



# THE WRENTIT

Founded 1904

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

Volume 65 — No. 4

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

April–May 2017

## Brandt's Cormorant

**B**randt's Cormorant is a common bird on Southern California shorelines in winter. Unlike the similarly common Double-crested Cormorant, which is often found far inland in freshwater lakes as well as the ocean, Brandt's Cormorant is always found in salt water, seldom venturing even a short distance inland in bays and estuaries. The third Southern California cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, is also an exclusively marine bird. Double-crested has prominent orange markings on the head, Brandt's has a dark bill, and Pelagic has a very long neck and a very slender bill.

The *Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* notes that those three species feed in distinctly different ways. All three pursue fish using their webbed feet more than their wings. The Double-crested Cormorant feeds in open water; the Pelagic Cormorant feeds among rock formations; and the Brandt's Cormorant feeds close to sandy bottoms or flat rocky bottoms.

Sibley also notes that the common practice of perching with wings outspread does not seem to be a temperature-regulating mechanism for cormorants. Instead, they use the posture to dry their feathers. Brandt's Cormorant is usually found within sight of land because they perform this perching behavior regularly.

There are large breeding colonies on every island in the Channel Islands group. On the mainland, there is also a small, sometimes sporadic breeding presence on the steep cliffs that border La Jolla Cove. Here the nests are only a short distance from a busy walkway with thousands of tourists passing each day. Nests are constructed from seaweed, kelp, and sticks, and located on narrow ledges. There's a lot of variation in when



Illustration: Diego Blanco

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## President's Perch

Spring is in the air.. the poppies are blooming and the birds in the yard are gathering nesting materials. Spring also brings quite a few events that might interest you. New members are invited to attend our New Member Reception at my home on the evening of April 11th. We will have Earth Day outreach tables in Whittier on April 8th, at Caltech on April 21st, at Pasadena Farmers Market on April 22nd, and at All Saints Church on Sunday, April 23nd. If you can assist at these tables please contact Kym Buzdygon.

Pasadena Audubon hosts our annual BIRDATHON fundraiser on Saturday April 29th. This year we'll have a picnic and some prizes to get more folks involved...see the article on page 3. Finally, BIRD L.A. will take place on May 6th. PAS will have our regular Hahamongna bird walk. If you can identify a few birds you might want to come along to demonstrate the Joy of Birding to first timers. Hope to see you all at our meetings and in the field.

Happy Birding,

Deni Sinnott

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### April Program

#### Birds and Their Names

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

A bird by any other name... Have you ever wondered why a Three-wattled Bellbird is so named, or why there are names like buzzard, bustard, ptarmigan, cisticola, seedsnipe, bulbul, phainopepla or phalarope? Well, wonder no more! Come Join **Thomas Hinnebusch** for an evening of everything you wanted to know about conventions used in naming birds, but were afraid to ask. Etymology, morphological derivation, the history of the English language, and the age of discovery — all illustrated with Tom's bird photos from around the globe.

Thomas J. Hinnebusch is Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and African Languages at UCLA.

### May Program

#### Saving the Butcher

Wednesday, May 17, 2017  
7:30 pm—9:00 pm

San Clemente Island is home to one of the world's rarest songbirds, the San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike. Listed as federally endangered in 1977, only 14 adults were left in the wild in 1998. The U.S. Navy invested heavily in captive breeding and release, long-term monitoring, habitat restoration, and non-native predator control. After a high of 179 adults was recorded in 2009, a new threat, increased drought, has steadily reduced the population since then. This talk will discuss shrike ecology, the history of recovery efforts, population size, and feature photos of the birds of San Clemente Island.

**Justyn Stahl** has worked on San Clemente Island for over 9 years as the project manager for shrike recovery. He also maintains the island's migratory bird records. He holds a Master's Degree in ecology from the University of Florida.

### June Dinner

#### That's a Wrap

Saturday, June 10, 2017  
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

The PAS fiscal year starts July 1 and ends June 30 each year. Come celebrate another very successful year of our chapter reaching out to the community, defending our local habitat, and supporting outstanding birders. The dinner features delicious catered food from Stonefire Grill, complimentary beer and wine, great conversations, prize drawings, and a chance to meet newly elected officers for the 2017-2018 year. Bring your bird photos on a USB drive (limit: 5 minutes' worth) for viewing by your fellow members. It's a very good deal at \$20 per person. **You must RSVP; to reserve your spots**, mail a check to PAS, attention June Dinner, at the address shown on the back cover of the newsletter.

*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.*

### Bird-Friendly Tree Trimming Practices

Spring is definitely in the air! The days are longer, the scent of ceanothus wafts through open windows, and many birds are either nesting or getting ready to nest. Trees and shrubs send up a lot of fresh growth now, and it can be very tempting to prune them. Please don't! I'm sure you don't want to harm a nest or interfere with nesting birds, and it is against local, state, and federal law to do so. So ideally, we should only prune and trim from October to January, as that is the time with the lowest nesting rate. If you absolutely must prune, remove brush, or trim a tree from February through September, then I recommend that you hire a biologist who can check the area in question. You might be tempted to check yourself, but birds are very good at hiding their nesting behavior, so it's best to use a professional.

If you see someone, especially someone hired by your city, trimming a tree without having checked for nesting birds, then please call the city's urban forestry division to notify them that they are violating federal law. You will probably be told that they "checked for nests" before they trimmed; this likely means that they sent a non-biologist to check moments before they sent the chainsaws up into the tree, but that is insufficient and too late. They will have already disturbed any nesting birds, and a non-biologist is likely to miss nests and nesting behavior.

At this point, I urge you to call your city council

**Continued on page 4**

### Conservation

### Judge Orders Stay in Hahamongna Big Dig Lawsuit

The Pasadena Audubon Society and the Arroyo Seco Foundation prevailed yet again in their lawsuit against the County over its Big Dig. On March 23, 2017, Judge James C. Chalfant dealt a blow to the L.A. County Flood Control District's plans to remove over 2 million cubic yards of sediment from behind Devil's Gate Dam when he issued a stay on the project until the County can show that they are not in violation of CEQA with their EIR. (Try saying that ten times really fast.) He also ordered that the County present their revised EIR in a public hearing before the Board of Supervisors and that the public be given 45 days in which to comment prior to the hearing. Critically, he also found that the County must analyze the cumulative impacts on the biological resources caused by both the Big Dig and the Eaton Canyon Pipeline.

In February, the judge had preliminarily decided that the County's EIR was flawed in its air quality and habitat mitigation. The March ruling adds to the burden on the County by including the cumulative impacts on the biological resources of the two projects that we argued are related. While the judge did not agree with us on that issue according to the law, this ruling essentially yokes the two projects together in terms of the EIR. It may have been a circuitous route to get there, but he got there in the end.

**Continued on page 4**

## Great Backyard Bird Count — 2017

The Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by eBird and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is one of the largest citizen science projects in the world. Each year, in mid-February, birders all over the world count birds and submit their results to eBird. This year they submitted 177,714 checklists. That's a lot of citizens! In the Los Angeles area, 779 individual checklists were submitted, covering 242 species.

PAS has some eBird champs, and they came through again during the event. In the Los Angeles area, by number of species, PAS members captured the first, second, fourth, and fifth positions: Mark Scheel, Darren Dowell, Larry Schmahl, and Dessi Sieburth. They ceded third place to ornithologist Kimball Garrett. The hottest spot, by count of species (84), was Peck Road Water Conservation Park, where PAS will host a bird walk, cleanup, and picnic on April 2.



Photo: Mako Koiwai

The "official" PAS event during GBBC weekend was the regular monthly walk February 20 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Hill Penfold led a large group that ranged from experienced birders to complete novices. The creek was running high enough that we birded only west of the creek, starting in drizzle and ending in good weather. After some discussion and negotiation, we submitted a shared checklist to eBird: 35 species and hundreds of individuals.

Mark Hunter



California Quail

[commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=21252832](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=21252832)

## Birdathon! Team Verdin!

Dessi Sieburth, the 2015 ABA Young Birder of the Year and member of the Pasadena Audubon Society Young Birder's Club, continues his Big Photo Day for the Pasadena Audubon Society's annual Birdathon.

Dessi and his Team Verdin will be photographing as many species of birds as possible in Los Angeles County during daylight hours. Dessi did his first Big Photo Day in 2014 and this year's Birdathon will be Dessi's fourth Big Photo Day. Last year, Dessi and his team set a new team record with 134 species photographed. How many species of birds will Dessi photograph at this year's Birdathon?



Burrowing Owl, 2016  
Photo: Dessi Sieburth

## Birdathon! Big Sit!

Saturday April 29, 2017  
7:30 am — 2:00 pm

Several teams will be out and about on Birdathon weekend, April 28 to 30, attempting to find as many species as possible in order to raise funds for Pasadena Audubon's grants and programs. Be sure to ask folks for tax-deductible donations on a per-species or flat-rate basis. The laziest, friendliest, and largest team will be at the Big Sit at Legg Lakes in the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. All are welcome. We occupy the lawn that is about 80 yards west of Restroom 7. Park in the Santa Anita Ave parking lot south of the 60 freeway. Bring lawn chairs and your own lunch. At noon, PAS will supply drinks, desserts, and some cool prizes. Donation hint: we expect to find 50 to 60 species during the Big Sit.

Mark Hunter



## Page One Bird, continued

nesting begins, with some nests starting as early as January and some as late as June. 2017 is a rather busy breeding year in La Jolla.



"Gargle" display. All photos: Candy Dougherty

On the PAS pelagic trip in Marina del Rey in January, Diego Blanco was inspired by the bright blue gular patch of breeding plumage and painted the illustration that you see at the beginning of this essay. In March, Candy Dougherty visited the breeding colony in La Jolla and some of her photos are featured here. If you're reading this newsletter in black-and-white, you owe it to yourself to visit [www.pasadenaudubon.org](http://www.pasadenaudubon.org) and see the vivid colors on this bird. Or, take a trip to La Jolla!

Mark Hunter



## Tree Trimming, continued

representative to complain. The only way that we can change this is to make our voices heard. Over and over again! Pasadena even adopted bird-friendly tree and shrub trimming guidelines as part of their Master Plan, but they violate these guidelines regularly and with impunity. By the way, the phone number for Customer Service for Pasadena's Department of Urban Forestry is 626-744-4321. If you do call them to let them know about tree trimming that might be harming birds, please let me know. And do let your councilmember know as well. Together, we can help make this region a bit friendlier to the birds right when they need it most---nesting season!

Thanks for all you do,

Laura Garrett

## Big Dig, continued

Unexpected was the judge's decision that says the County may not do any work on the project until the revised EIR is approved. And he meant *any* work. The attorneys for the County assumed that they could begin work on setting up contracts for the project and that they could continue to work on getting the four required permits, but the judge was unequivocal: a stay means *no work*.

Because of the stay, the County argued that they might not be able to complete the new EIR in time to get it to the public for 45 days, take it to the Board of Supervisors, get approval, get permits, and get the contracts in place by next fall, which is the earliest they could begin given that it's nesting season right now. They asked if they could have the DEIR available for a shorter period before it goes before the Supervisors. The judge replied that he couldn't help them, that they needed to give the public 45 days to review and comment on the EIR before it goes to the Supervisors.

What does this mean for us? It means that we have some time to campaign the Board of Supervisors to reduce the scope of the project. It means that we may have bought another year's respite for Hahamongna. It means we have another nesting season to gather data on the birds of Hahamongna, especially the 'Least' Bell's Vireo (*photo: Arroyo Seco Foundation*), Yellow Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Thank you for your support, whether of time, money, or talent, and get ready, because we certainly won the battle today, but this war ain't over yet.

Laura Garrett



## Help Our Sister Chapter

**Deadline: April 13**

**S**an Fernando Valley Audubon is closely tracking proposed cleanup plans for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in the mountains of the west San Fernando Valley. They need **your** support to provide feedback on the preferred plan to the Department of Energy. Numbers matter! The more people who comment about the best cleanup plan, the better the chance that it will be chosen. Commenting is quick, it's easy, and it's important. Learn more about the alternatives, and how to provide feedback, at: [www.sfvaudubon.org/2017/02/26/help-preserve-the-santa-susanna-field-laboratory](http://www.sfvaudubon.org/2017/02/26/help-preserve-the-santa-susanna-field-laboratory)

## Malibu Lagoon State Park

### Field Trips

**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*

## Piute Ponds and Vicinity

**Saturday, May 6, 2017**  
**6:30 am—early afternoon**

In spring, Piute Ponds and nearby desert oases are full of northbound shorebirds, warblers, and flycatchers. We will start at Piute Ponds, where we will look for migrants as well as desert specialties such as LeConte's Thrasher. Piute Ponds sometimes hosts birds that are very hard to find elsewhere in the county, such as Bank Swallow, Black Tern, and Franklin's Gull. After Piute Ponds we will visit Apollo Park and, time permitting, the (in)famous Lancaster Sewage Ponds.

Note: Piute Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base, which has restricted entry. Space is limited, and Edwards needs advance notice of participants, so it helps to sign up early. Please email Mark Scheel if you would like to attend. We will be meeting in the northern Antelope Valley at 6:30am; the meeting place will be arranged.

*Mark and Janet Scheel, Darren Dowell*

## 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*

## Malibu Seawatch

**Sunday, May 7, 2017**  
**7:30 am—noon**

Feel like experiencing the excitement of pelagic birding without the seasickness? Enjoy a pleasant morning of scoping the ocean for moving seabirds from one of the best seawatching promontories in Southern California. Scoters, loons, cormorants are likely and such pelagic birds as shearwaters, jaegers and alcids are possible, as are Gray Whales and dolphins. We might take some time after our seawatch to check out whatever is hanging out at Zuma Beach or Malibu Lagoon. Bring a scope and a folding chair if you've got one and if you're into that sort of thing.

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## Eaton Canyon Monthly Walk

**Sunday, April 16, 2017**  
**Sunday, May 21, 2017**  
**Sunday, June 18, 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*

## Hahamongna Monthly Walk

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**  
**Saturday, May 6, 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*

## Huntington Library Monthly Walk

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**  
**Sunday, May 28, 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 May 1

WCC = Wrentit Club  
Count Circle!**April 2017**

1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Hahamongna Watershed Park	Darren Dowell
1	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Malibu Lagoon	F. & S. Gilliland, D. Sieburth
5	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
9	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	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	WC	Ballona Freshwater Marsh	Ron Cyger
16	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
18	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
19	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Birds and Their Names
23	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*	WCC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter
28-30	Fri-Sun	All day	<b>BIRDATHON!</b>	WC	All over L.A. County	See page 3

**May 2017**

3	Wed	7:30 pm	Board Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Deni Sinnott
6	Sat	7:30 am	Field Trip	WCC	Hahamongna	Darren Dowell
6	Sat	6:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Piute Ponds & vicinity	M & J Scheel, D. Dowell
7	Sun	7:30 am	Field Trip	WC	Malibu Seawatch	Jon Feenstra
10	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E Colorado Blvd	See page 9
13	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
13	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip		Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
16	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WCC	Lower Arroyo Seco	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
17	Wed	7:30 pm	General Meeting		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Saving the Butcher
21	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
27	Sat	6:30 pm	Field Trip	WC	San Gabriel Mtn Owls	Lance Benner
28	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip*	WCC	Huntington Library	Mark Hunter

**June 2017**

3	Sat	8:30 am	Field Trip		Tejon Ranch	Frank & Susan Gilliland
10	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	County Arboretum	Julia Ray
10	Sat	8:00 am	Field Trip	WC	Chilao Visitor Center	Hill Penfold
10	Sat	6:00 pm	<b>Annual Dinner</b>		Eaton Canyon Nature Center	See page 2
14	Wed	5:00 pm	Birds 'n Beers		1770 E Colorado Blvd	See page 9
18	Sun	8:00 am	Field Trip	WCC	Eaton Canyon Nature Center	Hill Penfold
21	Tue	9:00 am	Magpie Study Group	WC	Descanso Gardens	Julia Ray, Sid Heyman
24	Sat	6:30 pm	Field Trip	WC	Throop Peak	Lance Benner

\* - 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>
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Jon Feenstra, (626) 319-4723, <a href="mailto:feenstra@alumni.caltech.edu">feenstra@alumni.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>	

**Malibu Seawatch, continued**

Meet on the bluff by the lifeguard shelter at Leo Carrillo State Beach at 0730.

*Jon Feenstra*

If the Angeles Crest Highway isn't open to Dawson Saddle, we will post an update on the PAS listserv and will hike up Mt. Waterman instead.

*Lance Benner*

**C'est Chouette: San Gabriel Mountain Owls**



**Saturday, May 27, 2017**  
**6:30 pm — midnight**

Join us as we search for owls and nightjars in the higher areas of the San Gabriel Mountains.

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

Limited to 10 people who did not attend the owl trip in December 2016. Please email the leader to reserve a spot.

*Lance Benner*

**Tejon Ranch**

**Saturday, June 3, 2017**  
**8:30 am — 4:30 pm**

Join us for an all day (\*weather permitting, of course) Cross Ranch Tour (CRT). At 422 contiguous square miles, or 240,000 acres, Tejon Ranch is the largest piece of privately held property in California. We will head across the ranch in search of Burrowing Owl, Greater Roadrunner, Golden Eagles and California Condors.

Trip Requirements: a) be a PAS member b) sign up with gillilandsusan@gmail.com c) pay Tejon Ranch fee d) more details and directions will be provided to registered participants.

**Throop Peak**



**Saturday, June 24, 2017**  
**7:30am—1:00 pm**

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

Meet at Dawson Saddle at mile 69.6 on the Angeles Crest Highway, about 45 miles from I-210 in La Canada. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent, sturdy shoes, a hat, and a coat. The hike is about four miles round-trip; a few sections are steep, and all of it is at altitudes in excess of 7900 feet. Please carpool and plan for 90 minutes to drive from Pasadena.



**Hahamongna birders brave the frisbee golf course**



**Northern Flicker, Hahamongna. Photo: Philip Regan**

**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 at the entrance of the Arboretum. Admission is \$5 – free for members of the Arboretum or Audubon, and free for children under 12. (No walk April 8)

*Julia Ray*

**Chilao Visitor Center**



**Second Sunday of each month**  
**8:00 am — 10:00 am**

The Chilao Visitor Center walks continue each month, weather and roads permitting.

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*

## Getting into Harvard

During spring break 2016 I had the rare opportunity to visit to the Museum of Comparative Zoology's ornithology collections at Harvard University. I had read about the collection online and, thanks to Jeremiah Trimble, the collections manager, I was able to visit. The collections are located within the Museum of Comparative Zoology's lab building on Harvard's campus. The museum, itself a division of the Harvard Museum of Natural History, encompasses various departments of zoology in addition to ornithology, such as herpetology and ichthyology. At the time of our tour, the collections had just been moved to their new location in the museum's laboratory building and were already well into the process of being organized and set up. The new space offers the collections more room and better facilities overall, allowing them to expand and improve. Housing around 400,000



projects while I was at the collections dealing with topics ranging from seabird diversity to structural color in feathers.

The birds-of-paradise, family Paradisaeidae, are found only on islands of the South Pacific, and are among the most elaborately plumaged families of birds. Their intricate displays and behaviors rely on heavily modified feathers that act as display structures. Clockwise from top left: King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise, Blue Bird-of-Paradise, Twelve-wired Bird-of-Paradise, Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise.

The nesting cavity of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker was also another of the collection's unique items, and showed the size and skillful excavation of the bird that made it. Ivory-billed Woodpeckers required the large, wide trees that grew in old-growth forests in the southeastern United States and Cuba to forage and nest, and the destruction of their habitat made their survival impossible.

*Diego Blanco*

**More Harvard vignettes in future issues.**



specimens, including eggs, nests, skeletons, and study skins, Harvard's collection is the largest university-based ornithology collection, and one of the largest ornithological research collections in the world. The collection contains representatives of every genus of bird, and about 8,300 species.

Lining the walls of the collections are mounted specimens representing several different avian families, arranged in taxonomic order to illustrate the evolutionary relationships of bird families.

The collections serve to provide useful resources for graduate students and ornithology classes at Harvard. Several graduate students were working on research and educational



*Diego Blanco and Jeremiah Trimble, in the Harvard collections*





**Dr. Garrett Newkirk**

The Pasadena Audubon Society had its first meeting on March 25, 1904, presided over by its Chairman, Dr. Garrett Newkirk (the office of President wasn't created until 1908). He had come from Chicago with his wife Martha and their son John in the late 1890's and settled in Altadena at the head of Santa Rosa Avenue, building his house in a grove of eucalyptus trees. He was a dentist by profession but was passionate about the protection of birds.

At the end of the 19th Century an uneasy and mistrustful relationship had developed between bird protectionists and the professional ornithologists. To illustrate, in 1902, Charles B. Cory, president-elect of the American Ornithologists' Union, when invited by the District of Columbia Audubon Society to speak responded: "I do not protect birds. I kill them." Dr. Newkirk wrote a letter to the Condor, the Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club, in which he protested "the cruel indifference to and lack of genuine sympathy with bird life on the part of some of the scientific ornithologists".

With the formation of Pasadena Audubon Dr. Newkirk served as temporary Chairman, as President (1910-1919), as program chairman and as a speaker. At one program he told of beautiful cloaks, helmets and necklets woven from feathers from the Hawaiian Islands which had resulted in the extermination of some of the birds there.

Newkirk was fond of creating bird poetry which he often presented at the meetings. Many of his poems can be found in *Bird-Lore*, published by the MacMillan Company.

*Ira Blitz*

**Announcements**

**DONATIONS TO PAS**

These PAS members and friends have recently made donations to our chapter. Thank you!

**WARBLER** (\$5-\$99): Frank Burrows, Denise Castillo, Elizabeth Cole, Tilda & Terry DeWolfe, Linda Donato, J.M. Guard, Robert & Patricia Murar, Tom Petersmeyer, Hildegard Pitters, Velia Rivera, Joanne Weigel

**ORIOLE** (\$100-\$249): Norm & Anna Arnheim, Gloria Cooper, Lew Hastings, Don & Scarlett Hibner, Marcia Homiak, Kathleen Linowski, Phil Richardson. Henry & Loretta Selinger

**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, April 18, 2016**  
**Rancho Santa Ana**  
*Admission policy:*  
[www.rsabg.org/visit](http://www.rsabg.org/visit)

**Tuesday, May 16, 2016**  
**Lower Arroyo Seco**  
*Parking lot near casting pond*

**Tuesday, June 20, 2016**  
**Descanso Gardens**

*Trip leaders: Julia Ray, Sid Heyman*

**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](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)

**Pasadena Audubon Society Board**

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Vice-President	Mickey Long	(626) 285-8878
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<b>Members at large:</b>	Norm Arnheim (Grant Program), Susan Gilliland, Lance Benner, Grace Wong, Kathy Degner, Nina Clark	
Website	Janet Scheel	(626) 817-6322

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

The Wrentit is published by the Pasadena Audubon Society  
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, CA, 91107  
WWW.PASADENAAUDUBON.ORG

Editor: pas.wrentit@gmail.com	Mark Hunter	(626) 344-8428
Printing	Print Spot	(323) 269-4218

See chapter-only dues on previous page. Wrentit subscription only—1 year \$10. National Audubon Society membership fees—\$35. National members receive Audubon magazine and The Wrentit. Messages or queries for Pasadena Audubon may be left at (626) 355-9412. For change of NAS address call: (800) 274-4201.

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1750 N. Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91107

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Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
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Printed on  
10% recycled paper  
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**Not a Good Day to Be a Mouse**

See page 2 for information about our May meeting, where you'll learn much more about the Butcher of San Clemente Island. Photo by Justyn Stahl.

**New Members**

**ALHAMBRA:** Tom Sudeck; **ALTADENA:** Peter Hammersley, Sam Holtzman, Marcus McCall, Cynthia Parenti, Monica Reyes; **ARCADIA:** Lynn Becker; **CHINO HILLS:** Ayla Quershi; **COVINA:** Pat Mena; **LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE:** Alis Castiglia, Teresa Wilde; **LA CRESCENTA:** Doug Farr; **LANCASTER, OH:** Sandy & Larry Dow; **LONG BEACH:** Kim Moore; **MONROVIA:** Dennis Geary, Maggie Yenoki; **PASADENA:** Coryn Abe-Haupt, Daniel Asimus, Donald Banks, Marge Galindo, Ione Miere, Luz Perseveranda, Barbara Smith, Penelope Sullivan; **SAN DIMAS:** John Dickson; **SAN GABRIEL:** Lori Mediate; **SANTA ANA:** Robin Suan; **SOUTH PASADENA:** Melody Mulrad, Maureen Whitman; **TEMPLE CITY:** Theresa Bolt; **TUJUNGA:** Anita Adcock; **UPLAND:** Ann Schrantz



**Brandt's Cormorant**

Is our Page One Bird this month. Candy Dougherty's photo was taken at a nesting colony in La Jolla.

**Elections**

Got a hankering to be an officer of Pasadena Audubon in the 2017-2018 fiscal year? Well, there are two things you should know. **Nominations** for officer positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) are called for during the April 19 general meeting. And the actual **voting** takes place during the May 17 general meeting. Get your campaign slogans ready!