See page 9
11	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	<b>WC</b>	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
15	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Pas: The Next Generation
19	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	<b>WCC</b>	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	<b>WC</b>	San Dimas County Park	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
25	Sat	All day	Field Trip		Borrego Springs	Luke Tiller
26	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*	<b>WCC</b>	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

**April 2017**

1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	<b>WCC</b>	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Darren Dowell
1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	<b>WCC</b>	Malibu Lagoon	F. & S. Gilliland, D. Sieburth
5	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
8	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	<b>WCC</b>	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
9	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	<b>WC</b>	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
12	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E Colorado Blvd	See page 9
15	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	<b>WC</b>	Ballona Freshwater Marsh	Ron Cyger
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	<b>WCC</b>	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	<b>WC</b>	Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
19	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Million-Munia March
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*	<b>WCC</b>	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter
28-30	Fri-Sun	All day	BIRDATHON!		All over L.A. County	More info in April <i>Wrentit</i>

\* - reservations required, PAS members only

\* Trip Leader Information

Mark Scheel (chair), (626) 765-5408, <a href="mailto:scheel@tapir.caltech.edu">scheel@tapir.caltech.edu</a>	Frank & Susan Gilliland, (626) 441-8487, <a href="mailto:gillilandsusan@gmail.com">gillilandsusan@gmail.com</a>
Larry Allen, (626) 797-1810, <a href="mailto:larryallen@earlymusicla.org">larryallen@earlymusicla.org</a>	Mark Hunter, (626) 344-8428, <a href="mailto:mark.hunter@pasadenaudubon.org">mark.hunter@pasadenaudubon.org</a>
Lance Benner, (626) 791-1187, <a href="mailto:lbenner@charter.net">lbenner@charter.net</a>	Mickey Long, (626) 285-8878, <a href="mailto:mstrongbird@charter.net">mstrongbird@charter.net</a>
Ron Cyger, (626) 840-2566, <a href="mailto:ron@cyger.org">ron@cyger.org</a> (preferred)	Hill Penfold, (818) 352-4954, <a href="mailto:hpenfold@gmail.com">hpenfold@gmail.com</a>
Darren Dowell, (626) 344-4003, <a href="mailto:dowell.darren@yahoo.com">dowell.darren@yahoo.com</a>	Julia Ray, (818) 314-5127, <a href="mailto:jraymusic@att.net">jraymusic@att.net</a>
Kathi Ellsworth, (626) 524-0652, <a href="mailto:pandionsky@yahoo.com">pandionsky@yahoo.com</a>	Ed Stonick, (626) 796-0595, <a href="mailto:edstonick@att.net">edstonick@att.net</a>
Jon Feenstra, (626) 319-4723, <a href="mailto:feenstra@alummi.caltech.edu">feenstra@alummi.caltech.edu</a>	Luke Tiller, <a href="mailto:streatham2003@aol.com">streatham2003@aol.com</a>
Jon Fisher, (818) 800-2776, <a href="mailto:jonf60@hotmail.com">jonf60@hotmail.com</a>	

## Field Trips, continued

specialty species such as California Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, Bald Eagle, Greater Roadrunner, and Mountain Bluebird, as well as over-wintering vagrants. A spotting scope will be helpful. Rain cancels, but showers will not keep us away.

Carpooling is encouraged as there is a \$10 per vehicle admission fee. We will assemble at the East Shore Parking Lot near Bathroom 11. From Pasadena, take the 210 East to the 57 South. Exit at Via Verde and turn east on Via Verde. Enter the park on Via Verde and follow the road to East Shore Drive. Turn left and follow East Shore Drive approximately one-half mile and find a large parking lot adjacent to the lake. Look for birders! A detailed map can be found at:

<http://www.bonellipark.org/wwwroot/pictures/Park%20map%20Updated%20June%202008.pdf>

*Frank & Susan Gilliland & Dessi Sieburth*

## Borrego Springs Hawkwatch and More

**Saturday, March 25, 2017**

Come join expert hawkwatcher Luke Tiller for a day at Borrego Valley Hawkwatch in Borrego Springs. We will spend the day checking out the flight of Swainson's Hawks at the watch but also take time to explore an area which can hold a variety of interesting desert species like White-winged Dove, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher and Black-throated Sparrow. We will also explore local mesquite woodland for perhaps three species of thrasher (including Crissal) as well as another local specialty: Lucy's Warbler. There are a couple of local migrant traps to explore too, so expect a full day.

You can find out more about the Borrego Valley Hawkwatch on their website [borregohawkwatch.blogspot.com](http://borregohawkwatch.blogspot.com), or on the hawkcount website at [hawkcount.org/siteinfo.php?rsite=545](http://hawkcount.org/siteinfo.php?rsite=545)

Borrego Springs is about 2.5 hours drive from Pasadena so participants may want to consider an overnight stay. To book a place on the trip and receive details on where to meet, etc., contact me at [streacham2003@aol.com](mailto:streacham2003@aol.com)

*Luke Tiller*

## Malibu Lagoon State Park

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**

**8:00 am — 11:00 am**

You'd be a fool to miss this bird walk! There's always something special to see at Malibu Lagoon. The habitat is a unique ecosystem, primarily saltwater marsh, and supports a large variety of birds. Some special species we may see include Snowy Plover, as well as many other shorebird species, waders, and maybe some seabirds if we are lucky. A spotting scope will be helpful. Walking is generally easy, but the beach is sandy. We are never too far from the cars. Rain cancels, but showers will not keep us away.

Carpooling is encouraged as there is a \$12 per car admission fee for all day parking. We will assemble at the parking lot, look for birders! From the 101 west, exit Las Virgenes Road, travel 10 miles west through Malibu Canyon,

turn left at the 1, the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), and travel 1.5 miles east. Look for the parking entrance on your right.

*Frank & Susan Gilliland & Dessi Sieburth*

## Ballona Freshwater Marsh

**Saturday, April 15, 2017**

**7:30 am — noon**

Join us for a walk around Ballona Freshwater Marsh. This is the only remaining freshwater marsh in Los Angeles County. While on this walk, we may see Large-billed Savannah Sparrow, Cinnamon Teal, and Least Bittern.

To get there, take the 10 freeway west, 405 freeway south, 90 freeway west, off at Culver Blvd and go south, take overpass, then turn sharp left at Jefferson (first light) and park at the gated entrance at beginning of fence around the marsh. There has not been a bathroom at this spot lately, so be prepared. Time permitting, we may also explore some nearby locales.

*Ron Cyger*

## Hahamongna Monthly Walk

**Saturday, March 4, 2017**

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**

**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.

*Darren Dowell*

## 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, April and following months**

**8:00 am — 10:00 am**

The Chilao Visitor Center walks continue each month, weather and roads permitting. (No walks in February or March this stormy winter.)

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*

## Joseph Grinnell: Inspiring Generations of Ornithologists

“Put it all down,” Joseph Grinnell once told Ward Russell, who had conducted field work with the celebrated ornithologist and founding Director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley. “You may not think it’s important but somebody may.”

Professor Grinnell, son of Fordyce and Elizabeth Grinnell (profiled in the November 2016 *Wrentit*), did just that – he put it all down. In fact, his patient observation, precise notetaking, skilled mapping and photography, thorough research, and unflappable dedication as a naturalist greatly served his contemporaries, as well as future generations of California residents. Both human and avian.

Born in Fort Sill, Oklahoma on February 27, 1877, Joseph Grinnell moved with his family to Pasadena, where he attended high school. By 1897, he had earned a bachelor’s degree from Throop Polytechnic Institute (now California Institute of Technology). He then headed to Stanford, where among his many contributions to the sciences, he taught high school and college biology, while pursuing a masters and a PhD.

In addition to his work at Stanford and UC Berkeley, his creation of a detailed protocol for recording field data and his 1895 compilation of Pasadena’s first printed bird list, Joseph Grinnell served as president of the American Ornithologists’ Union.

During this time, he also shared his passion, precision, and expertise as author of myriad books (many penned with his mother Elizabeth) and scientific articles. And from 1906 until his last days in 1939, Professor Grinnell edited one of the first ornithology journals, the Cooper Ornithological Club’s *The Condor*, sharing the insights gleaned through his dedicated and inspiring life’s work.

throughout the year. Birds noted here the last hour: Linnet (about 12, the commonest bird, feeding on cactus fruits); Cactus Wren (about 4); Meadowlark (1); Western Gnatcatcher (1); Cal. Jay (1); Rufous Hummer (about 4); Anna Hummer (2); Turkey Buzzard (33, in loose flock high overhead moving regularly southeast – migrating?); San Diego Wren (2); Mourning Dove (5); Pasadena Thrasher (1); Brown Towhee (1). Mammal sign is abundant – mostly Perodipus and Hesperomys intermedia, the latter consisting of <sup>low</sup> heaps of dry cactus joints under cactus thickets. Saw two cottontails. Two Utas only reptiles yet noted. 10 a.m. – 12 Horned Larks flew over going south; also 4 Barn Swallows going southeast; Valley Quail (heard and many tracks seen);

Elizabeth Cavanaugh

## Oh, That Lewis...

The only specimen to have survived the Lewis and Clark expedition, a Lewis’s Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), also resides at the Harvard ornithology collection. Mounted in a lifelike pose rather than as a study skin, the bird was the only specimen collected by Lewis and Clark to withstand the journey back from the western United States, and its name reflects the expedition on which it was described.

Many of the specimens in the collection belonged at one point to John James Audubon himself, and now make up an important part of the inventory at Harvard.

Diego Blanco

**In Spring 2016 Diego Blanco visited the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. This is one in an occasional series of vignettes from his visit. More in future issues.**





### State of Our Audubon Union

**Friday, Mar 17, 2017, 6:00 pm  
Mile Square Park Banquet Center,  
Fountain Valley, CA**

Please join Sea and Sage Audubon Society at our March Annual Dinner. Our speaker is **National Audubon President, David Yarnold**—coming to us from his home in New York. He is an outspoken and eloquent advocate for birds and the environment. Mr. Yarnold became Audubon's 10th president in 2010, charged with leading a turnaround that would expand Audubon's effectiveness while building on the organization's strong conservation legacy. With 463 local Chapters, 22 state offices and 44 Audubon Centers across the country, Audubon connects nearly four million people using science, advocacy and education. "We are all Audubon," Yarnold says. "No other organization has our wingspan when it comes to being able to drive conservation action, whether in individual backyards or in Congress."

Please check our website [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org) for information about reservations and pricing. We will also have a great silent auction. See you there!

### Young Birders Club

The Young Birders Club meets on the same evenings as the general meetings on page 2, but club meetings start at 6:30 pm. In addition to meetings, young birders participate in great field trips and projects that make older birders envious. More info:

[www.pasadenaaudubon.org/?q=kidscorner](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org/?q=kidscorner)  
**Celia and Emmie learning more about California Condors. Photo: Susan Gilliland**



### Announcements

#### DONATIONS TO PAS

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter: Denise Castillo, Marshall Hyman & Olga Palo, Carl Matthies. Thank you! More donors in our year-end appeal article on page 4!

#### House "Drought" Bill Could Have Disastrous Effects for Central Valley Birds

Read more about the new Congress' ominous plans for California at: [ca.audubon.org](http://ca.audubon.org)

#### 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 Wrenit*, 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:  
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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](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)

### 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, February 21, 2016**  
**Bonelli Park**  
*Meet in first parking lot, first left after you enter the park.*
- Tuesday, March 21, 2016**  
**San Dimas County Park**  
*Meet in parking lot on Sycamore Cyn near San Dimas Canyon*
- Tuesday, April 18, 2016**  
**Rancho Santa Ana**  
*Admission policy: [www.rsabg.org/visit](http://www.rsabg.org/visit)*  
*Trip leaders: Julia Ray, Sid Heyman*

**Pasadena Audubon Society Board**

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Website	Janet Scheel	(626) 817-6322

Magpie Bird Study Group	Julia Ray	(818) 314-5127
	Sid Heyman	(626) 571-5991

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**Ten Dollar Pelagic**

**Sunday, February 12, 2017**

**10:00 am — 1:00 pm**

**J**oin PAS for a fabulous day of searching for seabirds (and maybe even whales!) for only \$10 per person!

We're on a different boat this year, with a limit of 80 people. This trip will be first come first serve, and limited to Pasadena Audubon members plus one guest (we may open it up later if we are unable to fill the boat).

To RSVP, please email Kym at [kym.buzdygon@pasadenaaudubon.org](mailto:kym.buzdygon@pasadenaaudubon.org). You will need to pay in cash at the dock on the day of the trip.

**New Members**

**ALHAMBRA:** Elaine Fuller, Robert Lapenna, Kong Liao, Larie Palacios, Woo Tom;  
**ALTADENA:** Deborah Chandra, Anne Chapman, Louise Hamlin, Craig Wisner;  
**ARCADIA:** Andrew Crowell, Robert Goldman, Gerald Huld, Gloria Koepfel, Xin Hua Wei, Connie Zaia; **AZUSA:** Beverly Aschenbrenner; **GARDEN GROVE:** Thomas Wurster & Liga Auzins; **EL MONTE:** Joy de los Santos; **GLENDALE:** Richard Brannin, Laura & Michael Hoopes, Tom & Becky Lynn; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Katie Salter, Joon Shim, Anita Sohus; **LONG BEACH:** Jeff Moore; **LOS ANGELES:** Jacob Eggert, Seth Lower, James Maley, Harold Strecker; **MANHATTAN BEACH:** Sondra Paskach; **MONROVIA:** Elizabeth Burby, Janelle Frisbie, Carolyn Murphy, Roberta Thornburg, Christina Van Oosten, Laura Powell; **MONTEREY PARK:** Francisco Alonso, Rosemary Lopez; **MONTROSE:** Joyce Thompson; **PASADENA:** Greta Beilfuss, Lorelei Boswell, Tom Brady, Susan Burdett, Paulette Cerutti, Gilbert & Dorothy Conn, Gwendolyn Currier, Holly Evans, Mark Fedor, John Gilmour, Linda Hammes, Sue Holiday, Jordan Keagle, Carolyn Murphy, Gouri Nandi, Thomas Otten, Amy Regalado, Laura Scott Sellers, Jesse Staub, Veronica Szilkazoy, Winston Tanaka, Mildred Van Ness, Jennifer Webster; **ROSEMEAD:** Vikki Young; **SAN GABRIEL:** Melinda Blackway, Juliana Lucey; **SAN MARINO:** Henry Fan, M. Kolesnik; **SIERRA MADRE:** Mary Frey, Marta Jasberg, Keith Latham, Tracy Parker, Sharon & Bill Ramsey; **SHERMAN OAKS:** David Barton; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Mako Koiwai; **TEMPLE CITY:** Oscar Rudluff; **TOPANGA:** Wakako Rollinger.