

WESTERN TANAGER



Sandhill Cranes | Photo By Mary Freeman



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Field Trips, Bird Walks, Monthly Speaker Series

PUBLIC LECTURES

March 11, 2020

“A Conversation with Irma Muñoz: Redefining the Traditional “Green” Dialog”

April 8, 2020

“Griffith Park Raptor Survey: Nesting Patterns and Observations” | Presented by — Courtney McCammon

TIME

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION

Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook
 6300 Hetzler Rd
 Culver City, CA 90232
 (310) 558-5547

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LA AUDUBON'S MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES

MARCH 11

A Conversation with Irma Muñoz



The changing population demographics in the City and County of Los Angeles must substantially change our approaches to neighborhood engagement. Traditional modes of outreach have become irrelevant and ineffective. That is the core of my interactive conversation on March 11 at 7:30 pm. Irma R. Muñoz is the Founder/President of Mujeres de la Tierra an environmental equity non-profit focused on healing La Madre Tierra and re-defining the traditional “green” dialogue in Los Angeles, California.

DATE: Wednesday, March 11

TIME: 7:30 PM–8:30 PM

WHERE: Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Visitor Center, 6300 Hetzler Rd, Culver City 90232

Meetings are held in visitor center theater room — drive all the way up Hetzler Road to the top of hill. Parking — free parking in upper lot adjacent to the visitors center

We hope to see you at this free event.

APRIL 8

Griffith Park Raptor Survey: Nesting Patterns and Observations

Presented by: Courtney McCammon



Survey results and ongoing observations from a citizen science driven project looking into the nesting behaviors and patterns of Los Angeles' raptor species. After four years, insights have been gained as to where raptors are nesting and how they are using urban Los Angeles to thrive.

DATE: Wednesday, April 8

TIME: 7:30 PM–8:30 PM

WHERE: Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Visitor Center, 6300 Hetzler Rd, Culver City 90232

Meetings are held in visitor center theater room — drive all the way up Hetzler Road to the top of hill. Parking — free parking in upper lot adjacent to the visitors center

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WINGING IT: DISCOVERING THE CARIBBEAN BIRDING TRAIL

By Robbie Lisa Freeman

WHEN MY INTENDED TRIP TO THAILAND FELL THROUGH, I found myself scrambling for a new destination to go binging on exotic birds. Scouring the internet, I stumbled upon *BirdsCaribbean.org*, the largest organization dedicated to the conservation of wild birds and their habitat in the Caribbean. Turns out, *BirdsCaribbean.org* had established something called the Caribbean Birding Trail which, according to Executive Director Lisa Sorenson, was designed to educate birders about the more than 700 species of birds in the Caribbean, including 171 endemic species found nowhere else in the world! I was smitten. This was starting to sound like the trip of a lifetime, with lots of lifer birds to be seen. Even more exciting, I would be travelling in December, when more than 150 migrating birds wing their way to the region.

Further research ensued, and *BirdsCaribbean.org* led me to some of the top birders and field experts on various islands. I reached out to three of them, and my trip was solidified. I was headed to Guadeloupe, Dominica and Saint Lucia to chase as many of the endemic birds of the Caribbean as my 24-day adventure would allow.

Still, even as I packed, I had moments of trepidation. Would we even find birds? With the category 5 Hurricane Dorian savaging the Bahamas in September 2019, and Hurricane Maria destroying 90 percent of Dominica's structures in 2017, I wondered how the birds of the Caribbean had survived. What was their current plight? Were they thriving, or had habitat destruction caused a steep decline?

Bird guide Anthony Levesque and writer Robbie Lisa Freeman
One of the foremost birding experts on Guadeloupe and a contributing author to the newly released field guide, The Birds of the West Indies, Lynx Edicions, 2019, Anthony Levesque showed us nine of the nine endemic birds of the Lesser Antilles. He can be reached at <http://www.birding-guadeloupe.com>*

**The West Indies are comprised of the Greater Antilles, Lesser Antilles and Lucayan archipelago which make up much of the Caribbean Islands.*



Photo courtesy of Randy Freeman, the writer's fellow adventurer and an avid birder himself.

GUADELOUPE: December 7–15, 2019

Patio Paradise

I opened my eyes at sunrise our first morning at Rochers Caraibes Eco-Village in Pointe-Noire, Guadeloupe to a cacophony of chirping, chortling, twittering, and singing sounds. I pulled back the gauzy mosquito netting on our king-sized bed and stepped lightly to the floor. With excited wonder, I unlocked the French doors to our over-sized outdoor deck and was stunned at the hundreds of birds flitting in the treetops, lining the deck rails, and hopping around the patio. Our hostess, whom we'd told of our love for birds, had filled her deck-side feeders in the early hours to make sure we awoke our first day to an amazing birding experience. I grabbed my camera and sat immersed in delight for an hour, clicking off dozens of shots of Bananaquits, Bullfinches and Purple-throated Caribs raiding the feeders.

Bananaquits, small nectivores abundant throughout the West Indies, Mexico and beyond, have curved beaks, a bright yellow chest, charcoal-black head, wings and tail, and a wide white eye stripe. Nick-named the sugar bird, the Bananaquits were happily partaking of several feeders stocked with raw brown sugar. Not to be outdone, the much larger Lesser Antillean Bullfinch and his mate occasionally muscled their way to the sugar bowl. Endemic to the Lesser Antilles, the male is characterized by glistening black plumage, punctuated with a reddish throat and lores. The female has fine features of her own, with her brownish-grey body, and reddish-brown wings, tail and undertail coverts. But perhaps the most exotic morning visitor was the Purple-throated Carib, a large hummingbird endemic to the Lesser Antilles and distinguished by its brilliant black plumage, maroon-purple throat, and long curved beak.

Three amazing birds by 7 AM, and we hadn't even left the patio.



Purple-throated Carib

Flashing a maroon-purple throat and luminescent aquamarine wings, the Purple-throated Carib breeds on multiple islands throughout the Caribbean. Its populations are considered stable for now — good news for these delicate beauties. | Photo by Robbie Lisa Freeman

Guadeloupe has the largest number of unique and different birds in the lesser Antilles Islands, according to Anthony Levesque, founder of AMAZONA and Levesque Birding Enterprise. They include nine that are endemic to the Lesser Antilles, plus five endemic to the Lesser Antilles plus Puerto Rico.

Birds of the Lesser Antilles

- Guadeloupe Woodpecker (found only on Guadeloupe)
- Plumbeous Warbler (exclusive to Guadeloupe and Dominica)
- Forest Thrush (Guadeloupe, Dominica, Montserrat and, rarely, Saint Lucia)
- Lesser Antillean Saltator (Guadeloupe, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Martinique)
- Lesser Antillean Swift (Guadeloupe, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Martinique)
- Brown Trembler (Guadeloupe, Dominica, and eight other islands)
- Lesser Antillean Flycatcher (seven islands including Guadeloupe, Dominica and Saint Lucia)
- Scaly-breasted Thrasher (12 islands, including Guadeloupe, Dominica and Saint Lucia)
- Purple-throated Carib (Guadeloupe, Dominica and ten other islands of the Lesser Antilles)

Birds of the Lesser Antilles plus Puerto Rico or Virgin Islands

- Lesser Antillean Pewee (Guadeloupe, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Martinique plus Puerto Rico)
- Bridled Quail-Dove (Guadeloupe and eight other islands of the Lesser Antilles, plus Puerto Rico)
- Antillean Crested Hummingbird (Guadeloupe and 13 other islands of the Lesser Antilles, plus Puerto Rico)
- Green-throated Carib (Guadeloupe and 14 other islands of the Lesser Antilles, and Puerto Rico)
- Lesser Antillean Bullfinch (Throughout the Lesser Antilles plus Virgin Islands)

For more information on the Caribbean Birding Trail visit Caribbeanbirdingtrail.org or [@caribbeanbirdingtrail](https://www.instagram.com/caribbeanbirdingtrail).

Anthony Levesque

We met Anthony Levesque at the Parc National de la Guadeloupe, part of a nearly 54,000-acre UNESCO biosphere reserve where visitors will find lush tropical rainforests, waterfalls, mangroves, and the promise of birds that they've likely never seen before — and may never see elsewhere. There are 286 discovered species on Guadeloupe, Levesque tells us. He should know. He discovered over 50 himself during his 22 years of field work as a ranger for Petite-Terre Nature Reserve, a wildlife consultant with the National Hunting and Wildlife Agency of France, and founder of AMAZONA, an NGO devoted to bird study, conservation, and education on Guadeloupe. Today, Levesque is still active in AMAZONA, but his main business is Levesque Birding Enterprise, focused on guiding, bird surveys and educating kids at school.

With a steely charm, a sharp eye for spotting, and an encyclopedic knowledge of Guadeloupe's birds, Levesque is just the kind of expert you want by your side when your top goal is to spot the most coveted bird on Guadeloupe, the Pic de Guadeloupe. Found nowhere else in the world, the Guadeloupe Woodpecker is the only surviving endemic bird of the island. Often, it can be heard tap-tapping high up in the trees in Parc National, and seen — if you're lucky — through a scope, which is how we viewed our prize. When asked about the impact of hurricanes on these rare birds, Levesque explained that woodpeckers can actually thrive in the aftermath of a hurricane. "With the decimation of forests, there are more dead trees that act as perfect habitat for woodpeckers and other cavity-nesting birds," said Levesque. "While habitat loss does potentially threaten the woodpecker, for now the Pic de Guadeloupe is a relatively stable population."

Other birds of the area may not have fared as well. Levesque has, for the past six years, been working with local birders to maintain a Breeding Bird Survey. The latest results seem to indicate that species like the Bridled Quail Dove, Scaly-naped Pigeon and Forest Thrush have diminished.

"Although hurricanes are not new to this region, they are happening more frequently, and the recovery of birds seems to be happening more slowly," said Levesque.



Lesser Antillean Bullfinch

The Lesser Antillean Bullfinch is abundant in the Lesser Antilles (plus more recently the Virgin Islands) and can be seen everywhere, from backyards to the rainforests to the high trails of La Soufrière, the active volcano on Guadeloupe's Basse-Terre island. It is rarely seen outside the Lesser Antilles. | Photo by Robbie Lisa Freeman



Guadeloupe Woodpecker

The Pic de Guadeloupe is Guadeloupe's only surviving endemic bird. Fortunately, its population is stable. It sports totally black plumage except on the belly and chest, which is a deep red-wine color. | Photo courtesy of Mrs. Frantz Delcroix



Forest Thrush

Characterized by a large yellow eye ring and beautiful white spotted breast plumage, this hard-to-find bird is endemic only to four islands in the Lesser Antilles.

Photo courtesy of Anthony Levesque



Lesser Antillean Saltator

With its large beak, the Saltator has been associated with the Cardinal-Grosbeak family of birds, but more recent studies relate it to Tanagers. Either way, it's a striking bird.

Photo by Robbie Lisa Freeman



Brown Trembler

The Brown Trembler is prevalent in the forested areas of Basse-Terre and can be spotted shaking and trembling its wings as it scrambles along a tree branch foraging.

Photo courtesy of Anthony Levesque

Other primary threats to birds in Guadeloupe, besides climate change, have been the introduction of non-native species, such as the mongoose and common cats.

“The mongoose was introduced in 1883 with the idea that it would rid the island of rats invading the sugar plantations, and initially it was hailed as a success,” Levesque explained. “But researchers later dispelled that myth, as rats are nocturnal and mongoose hunt during the day. Instead, other native wildlife, such as ground-nesting birds, lizards and sea turtle became endangered, or disappeared, according to researchers.”

Even as he spoke, a mongoose emerged from the low brush, stalking the Bridled Quail-Doves scavenging around the park. These birds, rarely found outside of the Lesser Antilles islands, feature an iridescent turquoise or blue cowl below the nape of the neck, with magenta on the mantle just above the wings. A prominent white whisker stripe extends from the base of the beak to the neck, resembling a bridle.

Eager to showcase all of the nine birds endemic to the Lesser Antilles,

Levesque pointed out a Forest Thrush foraging in nearby shrubs. Thanks to its large, yellow eye ring and white spotted belly, this predominantly brown bird is fairly easy to identify.

One of my favorite birds of the day, the Lesser Antillean Saltator, was foraging in the taller trees. This songbird has jewel-green plumage on its back and feathers, with a light grey chest and throat, brown eyes, and a large white eyebrow. Saltator, meaning dancer or leaper in Latin, may refer to the way the bird leaps through the trees when foraging, or hops on the ground.

Perhaps the oddest bird sighted was the Brown Trembler, with its long decurved beak, yellow eyes and curious habit of drooping and shaking its wings at its sides as it forages. The first one I saw was skittering up a tree branch, trembling its wings frantically as it tracked his prey.

Before the day was through, we had seen all nine of the birds endemic to the Lesser Antilles. But there was more to Guadeloupe’s birding trail than the rain-forested Basse-Terre side of the country.

Grande-Terre

To the east of Basse-Terre, you can cross a narrow sea channel to the Grande-Terre region of Guadeloupe. Known for its beaches, flat plains and sugar plantations, tourists flock to this region, as do shorebirds and other regional birds. Having ticked off a number of our dream birds with Levesque, we set out to wing it on Grande-Terre, choosing to let serendipity guide us.

We picked Sainte-François as our hub for Grande-Terre, visiting the ports and beaches for our first sightings of seabirds such as Royal Terns and the Magnificent Frigatebirds. Continuing to the easternmost point of Grande-Terre, we discovered one of the most incredible landscapes in Guadeloupe – Pointe des Châteaux, overlooking the turbulent Atlantic Ocean. Climbing the rock staircase to the top of the point, we stood beneath the enormous 33-foot-tall cross of Pointe des Châteaux, which commands a 360-degree view of nearby islands and sculpted cliffs. While the views alone were breathtaking, as we hiked back down through the scrubby brush and trees to the parking lot, we saw a flash of yellow. A quick look through the binoculars confirmed my hope: we had spotted the Paruline jaune, or Golden (Yellow) Warbler. Though fairly widespread in the area, this was one of my most sought-after birds. We tracked several in the low trees at nearby beaches.



Golden (Yellow) Warbler

Along the tree-sheltered beaches of Grande-Terre, the Golden (Yellow) Warbler is a Caribbean Warbler that is abundant and relatively easy to spot.

Photo courtesy of Anthony Levesque

One last adventure on Grande-Terre took us north to Porte d'Enfer Lagoon. Contrary to its name, which translates to Gate of Hell, this hidden haven has truly stunning views. A calm lagoon played host to Snowy Egrets and Great Blue Herons. In the distance, smooth waters gave way to surging waves that crashed desperately into the stark white cliffs rising from the ocean. While hiking, the birding gods of Guadeloupe had one more surprise for us. Glancing up into some scrubby trees I spotted movement, and grabbed my binoculars. The Antillean Crested Hummingbird, one of the few hummingbirds in the world with a crested head, was foraging nimbly for nectar. I felt as light as that hummingbird. Guadeloupe had delivered as a magnificent first stop on our three-island journey to discover the Caribbean Birding Trail. 🐦

This is the first in a series about the Caribbean Birding Trail. Stay tuned for the next story on Dominica in our May/June issue.

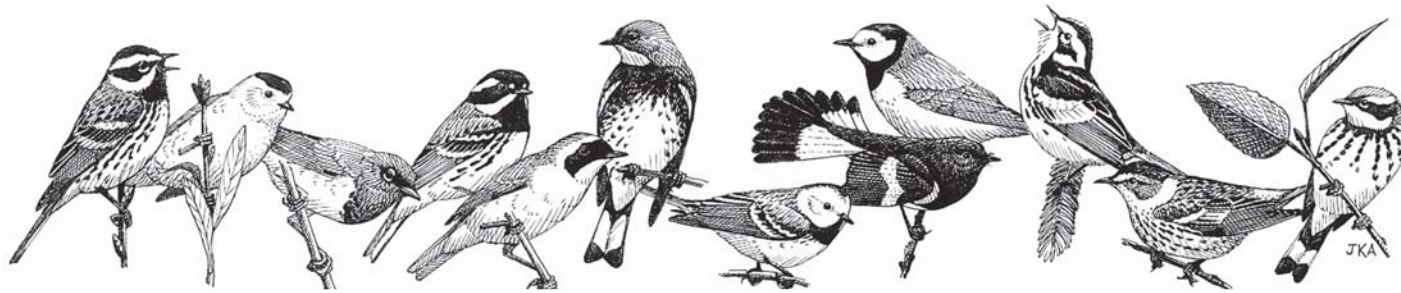
Robbie Lisa Freeman is a public relations professional in the health, fitness and wellness industry and a contributing writer to Western Tanager Magazine.



Antillean Crested Hummingbird

The Antillean Crested Hummingbird shows green, purple and blue iridescence in the changing light.

Photo by Lisa Freeman



BIRDS OF THE SEASON — February 2020 | By Jon Fisher

While the casual observer might look at the seemingly endless concrete covering much of the coastal slope of the county and imagine it to be far from a birder's nirvana, this area supports a remarkable number of birds from the common to the exceptional. The last couple of months were no exception.

While the winter rainy season started off looking rather promising, it quickly went bust; with January and February producing little in the way of measurable precipitation. This was quite a reversal from last year's above average winter, though not unexpected in southern California. Lacking precipitation, green hillsides started turned brown long before they normally would. Obviously this affects water and food resources that wintering, resident and migrating birds rely on, ultimately affecting numbers and breeding success.

Wet or dry weather aside, there were plenty of interesting birds around this winter. Many continuing rarities were present, a number of new discoveries were made, and a few good birds that spent previous winters returned for another.

Very rare in the county were two **Trumpeter Swans** in Pico Rivera from December 23–January 9 (Frank & Susan Gilliland). More expected was a single **Tundra Swan** continuing at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB through January 17 (Kimball Garrett).

A “**Eurasian**” **Green-winged Teal** was along the San

Gabriel River in Pico Rivera from January 5–February 8 (Larry Schmah). One or two typically turn up in the county each winter, often returning to the same locale each year.

Another nice find were two **Barrow's Goldeneyes** along the California Aqueduct south of Pearblossom on January 8 (Alex Lamoreaux, John Collins, Karin Marcus, George Rementer). They remained in this area through January 29. In total, the aqueduct provides waterfowl with quite a lot of artificial but apparently quite acceptable deep water habitat. Only a few extensive birding surveys have been done, but those that have indicate good potential.

Up to five **White-winged Scoters** and five **Black Scoters** were present off Dockweiler State Beach in El Segundo through February 6 (Richard Barth), with scattered reports north to the well-covered Ballona Creek mouth.

A **White-winged Dove** continued in Redondo Beach through December 30, while others were in Culver City Park on December 20 (Walter Lamb), at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester on January 5 (Russell Stone) and at the LAX Dunes on February 18 (Matthew Berdaigo).

Notable was a **Spotted Dove** at Forest Lawn in Glendale on February 6 (Andrew Birch). This non-native species has nearly been extirpated since the 1980s when it was a common sight in yards and parks.

Today the population is largely limited to a handful of birds in and around the Huntington Park area.

Vaux's Swifts were over Silver Lake Reservoir on December 30 (Andrew Birch) and at the Bette Davis Picnic Area in Glendale on January 13 (Alex Coffey). Over one hundred were at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas on January 22 (Keith Condon).

The **Red-necked Grebe** wintering at Cabrillo Beach was seen through January 25. A late find was one at Castaic Lagoon on February 19 (Zachary Hirst).

An **American Oystercatcher** was in San Pedro at both White Point Park and Royal Palms Beach through February 19, with two seen there occasionally. One and sometimes two were at Malibu Lagoon off and on from December 23–February 18 (Rhys Marsh), and one continued at the Ballona Creek mouth through February 11. Two more were on the breakwater in Los Angeles Harbor on December 22 (Angie Trumbo). Lastly, one was at Paddleboard Cove on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on February 22 (Adam Johnson). Some of these records may pertain to the same birds moving up and down the coast.

The **Pacific Golden-Plover** in the Ballona Wetlands area continued through January 20. **Mountain Plovers**, declining in the county and elsewhere, were nonetheless present in the east Antelope Valley with sixteen first observed there on January 6 and up to twenty-two seen through January 18.

Rather rare in winter was a **Solitary Sandpiper** continuing at the South Coast Botanic Garden in Rolling Hills Estates through January 9.

The only gull of note was a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera from February 2–3 (David Bell, Luke Tiller).

Unusual inland was a **Red-throated Loon** at El Dorado Park in Long Beach on February 11 (Derek Hameister).

A good find was a **Masked Booby** on the breakwater at the Ballona Creek mouth from February 8–22 (Lance Benner), offering a scarce opportunity to easily see this species from an easily accessible coastal location, rather than from a boat.

An **American Bittern** was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh from January 12–February 24 (Dean Schaff).

A **Neotropic Cormorant** continued at Westlake Lake through December 25.

A **California Condor** was along Interstate 5 near Pyramid Lake on January 31 (Kyle Lindemer). Teetering on the brink of extinction in the late 1980s, their last stronghold was the Sespe Wilderness in Ventura County. That used to be the place to go to see a wild condor before the last individuals were captured. Once numbering just over two dozen individuals, captive breeding and reintroduction efforts have increased the population to over 450. They are now found sparingly in many parts of southwestern California, and locally in northern Arizona and southern Utah.

Quite rare in winter was a **Swainson's Hawk** in the east Antelope Valley on January 7 (Joseph Dunn). The first spring migrants noted were twenty-seven birds over Burbank on January 23 (Alexander de Barros).

The **Zone-tailed Hawk** that spent last winter in Monrovia had returned again as of February 15 (Karen

Suarez), but was probably present for some time. It was reported through February 23.

Six **Short-eared Owls** were on San Clemente Island on January 1 and nine were present on January 2 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers), with one still there through January 12. Another was over Valley Village on January 20 (Rebecca Marschall)

Northern "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were at Sycamore Canyon in Whittier on December 28 (Mickey Long), at the Los Angeles Country Club on January 5 (Kimball Garrett) and in Beverly Hills on January 7 (Scott Logan).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were at South Gate Park from January 20–25 (Richard Barth), at the Rincon Fire Station along Highway 39 above Azusa on February 11 (David Coates) and at Brand Park in Glendale from February 18–19 (Andrew Birch).

A rare **"Black" Merlin** continued at the Bette Davis Picnic Area in Glendale through February 20 and a still scarce but more expected pale **"Prairie" Merlin** was in the west Antelope Valley on January 26 (David Bell).

The returning wintering **Greater Pewee** in Pacific Palisades was seen—or at least heard—through January 25. Actually seeing this bird has been difficult.

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** continued at Madrona Marsh in Torrance through February 16 and another was below the Whittier Narrows Dam in South El Monte from January 1–3 (Naresh Satyan). The **Brown-crested Flycatcher** wintering at the South Coast Botanic Garden in Rolling Hills Estates was reported through February 19.

A returning wintering **Thick-billed Kingbird** was at Horsethief Canyon Park in San Dimas from February 7–24 (Keith Condon). It was first detected here in January of 2014, and though it was not seen the last two winters it was almost undoubtedly present.

Tropical Kingbirds continued at Entradero Park in Torrance through February 18 and at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City—with two recorded there infrequently—through February 23. Another was at El Dorado Park in Long Beach from January 11–February 21 (Joyce Brady).

A **Hammond's Flycatcher** continued at Hopkins Wilderness Park in Redondo Beach through December 22 and others were at Carr Park in Glendale from February 19–23 (Richard Barth), at Valley Park in Burbank on February 22 (Josh Chapman) and at Horsethief Canyon Park in San Dimas on February 23 (Bruce Aird). Quite rare in winter was a **Dusky Flycatcher** at Fox Hills Park in Culver City on January 5 (Dan Cooper, Nurit Katz).

Pacific-slope Flycatchers were in Atwater Village on December 21 (Andrew Birch), at Wardlow Park in Long Beach on January 1 and at LA Valley College on February 17 (Rebecca Marschall). Another continued at the South Coast Botanic Garden through February 12.

Eastern Phoebes continued at the Bette Davis Picnic Area in Glendale through February 22 and at Apollo Park in Lancaster through January 12.

Cassin's Vireos continued at the South Coast Botanic Garden in Rolling Hills Estates through February 12 and at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City through January 14. Others were at the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail in Lakewood from January 5–25 (Tracy Drake), in West Hills on January 17 (Abby Larson) and at Santa Fe Dam from January 31–February 12 (Chris Dean).

Rare in winter were single **Cliff Swallows** at the Sepulveda Basin in Van Nuys on December 30 (Jon Fisher) and at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on January 11 (Femi Faminu).

The **Pacific Wren** in Santa Anita Canyon above Arcadia was reported through February 9. Others were along Mt. Baldy Road on January 19 (Tom Miko) and

at the LA County Arboretum in Arcadia from February 8–22 (James Maley).

A rare winter **Gray Catbird** was Walnut Creek County Park in San Dimas from February 18-24 (Keith Condon).

Evening Grosbeaks were discovered at Blue Ridge and at the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center near Big Pines on January 19 (Luke Tiller, David Bell). Up to three dozen continued in the area through February 23. **Red Crossbills** were also in this area from January 20–February 7, with over 100 being seen at times (Mark Scheel, Lance Benner). While much observer effort was concentrated on these easy to see birds, one has to wonder what else the higher San Gabriels might hold in winter.

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** continued at Madrona Marsh in Torrance through February 16 and another was at Santa Fe Dam from January 29–February 16 (Brittany O'Connor).

Rare in winter were **Green-tailed Towhees** at Farnsworth Park in Altadena on February 13 (Dionisio Castro) and at Cold Creek Valley Preserve near Calabasas on February 16 (Alexander deBarros).

A "**Large-billed**" **Savannah Sparrow** was near the Ballona Creek mouth from February 16–17 (Luke Tiller, David Bell). Though rare in the county, this is the most reliable place to find this Savannah Sparrow subspecies. It's also a spot where multiple Savannah Sparrow subspecies—including the salt marsh loving "Belding's"— can be seen in one spot.

A **Harris's Sparrow** continued at a residence in Rancho Palos Verdes through February 18. More expected were **White-throated Sparrows** along the LA River in Long Beach above Willow Street from January 5–15 (Jeff Boyd), in Claremont on January 11 (Paul Clarke, Catherine McFadden) and in Beverly Hills from January 31–February 9 (William Tyrer).

The **Dark-eyed "Gray-headed" Junco** at Haha-

mongna Watershed Park in Pasadena was present through February 17. Others were in Juniper Hills in the southern Antelope Valley from December 28–29 (Kimball Garrett) and at St. Andrew's Priory near Valyermo on January 26 (Grace Wong). **Dark-eyed "Pink-sided" Juncos** were at O'Melveny Park in Granada Hills on January 25 (Rose Liebowitz, Alexander deBarros) and at Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center near Big Pine on January 26 (Ed Stonick, Tom Miko).

An **Orchard Oriole** was at the Valley Sod Farms Community Garden in North Hills on December 14 (Rebecca Marschall). Another returned to winter again at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester at least as of December 28 (Candice Byers); it was reported through January 19.

Hooded Orioles were at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino from December 20–January 25 (Kellen Apuna), in Valley Village on January 4 (Rebecca Marschall) and at Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach on January 28 (Nancy Salem).

Moving on to wood warblers, a **Northern Warbler** was at Walnut Creek County Park in San Dimas on February 18 (Keith Condon).

Eight **Black-and-white Warblers** were either found or continued during the period.

The **American Redstart** in Calabasas continued to be reported along Las Virgenes Creek through February 17. Another was at Polliwog Park in Manhattan Beach from January 24–February 5 (Sara Boscoe).

A **Lucy's Warbler** was in Calabasas from January 4–17 (Mark & Janet Scheel). In addition, five **Nashville Warblers**- rare in winter- were present during the period.

A **Northern Parula**, likely a returning bird, was at Peck Road Park in Arcadia from December 27–31 (Dessi Sieburth, Oscar Moss).

Palm Warblers were at the West San Gabriel River

Parkway Nature Trail in Lakewood from December 27–January 23 (Christine Jacobs), at Santa Fe Dam from January 29–February 23 (Brittany O'Connor) and continuing in the Sepulveda Basin in Van Nuys through January 1.

The **Painted Redstart** at Inglewood Park Cemetery was observed there through February 9.

At least nine **Summer Tanagers** were present over the period, with just three of these being known continuing birds. As expected, all were on the coastal slope.

Black-headed Grosbeaks—common migrants and summer visitors but scarce in winter—were at the William Andrews Clark Library in Los Angeles from January 5–8 (Rebecca Marschall), in Pasadena on February 3 (Susan Gilliland) and in Calabasas on February 12 (Heather Medvitz).

From the foregoing it's obvious there was a lot for the active birder to see this winter. As birding in the county continues to draw more interest and attention, the number of records likewise continues to grow.

Many vagrants this winter were seen by dozens or even more birders. Chasing such rarities is certainly rewarding, as is the inevitable renewal of birding acquaintances in the field. Even more exciting is finding your own rare birds. To that end it's worth exploring under-birded and out of the way places as well as the oft attended ones.

While many of our regular winter birds and vagrants will remain for some time to come, spring migration is upon us. Waterfowl are already moving north in numbers. Northbound passerines are at present represented mostly by swallows, but March will see the first Western Kingbirds, Bullock's and Hooded Orioles and others arrive in numbers. April and May are always be great months to be in the field. It's also a good time to think about including any evidence of breeding in our eBird lists. It's very easy to do and adds value to our records. 🐦

SILVER LAKE RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT AND POTENTIAL WATERFOWL HABITAT LOSS

By Andy Birch

Birders have recognized the value of Silver Lake Reservoir for over a century, with the reservoir playing a role in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Counts, dating as far back as 1916 and even rarities such as Tundra Swan being recorded there in 1919.

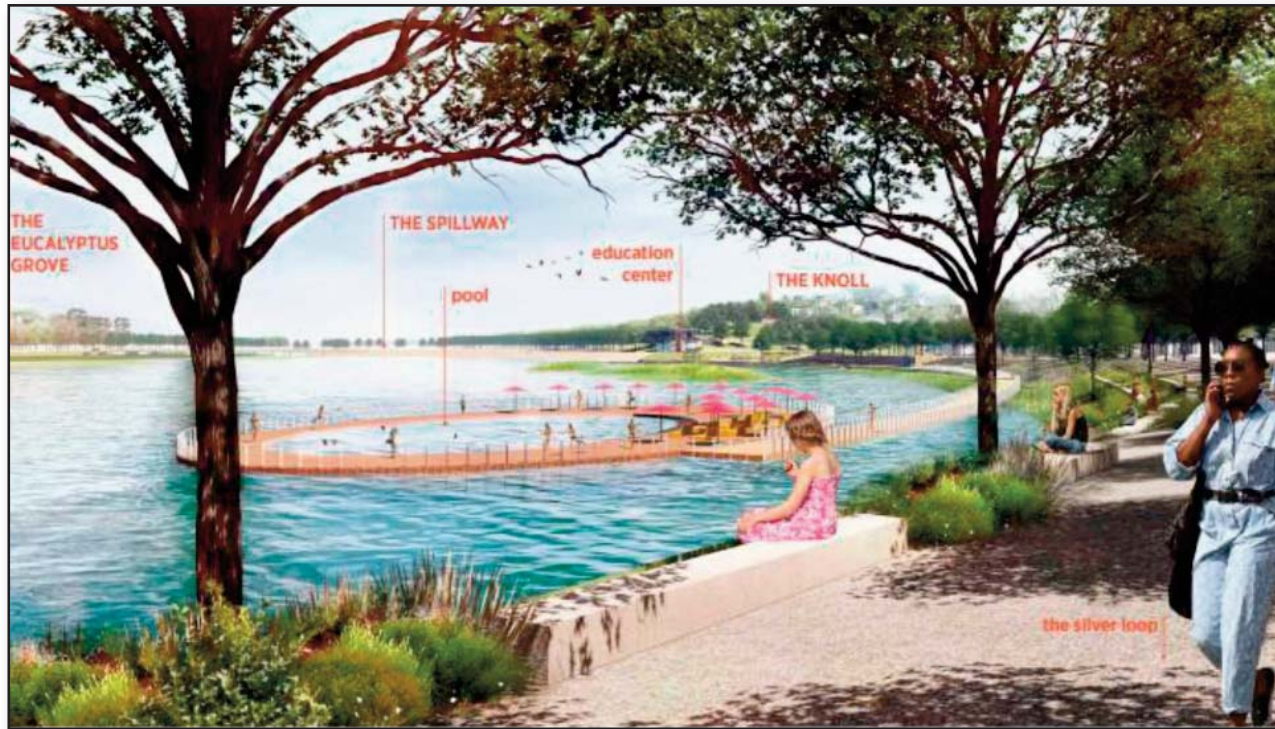
The reservoir was taken out of service by DWP in 2008 and ever since then, the heated political debate about what to do with the land has not ceased. As the plans for active recreational development of the reservoir has come to the fore in recent years, and with the reservoir being in my 5MR (5 Mile Radius), I was curious what sorts of waterfowl numbers that regular watching would yield. Starting in 2018, I made a concerted effort to do regular, detailed counts. The reservoir's size and location, adjacent to the LA River, enveloped by urban development and only a couple of miles from downtown LA, suggested it could be quite a magnet for migrating waterfowl.

Over 170 species have now been recorded at this urban site, including astonishing finds such as Elegant Tern, Bald Eagle and Long-tailed Duck. On peak days during the winter, over 3000 birds use the undisturbed, fresh water of the reservoir to rest and fuel up. This past winter, we had some of the highest counts for LA County for a number of waterfowl species. Most notable, triple digit numbers of Ring-necked Duck (170), Lesser Scaup (75), Ruddy Duck (950), Northern Shoveler (150), Redhead and Canvasback. Scarcities this winter included a lingering and confiding Greater Scaup, Mew Gull and our current wintering Gray Flycatcher. Flocks of over 2000 California Gulls can be seen in the late afternoon and among them, Iceland (Thayer's) and Glaucous-winged Gulls are regularly found. The wintering waterfowl habitat at Silver Lake is reliant on a large body of open water and a lack of human disturbance in the water. To lose this habitat would clearly be a major loss to wintering waterfowl on a county level for species that are already facing habitat pressures throughout their summer, winter and migration ranges.

LA Audubon's statement regarding the reservoir is that the two most important features as a habitat for birds are the presence of water in the reservoir and the presence and maintenance of a fence that limits disturbance within the water: The presence and maintenance of the fence, keeping people away from the water and water's edge, maximizes the value of the site as a wildlife refuge. Humans and pets disturb birds, such that birds can abandon a site, and the fence is the single most important conservation management tool at the site after the presence of water.



Artwork Courtesy of Andy Birch



Artwork Courtesy of Andy Birch

The current development plans for active recreational use don't look good for waterfowl and include boardwalks in to the reservoir, paddle boats, kayaking, a swim beach and a swimming pool in the reservoir itself. As is happening across the waterways of LA County, developers and city landscape architects are trying to aesthetically "improve" water habitats and promote human access as much as possible through active recreational plans. We are seeing these types of plans being formulated at some of the best birding sites all along the LA River. Likewise, the Silver Lake plans, in general, promote human access to most areas of the water with a small nod to wildlife through aesthetically pleasing "improvements" such as wetland plantings and floating islands. And of course, local architects and developers are being forceful to push the construction plans through, dismissing dissenting voices that are pro-conservation as a "vocal minority."

Encouragingly though, many in the local Silver Lake community recognize the value of the reservoir as an important wildlife habitat that deserves conserving for passive recreation use only. There are even calls to turn it in to a nature reserve. An online poll conducted by the city showed that the clear majority (65%) of respondents wanted to "enjoy nature" above everything else at the reservoir. Interestingly, 30% wanted birdwatching classes to be offered! So, there is a chance that enough momentum could build to convince the city to scale back its active recreation plans. If you would like to make sure that habitat conservation for wintering waterfowl is considered, please email the SLR master plan group at eng.slrcmp@lacity.org and let them know of the importance of the reservoir remaining undisturbed for wintering waterfowl.

This is a moment for a local LA community and visionary policy-makers to reverse the tide of habitat loss, provide inspiration for other cities around the nation and create a true urban wildlife sanctuary in the heart of one of the largest cities in the world; a wildlife refuge with the emphasis on habitat conservation, passive recreation rather than development for active recreation. 🐦

INTERPRETING NATURE

By Emily Cobar & Edgar Pedroza

Los Angeles Audubon Staff Members Selected as 2020 Nature For All Leaders

Los Angeles Audubon is proud to announce that staff members Emily Cobar and Edgar Pedroza have been selected as part of Nature For All's Cohort 17 Leadership Academy! Following, Edgar and Emily talk about their initial experience and what they hope to accomplish during their time in the leadership academy.

Edgar Pedroza

Nature for All is a coalition of organizations working to protect our local green space and to create access to those green spaces for communities historically excluded from enjoying them. The Nature for All Leadership Academy was started in 2011 in order to train and nurture the next generation of environmental stewards. The academy trains its participants in community organizing and advocacy strategies, culminating in a funded individual project. The project would support the vision to protect, create, and connect locals to green spaces in the San Gabriel Mountains. As an education and restoration staff member for the Los Angeles Audubon Society I already consider myself a steward of the environment. However, the leadership academy presented a unique opportunity to learn more about policy being written at the County, State and Federal level that impacts our public wildlands and parks. I was also happy to discover that Nature For All incorporates an environmental justice component to all its lessons, a critical component to understanding the history of Los Angeles public land that is often missing from environmental conversations. I was also excited to get formal instruction on community organizing techniques from the Nature For All staff, a subject that I'm only familiar with in practice from volunteering in autonomous spaces and college



Los Angeles Audubon staff member Edgar Pedroza explores the river in the San Gabriel National Monument. | Photo courtesy of Nature for All

organizations at Cal State LA. On the very first day of the leadership academy, we had the opportunity to tour the monument San Gabriel National Monument. We bonded as a cohort while exploring the river and navigating the mountains' winding roads. It's difficult to grasp how special the monument is unless you go there yourself - it's a natural paradise adjacent to one of the country's largest cities.

Emily Cobar

Our first day of the Leadership Academy was January 12th, 2020, and we met at the Rio Vista Veterans Memorial Park in El Monte. Vrej, from Amigos de los Rios organization, hosted a tour and taught us about the plans for the Emerald Necklace Green Way. This green way connects community parks that include native California habitat, stormwater infrastructure, and cultural history from the indigenous people to the families from Hick's camp. For the second part of the day, we carpooled to the East Fork of the Los Angeles River in the San Gabriel Mountains where we learned that it became a national monument in 2014. On our second day, we learned more about the history of the Nature For All coalition and the measures they focus on: Measure A (parks), H (housing), M (Transit & Trails), and W (water). We are only two workshops in and I have learned so much about community empowerment and legislative measures. Future workshops will include community organizing, civic engagement, advocacy, and more throughout the greater Los Angeles Area including the San Gabriel Valley, Downtown LA, Pasadena and El Monte.

In past Western Tanager Newsletters, I have mentioned how I've led nature walks for Esperanza Elementary School families on campus and at MacArthur Park with a big help from the Principal Brad Rumble and the ee360 college interns. I really appreciated the families who would wake up early in the morning on a weekend to go to school for these activities - w had many regulars! For my project with the Nature For All Leadership



Members of the Nature for All Leadership Academy–Cohort 17 visit Rio Vista Veteran's Memorial Park in El Monte. | Photo courtesy of Nature for All

Academy, I want to continue to build the relationship with these families, venturing beyond Esperanza Elementary and MacArthur Park. I'm proposing a project where I will host two nature days for Esperanza families. One will be a greenspace in LA day where I will take the families to the Ballona Wetlands and then to Baldwin Hills Parklands to learn about water conservation and native plants and birds. I will then create a digital resource for how to travel to these places via public transportation from Esperanza Elementary so that families can return on their own. For the second nature day, I plan to take Esperanza families to the East Fork of the Los Angeles River in the San Gabriel Mountains where the Leadership Academy took place on the first day. I plan to cover park access and community advocacy in protecting these places. All participants in the Leadership Academy are applying for a grant for their projects – if I receive the grant, funding will go towards transportation. Transportation is a huge barrier for many communities in park-poor neighborhoods. Public transportation to local Los Angeles greenspaces can be feasible; however, getting to the San Gabriel Mountains is not nearly as feasible (which this is something I will talk about during our trip there).

On our very first day of the Leadership Academy, I recognized a few people in our cohort that I've met through Los Angeles Audubon programs. This made me reflect on how small the nature leader community is in the Los Angeles area, especially leaders who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). I am excited to learn and share knowledge with people who have a passion for nature and for community advocacy in our highly urbanized habitat.



Members of Nature for All Leadership Academy–Cohort 17 at the San Gabriel National Monument. | Photo courtesy of Nature for All

FIELD TRIPS

By Nick and Mary Freeman



March 21 & 22 Weekend Anza-Borrego State Park

\$20 LAAS MEMBER FEE / \$40 FOR NON-LAAS MEMBERS, LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 20 MAX.

Leader: *Kurt Leuschner*. Peak time for both wildflowers and Swainson's Hawk migration! Caravan through the State Park from the Colorado Desert up to Julian, with short forays to take in the sights and the wildlife. Kurt is a professor of desert ecology, and knows all of our deserts very well. Reserve your accommodations at Hacienda del Sol, Stanlund Motel or others in Borrego Springs months early, as this is wildflower season too! Meet at the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association (652 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs) at 7:15 a.m. both days.

Los Angeles Audubon's field trips often require driving to more distant destinations and more time spent in the field than do LAAS's local bird walks. No pets. No children under 12, without permission from leader please. *We do not sell, trade, or re-use contact information; cell and email simply improve our chances of contacting you at home and in the field.*

When you sign-up please provide complete contact information as stated in the write-up. Name, Address, City/Zip Code, Email address, Day-of-Event/Cell number, and an *optional/alternate* phone number— I.C.E., In Case of Emergency (home, work or friend.)

We confirm reservations and provide supplemental trip information by email reply. If you do not have convenient email, you may mail the reservation request (and fee if applicable); include a SASE; we will mail your confirmation.

CARPOOLING

For ride sharing purposes, your contact information will be shared with the other confirmed participants unless you specify otherwise at sign-up.

FEE REQUIRED RESERVATIONS

Make checks fees payable to Los Angeles Audubon (separate checks per trip)

Mail to:

Los Angeles Audubon

PO Box 411301

Los Angeles CA 90041-8301

MORE INFORMATION

Email: membership@laaudubon.org | (323) 876-0202

EMAIL SIGN-UP with Susan at membership@laaudubon.org providing •name(s), •cell phone number, and •e-mail address; and mail a check for \$20 LAAS member / \$40 non-LAAS fee, filled out to LAAS-FT.

Los Angeles Audubon Society – Field Trips
PO Box 411301
Los Angeles, CA 90041-8301

Friday, April 17

Small Owls of the San Gabriels #1
NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP (10 MAX.), PLEASE REGISTER FOR ONE OWL DATE ONLY
Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. We will be looking for Northern Saw-whet, Western Screech-Owl, possibly Spotted Owl, (or the vanguard of Flammulated Owl migration?). Sign up, and meet at 6:00 p.m. on the frontage road for Angeles Crest Hwy (ACH)

just north of the 210 Fwy in La Canada. Turn N on ACH, take the second right (Milmda Dr.), and a quick left onto the ACH Frontage Road (signed: Flanders Rd.) and meet along the first 50-yard stretch before the first right turn (940 Chehalem Rd, La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011). Come fed and gassed up, and we will carpool from here. Bring quiet clothing for possible very cold weather (no nylon if possible), a small walking flashlight, binoculars, powerful flashlight optional. Photo ops possible.

Email SIGN-UP mandatory. Send email to: membership@laaudubon.org. Provide •name(s) •email addresses, & •cell phone #s and wait for email confirmation. (10 max.) Please allow others to attend this popular series by signing up for one date only. (*Other dates: Friday, **May 8**; Friday, **June 19***) For more information call (323) 876-0202, leave voice message if no answer.

**April 25 and 26 Weekend
Owens Valley Grouse Trip**

FEE: \$55, LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 20 MAX. *Mary Freeman* leads. Sage Grouse on the lek, Sooty Grouse in the trees, truly breathtaking scenery, raptor-rich valleys, and early shorebirds heading north. And yes, we have special arrangement to observe the Sage Grouse from the edge of the lek, which is only possible at this fairly late date. We will try for Black-backed Woodpecker. Meet early Saturday and Sunday mornings in Bishop.

EMAIL SIGN-UP & RESERVATION FEE

1) Send email to membership@laaudubon.org with •names and •cell phone #. 2) Mail \$55 check to the address that follows. More details in a confirmation e-mailer. Don't use email? Call to express intent to mail reservation fee and include a SASE for the confirmation flyer.

Reserve rooms *and trip* early, for this perennially popular trip. Bring a friend to share the considerable driving! Motel 6, Mountain View Inn, Bishop Elms are some of many hotels in Bishop.

Los Angeles Audubon Society – Field Trips
PO Box 411301
Los Angeles, CA 90041-8301

Friday, May 8

Small Owls of the San Gabriels #2

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP (10 MAX.), PLEASE REGISTER FOR ONE OWL DATE ONLY
Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. We will be looking for Northern Saw-whet, Western Screech-Owl, Flammulated Owl, and possibly Spotted and Pygmy Owls. Sign up, and meet at 6:00 p.m. on the frontage road for Angeles Crest Hwy (ACH) just north of the 210 Fwy in La Canada. Turn N on ACH, take the second right (Milmada Dr.), and a quick left onto the ACH Frontage Road (signed: Flanders Rd.) and meet along the first 50-yard stretch before the first right turn (940 Chehalem Rd, La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011). Come fed and gassed up, and we will carpool from here. Bring quiet clothing for possible very cold weather (no nylon if possible), a small walking flashlight, binoculars, powerful flashlight optional. Photo ops possible.

EMAIL SIGN-UP MANDATORY

Send email to: membership@laaudubon.org. Provide •name(s), •email addresses, & •cell phone #s and wait for email confirmation. (10 max.) Please allow others to attend this popular series by signing up for one date only. (Other dates: Friday, April 17; Friday, June 19) For more information call (323) 876-0202, leave voice message if no answer.

Sunday, May 17

Big Morongo Canyon

NO FEE, SIGN-UP REQUIRED

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Meet at 8:00 AM in the preserve parking lot, or 7:00 AM at Covington Park next door. Breeding desert and oasis birds such as Brown-crested and Vermilion Flycatchers, Summer Tanager, Scott's and Hooded Orioles, Yellow-breasted Chat and late migrating Empidonax flycatchers. To get there, take the 10 Fwy E about 17 miles past Banning to Hwy 62 N. Pass through the town of Morongo Valley, take a right on East Dr., then a left into the preserve (or straight to Covington Park). Bring lunch, water, sensible clothing and sun block. Yucca Valley and Desert Hot Springs offer nearby accommodations, or camp at Joshua Tree NP.

EMAIL SIGN-UP: Send email to: membership@laaudubon.org, provide •names(s), •cell phone #'s and your •Zip Code. For more information call (323) 876-0202. Contact information WILL BE released to others inquiring about carpooling unless requested otherwise.

Friday, June 19

Small Owls of the San Gabriels #3

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP (10 MAX.), PLEASE REGISTER FOR ONE OWL DATE ONLY

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. We will be looking for Northern Saw-whet, Western Screech-Owl, Flammulated Owl, and possibly Spotted and Pygmy Owls. Sign up, and meet at 6:00 p.m. on the frontage road for Angeles Crest Hwy (ACH) just north of the 210 Fwy in La Canada. (See May 8 for more details.)

Thursday thru Sunday, July 2-5

Owls & Other Birds of the Southern Sierra

\$165 FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 8 MIN / 11 MAX

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. This year, we will be renting a different, very nice summer home, in a different part of the mountains! Our new summer home will be located in Alta Sierra, west of Lake Isabella. We will meet in the afternoon of July 2 at the “cabin”. We will be visiting the Greenhorn and Breckenridge Mountains. Spotted and Flammulated Owls have been seen on our Southern Sierra trips in multiples almost every year. Saw-whet (adult & juv.) and Pygmy Owl may be more reliable in these new mountains! Saw-whet was very obliging last year, on both the LAAS trip and in the new area! During days, we will search for Pileated Woodpecker, Pacific Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and perhaps Goshawk, Dipper or Evening Grosbeak! Accommodations: Couples in larger beds, and up to 2 singles on sofas, will be prioritized, with others *wait-listed until June 15*. Coordinate your contribution for the Thursday potluck with Mary, mnfreeman@earthlink.net. LAAS will provide a weenie roast for the second night, and we always have plenty of leftovers for a third dinner!

For more information call Susan at (323) 876-0202, and leave a voice message if no answer.

EMAIL SIGN-UP: Provide complete contact information and *pre-register* by email sent to: membership@laudubon.org. Provide •Name(s), •Address, and •Cell Phone and •email address for each prospective participant.

REGISTRATION FEE: Make checks payable to: Los Angeles Audubon Society – Field Trips (or LAAS-FT) and mail to:

Los Angeles Audubon Society
PO Box 411301
Los Angeles, CA 90041-8301

Susan will *email* an acknowledgement when fees are received, and Mary will confirm participation status (8 minimum, 11 maximum) and provide the trip itinerary closer to the date of the trip.

Saturday, July 18

Big Bear Area

NO FEE, EMAIL SIGN-UP REQUIRED
Leaders Mary and Nick Freeman. Target birds include Williamson’s and Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Calliope and Rufous Hummers, mountain finches, White-headed Woodpecker, and Mountain Quail. Meet in the Aspen Glen Picnic Area parking lot in Big Bear at 7:30 a.m. Take Hwy 18 or 38 to Big Bear Lake, then proceed about half way along the south side of the lake on Hwy 18 (Big Bear Blvd.) and turn south on Tulip Lane. The lot will be on the south side of this short street. Bring lunch for a full day, and a Forest Service Adventure Pass. Get a hotel room for July 17 (or wake up really early), and a room for July 18 if you plan to dine and owl with the Freemans.

EMAIL SIGN-UP. Send email to: membership@laudubon.org. Provide •name(s), •email addresses, & •cell phone #s and wait for email confirmation. 🐦



Pileated Woodpecker | Image Courtesy of Audubon.org

BIRD WALKS

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON'S bird walks are for those interested in reducing their carbon footprint by birding relatively close to home. Perfect for the birder looking for an introduction to local birds and habitat.

Bird Walks are geared for the beginner/intermediate birders looking for an introduction to local birds or a less strenuous excursion. Appropriate for young bird watchers age 6 years and older. Carpooling is encouraged. Binoculars are provided on some walks as noted below. *For further information contact Eleanor Osgood at birdwalks@laudubon.org or call (310) 839-5420.*

1st Saturday of the month Open Wetlands at Ballona

March 7 & April 4

The first Saturday of every month (EXCEPT AUGUST), from 9 a.m. to noon, Los Angeles Audubon Society hosts the "Open Wetlands" event at the Ballona Salt Marsh. Binoculars will be available to borrow, and volunteers will help visitors view aquatic invertebrates through microscopes, learn about the unique ecosystems found at Ballona, and view birds through powerful spotting scopes along Ballona Creek. Please drop-in!

Enter through the gate located in the northeast corner of the parking lot behind Alkawater/Gordon's Market, in the 300 block of Culver Blvd. in Playa del Rey.

No baby strollers please.

Please contact Cindy Hardin at cindyhardin@laudubon.org or call (310) 301-0050 if you have any questions.

Topanga State Park Birdwalk 1st Sunday of every month

March 1 & April 5

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin

Ken and Chris will lead participants through this beautiful and diverse coastal mountain area. An ideal trip for a beginning birder or someone new to the area. From Ventura Blvd,

take Topanga Canyon Blvd 7 miles S. Turn E uphill on Entrada Rd. Follow the signs and turn left into Trippet Ranch parking lot. From Pacific Coast Hwy, take Topanga Canyon Blvd. 5 miles to Entrada Rd. Parking fee.

Contacts: Ken: (310) 455-1401, ksafari@aol.com; Chris: (310) 455-1270

Upper Franklin Canyon Sooky Goldman Nature Center) (2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills 90210)

2nd Sunday of the month

March 8 & April 12

Time: 8:30-12:00

Leader: Eleanor Osgood

Join us as we take a casual walk around the ponds and trails of this urban oak woodland nature preserve. We are likely to see the resident Wood Ducks and as well chaparral bird species such as Wrentit, California Quail, Spotted and California Towhees and California Thrasher; we will look for early spring migrants such as warblers, flycatchers, swallows and orioles. Resident birds have begun to nest, providing a whole new way of watching birds

Directions: From the 101 Freeway, follow Coldwater Canyon Blvd. south for several miles to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive (traffic signal). Make a 90 degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. There is no sign indicating the

entrance to the park; the turn at Franklin Canyon Road reads "Road Closed 800 Feet" and "Sunrise to Sunset"-- this is the park entrance; do not make a U-turn as this will take you onto Mulholland Drive instead of Franklin Canyon. Take Franklin Canyon Dr down to park entrance, turn at first left into the parking lot. From Sunset Blvd: go north on N. Beverly Drive to Coldwater Canyon Dr to Mulholland Dr. Veer left on Mulholland Drive. At the next traffic signal, make a left turn onto Franklin Canyon Dr. continue to first parking lot on the left. **Binoculars provided.** Contact Info: Eleanor (310) 839-5420; gardenbird1@att.net

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (4100 S. La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles 90056)

3rd Saturday of the month (no walks in July or August)

March 21 & April 18

Time: 8:00-12:00

*Leaders: Eric and Ann Brooks,
Eleanor Osgood*

This trip covers landscaped parkland, a man-made lake and natural coastal scrub habitats within the Baldwin Hills. We are likely to see many of the resident birds such as Black Phoebe, Cassin Kingbirds, California and Spotted Towhee, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk many of which will be in the beginning stages of their breeding cycle. We will continue to

look for wintering birds such as Merlin, Rufous-crowned, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Western Meadowlarks, and wintering ducks among others. Finally we will look for early spring migrants.

The park entrance is off of La Cienega Blvd. between Rodeo Rd. and Stocker St. After passing the entrance kiosk (\$6.00 parking fee) turn left (leading to the "Olympic Forest") and park in the first available spaces. **Binoculars provided.** Contact: Eleanor (310) 839-5420; gardenbird1@att.net

Ballona Wetlands Bird Walk 3rd Sunday of the month (with the exception of December)

March 15 & April 19

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: Bob Shanman and Friends
Join us for a walk through L.A.'s only remaining saltwater marsh and the adjacent rocky jetty. Meet at the Del Rey Lagoon parking lot. Take the Marina Fwy (90) to Culver Blvd and turn left for a mile. Turn right on Pacific Ave. The lot is on the right. Lot or street parking is usually not a problem. Three hour walk. 'scopes helpful.

Contact: Bob (310) 543-2473; wbugaredondo@gmail.com

BIRD WALKS CONT'D

ALL ABOUT NATURE: Stoneview Nature Center Bird Walk
5950 Stoneview Dr, Culver City, CA 90232
Every Thursday morning
9:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Come explore the wildlife of the Baldwin Hills . Our walks will focus on the plants and animals (birds included) of the Coastal Sage Scrub habit. During our walks on the trails and streets that connect three nearby parks we will document what we find with the goal of increasing our awareness, appreciation and overall knowledge of the wildlife with which we share our urban space. All knowledge levels welcome. Children age 6 and older also welcome. Binoculars provided. Smart phones, cameras, field guides and field note books encouraged.

Directions: The park is in the small residential community of Blair Hills. Access roads are off of La Cienega south of Obama Rd (aka Rodeo Rd.) or off of Jefferson/Obama just west of La Cienega. Contact info: Stoneview N.C. 310- 202-3002. The Center opens at 8:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO GODWIT DAYS! REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY



Come celebrate the Marbled Godwit and explore the lush Redwood Coast. Observe many bird species and other wildlife through our selection of field trips, lectures, and workshops led by experienced local guides during our annual week-long festival each April. Tour the expansive mudflats, the wild river valleys and the rocky ocean coast of this sector of the Klamath bioregion in northwest California.

REGISTER NOW! <https://www.godwitdays.org/>

Special Events

- Festival Activities for Kids and Families including Nature Joe's hands-on live animal encounters!
- Pints for Non-Profits at Mad River Brewing Company – Wednesday, March 4th (Birds, pints, live music, and food!)
- Arts! Arcata Wine Pour at Humboldt Infuzions on the Arcata Plaza – Friday, March 13th
- Birding on the Madaket – 2 trips July & August 2020 (TBD)
- Fall Preview – September 26 & 27, 2020