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WESTERN TANAGER

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CONTENTS

- 3-5 YOUNG BIRDERS
Birds of the Hakalau Forest on the Big Island of Hawai'i
- 6-8 INTERPRETING NATURE:
Does nature have a place in the English Language Arts classroom?
- 8 Princeton Phainopepla Project
- 9-11 Birds of the Season—June 2017
- 12-15 Every Creature on Earth is Under Threat
- 16-17 A Tribute to Judy Raskin
- 18-20 Field Trip Listings
- 21 Bird Walk Listings

On The Cover

‘I‘iwi | Hakalau Forest Wildlife Refuge
 (Photo by Jack Jeffrey)

Found nowhere else in the world, the spectacular scarlet-feathered l’iwi (*Drepanis coccinea*) is the last of the sickle-billed Hawaiian honeycreepers. Before the appearance of humans in Hawaii, more than fifty different honeycreeper species were known to have existed. Today, only 18 species remain, most of these are endangered or threatened. l’iwi feathers were once collected by early Hawaiian bird catchers or “kia manu”, and used for the feathered cloaks of Hawaiian Royalty. l’iwi are still fairly abundant in the remaining high elevation native koa-ohia forests of Hawaii Island and Maui, but rare on the other major islands. The long down-curved bill of the l’iwi is a perfect match for the shape of tubular flowers of many native plants, making l’iwi important pollinators of these and other native plants. To see an l’iwi, or to hear its loud “rusty hinge” call is an extraordinary experience and one that can only be had in a Hawaiian rainforest.

About the Photographer

A long time resident of the Big Island, and a wildlife biologist, Jack Jeffrey is intimately familiar with Hawaii’s hidden valleys and remote rainforests. He brings to his photographic images the knowledge of 40 years of observation and study of Hawaii’s endemic bird species. Combined with a naturalist’s curiosity, a photographer’s patience and technical skill, Jack captures the spirit of Hawaii’s rare forest birds, plants and other natural treasures in his photographic images. For Hawaii birding tour information please email: JJphoto@hawaii.rr.com

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YOUNG BIRDERS

Birds of the Hakalau Forest on the Big Island of Hawai'i

By Dessi Sieburth

The Hakalau Forest is a national wildlife refuge located on the Big Island of Hawai'i. The refuge supports a rich bird habitat for native Hawaiian birds, many of which are endemic to the Big Island. The Hakalau Forest is about 38,000 acres and is located on the Eastern slope of the Mauna Kea volcano. One unique feature of the Hakalau Forest is that it is made up of just two kinds of canopy trees: the 'ohi'a tree and the koa tree. These trees can grow up to 80 feet tall, and they form a canopy that shades the smaller trees, shrubs, mints, flowers, and ferns that grow below. Native Hawaiian birds rely on the 'ohi'a and koa trees to forage and nest. There are eleven native Hawaiian bird species living in and around the Hakalau Forest. Of these, six are Hawaiian Honeycreepers that have evolved from a single finch-like ancestor, which arrived on the island over five million years ago. Over time, the finch gave rise to over 50 honeycreeper species, throughout the islands many of which adapted to pollinate and feed on different of species of flowers.

I went to the Big Island from June 3rd to June 9th, and I spent a day at the Hakalau Forest with biologist and birding guide, Jack Jeffrey. Jack Jeffrey has been a biologist at the forest for the past 30 years, and during that time, he played an important role in preserving the forest and its birds. He taught me about the native plants, birds, and the history of the Hakalau Forest. By the end of the day, we had

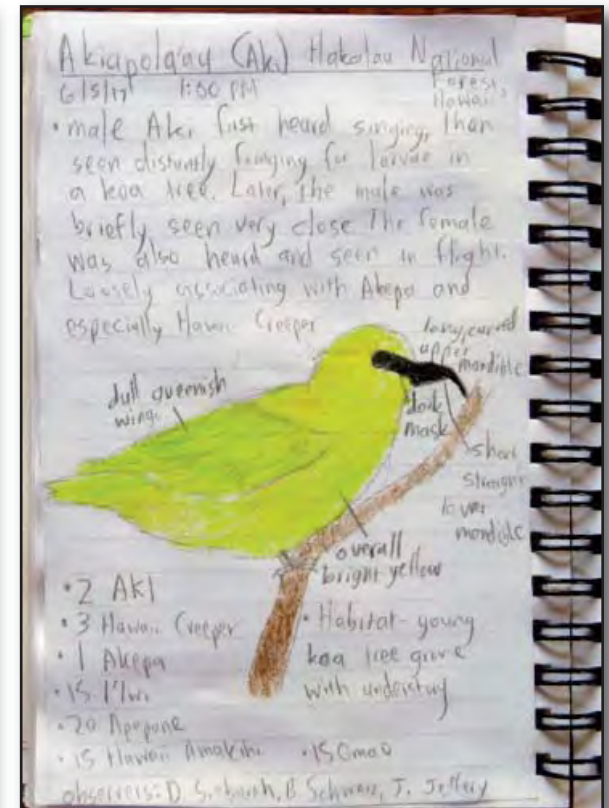
found eleven native Hawaiian bird species, six of which are endemic to the Big Island.

It took about two-hours to drive to the forest from Hilo. The forest was fenced in and to enter the refuge, we had to drive through several gates. Usually, the weather in the forest is cool with afternoon rains. The day we went, it was sunny all day. Once we arrived in the forest, we could hear the songs of birds everywhere. The loudest bird was the 'Oma'o, a grayish brown native thrush.

To hear an 'Oma'o, listen to my recording at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S3742314>



The Hawai'i Amakihi was very common in Hakalau Forest (Photo by Dessi Sieburth)



Notes and sketch of the rare 'Akiapola'au. It is endangered and has a unique bill. Field notes and sketch by Dessi Sieburth

The most common native birds at the refuge are the 'Apapane, which are bright red honeycreepers. These birds can be found on all the Hawaiian Islands, with a total population of about 1.25 million birds. We would often see them flying over the trees in small flocks.

Another common bird at the refuge was the Hawai'i 'Amahiki, a yellow honeycreeper. We saw the 'Amahiki feeding in small groups and singing in the 'ohi'a trees. To hear an 'Amakihi, listen to my recording <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S37469596>. Its population totals about a million birds on the Big Island. Another relatively common bird is the wren-like Hawai'i 'Elepaio. We saw several family groups of the 'Elepaio, and many of the young were being fed by the adults. Its numbers have remained stable with a population of 235,000 birds. One of the most stunning birds is the 'I'iwi. It has a bright red body, beak, and legs and black wings. We saw several groups of the 'I'iwi foraging actively among the leaves high in the canopy. The 'I'iwi occurs on all the main Hawaiian Islands and has a total population of about 300,000 birds. To listen to my recording of the 'I'iwi go to <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S37423164>.

We found three endangered honeycreepers at the Hakalau Forest. The incredible 'Akiapola'au ('Aki) has taken the position of woodpeckers in Hawai'i. It has a bill with a long decurved upper mandible and a short straight lower mandible. It uses the lower mandible to hammer into the bark of koa trees to expose insects and get sap. It then uses the upper mandible to get the insects out of the tree. The Aki is one of the few birds that can move the lower and upper mandible independently (like humans, most birds can only move the lower jaw). Only 800 'Akis remain, and we were lucky

to see and hear two of them working the koa trees. We also saw the beautiful orange 'Akepa feeding in koa trees and the nuthatch-like Hawai'i Creeper foraging along the trunk of the koa trees. Interestingly, the 'Aki, 'Akepa, and Creeper forage together loosely, and often, we saw all three in the same area in the koa trees.

In addition to native birds, Hawai'i is also home to many introduced species. When Europeans arrived in Hawai'i, they found few birds at low elevations, so they formed a club with the goal to increase the number of species of birds in Hawai'i. They gathered birds throughout the world and brought them to Hawai'i. Many introduced birds, like the Common Myna and Japanese White-Eye, have thrived. Game Birds, like the Kalij Pheasant and Erckel's Francolin, were introduced to hunt and now roam freely around the island. We do not know yet about the effects of the introduced birds on the native birds' populations.

While the introduced bird species are thriving on the big island, many of the endemic bird populations are declining due to habitat loss, predation, and disease. Much of the islands native habitat has been lost due to grazing. Up until the first humans arrived in the 1000's, Hawai'i had no native land mammals except bats, but the Polynesians brought pigs and rats, and then European settlers brought cows, sheep, goats, deer and pigs to the island. Large semi-wild populations of these grazers were soon established, and they roamed freely across the island, eating the native plants, including many of the small flowering plants that provide nectar for some of the specialized honeycreepers. The 'I'iwi's bill has evolved over millions of years to be shaped exactly like the mint flower whose nectar is one of the 'I'iwi's



Hawai'i is home to dozens of introduced species from around the world, including this Kalij Pheasant, photo by Dessi Sieburth




The Japanese White-Eye is an abundant introduced bird, photo by Beatrix Schwarz

major source of food. Other introduced mammals that are major threats to native birds are rats, cats, and mongooses. They raid bird nests, eating eggs and nestlings. Rats and cats are especially problematic, as they can climb into trees where nests are located. I was surprised to learn that one of the biggest threats to native birds are mosquitos (also non-native), which carry diseases such as avian malaria. With no immunity to these diseases, large numbers of native birds have died after being bitten by mosquitos. Luckily, mosquitos can only live in warmer, lower elevations (below 4500 feet), and they are not present in the upper areas of Hakalau Forest. However, because of rising temperatures, mosquitos are found at higher and higher elevations each year. Some birds found in lower elevation, like the 'Amakihi and 'Apapane seem to be developing resistance to avian malaria. The combination of habitat loss by grazers, predation and disease introduced by mosquitos has led to the extinction of eight of Hawai'i's endemic bird species in the past forty years.

One continuing challenge to conservation efforts at Hakalau Forest is a lack of sufficient funding. Hawai'i has 32 endangered bird species, constituting a third of the endangered bird species in the U.S. However, those birds only receive 4% of federal and state funding. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker of the southeast United States receives as much funding as all the Hawaiian native birds combined. However, there is hope, and some of the native birds are increasing in numbers. One of those species is the Nene, an endemic goose. In the 1940s, the Nene was on the verge of extinction with just 40 individuals. Due to an extensive cat and rat eradication and a large captive breeding program, there are now

3,000 Nene in the wild. Many people are now becoming more aware of these threats and trying to help these birds. Recently, the American Birding Association (ABA) added Hawai'i to its regional area, which helps to spread awareness and make people more eager to visit and protect Hawai'i's birds. Donations to the Hakalau Forest Refuge Management Endowment, which helps protect habitat by building fences, replanting native plants, and removing pigs and predators can be made at: <http://www.friendsofhakalauforest.org/donate>.

Thanks to Jack Jeffrey for giving the interview and to my mentors Susan and Frank Gilliland for suggesting to go to the Big Island. 



#6 The native goose in Hawai'i, the Nene, has been one of the rare success stories among native birds, photo by Dessi Sieburth



To see my entire interview with biologist Jack Jeffrey at the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge go to: https://youtu.be/VPn0h_yHkNw

INTERPRETING NATURE

Does nature have a place in the English Language Arts classroom?

By Robert Jeffers, L.A. Audubon Treasurer | Instructional Coach

In Los Angeles, June usually means gloom, but it also means contemplation for the city's thousands of educators. Personally, I carefully look over the school year — successes and defeats, opportunities and challenges. And, this past August after 15 years of teaching, I stepped out of the classroom and moved into an administrative position, which required that I reflect on my work both as an English teacher and also in my new role as an instructional coach. Knowing I would have to support educators in diverse subjects and in preparation before the year started. I read several education theory books, but those avenues provided typically familiar solutions to familiar problems. I needed something fresh, something new. So, I turned to what I spend most of my non-teaching time doing: nature.

When I'm not teaching, I'm outside, I'm in nature. A typical weekend you'll find me birding, gardening, hiking, volunteering, so it seemed like a good idea to look to the natural world for some inspiration for how to be a better educator. I started with the professionals I know working in conservation, wildlife biology, and science illustration, like Los Angeles Audubon's Director of Education, Stacey Viggallon. At length, we talked about how the study of science, birding, and nature lends itself to better scholarship across many subjects, including English. In science and in birding, observation and notetaking comprise essential aspects of both fields – you have to



Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA

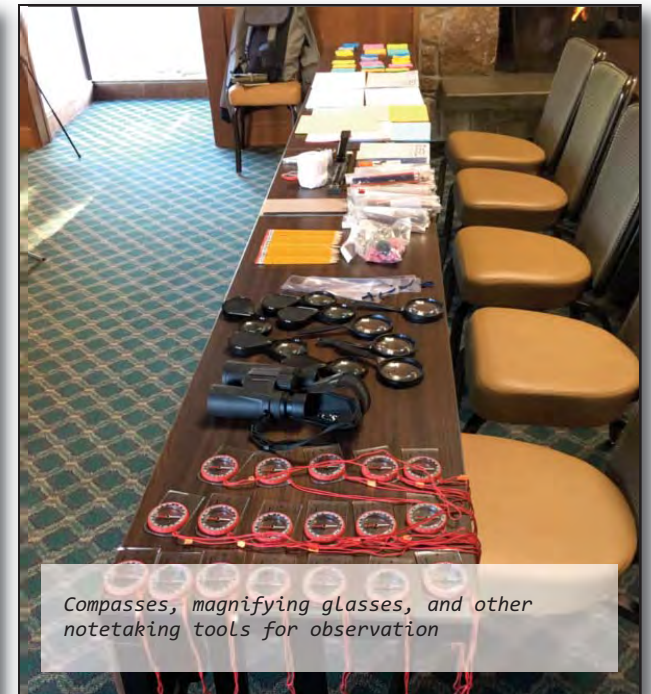
know how to see the difference between the warbler and the wren and you have to know how to record what you see. Seeing and notetaking has applications in every subject, in every endeavor, so when California's Curriculum Study Commission called for entries for their 65th Asilomar Conference for English Language Arts teachers Stacey and I teamed up and submitted a section, "The Scientist's Field Notebook as a Pathway to English Language Arts." With enthusiasm, we were accepted.

Our session was one of the most popular and best reviewed of the entire conference and I think that had something to do with the fact that we took a different approach to educating students and provided teachers professional development, because we involved nature. We showed how science and how birding requires observation with your eyes, with your ears, and with all your senses, but it also requires the ability to make connections, to be aware of place in a way that transcends seeing. Understanding the history of a location, the season, and the time of day will help you rule out certain species and it's this kind of seeing that has an essential place in the English Language Arts classroom. There's a rich history of collaboration between the arts and sciences, and there's profit in exploring that history and that link. Through books that helped inform our session like Smith's HOW TO BE AN EXPLORER OF THE WORLD and Horowitz's ON LOOKING, English teachers learned not only how people can observe the world around them, but how science and endeavors like birding can help you be a more astute observer and take notes in ways you might not have considered.

Through the scientist's field notebook, English teachers learned how science can help students become better observers and better note takers. Over the course of the conference, we looked at how drawing in a specific observational way helps us understand our world better and the way we take notes can help us make sense of those observations we're making. It's not just English teachers who want new and creative ways to help their students become more aware observers and note takers as we've found application for a more scientific approach to notetaking in all subjects from PE to history to math to English. Furthermore, you



Binoculars and note-notetaking guides for observational walks




Compasses, magnifying glasses, and other notetaking tools for observation



L.A. Audubon, Director of Education Stacey Vigallon, speaking to English teachers and conference attendees

needn't be a formal student or teacher by profession to learn new ways to see the world and to record those observations. No matter our work or position in life, becoming better observers can help us make more sense of the world we live in.

At the end of the conference, attendees learned what I'm continuing to understand more and more: exposure to nature and science not only has a place in the English classroom and beyond but both enrich our understanding of the world around us. As Los Angeles Audubon continues to connect the community to environmental stewardship through birding, stewardship, and education, we should look to our love of birds and the environment as a way to bridge barriers between seemingly disconnected subjects and continue to connect our communities in open and inviting ways. 



Various books about nature and Learning how to become a better observer

THE PRINCETON PHAINOPEPLA PROJECT

Princeton University researchers are banding and attaching GPS transmitters to phainopeplas at Afton Canyon near Mojave NP to study their movement in Southern California. We are calling on all SoCal birders to keep an eye out for phainopeplas with four leg bands (two on each leg) - one metal and three brightly colored - to help us determine where they go after breeding in the deserts in early Spring. This will be especially critical in the fall/winter when we attempt to re-capture birds wearing GPS transmitters. You can help solve the mystery of phainopepla migration and dual breeding!

If you see a phainopepla with bands, try and record the colors in the following order: top left, bottom left, top right, bottom right. The metal band will always be on the bottom left. Note the date, time, location, and sex of the bird. Even if you can't identify the specific colors, re-sighting a banded bird is a big deal! You might even see one with a little antenna sticking up off its back!

Please send your sightings to Dr. Daniel Baldassarre, Princeton University.

Email: danieltb@princeton.edu

Website: danbaldassarre.weebly.com

Twitter: [@evornithology](https://twitter.com/evornithology)



BIRDS OF THE SEASON

June 2017

by Jon Fisher



As we head into mid-June, as always it seems spring migration has ended all too soon. Yet it's hard to complain about brevity when it spans nearly half the year.

A good number of rarities appeared this spring, with an increase in late May and June fitting the classic pattern of late season vagrancy in passerines. As it often is, San Clemente Island was impressive when it came to producing good birds.

The appearance of several southeastern passerines—Yellow-throated Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Hooded Warbler and Northern Parula—mirrored to a lesser extent the record year of 1992 when well above average numbers of these vagrants reached California. Yet the reason for their occurrence, both then and now, remains a mystery.

Late April illustrated just how many passerines traverse the area, with a surprisingly large movement of birds noted at Hansen Dam and lesser numbers at other locations contemporaneously. Significant northerly winds appeared to be largely responsible for the orientation and numbers of these birds, and weather clearly plays a substantial role in migration. This is especially true on the deserts, but its effect elsewhere sometimes appears inconsistent.

Following our first wet winter since 2010-2011, some interesting discoveries foreshadowed the potential of the San Gabriel Mountains. Between the Station Fire in 2008 and subsequent years of drought, birdlife in the mountains has truly been challenged. Habitat has been radically altered and degraded. Thankfully both have benefitted greatly from last winter's rains.

Birds face a litany of threats. Fortunately Domoic acid is not often a significant one. This spring however, this toxin was present in increased levels, primarily due to warmer than normal ocean temperatures and intensified by nutrient rich urban/suburban runoff which spurs the growth of the algae that produces it. Though the acid doesn't affect birds directly, it accumulates in the fish on which they feed. It caused a number of seabird and mammal deaths. Hundreds of loons, grebes, murre, and others were found deceased or captured and treated, which indicates that thousands of birds that were never found must have been sickened or died.

On a more positive note, our America's Birdiest County event took place from April 28-30. This year's total was 264 species, less than our better years but about in line with the long term average and an impressive variety for three days of coverage.

Waterfowl of note during the period included a lone **Brant** at Quail Lake on May 7 (Kimball Garrett) and two rather late **Greater Scaup** at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas on May 7 (Tom Benson, Brittany O'Connor), with one still there on May 11.

Inland **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at Bonelli Regional Park on May 8 (K.D.), at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB on May 21 (David Bell) and at the Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area in Willowbrook on June 1 (Chris Dean).

White-winged Doves were near Llano in the southern Antelope Valley on April 21 (Ruth Gravance), at Cressa Park in Long Beach on April 24 (Elias Zuniga), at Pt. Fermin Park in San Pedro on June 2 (David Ellsworth) and at Apollo Park near Lancaster on June 3 (Andrew Lee).

A few **Inca Doves** persist at Col. Leon H. Washington Park in Los Angeles, with at least one reported there through May 19.

Common Ground-Doves continued along the San Gabriel River in the Bellflower/Cerritos area through May 29, with up to three there on April 16 (Becky Turley). Another was at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia on April 25 (Michelle Kwan) and up to three were at the Linden H. Chandler Preserve in Rolling Hills Estates with one present through June 13.

Three **Black Swifts** were at the usually reliable spot above Claremont–Cobal Canyon and Claremont Wilderness Park—from May 19–June 13 (Tom Miko).

Way out of season was a **Mountain Plover** at the Piute Ponds on May 23 (Jon Feenstra).

Remarkably, for the first time in seventy years, **Snowy Plovers** are breeding on LA County beaches, albeit in very small numbers. Santa Monica Beach, Dockweiler and Malibu Lagoon all had active nests this spring. More aggressive protection of potential nesting sites seems to have paid dividends. With persistence and a bit of luck- on the part of both the birds and humans- this small start could result in the re-establishment of coastal breeding colonies.

Of note at the Piute Ponds was a late **Semi-palmated Plover** from June 9–10, a **Whimbrel** on June 13 (both John Birsner) and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** from June 2–5 (Jon Feenstra).

A rare spring **Ruff** was discovered on the beach at Pt. Dume in Malibu on May 6 (Devon DeRaad)

An injured **Guadalupe Murrelet** was by the Cabrillo Beach Fishing Pier on May 26 (David Ellsworth).

Lingering late were two **Glaucous-winged Gulls** at Lake Balboa in Van Nuys from May 5–June 14 (Mike Stensvold). An **Elegant Tern** at the Piute Ponds on May 2 was an unprecedented desert record away from the Salton Sea (Darren Dowell).

Though a few summer along the coast, a **Common Loon** at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas from May 13–19 was late inland (Chuck Burt).

Magnificent Frigatebirds included one off Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro on April 25 (fide Bernardo Alps) and another just outside Long Beach Harbor on May 27 (Alex Cruz Jr.).

A **Neotropic Cormorant** continued at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas through May 18, with two birds confirmed there on May 16 (Rod Higbie, Tom Miko). Rare inland was a **Brown Pelican** also at Bonelli from May 31–June 10 (Rod Higbie).

A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at El Dorado Park in Long Beach on April 19, with a pair building a nest observed there on April 30 (Cindy Crawford). Sightings continued through May 30 when one was rescued after becoming entangled in fishing line. This marks the first known breeding attempt for the county. Another bird continued in the Ballona Wetlands area through May 19 and an equivocal but likely Yellow-crowned was at Apollo Park near Lancaster during the latter half of May (Steve Bernal). This species is clearly increasing in the county and additional breeding should be watched for.

Scarce in the county was an **American Bittern** at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh near Playa Vista on April 15 (Ron Cyger).

Quite late for a spring migrant was a **Swainson's Hawk** at Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach on May 27 (Tracy Drake).

A very late spring **Lewis's Woodpecker** was at Charlton Flat in the San Gabriel Mountains on June 3 (Larry Schmahl). This species is typically an irruptive and irregular fall and winter visitor with numbers varying from year to year, but a June record is exceptional.

The **Least Flycatcher** at the Rio Hondo Flood Basin continued through April 15. Coastal slope **Vermilion Flycatchers** were at Madrona Marsh in Torrance from April 14–15, while elsewhere a few continued at Oakdale Memorial Park in Glendora and at the Castaic Sports Complex.

Plumbeous Vireos found along the Santa Clara River in Valencia on April 21 (Dan Maxwell), in the east Antelope Valley on April 28 (Andrew Lee), at Bixby Marshland on May 6 (Philip Carnehl) and at Guffy Campground near Big Pines on May 21 (Matthew Schmahl) were all presumably spring migrants.

Yellow-throated Vireos, the first of the moderate wave of southeastern vagrants, were at Rocky Oaks Park in Malibu from April 22–23 (Kimball Garrett), at Sycamore Canyon in Whittier on May 16 (Brittany O'Connor) and on San Clemente Island on June 2 (Nicole Desnoyers).

Far rarer but fitting the same pattern was a **White-eyed Vireo** found along the Playa Vista Riparian Corridor on May 30 and remaining through June 11 (Don Sterba). This was the first found in the county since 2012.

Purple Martins included three at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB on April 25 (Jon Feen-

stra), five at Hansen Dam from April 27-28 (Kimball Garrett) and two at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia on May 29 (Larry Schmahl).

Both late and at an unusual location was a **Mountain Bluebird** at Guffy Campground near Big Pines on May 21 (Matthew Schmahl).

The returning wintering **Gray Catbird** at Monte Verde Park in Lakewood was reported through April 23.

Late but not entirely unexpected were single **Cedar Waxwings** in Pasadena on June 12 (John Garrett) and at the Sepulveda Basin in Van Nuys on June 13 (Daniel Tinoco).

Northern Waterthrushes were at Malibu Creek State park on April 29 (Mark Osokow) and at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB on May 16 (Darren Dowell).

A **Black-and-white Warbler** continued at Madrona Marsh in Torrance through April 19. Others were at Ralph Dills Park in Paramount on April 20 (Chris Dean), at the Piute Ponds on May 18 (Joe Lepisto), on San Clemente Island on May 30 (Johnny Galt) and on June 6 (Justyn Stahl) and at Tierra Bonita Park in Lancaster on June 3 (Andrew Lee).

Tennessee Warblers were found at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB on May 14 (Kimball Garrett), at Jesse Brewer Park in Los Angeles on May 24 (Kimball Garrett) and on San Clemente Island on June 2 (Nicole Desnoyers).

A **Hooded Warbler**, yet another southeastern vagrant, was discovered in Zuma Canyon on May 6 (Devon DeRaad). Likewise were **North-ern Parulas** recorded at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia from April 22–23 (Jon Fisher) at the Village Green Condominiums in Los Angeles on May 20 and on June 10 (both Don Sterba).

An **American Restart** was at the Village Green on June 11 (Randy Ehler), a **Magnolia Warbler** was on San Clemente Island on May 26 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole DesNoyers), a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was near Big Pines in the eastern San Gabriels on June 2 (Tom Benson) and a **Black-poll Warbler**—more expected in fall—was at the Sepulveda Basin on May 20 (Sarah Ngo).

Palm Warblers included one at Banning Park in Wilmington on April 13 and again on April 22 (Philip Carnehl), two at Madrona Marsh first on April 15 and then from May 9–17 (Tracy Drake) and one at South Gate Park in South Gate on April 16 (Richard Barth).

Summer Tanagers were in Pasadena on May 24 (Darren Dowell) and at Apollo Park near Lancaster on May 30 (Wayne Martin).


A previously discovered **Clay-colored Sparrow** continued at Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale through April 15.

The wintering **Harris's Sparrow** near Claremont was reported as late as April 28, while more common were a few continuing **White-throated Sparrows** with one recorded as late as April 28 at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach.

San Clemente Island produced a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** present from June 2–5 (Bernadette Ridgely). **Indigo Buntings** included one at Madrona Marsh in Torrance on May 6 (Dinuk Magamma) and three different birds on San Clemente Island from May 29–31 (Justyn Stahl), with two continuing through June 3.

As well-birded as LA County may be, in truth we only scratch the surface of much of its 4,751 square miles. Coverage is largely concentrated in more productive spots and in more easily accessible ones. Opportunities for exploration and discovery remain plentiful.

We all like to go places where we'll see lots of birds, but areas such as the north slope of the San Gabriels beg for more exploration. Improved habitat throughout these mountains offers great birding potential, but impacting access to the higher portions are repairs taking place on the Angeles Crest Highway. The road will be closed from Islip Saddle to Blue Ridge Road until at least early July. Even so, there are many other places to visit in the mountains and undoubtedly new discoveries to be made.

Though summer has just begun and there's plenty to occupy our time, shorebird migration is poised to begin in earnest. By August southbound passerines will appear. The lull between northbound and southbound birds is brief indeed. 

EVERY CREATURE ON EARTH IS UNDER THREAT

By Louis Tucker, LAAS Member and Field Trip Leader

There are people who eat earth and eat all the people on it like in the Bible with the locusts. Then there are people who stand around and watch them eat it. (Softly) Sometimes I think it ain't right to stand and watch them do it.

—Lillian Hellman, *American Playright*

I must confess that I don't know if this is a direct quote of Miss Hellman's; I heard it on the Tony Awards show Sunday, June, 11, 2017. It was quoted by Cynthia Nixon, accepting her award for "Best Featured Actress" in a play. The play was *LITTLE FOXES* by Lillian Hellman. The play is a pretty raw example of a very dysfunctional family being run over by a pretty ruthless woman. It takes place in the south, sometime after the Civil War. It is a festering time in the south during this era.

I found the statement profound and spine-chilling. We are going through such a time. Lunacy abounds. Viciousness is off the charts. Some humans are just, to put it bluntly, mean and nasty. Selfishness, narcissism, discourtesy, and lack of civility have become the coin of the realm. Lack of knowledge has gained the place of "standard operating procedure". One of the things I've noticed for many years now is that Americans have little sense of national and world history. So, it seems that ideas and beliefs are thrown around like people swatting flies. Reason has left on some six o'clock train to "nowhere", and right now, its return is not something we can be sure of.

I know that I am about to offend some of you; but, I've had it! Since January, I have signed more petitions in these past six months than I have in my whole life—and we are talking about decades of petition signing. A friend recently asked me if I thought that signing petitions do any good. I can proudly say that they work and do great good. Several days ago, the courts knocked down the permit to build the Dakota Access Pipeline. So, Native Americans will have their sacred land unsullied and polluted. Demonstrations and petitions helped this year's long battle. The permits were illegally obtained. There's a longer story here, but, there is a lot to fight for. Also, this was a first step; there are more issues with this pipeline to take through the courts.

Ironically, as I write this, I am listening to *Gioachino Rossini's* very last opera, *WILLIAM TELL*. A live "encore" performance from the Metropolitan Opera, performed in November of this past fall. He retired from writing full length operas at the ripe old age of 39! He, of course, lived a long time after that. I don't know if the length of *GUILLAUME TELL*—which is its proper French name and written for the Paris Opera—is the longest opera Rossini wrote, four plus hours. Did the length "wear him out?" Who knows? He did write other musical pieces in other genres. *TELL* has an interesting sub-plot. A lot of it is in praise of nature and democracy. And, nature and democracy are the very things that are getting me a bit "twisted"!

A further irony is that this performance emanates from the *new* Metropolitan Opera House. The irony is that I spent a greater part of my youth in the old Metropolitan, which became an enormous hole in the ground in 1966. I remember going down to 39th Street and Broadway and seeing this gigantic hole in the earth and just crying my eyes out. There is a point to this: powers that be, after this cultural crime had taken place, realized that they didn't have to destroy that building. They could have built the office building; they put up, over it, around it. Too late! But, this comes back to the lack of reverence for history, and culture, and knowledge. This was also a very risky move, because the orchestra hall erected at Lincoln Center a number of years before the Met opened, had and still has serious acoustical problems. And this is why Philharmonic Hall morphed into Avery Fisher Hall, morphed into David Geffen Hall. These philanthropists donated money to correct the sound atrocity that had been committed. And, thereby, the hall took on the names of its benefactors. And also why Carnegie Hall, known for its great acoustics was not demolished; which was the original plan. As it turned out, the new Met has splendid acoustics, but still...

This is not only an American trait. I think of the ancient countries of Iraq and Syria. Both of those countries have had their cultural and sacred artifacts totally demolished. Things that are from antiquity, from the beginning of time have been decimated. Never to return. We've done that, the Russians have done that, the Iraqis and Syrians have done that and so has Isis. And to what end?

Now we have a war, literally a war, against not only humankind, but, also everything on this planet — flora and fauna. Everything! And, we birders, and lovers of the natural realm have to push back. This climate in the Trump administration led by Steve Bannon, who has the President's ear, admitted at a conservative convention earlier this year that the goal is to deconstruct the government. Be alarmed! Be frightened! Because we have to get it together and fast. Petitions and demonstrations do work. We just have to persist. Some of you may be able to reflect and think back as to how this came about. This is the fruit of Saint Ronald Reagan, who proclaimed that government is not the solution but the "problem". And, ever since, conservatives have gone after entitlement programs, programs for the arts and humanities, programs for the environment, our health system, and our public schools.

Reagan had a Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, who was a bit of a braggart. He would proudly announce what was about to be dissembled. This was good for us environmentalists, because we protested; we demonstrated and signed petitions. We were able, in many instances, to push back. Watt didn't last that long and his replacement was much quieter about holding public lands and national parks hostage. At that time, we had our work cut out for us. A lot of sleuthing had to be done in order to keep up with their destructive behavior. What the people on the right don't realize is that our national park system and public lands were set up by a Republican, Theodore Roosevelt. And, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Endangered Species Act were signed into law by Richard Nixon.

There is a bizarre insanity that pervades this present administration. We have a president who doesn't know what he doesn't know. He has assembled a cabinet of very rich people who have no knowledge of the subjects they are in charge of. The idea of putting Scott Pruitt in charge of the EPA defies all reason; except that he wants that agency destroyed. And,

Ryan Zinke, who is the secretary of the Interior, wants oil drilling on public lands, national parks, national monuments, and national wildlife refuges. Not only drilling for oil, but mineral mining as well; and hunting of endangered species. Here's a little "onion" for you: he wants to permit hunting hibernating grizzly and brown bears while asleep in their dens. As if the bears weren't enough, let's add to that, the hunting of wolves in their dens, as well. Are you sufficiently horrified? I can tell you I'm horrified writing these words. But, we are at a precipice. We have to have the drive and passion to resist and push back and be a stumbling block to these marauding bureaucrats.

Oh! Here is another delightful piece of information: The two Obama Energy Secretaries were Steven Chu, a physicist, and Ernest Moniz, a nuclear physicist. These brilliant guys were in charge of our nuclear arsenal. And, spent a great deal of time trying to limit the enormous amount of nuclear fire power around the globe and keep its charge in responsible hands. Mr. Trump gave that job to former Texas governor, Rick Perry, who originally wanted to get rid of that department when he had his brief run for president in 2012. Also, the fact that he couldn't remember the three agencies he would eliminate when he said what he wanted to eliminate. And, at this appointment, he thought he was going to be in charge of oil and gas. There are simpletons watching the store!

The root of conservative is the word "conserve" — meaning: to keep in a safe or sound state; preserve from loss, decay, waste, or injury; to keep unimpaired. (*The American College Dictionary*). Well, how is that working out for the natural realm—for our wilderness areas, for our oceans? It seems like the political conservatives in this country are "hell-bent" on destroying this remarkable planet. If you've never been to some of these national parks, public lands, or national monuments, this may not mean anything to you. I would suggest that you google or Bing these special places. And, once you get a picture of them in your brain, use your imagination and imagine these places with oil rigs, mining equipment—raping the land of its wonderful treasure. You should look up pictures of what the land looks like once the mines have been stripped of their resource. These areas do not often rejuvenate. It's not like a lizard resting if its tail is severed and it will rest and spend its energy re-growing its tail. Not every organism can rejuvenate. Often times dead is dead. Extinct is extinct. It's not coming back.

I have never been able to understand the mind who sees this planet in terms of dollar signs. Contrary to popular opinion of those coal miners who have lost their jobs; coal is NOT coming back. The world has, because of necessity, moved on. And, what kind of manic mind is it that wants to blacken your lungs and shorten your life span. What could possibly be so bad about retraining for the rising demand of "green jobs"? Why isn't clean air safer than the effects of the underground extractions of coal? By now you must know that there is no such thing as "clean coal". And, the liquid run off of this very toxic mineral is also highly poisonous. That will affect our water system. You have to ask yourself: is this progress?

Contrary to the belief of climate deniers, the sea level is really rising. Small islands out in our oceans are becoming smaller; being swallowed up by water. There was a video on YouTube, taken in a Miami Beach garage on the first floor, of an octopus, famous for hiding in really dark nooks and crannies, coming up through a grate that was on the ground floor, because the bottom floor of this parking garage had over a foot of water. It was high tide, and the octopus was curious searching out a strange new place for food. The outside streets were covered with water from the rising tide. And, yet some of our leaders feel climate change is a hoax.

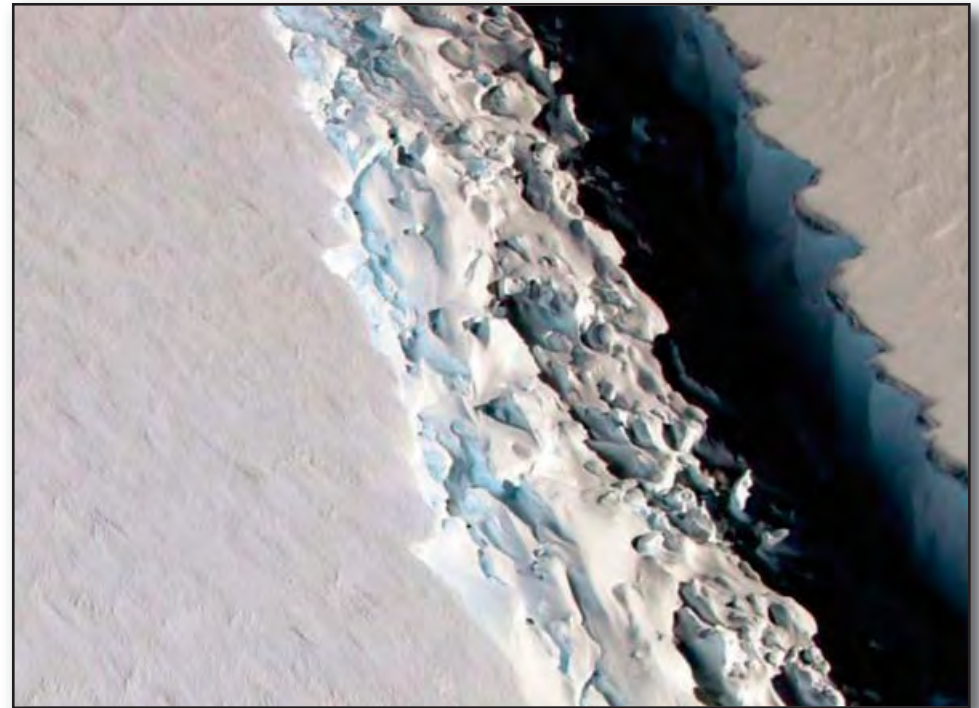
Huge ice sheets are breaking off from Antarctica; now, becoming floating icebergs. The ice in the Arctic in the summer is gone. The new apex predator in the Arctic Ocean is no longer the Polar Bear. It's Orcas. They can now swim through. Oh, and yes, they are killing the Polar Bears for good measure. And, the Polar Bears who may have a strong sense of survival, are hybridizing with Grizzly and Brown Bears. And, their diet is changing and adapting to go along with this "new" species.

Scientifically speaking, we cannot risk upsetting the ecological balance in our environment. It has already taken an enormous hit. What good will profits do if people can no longer breathe clean air and drink clean water? Have we forgotten about Flint, Michigan already? A few of those guilty culprits have been found guilty for the irresponsible decision to put toxic water into homes of its citizens. One of the things that moved this case along, (although moving along seems like an oxymoron as this started some five years ago.) This poison in the water has killed people. And, it's becoming a dangerous waiting game to find out what will happen to the very small children of Flint. Will their brains fully develop unimpaired? Did it occur to the masterminds of this wanton act that people will suffer great harm, possibly irreparable harm? Small children, infants, toddlers especially. And, these culprits were amazingly cavalier about it. They are trying to "save" money and the poor and unfortunate must suffer the consequences. As you may have read or heard, this ca-

tastrophe could have been avoided. I'm not going to get into that; but, there is information online about it.

Locally, in the recent past, our wetlands were under siege. Both the Ballona wetlands and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve were a part of long fought and dramatic court battles. The victory, in both cases, was not a "sure" thing. As more information comes forth, we find out how intertwined we are, and how we can't afford to upset the delicate balance. It has been upset enough. Apropos the shooting of wolves in their dens speaks to another problem we are having. Of course, wolves are predators, and while I'm preaching to the choir, they are also the natural enemy of coyotes. Decimating wolves has caused an explosion of coyotes across this entire nation. Coyotes are now in New York City! I don't know about you; but, I find that horrifying.

Wolves for all of the ecological good they do, infuriate hunters. Hunters want the biggest, fiercest grizzly or brown bear, the biggest buffalo, caribou, elk, moose and deer bull they can kill. Wolves keep these herds healthy by taking out the weak and the sick among them. This is an action called culling. And, canines are



On Nov. 10, 2016, scientists on NASA's IceBridge mission photographed an oblique view of a massive rift in the Antarctic Peninsula's Larsen C ice shelf.

some of the best at doing this. Man wants trophies to brag about and in the process weakens the herd. And, some of these deer species have numbers that tend to get out of control. White-tailed deer also can carry harmful diseases. But, they don't have a really good solid natural predator to cull them. Wolves are ideal for this. Hunters can't take care of the entire problem either.


Things are going awry. These issues are getting away from us. And, it is to the advantage of the "powers that be" to keep the public in the dark. We have to be engaged. We have to write our congress people, we have to petition our representatives, we have to call them and pester them. I have a list of organizations which is lengthy but not complete—you can google more. These people work for us. As if you didn't know that already, they do want to help; at least some of the representatives who are representing southern California want to help. My congressional representative is Ted Lieu, and he is very responsive. I've heard from him on a number of occasions. He is on the side of environmentalists. Also, we have two fighting women in the senate: Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris. They want to help.

Here is a list of organizations that are petitioning the government of this country, in an attempt to save what we can from the raping and pillaging of our natural resources:

The Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, World Wide Fund for Nature, Environmental Defense Fund, Greenpeace, The American Bird Conservancy, The National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Friends of the Earth International, Conservation International, National Wildlife Federation, Earthjustice, League of Conservation Voters, Rainforest Action Network, Defenders of Wildlife, Ocean Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Earth First!, Friends of the Earth, The Climate Reality Project, Climate Action Network, Oceana, Environment America, The Center for Biological Diversity.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. There are plenty of other groups. We have to take action and not let all of what we are trying to cling to with our finger nails, fall into oblivion. I often ask the question on some of these surveys: "After everything on the planet is somehow destroyed, who will be around to celebrate this grandiose of all extinctions? Does that question ever pop up into the head of the corporatists, the politicians, our completely inept, petulant, man-baby president?"

We can't be complacent. We have to protest. We have to fight. There is so much to lose. If you've been paying attention, they are still finding new species. That is something that is so hopeful. I know that some of this is intimidating. So, find a way in which you can express your displeasure with what's going on that is comfortable with you. GUILLAUME (WILLIAM) TELL has a happy ending. Musically the finale is short and in the exultant key of C major, (so that the soprano and tenor can hit high C's). And, after the villain, Gessler, the tyrant, has been slain; "The storm clouds gradually disperse and the sky becomes blue again". Tell and his Swiss compatriots sing this: "All is transformed, the sky has cleared, and the air is pure. The sun is shining. Nature too is full of happiness. And to our wondering eyes all appears sweet and new. For this profound contentment my soul can find no words."

We have to do what is even more than possible. We must fight to liberate this country and this planet from greedy fools, who only care about profits. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue. This is an issue about how we can keep this planet from disaster. I think what stalls some of us, is that some of us haven't seen and really taken in what disaster looks like. Movies and television with their constant onslaught of action scenes and things blowing up have possibly numbed our senses to how apocalyptic the reality can be. We folks, who get out there and see the beauty and also the slow devastation, must be on the frontlines and in the words of Emmanuel Macron: "Make our planet great again!" 

“The storm clouds gradually disperse and the sky becomes blue again”. Tell and his Swiss compatriots sing this: “All is transformed, the sky has cleared, and the air is pure. The sun is shining. Nature too is full of happiness. And to our wondering eyes all appears sweet and new. For this profound contentment my soul can find no words.”

A TRIBUTE TO JUDITH RASKIN

By Brad Rumble, LAAS Director at Large

Judith Raskin was a Los Angeles Audubon volunteer and citizen scientist. She began birding Echo Park Lake in 2000. Consider all the natural history she packed into this, her first posting on the Los Angeles County listserv on November 3, 2005:

This morning for the second time in a week and the first time since August 15, a Caspian Tern hovered over Echo Park Lake, Los Angeles. The first two times, there was a pair of them; today, just one, but today's tern flew over the lake long enough and circled a number of times so I was able to identify it. Prior to these sightings, I have not seen a Caspian at Echo Park Lake since 2003.

Judy's enthusiasm is apparent in that post, and certainly it was evident in her actions. She regularly led bird walks at Echo Park Lake, which she described in one of her frequent announcements as "a little oasis just a bit north of downtown Los Angeles." Christmas Bird Counts, Backyard Bird Counts, America's Birdiest County, simple walks—everyone was invited.

To review all her posts really is to learn much about the natural history of Echo Park Lake. What comes through is her sense of wonder, and also her commitment to the precision of data. Those who knew Judy will recall her reportage of Ross, a wild Ross's Goose.



MacArthur Park Bird Walk Group, Oct. 5, 2010



Ross's Goose at MacArthur Park, Feb. 6, 2011

Here's her first report on the bird:

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

This morning at Echo Park Lake, Los Angeles, I saw what I believe was a Ross's Goose. Small bird, white, small head, with a few black feathers at the rear, orange-y bill and legs. It was smaller than any goose I have seen before, and smaller even than most of the Mallards that hang around the lake. It was on land, hesitating before munching on goodies tossed out by a regular bird feeder person, didn't mix with other ducks or geese.

Four days later, Judy posted:

The Ross's Goose is still there, to my delight.


She would give occasional updates on the Ross's Goose who stayed, and it is through Judy's post of February 1, 2012 that we know it was moved to MacArthur Park. No doubt many think of Judy when they see the Ross's Goose which still resides there.

Mary Loquvam, then Executive Director of Los Angeles Audubon, connected me with Judy. On April 18, 2010 Mary and I hiked up to MacArthur Park with a group of student birders from Leo Politi Elementary School. Judy had taken the time to create a student-friendly checklist to record our observations. As soon as we met up with Judy she captured the students' attention. We observed 23 species that day. Those students are now about to start their junior year of high school, and they're doing great things. Judy would be pleased to know that one of them, Jerry Molgado, is a Restoration Leader with Los Angeles Audubon and is a steward of the native California habitat at my current school, Esperanza Elementary—only a couple blocks east of MacArthur Park.

On the same listserv which Judy used to communicate her bird walks, observations and wonderings, Dan Cooper posted this tribute on October 31, 2014:

Judy was indefatigable in getting the community involved in birding Echo Park Lake, and always led a big, eclectic group—by far our biggest group of the count—around the lake, opening the public's eyes to the birds and nature in the inner city. Afterward, they'd move on to Vista Hermosa Park and lunch, and maybe MacArthur Park for good measure.

Entering her hand-held checklists a few days later (always snail-mailed—who needs a computer these days?!), I was always reminded of the best of Audubon—individuals taking time to get others out into nature; just paying attention to and enjoying wherever they happen to be. Simple stuff, but important.

Los Angeles Audubon honors the memory of Judith Raskin and expresses gratitude for her generous legacy bequest. 

Field Trip Listings

Please visit www.laaudubon.org for updates to Los Angeles Audubon's field trip listings.

For more information: (323) 876-0202 or membership@laaudubon.org



Nick & Mary Freeman
Field Trip Chairperson
& Trip Leaders

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.

CARPPOOLING

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

'NO FEE' RESERVATIONS / MORE INFORMATION

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

Saturday thru Monday, July 1–3 (& 4?) Montane Birds and Owls of Dinkey Creek and Yosemite Area FLAT FEE \$75 (reduced), LIMITED SIGN-UP of 12 MAX, 7 MIN

Leader: *Kevin Enns-Rempel*, past field trip chair for Fresno Audubon, will have some help from the Freemans. Evenings of owling on July 1 & 2. Pencil in June 30 and July 3 as travel days. Great warblers, grosbeaks, woodpeckers, flycatchers, mountain wildflowers, and hopefully Sooty Grouse and owls! Great scenery and (hopefully) bird photo ops. First day and evening around Dinkey Creek; one day along Glacier Point Road in Yosemite NP, and nearby areas; and one day heading over Tioga Pass to the Owens Valley with the Freemans, and birding down to LA on the 4th (for those interested, IF the Pass is open). Park admission is not covered. It will be a hectic schedule to avoid the worst of the traffic and squeeze in the owls! 2 drivers in each vehicle please! Not a "Yosemite sightseeing trip", and we will not be able to visit the Yosemite Valley, which will be a parking lot!

LAAS telephone / e-mail **sign-up mandatory**. Price \$75. Mail check to: Los Angeles Audubon, PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041. O.K. to head back to L.A. early, or turn in early, but same flat fee applies. More details in e-flyer. As of press time, Tioga Pass is not expected to open by July 4, so please release rooms in the Owens Valley, and we will play this by ear (for those still interested) if this option becomes available.

Saturday, July 15 Big Bear Lake Vicinity Field Trip NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP

Leaders: *Nick and Mary Freeman*. Target birds include Williamson's and Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Calliope and Rufous Hummers, mountain finches and White-headed Woodpecker. Later, we may go to Arrastre Creek (east) or Upper Santa Ana River (south). It should be warm and there may be bugs, so come prepared. Bring lunch for a full day, and a FOREST SERVICE ADVENTURE PASS. Those wishing to go owling with Mary in the evening (probably near Bluff Lake or Hart Bar Campground), plan to eat with us, and get a room for Saturday night as well. Not going near recent burn area, as of press time. 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. GPS meeting site: 40105 Mill Creek Road, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315.

Sunday, July 30 Lower LA River Shorebird Migration NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP

Leader: *Larry Allen*. This is often an impressive place to study shorebirds in migration. And it has occasionally proven worthwhile to keep an eye out for "oddballs" like Little and Red-necked stints, and—somewhat more often—Semipalmated Sandpiper. Take the 710 (Long Beach) Fwy S to the Willow Street offramp, head E over the LA River, and take the first left on Golden Ave, the first left on 26th, and follow this past the pump station onto DeForest Ave. Park near the river access by the bridge, meet along the river at 8:00 a.m., and bird until noon. It

will be hot, so bring water. We will share spotting scopes, but bring one if you have one. Navigate to 2636 De Forest Ave 90806 by GPS.

Sunday, August 13

Salton Sea

\$15 FEE, SIGN-UP 8 CARS LIMIT

Leaders: *Nick and Mary Freeman*. We will see Yellow-footed (only place in the U.S.) and Laughing gulls, Black Tern, Abert's Towhee, and Gila Woodpecker. We may also see Wood Stork, Lesser Nighthawk, and Stilt Sandpiper. Lots of driving, so come with a friend, as singles will be bumped if we fill up the trip.

Reserve by e-mail to:

membership@laaudubon.org. Provide your cell # and street address; **and mail \$15** to: Los Angeles Audubon, PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041-8301.

Brawley Inn (760) 344-1199 offers a better continental breakfast, \$80, and there is a decent restaurant next door. America's Best Value Inn in Westmorland (760) 351-7100 is \$70. Ask for AAA discount. Continental breakfast. Motel 6 is basic, and maybe a little less.

Meet at Cattle Call Park at 5:30 a.m., and bird until about 3 p.m. Arrive well fed and gassed up. Cattle Call Park is south of Brawley. From the above hotels, head E on Hwy 86 into Brawley and turn south (Rt.) on S. Rio Vista Ave. almost to the end, and turn right onto Cattle Call Dr. Follow this straight into the park and look for the goofy birders at the bottom of the hill in the dirt parking, before the road turns left. Bring lunch, FRS radios, scope, sunblock, minimum 1 gallon of water each, and a big hat. Anticipate 95-105°F. (Cattle Call Park CA 92227 on GPS).

WFO conference August 16 – 20 in Pueblo, Colorado. Check www.westernfieldornithologists.org for details.

Saturday, August 26

Piute Ponds, Edwards AFB

NO FEE, 20 MAX SIGN UP

PERSONAL EAFB PASS REQUIRED!

(Sign-up and obtain pass before Aug. 10)

Leader: *Jim Moore*. A good mix of shorebirds, with a chance at LeConte's Thrasher, and Pectoral and Baird's sandpipers. Some of the finest desert birding in LA County! Some amazing birds have been seen here over the years, including a pair of Hudsonian Godwits, and a Little Stint just five years ago! Probable visit to the Lancaster sewage ponds afterwards, depending on time available.

Meet at the Avenue C gate at 7:30 a.m. To get here, take Hwy 14 N to Avenue D, head E to Sierra Hwy, head N to Avenue C, and go a block E to the gate at the end. Lunch and finish at Apollo Park. Bring snacks, sunblock and lots of water to bird until oneish. Likely hot weather, and possible afternoon wind. High clearance vehicles may be a plus.

Call LAAS to sign up, 20 max. sign-up, be sure to have your annual EAFB personal pass.

***To arrange a required annual pass, talk with Misty Hailstone on the base by phone at (661) 275-2435 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. **before Aug. 10** ***. Tell her your personal information (legal name, driver's license number and state issued, social security number, date of birth, email address, and phone number). Please do not e-mail or leave a message. Access for foreign nationals is trickier but still possible. Cameras O.K.

Sunday, September 10

Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica Wetlands

NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP

Leader: *Irwin Woldman*. Huntington Central Park should be catching early songbird migration by this date. At Bolsa Chica, flocks of shorebirds should be heading south, mixing with post-breeding terns and Skimmers, and a chance for American Bittern and Ridgeway's (a.k.a. Clapper) Rail. Bring a lunch for a full day of birds. **Meet at** 8:00 a.m. in the HCP parking lot on the south side of Slater Ave. just east of Golden West St.

Sunday, September 24

Mojave Area

SIGN-UP REQUIRED, NO FEE, 10 MAX

Leaders: *Nick and Mary Freeman*. Kern County has some of the best migrant traps in the state. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline. Reptiles may be encountered! Dine out (then herp?) with leaders Saturday evening if you wish (Gloria's, 7027 CA City Blvd, 93505). Sunday, bird California City environs, and hit Apollo Park on our way south if we have time.

To meet, take Hwy 14 about 4 miles past Mojave, then turn right on California City Blvd. Drive through town about a mile past the shops, turn left into the golf course parking lot past the huge, fenced driving range. Meet here at 6:30 a.m.

To reserve, call (323) 876-0202 or send email to: membership@laaudubon.org with •name(s), •cell number, and •e-mail address (for confirmation). **Reserve** a room at Motel 6 or other in Mojave, or the Best Western in CA City (across the street from the meeting spot). Bring lunches, FRS radios, sunblock, bird and reptile books.

Saturday, September 30
Malibu to McGrath Field Trip
NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leader: *Louis Tucker*. Late passerines and shorebirds should be moving through coastal migration spots, mixed with early wintering birds. Possibly 80 species. **Take** PCH N over the bridge in Malibu to the stoplight, and park on PCH, or turn right on Cross Creek Road for free parking along the road (and Starbucks), or turn left into the fee lot (GPS: 3999 Cross Creek Rd. 90265). Cross PCH, and meet at the kiosk by the lagoon at 7:30 a.m. for a full day of birding. There may be an access fee at McGrath or elsewhere. Bring lunch.

Saturday, October 7
San Diego
SIGN-UP, \$10 FEE

Leaders: "local ringer" *Mark Stratton*, and "owl ringer" *Mary Freeman* (both with spousal support). We will be sizing up migrating shorebirds and passerines, and chasing after myriad rarity reports that typically burn up the San Diego listservs this time of year. A good portion of the morning may be spent at Pt. Loma, depending on access. Other possible areas include Sunset Cliffs, Mission Bay, lower San Diego Bay and Tijuana River marshland. Bring lunch for a full day of birding. **Take** the 5 Fwy S about three miles past Route 52 to the Clairemont Drive off-ramp and head W into the small lot adjacent to the Mission Bay Information Center. **Meet** E of the kiosk at 8:00 AM. On GPS, punch in: 2688 E. Mission Bay Dr. 92109.

Sunday, October 15
Oxnard Plain
NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leaders: *Nick and Mary Freeman*. **Meet** at the Hueneme sod fields at 8:00 a.m. to look for Red-throated Pipit, Golden-Plovers and longspurs. Later, we'll try to shake the migrating passerines - as well as a few eastern vagrants - out of nearby windbreaks. The tamarisks and eucalyptus rows on the Plain often concentrate migrants in the fall. **From the** 101 N, drive S on Rice Avenue, following the Rice Avenue prompts to the end, then turn Rt. on Hueneme Rd. Meet on the N (Rt) side of Hueneme Rd. a couple of blocks west of this turn, just after the first building and just before Casper Rd. On GPS, punch in: 276 Hueneme Rd. 93033.

Saturday, October 28 (tentative)
Condors at Bitter Creek NWR
\$10 DONATION (OR MORE) SUGGESTED,
SIGN-UP REQUIRED, LIMIT 20

Joseph Brandt, California Condor biologist, will be leading this trip to view the reintroduction program of the California Condor. We should get good looks at California Condors, possibly Golden Eagles, and a number of other species, from Cerro Noroeste Rd. and possibly a hillside near the hacking pen. Joseph will give us an overview of the program, show us how radio telemetry and GPS tracking units are helping to save the bird, and talk about the future of the species in California and elsewhere. We will be west of Mt. Pinos, not too far from Maricopa. All new releases of condors into the wild SoCal population occur here, and all 43 condors in our wild local population visit this area. **Take** Interstate 5 north to Frazier Park exit. At the stop sign make a left and go under I-5. **Meet** in the parking lot of the "Flying J" gas station at 8:30 a.m. Finish at 3 or 4:00 p.m.

Reserve your place with LAAS by phone (323) 876-0202 or email membership@laaudubon.org. Provide •cell phone # and •e-mail address, •whether you have a high clearance vehicle that can accommodate at least 4 people total (priority) or you plan to ride with someone else. Bring drinks, lunch, and FRS radio and a scope if you have them. No fee, but \$10 donations accepted to the CONDOR SURVIVAL FUND. Call LAAS in September or check *Sep/Oct Western Tanager* for trip date confirmation. *No sign-ups until Sept. 1.*

Saturday, November 4
Newport Back Bay
NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. **Meet** on the wooden boardwalk along the west side of the bay accessible from the end of University Drive (small street) at 7:30 a.m. for the 6.0' high tide (one of the higher tides of the season), and a full day of birding in the area. High tide at the mouth is about 9:30 a.m., and may not peak in the back bay until after 10:00 a.m., so we will be in position when birds flush to higher ground. Ridgway's Rail (previously some of the Clapper Rails), Sora, American Bittern, Eurasian Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal and California Gnatcatcher are expected. Nelson's Sparrow and Short-eared Owl (both rare) will also be target birds. We may finish up at San Joaquin Marsh, upstream.

Take the 405 Fwy S to the 73 Toll Road (free this far) to the Campus Dr. exit, which becomes Bristol St. Turn right on Irvine Ave., drive 1.4 miles, then turn left on a small street called University Drive. Park at the end (2280 University Dr., Newport Beach 92660), walk down the frontage trail and over the little bridge, and to where the boardwalk starts to curve. Bring lunch. 'Scopes and FRS radios helpful.

Bird Walk Listings

All are welcome, but no pets or small children please. These walks are appropriate for young bird watchers age 6 years and older. Binoculars are provided on some walks as noted. Bird walks DO NOT require advance sign-up, just show up at the specified meeting time and place. Read our FIELD TRIPS LISTINGS section for birding destinations a bit further afield.

Open Wetlands at Ballona

1st Saturday of every month

July 1 & August 5

Time: 9:00–Noon

Los Angeles Audubon Society hosts the ongoing 1st Sat. of the month “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@laaudubon.org or call (310) 301-0050 if you have any questions.

Topanga State Park Birdwalk

1st Sunday of every month

July 2 & August 6

Time: 8:00–11:30 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.

Directions: 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, ksafarri@aol.com Chris: (310) 455-1270

Upper Franklin Canyon Sooky Goldman Nature Center

2nd Sunday of the month

May 14 & June 11

Time: 8:30 a.m.–12:00 a.m.

Leader: *Eleanor Osgood.* Join us as we take a casual walk around the ponds and trails of this urban

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.

CARPPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED!

To provide your information to join the LAAS CARPOOL DATABASE membership@laaudubon.org or call (323) 876-0202 leave a message. We will attempt to connect you with other birders interested in sharing a ride to our events.

oak woodland nature preserve. We are likely to see the resident Wood Ducks and as well chaparral bird species such as California Quail, Common Raven, Red-shouldered Hawk, Spotted and California Towhees, Song-Sparrows and California Thrasher. Nesting season is coming to an end in the low lands; we will look for adults feeding nestlings and fledglings. Meet in the main parking lot for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center.

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 Dr. to Coldwater Canyon Dr. to Mulholland Dr. Veer left on

Mulholland Dr. At the next traffic signal, make a left turn onto Franklin Canyon Dr. continue to first parking lot on the left. MEET in the main parking lot for the SOOKY GOLDMAN NATURE CENTER, 2600 FRANKLIN CANYON DR, BEVERLY HILLS 90210. **Binoculars provided.**

Ballona Wetlands Bird Walk

3rd Sunday of the month

(Except December)

May 21 & June 18

Time: 8:00 a.m.–noon

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.

Directions: 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) 326-2473 wbutorran@gmail.com.