

Los Angeles Audubon Society | laudubon.org

WESTERN Tanager

September/October 2018 | Volume 85, Number 1



Historical Migratory Paths: In the parking lot of Esperanza Elementary during Spring Migration, this Willow Flycatcher perched in the same tree as a pair of Warbling Vireos and an Ash-throated Flycatcher on May 22, 2018. | Photo by Brad Rumble (Story on Page 6)



Los Angeles Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 411301
 Los Angeles, CA 90041-8301
www.losangelesaudubon.org
 (323) 876-0202
LAAS@laaudubon.org

BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	Margot Griswold	mgriswold@landiq.com
Past President	Travis Longcore	travislongcore@laaudubon.org
Treasurer	Robert Jeffers	jeffers@laaudubon.org
Secretary	Nicole Lannoy Lawson	nicolelawson@laaudubon.org
Directors at Large	Catherine Rich	Not Published

COMMITTEES

Conservation	Travis Longcore	travislongcore@laaudubon.org
Education	Margot Griswold	mgriswold@landiq.com
Membership	Brad Rumble	bradrumble@laaudubon.org

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Field Trips	Nick Freeman	mnfreeman@earthlink.net
Bird Walks	Eleanor Osgood	gardenbird1@att.net
Monthly Programs	Travis Longcore	travislongcore@laaudubon.org
Rare Bird Alert	Jon Fisher	JonF60@hotmail.com
Schreiber Grant Program	Ryan Harrigan	ryanharrigan@laaudubon.org

STAFF

Director of Communications & Development	Carol Babeli	carolbabeli@laaudubon.org
Director of Outdoor Education	Cindy Hardin	cindyhardin@laaudubon.org
Director of Environmental Education	Stacey Vigallon	tern@laaudubon.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Cindy Hardin	cindyhardin@laaudubon.org
Member Services & Website Liason	Susan Castor	membership@laaudubon.org

The Western Tanager is the chapter newsletter of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, published online bi-monthly in PDF format. Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, July/Aug. Articles, letters drawings and photographs concerning conservation, birding, chapter activities, and articles of interest to the membership are welcome for submission. Please send copy as Microsoft Word, RTF documents, or plain text files to westernanager@laaudubon.org. Photos should be high resolution (300ppi) .jpg or .tif files. **Submissions are due the 1st of the month to be included in the following issue.** All rights reserved. All photographs are used by permission and are copyrighted material of the credited photographers.

Editor	Linda Oberholtzer	westernanager@laaudubon.org
Design & Layout	Susan Castor	susancastor@laaudubon.org
Scientific Advisor	Kimball Garrett	kgarrett@nhm.org

© 2018 Los Angeles Audubon Society

CONTENTS

- TAKE A HAWLK WALK IN IRELAND
- THE SCHOOLYARD AS eBIRD HOTSPOT
- BIRDING THE KILAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN KAUAI
- MY INTERVIEW WITH SEABIRD BIOLOGIST ANDRÉ RAINE
- INTERPRETING NATURE
- BIRDS OF THE SEASON
- MONTHLY PROGRAM SPEAKER SERIES
- FIELD TRIPS & BIRD WALKS

THE BIRDS OF LOS ANGELES NEED YOU.

Become a member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society to directly help the birds of our region.

Your membership supports the organization's efforts in the following areas:

- RECREATION | • EDUCATION | • CONSERVATION | • RESTORATION

Individual membership only \$25 per year. Join today at: laaudubon.org

Mailing Address: PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041-8301

TAKE A HAWK WALK IN IRELAND

By Lisa Freeman, Photos courtesy of Lisa Freeman



Bonding with a bird of prey is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most birders.

While visiting Ireland a few years back, I fully expected to dance an Irish jig, sip a Guinness, and kiss the Blarney Stone..., but I never expected to walk a hawk!

It was during a stay at the historic Ashford Castle in Cong, Ireland that we learned of the Castle's nearby Ireland School of Falconry. Always up for an adventure, we investigated and found that not only did Ireland's oldest school of falconry accept visitors, but it actually offered a chance to get up close and personal with a hawk in what they call a "Hawk Walk." Without hesitation, we booked a session.

At our appointed time for our visit, we arrived at the medieval entry to the school, and were greeted by our guide and Falconer Damian. He showed us around the school, introducing us to the more than 30 different birds of prey housed there, from hawks and falcons to owls. After allowing us to interact with

Dingle, a spectacular, orange-eyed Eurasian Eagle Owl, he pointed out the two magnificent birds we'd be taking on our hawk walk. Aptly named Swift and Wilde, the young Harris Hawks, it turned out, were not named for their individual character traits; they were named after two of Ireland's most iconic writers, Jonathan Swift and Oscar Wilde. They looked strong and formidable.

As we observed the hawks, our falconer introduced us to our bird-handling equipment: a jess, or thin leather strap used to tether the hawks; a gauntlet, a thick leather glove extending to the elbow, upon which our birds would perch during our walk and land when we called them in from flight; and a pouch of meat that would be used to encourage the birds to come back when we beckoned them.

It was then time to receive our birds. Our instructor lifted each bird from its perch and placed it on our gloved hands. Looking directly into the eyes of a bird of prey only an arm's length from your face can be a humbling experience. Raptors are one of the swiftest, strongest predators on earth, with sharp, curved beaks, massive talons, and powerful feet and wings. A hawk can spot prey from 100 feet away and, in a hunting dive, can achieve speeds of 120 miles per hour. They are fierce creatures and must be well-trained and trustworthy to get close to humans. Fortunately for us, Swift and Wilde were born and raised at the school, and learned early on to rely upon humans for training, food and shelter.

Departing the confines of the school, the hawk walk took us through acres of lovely wooded land. As we strolled we got a feel for the birds and learned a bit about the history of falconry. Falconry, the sport of hunting with a trained bird of prey, is said to have originated in Mesopotamia (today known as the Middle East), with the earliest accounts of hawking dating to approximately 2,000 BC. After the first known book on falconry – "De Arte Venandi Cum Avibus," ("The Art of Hunting with Birds") -- was written by King Frederick II in the 1240's, the sport made its way to other countries. In Britain, royalty became so enamored with falconry that kings kept royal falconers, who trained and hunted with the birds, in what became known as the "sport of kings." We could relate. We sort of felt like kings with these regal birds.

After a short walk, it was time for some action. Our instructor showed us the basics of releasing the bird, which meant untying the jesses at the birds' feet and pointing up with our free hand. Wilde wasted no time in lifting off from my gloved hand and within seconds he was sailing up to the treetops, searching the ground for mice, rabbits or other potential prey. Swift followed and the two hawks were a magnificent sight flying together.



A perfect Landing by Swift is thrilling to watch

After they landed in a high treetop, our falconer explained how to call a bird in. I was to take a small piece of meat in my gloved hand, and sweep my hand up to show Wilde there was food, then extend my arm out parallel to the ground to signal the bird to come to my arm. The first try took a bit of coaxing but then, suddenly, Wilde dove from the treetops and was sailing toward my hand. This was a moment I'll never forget. Watching a large, powerful raptor swooping down straight towards you is a huge thrill, if not a bit nerve-wracking. My heart was pounding as he came in low and close to the ground, then suddenly pulled his large wings backward, lifted up to the height of my arm, and landed lightly right on my glove. I quickly put my thumb on the jesses to hold him as he ate my offering. After some celebratory squeals of delight, we continued to walk with

our hawks, releasing them periodically to watch them majestically fly over and through the treetops. At one point, Swift spotted a small bird and tore through the trees in pursuit. Though he didn't return with a prize, our falconer explained that the pursuit was good training for the young hawk. More and more often, the two hawks were spotting and obtaining small game, and returning it to their Falconer.

Our hawk walk has long been remembered as one of our most cherished birding adventures. It's one thing to see birds in the wild through binoculars or a scope, and a very different thing to have one perch on your arm and look you in the eye!

Today, the Ireland School of Falconry has 10 falconers and 38 birds, ranging in age from 1 to 19 years old. According to Debbie Knight, who with her husband founded the school in 1999, their institute is somewhat of an anomaly in that they never sell any of their birds.

"We maintain the highest quality of life for our birds and staff," says Knight. "The birds come first and everything else is second to that. They are part of the family and will remain at the school for life." Dingle, the gorgeous owl we met several years ago, is still there, and the senior raptor at 19.

Besides the once-in-a-lifetime chance to get up close and personal with a large bird of prey, the falconry experience increased our knowledge of and appreciation for these birds in nature, and why we need to protect them.

"Falconry is an important tradition to continue worldwide, not just in Ireland," Knight says. "It has recently become a UNESCO intangible living heritage, which will hopefully secure its future worldwide. The more attached people become to the natural world, the more they will understand it, appreciate it and learn how to protect it. Our mission has always been to provide the highest quality Hawk Walk experiences for our guests, so they feel closer to nature."

For those who dream of having their own hawk walk experience, there are about a dozen falconry schools or bird of prey centers in the United Kingdom. In the U.S., the North American Falconers Association is devoted to encouraging the sport. And there are a handful of schools and resorts in the U.S. that offer various kinds of falconry experiences, including schools in California, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. For more information on Ireland's School of Falconry visit www.falconry.ie.

SIDEBAR

Falconry Trivia:

Falconry has not only had an impact on man's relationship to birds, but also on our language. Here are a few examples of words and phrases purportedly derived from the sport of falconry:

- The term "hoodwinked" comes from the practice of putting a hood over a hunting bird's head to calm him.
- Having someone "under your thumb" is an expression that originated from the falconer's thumb-hold over the bird's leather strap to control it as it perches on the falconer's gloved hand.
- The phrase "fed up" also originated with falconry, meaning the falcon had eaten enough and would have no interest in hunting.



Falconer Damian instructs Randy in the art of releasing the bird.



Ireland School of Falconry Falconer Damian adjusts the jesses as Wilde looks me in the eye as if assessing me.



Happiness is taking a hawk walk.

THE SCHOOLYARD AS EBIRD HOTSPOT

By Brad Rumble

Use Google's satellite map to look at Esperanza Elementary School from a bird's eye view and you'll start to understand how it could be that since September of 2014 47 species of birds have been reported at Esperanza on eBird. In the midst of the concrete and asphalt of Westlake, here is a patch of habitat for resident and migratory species.

The school opened in 1992. The trees planted then have matured into a verdant and welcoming canopy. Within the branches of jacarandas, a pair of floss silk and one enormous coral tree we have observed Willow, Pacific-slope and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Warbling Vireos and a Burrowing Owl. Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes have rested among the original shrubs during their migration.

Through a comprehensive partnership with Los Angeles Audubon Society, more than 4,500 square feet of asphalt on the southwest corner of campus was converted to native habitat in the fall of 2016. Sages, wildflowers and

native grasses have attracted hummingbirds, finches and flycatchers—including a male Vermilion who stopped by in December of 2017. The most recent species to be recorded here on eBird is the Cassin's Kingbird, no doubt drawn to the palm nearest the habitat by the rich pollinator population below. In fact, this school year student naturalists will collaborate with scientists from the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum to create a field guide of the campus' pollinators.

Seizing on the opportunity presented by a narrow strip of unused sloping land along the campus' north edge on Wilshire Boulevard, the school augmented the available planting space by removing 12 by 122 feet of asphalt and planted palo verde trees, California buckwheat, California sagebrush, and native sages and grasses. Elsewhere on campus nine Coast Live Oaks were planted, along with a variety of native shrubs. Six palo verde trees and a coast live oak now thrive within seven once empty tree wells on the campus' sidewalk perimeter.



The students shared their campus with a Burrowing Owl for every school day of December, 2016. The students' respect for the bird reflects a schoolwide appreciation for all living things. This photo was taken on December 9, 2017--the second of two days when the species was again reported on eBird at Esperanza.



A team of students carefully scooped up Burrowing Owl pellets so they could be examined at the Natural History Museum. December 8, 2017



Common Poorwill, Esperanza Elementary, October 30, 2015.



During their recess, young birders of Esperanza Elementary respected the Common Poorwill which shared the playground with them on the day of their Halloween Parade in 2015.

A bustling schoolyard nestled between the skyscrapers of downtown just to the east and another eBird hotspot, MacArthur Park, only three blocks to the west is yielding some interesting data, starting with the 47 species of birds recorded here since September 14, 2014. Our collected data provides evidence of breeding Black Phoebes, Northern Mockingbirds, House Finches and Mourning Doves. We know that the Yellow-rumped Warbler has arrived as early as the first week of October and has remained on campus as late as the first week of April. We know the Say's Phoebe still occurs in Westlake in autumn and winter. We know that Red-tailed Hawks are more prevalent here in winter. Our observations support existing research which indicates the presence of migratory species such as the Common Poorwill, Burrowing Owl and Warbling Vireo on even the most densely populated portions of the coastal plain.

"We" are the community scientists who gather each day at Esperanza Elementary. While the reporting of observations on eBird has largely been my work, the collection of evidence extends from students to staff members to parents. Without fail I hear from students on Monday about what they have observed during the weekend. On more than one occasion I have encountered a pair of students taking a time-out from kickball to playfully argue over the shape of a corvid's tail flying overhead. Sometimes students will pull me out of my office to see a kettle of hawks or a new species they can't figure out. Last year we replaced the opaque windows in many of our upstairs classrooms with tinted transparent glass. This has helped students witness firsthand the diet of the Cooper's Hawk and how newly hatched Northern Mockingbirds beg for food.



Six species of warblers have been reported on eBird at Esperanza Elementary, including this Black-throated Gray which was photographed on October 1, 2014.

Our designation as an eBird Hotspot provides a wealth of readily available tools. The printable checklist can be used by classes and parent groups during organized walks or as a study guide. Through the online bar chart we can draw conclusions about our resident species and migrating visitors. Many observations include photographs which help birders of all ages.



Seven springtime checklists at Esperanza Elementary include Warbling Vireos. This photo was taken on May 18, 2018.

Other tools aid our contribution to the body of knowledge on eBird. An investment in a pair of field guides for every upper-grade classroom was not costly; these books are dog-eared now. Sets of binoculars bring the birds closer to us. A Davis weather station in the Main Office can be used by all to collect weather information; this opens an entirely new line of inquiry for the enthusiastic students. A simple “Observing Our Natural History” bulletin board with pocket charts for sentence strips enables all stakeholders to share their sightings of all living things. Interestingly, as the school year progresses these observations tend to become more descriptive and detailed.

There are many parts of Los Angeles without eBird data. In South Los Angeles, for example, we do not know enough about the occurrence of birds. In every neighborhood currently without data, there is a schoolyard with students who are fascinated by their campus’ natural history. With guidance from adults, these students can contribute to our understanding of bird life in our neighborhoods. The adults who mentor these students do not need to be expert birders. They can learn alongside the children. The example of Esperanza Elementary School in downtown Los Angeles is replicable on any campus. 🐦



As this article went to press, the impact of Los Angeles Audubon Society was observed at ground level—literally. An uncommon Brewer's Sparrow was photographed devouring the seeds of the Purple Three-awn in the school's native habitat on August 18 and 19. This is the school's 48th species reported on eBird.

BIRDING THE KILAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN KAUAI AND MY INTERVIEW WITH SEABIRD BIOLOGIST ANDRÉ RAINE

By Dessi Sieburth



Red-tailed Tropicbirds are numerous at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, photo by Dessi Sieburth



One of the most common nesting seabirds in Kauai is the Red-footed Booby, photo by Dessi Sieburth



White-tailed Tropicbird at Kilauea Point, photo by Dessi Sieburth

From June 2 to June 8, 2018, I visited the Hawaiian island of Kauai. Among my favorite places was the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge located on Kauai's northern coast. The wildlife refuge includes a lighthouse, which was built in 1913 to help ships navigate between Asia and Kauai. It also includes rocky coast, which in the spring and summer is home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Kilauea Point NWR was established in 1985 to help protect the nesting seabirds of Kauai. Global seabird populations have plummeted over the last century, and Kauai's seabirds are no exception. Human-introduced invasive species such as rats and cats have caused the decline of many seabirds of Kauai. However, since the establishment of the refuge, many species have made a comeback. Fences that surround the refuge eliminate the threats of rats and cats, and as a result, birds such

as the Laysan Albatross and Wedge-tailed Shearwater have been increasing in numbers.

While I visited Kilauea Point Wildlife Refuge, I saw many nesting seabirds. Most abundant were the Red-footed Boobies that nest in the hundreds along the nearby cliffs. I saw some Red-footed Boobies collecting nesting material from grasses and taking them back to their nests. Others already had nests and were presumably incubating eggs. They showed off their bright red feet to attract a mate. Another common nesting seabird is the Red-tailed Tropicbird, which has red tail feathers nearly the length of its body used for aerial courtship. Its breeding season is from February to October and it nests in shallow caves along the cliffsides. The other tropicbird species at Kilauea Point is the White-tailed Tropicbird, which has even a longer tail than

the Red-tailed Tropicbird. White-tailed Tropicbirds, too, nest at Kilauea Point, but during the winter months. One day during my Kauai visit, I returned to the Kilauea Point Wildlife Refuge just before sunset to see Wedge-tailed Shearwaters coming in to their nests. During the day, the shearwaters feed in large rafts in the ocean, coming back to their nests only at night. These shearwaters nest in burrows under the ground that they dig themselves. I saw several hundreds of these shearwaters coming back to their nesting sites at night and it was a remarkable experience to hear their haunting, mournful wails which they do at dusk. If you like to listen to a recording of these birds by Dan Lane (XC234995), go to <https://www.xeno-canto.org/234995>.

My favorite birds at Kilauea were the Laysan Albatrosses. At the Kilauea Point Wildlife Refuge, I



Adult Laysan Albatross at Kilauea Point, photo by Dessi Sieburth



Laysan Albatross chicks were on lawns and driveways near Kilauea Point, photo by Dessi Sieburth



Although they do not nest at Kilauea, Great Frigatebirds are common visitors, photo by Dessi Sieburth

could see several adult albatrosses flying over the ocean, and by driving on the streets near the refuge, I could see several Laysan Albatross chicks sitting on people's lawns in a neighborhood built on a cliff. The chicks take their first flight from the top of the cliffs, when they leave to live on the open Pacific waters and they don't touch land for 3-4 years. They often return to the same yard where they hatched, despite the fact that they travel thousands of miles away from land each year. Most of the chicks were nearly fully grown and just getting ready to fledge. We spotted several chicks flapping their huge wings. The chicks spend most of the time alone since their parents only come by about once a week to feed their young.

In spring and summer, the refuge is an excellent location for seeing and photographing seabirds. But there are also other opportunities to see seabirds on and around Kauai. One of the best ways to see rare seabirds is to take a trip by boat out to a nearby island, Lehua Island, which I did just after visiting the Wildlife Refuge. While crossing the strait, many seabirds flew by the

boat, including a Hawaiian Petrel, a Bulwer's Petrel, and a Buller's Shearwater. The Hawaiian Petrel was especially exciting to see because the species is listed as endangered. The Hawaiian Petrel is unique among seabirds because it does not nest close to shore. Rather, it nests in burrows at high elevations in lava landscapes. It was a spectacular experience to see one of the largest populations of nesting seabirds in Hawaii and to go out by boat to see a rare species like the Hawaiian Petrel.

To learn more about the seabirds of Kauai, the conservation efforts to save them, and what we can do to help these seabirds I interviewed seabird biologist and researcher Dr. André Raine who works for Kauai Endangered Seabird Recovery Project (KESRP). The KESRP studies and protects endangered seabirds of Kauai including the Hawaiian Petrel.

My interview with André Raine

André was born in Bermuda and has been the Project Leader for the Kauai Endangered Seabird Recovery Project for over seven years. Before that job, he was the Conservation Manager for BirdLife Malta in the Maltese islands, where he ran all of the organization's research projects including seabird research (particularly the endangered Yelkouan Shearwater) and tackling illegal hunting and trapping. He has also worked on conservation projects in the Peruvian Amazon, Zambia, England, Seychelles, Papua New Guinea and Bermuda. Andre has a PhD in Ornithology, focused on the conservation of a European red-listed finch called the Twite. He also has a BSc in Wildlife Biology and an MSc in Conservation. Andre has a wife, Helen (who is also a seabird biologist) and two children, Callum and Maya.

In terms of his project – KESRP is a joint project of the Pacific Co-operative Studies Unit of the University of Hawaii and the DLNR Department of Forestry and Wildlife. Its focus is on the three endangered seabirds on Kauai – Newell's Shearwater (we have 90% of the

world's population), Hawaiian Petrel and Band-rumped Storm-Petrel. The KESRP works on both research and conservation of these three species to try to reverse the catastrophic declines they have faced in recent decades.

DS: How did you get interested in studying seabirds?

AR: The first seabird I worked on was the critically endangered Bermuda Petrel (also known as the Cahow). I started working with this species when I was a teenager, and later when I was doing my undergraduate studies in Canada, I would come back to Bermuda to help with the Conservation Unit, where one of our focuses was working with the Bermuda Petrel. It was pretty amazing to work so closely with a species which was once considered to be extinct, and it gave me a strong appreciation for seabirds in general - their capacity for finding fish in the vast ocean, their ability to relocate their burrows in their breeding grounds in remote areas in the dark, their incredible migrations etc. I also hand-reared an abandoned Cahow chick to fledging, which I was particularly proud of at the time.

DS: Why were Newell's Shearwater and Hawaiian Petrel the focus of your study?

AR: The focus of my project is the endangered seabirds of Kauai - and Newell's and the Hawaiian Petrels are two of the three. They have suffered massive declines in recent years - between 1993 and 2013 the Newell's declined by 94% and the Hawaiian Petrel by 78%. So they desperately need help if they are to continue to persist on Kauai.

DS: How do you use radar to monitor seabird populations?

AR: Radar allows us to see the birds as they transit overhead in the dark - they show up on the radar

screens as small blobs, and we identify species based on their speed, the timing of their movement, and their flight behavior. We have 13 radar sites that have been run since 1993, so that's a very long data set. We can then compare the number of birds counted each year to assess how the numbers have changed over time. The results of this work were published in the scientific journal *Condor* in 2017.

DS: What are the reasons for the decline in Newell's Shearwater and Hawaiian Petrel?

AR: There are a number of reasons, all of them due in some way to human activity. The key threats are powerline collisions, light attraction of fledglings, predation by introduced predators (such as cats, rats and pigs), loss of breeding habitat due to invasive plants, and threats at sea which, while less well known can include overfishing, bycatch, climate change and plastic ingestion.

DS: What are some things we can do to help these endangered seabirds?

AR: The best ways we can help as individuals are:


1. If you have a cat, keep it indoors - cats are one of the major predators of Hawaii's endangered birds in general, and are not supposed to be out on the landscape. It is also safer for the cat as well!
2. During the period when the seabird chicks are leaving their nests and heading out to sea, make sure that outside lights are dimmed or turned off. Use downward facing lighting and low-intensity bulbs to help reduce seabird fallout.
3. Try to cut down on your use of plastics — plastics are a huge threat to seabirds, and much of what we use is not needed. Say no to straws, unnecessary packaging, plastic cups, etc!

4. If you eat fish, source it from seabird friendly sources or locally caught from local and artisanal fishermen.

5. Keep up to date on seabird issues, keep informed and work in the world of conservation. Our endangered seabirds need all the help they can get!

Special thanks to André Raine for giving the interview. My goal is that many people learn about the seabirds of Kauai. If you like to learn more about how to help birds, please visit my website <https://protectingourbirds.my-free.website/>

Literature

Raine, A. F., Holmes, M., Travers, N. E., Cooper, B. A., and Day, R. H. (2017a). Declining population trends of Hawaiian petrel and Newell's shearwater on the island of Kaua'i, Hawaii, USA. *The Condor: Ornithological Applications* 119, 405–415. 



Biologist Dr. André Raine holding a Hawaiian Petrel chick, photo courtesy André Raine

INTERPRETING NATURE

Los Angeles Audubon Staff Members joins the ee360 Fellowship

By Emily Cobar, Restoration and Education Staff, and Stacey Vigallon, Director of Environmental Education



The first cohort of the ee360 EE Community Fellows – 32 fellows from across the nation and 4 international fellows | Photo credit ee360 Team

Our guest author for this issue's *Interpreting Nature* column is Emily Cobar. An alumna of the Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program the Environment for the Americas internship, and a Los Angeles Audubon staff member since 2015, Emily has been working on community connections to nature since her high school days. In the summer of 2018, Emily was accepted to the ee360 Fellowship Program, a new initiative led by the North American Association for Environmental Education that connects and promotes leaders dedicated to advancing environmental literacy for everyone, everywhere (visit ee360.org to learn more). In the paragraphs below, Emily discusses her experience at the ee360 summer training session in Virginia.

Fireflies, Northern Cardinals, and skinks: these critters that I will never see in the busy city of Los Angeles welcomed me on my first visit to Warrenton, Virginia. I was recently accepted to the ee360 Community EE Fellowship Program through the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). This fellowship consists of 32 fellows in the environmental education profession from around the nation and four that are international. With support of the ee360 team, all fellows will plan and implement an action project that addresses local environmental issues and builds resiliency in their respective communities. Last month, fellows received an all-expense-paid trip to Virginia to participate in a five-day professional development and leadership training. During this training, we had presenters talk about community engagement, theory of change, climate resiliency, fundraising, and much more. This was the opportunity for fellows to learn new concepts and get feedback on their their projects as well as share ideas and resources with one another.

It was inspiring to meet and network with other people who are passionate in making a change in their communities. There were projects that ranged from water, sanitation, and hygiene education in India to youth gardening programs in Detroit to air quality testing with teens in Washington DC. Everyone has different approaches to working towards the broad range of local environmental issues. My community action project focuses on intergenerational networking and learning with college students, elementary school teachers, and elementary school students.



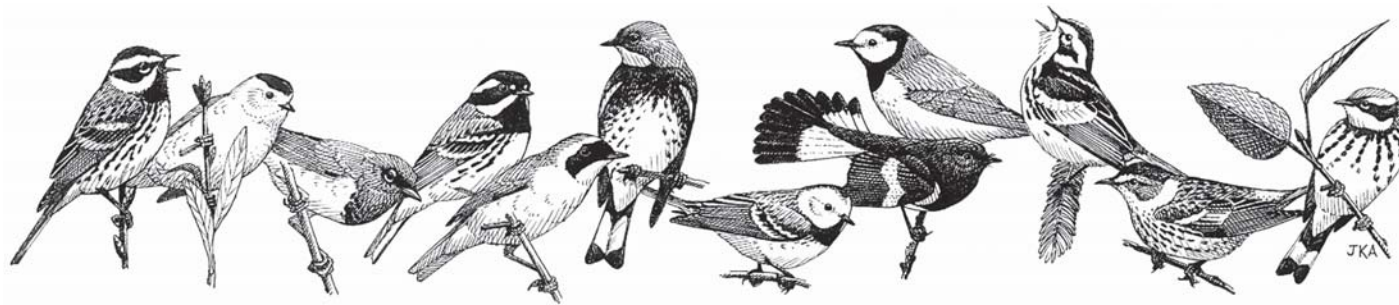
Last day in Warrenton, Virginia with these passionate and inspiring community Leaders. From left to right, Emily Cobar, Anita from Detroit, Stephanie from Seattle, and Amaris from Chicago (photo credit ee360 Team).

Los Angeles Audubon has numerous educational programs especially for 3rd–12th grade including one that has been running for 10 years now, the Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program in which I am an alumni of, and their newly established program for West LA Community College students, the Baldwin Hills Parklands Conservation Certificate Program. My project engages alumni from both of those programs, typically either students in college or recent college grads. Those who will participate in this project will develop and/or adapt curriculum focused on an environmental topic such as water conservation, urban gardening, waste management, urban habitat/native plant landscaping, and more. I hope that participants will benefit from this project by adding new skills in their resumes, growing their network as young professionals, and teaching others about solving local environmental issues.

I feel fortunate to become part of this fellowship program because I learn how to be more effective as a community leader, and I learn from others with a similar passion. We all have different projects but we all have the same goal to engage the community in our projects whether it's through gardening, through youth summits, or through intergenerational learning. I look forward to meeting all the other 31 fellows once again at the 2018 Annual NAAEE conference in Spokane, Washington this upcoming October. We once again are getting financial support to attend, so I am very appreciative for this opportunity. Thank you to the EPA for funding, thank you to the ee360 team and fellows for the tremendous support, and thank you to my two mentors who took the time to write letters of recommendation when I applied to this program, Stacey Vigallon from LA Audubon and Chris Lay from UC Santa Cruz. 🐦



The first cohort of the ee360 EE Community Fellows – 32 fellows from across the nation and 4 international fellows (photo credit ee360 Team).



BIRDS OF THE SEASON August 2018, by Jon Fisher

In southern California, June and July tend to be viewed as slow months for birding. But that fact shouldn't be linked to the idea that there are no good birds around; quite the contrary. Naturally there weren't the same numbers of vagrants that we're accustomed to in September and October, but quality was certainly not lacking.

Slow is also a relative term. In the mountains, birds are still busy wrapping up their breeding activities and migrants are already passing through. July marks the start of prime time for southbound shorebirds. Migrant songbirds—their breeding duties completed—are much in evidence in the lowlands by the second half of August.

Though this summer we've been spared, it's not hyperbole to state that the San Gabriel Mountains have been ravaged by fires over the last decade. While the 2009 Station Fire was the largest and most infamous blaze (obliterating 250 square miles of habitat), a number of smaller events have marked the mountains like a checkerboard. Many thousands of acres of habitat will be recovering for years if not decades.

Our changing climate means that fires are becoming more frequent and more intense and fire season lasts longer. Long time California residents are acutely aware of the changes. Birds naturally are affected by this. Some resident species are able

to shift breeding earlier or move to higher elevations to breed, others are better able to adapt to changing climate and habitats, though there are limits. For migrants though, coming from hundreds or thousands of miles to the south, the challenges of adjusting their timing may be difficult to negotiate.

Despite these changes however, the bird year proceeds in much as it always has. Here's a look at what was found from late June through August.

Very rare in the county- and the first discovered since a 2006— was a **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** at the Balona Freshwater Marsh near Playa Vista on July 11 (Don Sterba, Nesya Frechette). It remained there through July 19 and was seen by many satisfied birders.

Presumably continuing was a summering **Common Merganser** in and near the LA River in Glendale through August 19.

White-winged Doves were at Madrona Marsh in Torrance on August 22 (Richard Crossley) and along the lower LA River in Long Beach on August 23 (Richard Barth, Jeff Boyd). Just one **Inca Dove** at Col. Leon H. Washington Park in Los Angeles on July 6 was perhaps all that remains of the small colony known to have existed there for several years.

Very scarce on the coastal slope in summer, but even less expected in the interior, was a **Chimney Swift** south of Palmdale on July 4 (Kimball Garrett).

A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was on ever productive San Clemente Island on August 19 (Justyn Stahl).

At the Piute Ponds, an early **Whimbrel** was found on June 26 (John Birsner) and an early **Pectoral Sandpiper** was in the Sepulveda Basin from July 12–17, while two **Baird's Sandpipers** on the LA River in Cudahy on August 20 were the first of the fall (Richard Barth).

Semipalmated Sandpipers were at the Piute Ponds on July 9 (Ryan Terrill) and on July 25 (Chris Dean, John Birsner) and on the LA River in Long Beach from July 11–14 (Richard Barth). Two were along the Rio Hondo in Rosemead on August 4, with at least one continuing the following day (Darren Dowell), one was on the LA River in Cudahy on August 5 (Richard Barth) and again on August 18 (Mark & Janet Scheel).

The first of a small number of **Solitary Sandpipers** was along the LA River in Glendale on July 10 (Andrew Birch).

Alcids close to shore included a **Guadalupe Murrelet** at Shoreline Aquatic Park in Long Beach on July 4 (Frank Gilliland) and a **Craveri's Murrelet** at Leo Carrillo State Beach on August 7 (Chris Dean).

A rare inland **Least Tern** was at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB on June 30 (Jim Moore, Judy Mat-suoka) and a **Black Tern** was at Lake Balboa in the San Fernando Valley on August 12 (Mike Stensvold).

Quite unusual were away from the immediate coast, **Black Skimmers** at Lake Balboa in the San Fernando Valley on June 25 (Mike Stensvold) and at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia from June 24–27 (Judy Hwa).

Magnificent Frigatebirds were observed from Pt. Dume on July 10 (Cynthia Schotte) and at Malibu Lagoon on August 10 (Grace Murayama, Larry Loehner).

Nazca Booby sightings included one south of Long Beach on July 19 (Karen Suarez) and one at Leo Carrillo State Beach on August 7 (Chris Dean). **Masked/Nazca Boobies** were at Angel's Gate at the entrance of the Los Angeles Harbor on August 19 (Tom Benson), off Pt. Fermin on August 22 (Naresh Satyan) and at Cabrillo Beach on August 23 (Andrew Howe). Given the dates and locations, some of these sightings probably involved the same individual.

It wasn't long ago that any booby occurring in LA County waters was a pretty rare event. Brown Booby records have increased and Blue-footed Boobies staged a major invasion in 2013. For Masked/Nazca Boobies, good breeding success this over the last couple of years—resulting in a larger number of birds with the potential to wander—and food shortages coupled with unusual oceanographic conditions which instigate movements seem to be behind the increased numbers being found in California waters recently.

The **Neotropic Cormorant** appearing sporadically at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas was seen again on August 1. Interesting was a new bird found along the LA River in Atwater Village from August 10–12 (Kimball Garrett). Double-crested Cormorants were once the only species expected away from the im-

mediate coast, but that is no longer the case. Unusual away from the coast were up to four **Brown Pelicans** at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas from August 11–19 (Michael San Miguel, Ira Blitz).

Tough to find in the county was a **Reddish Egret** seen briefly at the Ballona Creek mouth on July 28 (Mark Scheel, Ron Cyger).

Two **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** continued in the Ballona area, last reported at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on August 19.

A half dozen **California Condors** were observed along the old Ridge Route Road west of Castaic Lake on July 16 (Luke Tiller).

Vermilion Flycatchers included three continuing at the Castaic Sports Complex through June 28, up to eight at Oakdale Memorial Park in Glendora through July 23, one at the Wildlife Reserve in the Sepulveda Basin on July 17 (Mike Stensvold). Castaic Lake through August 5 and one along the LA River on August 19 (Dick Norton).

An early fall vagrant and nice find was a **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City on August 13 (Philip Carnehl).

Black-throated Sparrows, rare but regular in fall on the coastal slope, were at Hansen Dam on July 26 (Kimball Garrett), at Eaton Canyon in Pasadena on August 17 (Tom Wurster) and in Big Tujunga Wash on August 22 (Brad Rumble).

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on July 14 (Merryl Edelstein). August 12 was an unusual date for an **Orchard Oriole** that was spotted in Westchester (Kristen Covino).

A **Black-and-white Warbler** was found at Madrona Marsh in Torrance on August 21.

A **Grace's Warbler**, the third found in the county this year, was at Chilao Flat in the San Gabriel Mountains from July 15–28 (Trey McCuen, Rob Pendergast).

Summer Tanagers were at Charlton Flat from July 6–15 (Dan Cooper), at Oak Park Cemetery in Claremont on July 22 (Tom Miko) and at Little Jimmy Spring in the San Gabriel Mountains on August 6 (Scott Logan). Much less expected was a **Scarlet Tanager** on Santa Cruz Island on August 18 (Larry Schmahl).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at a residence in Topanga on July 30 (Kelton Wright). **Indigo Buntings** were at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City on June 27 (Chris Dean) and in the lower Arroyo Seco in Pasadena from August 16–20 (Darren Dowell). A female **Painted Bunting**—almost certainly a genuine vagrant rather than a potential escapee, given the location and sex of the bird—was on San Clemente Island on August 13 (Justyn Stahl, Steven Munoz).

While shorebirds have been the focus for many birders over the summer, that is already changing. Passerine migrants have been moving south since the first part of August and their numbers continue to increase. If the fall of 2018 is anything like last year, this will be a fantastic time for birders to be in the field. But if there's one thing experience has taught, it's that no two years are the same.

There is much to keep us busy during September and October. It's arguably the most productive and exciting time to bird in southern California. Both expected and remarkable vagrants can occur, the mountains host resident species and migrants. Irruptive species such as—should they occur—will make their presence known over the next couple of months. A variety of shorebirds can be found an almost any wetland habitat and waterfowl have already begun to appear.

BIRD WALKS

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.

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.

Topanga State Park Birdwalk 1st Sunday of every month Sept 2 & Oct 7 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 Tripet 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

Open Wetlands at Ballona Salt Marsh 1st Saturday of the month (except August) Sep 1 & Oct 6, 9:00 a.m. to noon

Leader: *Cindy Hardin*
Take a break and enjoy

some cool ocean breezes at our monthly Open Wetlands. We will be at Ballona from 9 am to noon the first Saturday of every month, and hope to see you there. This is a drop in event, so please come down anytime that morning.

Open Wetlands is at the Ballona Ecological Reserve, located in Playa del Rey. The entrance to the reserve is in the parking lot behind AlkaWater/Gordon's Market, in the 300 block of Culver, 90293. Enter through the gate in the northeast corner of the lot. For more information please contact Cindy Hardin at cindyhardin@laaudubon.org or (310) 301-0050.

Upper Franklin Canyon / Sooky Goldman Nature Center (2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills 90210) 2nd Sunday of the month Sep 9 & Oct 14 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 California Quail, Spotted and California Towhees and California Thrasher. We will also look for south bound migrants such as warblers, vireos, flycatchers. 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 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.

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (4100 S. La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles 90056) 3rd Saturday of the month (no walks in July or August) Date: **September 15, 2018** **October 21, 2018** Time: **8:00 a.m.-12:00p.m.**

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 Phoebes, Cassin Kingbirds, California and Spotted Towhee, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk. We will look for southbound migrating birds such as warblers, vireos and flycatchers.

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 into the first parking lot on the right leading to the lake. Binoculars provided.

Ballona Wetlands Bird Walk 3rd Sunday of the month (No walk in December) Sep 16 & Oct 21 Time: 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: *Bob Shanman
and Friends.*

Join us for a walk through L.A.'s only remaining salt-water marsh and the adjacent rocky jetty. Directions: Take the Marina Fwy (90) to Culver Blvd exit; turn left; continue on Culver Blvd until you reach a dead-end (about a 1.5 miles. Turn right on Pacific Ave. Meet at the Del Rey Lagoon parking lot. Three hour walk. 'scopes helpful. Contact: Bob (310) 326-2473; wbutorance@gmail.com

FIELD TRIPS



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.

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

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

Sunday, September 16

Bolsa Chica Wetlands and Harriet Weider Park

NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP

Leader: *Irwin Woldman*. 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 Rail. We will caravan to Harriet Weider Park next, for passerines, flycatchers and such. For those wishing to picnic lunch, we will do so afterwards at the tables near the library about 1.5 miles north on PCH and one block toward the ocean. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Bolsa Chica parking lot on the north side of PCH, a long block southeast of Warner Avenue. Bring a scope if you have one!

Saturday, September 22

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).

Contact leaders for time if you plan to dine. 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 7:30 a.m. To reserve, either call or e-mail Audubon 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, and bird and reptile books.

September 26 – 30

Western Field Ornithologists Conference right here in Ventura!

Check www.westernfieldornithologists.org for details. Whether beginner or field biologist, this event and the many field trips / workshops / lectures / quiz sessions are not to be missed!

Saturday, October 6

Coastal Santa Monica Hot Spots

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leaders: Local docents and LAAS members, Read Howarth & Ella

Pennington. Late passerines and shorebirds should be moving through coastal migration spots, mixed with early wintering birds. This is a window of great possibilities! Possibly 80 species. Take PCH N over the bridge in Malibu to the stoplight, and park on PCH, or turn left into the fee lot, or turn right onto Cross Creek Road for free parking along the road adjacent to Starbucks. Cross PCH, and meet at the kiosk by the lagoon at 8 a.m. for a full day of birding. Possible stops include Malibu Creek State Park, Bonsall Drive and areas around Zuma Beach. There may be an access fee at Sycamore Canyon or elsewhere. Bring lunch, FRS radios, and a scope if you've got one.

Saturday, October 13

San Diego

REQUIRED SIGN-UP, NO LIMIT, NO FEE

Leaders: locals *Mark & Camille Stratton, and Mary & Nick Freeman*. 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 a.m. (On GPS, punch in: 2688 E. Mission Bay Dr. 92109).

Sunday, October 21

Oxnard Plain

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leaders: *Nick and Mary Freeman*. Meet at the Hueneme Ag fields at 8:00 a.m. to look for Red-throated Pipit, Golden-Plovers and longspurs. Later, we'll try to shake some late-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 27

Condors at Hopper Mountain NWR

DONATION SUGGESTED, SIGN-UP LIMIT OF 5 HIGH-CLEARANCE VEHICLES

A Refuge Biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be leading this trip to likely viewing ridges for the California Condor at Hopper NWR. We should get good looks at California Condors and

possibly Golden Eagles. We will be given an overview of the program, shown how radio telemetry and GPS tracking units are helping to save the bird, told about the past and future of the Condor, and shown nest cam footage. All 73 condors in the California wild population visit this area now and again. The rough terrain around Hopper Mountain is the nesting hot spot for condors, and this is the time that young birds may be fledging! Take Interstate 5 North to SR 126 West (in Castaic Junction) to Fillmore. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Fillmore at the Starbucks in the Vons plaza, located at 650 W Ventura St., in the SE corner of W Ventura St. and A Street. We will carpool from here into our high clearance vehicles and the USFWS vehicle. We will return to Fillmore by 1:00 p.m. or so. Nick & Mary will have lunch in Fillmore, if you wish to join. High clearance vehicles are required, so bring one if you have one, and check the spare. These roads are not for the timid! 5 car limit. Some of us usually eat lunch in town afterwards. Reserve your place with LAAS by phone, stating phone # (preferably cell) and email address, whether you have a high clearance vehicle that can accommodate at least 4 people total (priority) or you would like to carpool with someone else. Wait for confirmation. Bring drinks, snacks, and FRS radio and a scope if you have them. No fee, but donations accepted to the Condor Survival Fund (or buy a cool T-shirt or hat).

Sunday, November 18

San Jacinto Wildlife Area and Lakeview Area

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leaders: *Nick and Mary Freeman*. Little Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gulls (2!), Short-eared Owls (2!) seen on past trips may not be back this year; but surely something will take their places, such as the Iceland Gull and Gyrfalcon seen here in recent years (but not on our trip)! Take the 10 or 60 Fwy E to the 215 Fwy S, exit E at Ramona Expressway, continue E just past Perris Blvd., and meet at the Farmer Boys Restaurant on the S side of the road (145A Ramona Expressway, Perris). Leave from here at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, warm clothing and footwear for (hopeful) mud. We will try to carpool to defray the \$10 entrance fee for Lake Perris, if we go there.

Sunday, December 9 (Change of Date! Was Nov. 4th))

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 down from the end of University Drive at 8:30 a.m. for the 5.8' high tide, and a full day of birding in the area. High tide at the mouth is about 9:20 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, Sora, American Bittern, Peregrine Falcon, Blue-winged Teal and California Gnatcatcher are expected. Short-

eared Owl (rare) will also be a target. We will 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. Turn right on Irvine Ave., then turn left on University Drive, a small street. Park beyond the Preserve HQ (2301 University Dr., Newport Beach 92660), and walk down the trail and over the bridge to where the boardwalk starts to curve. Bring lunch. 'Scopes and FRS radios helpful.

CHRISTMAS COUNT TEASERS:

Saturday, December 15

Lancaster Christmas Bird Count

Contact compilers *Nick and Mary Freeman* at: (818) 636-4361 or mnfreeman@earthlink.net to be placed on a team or be given an area. *Prairie Falcon, Mountain Bluebird, Greater Roadrunner, LeConte's Thrasher, and Burrowing and Long-eared owls usually reported by someone!*

Sunday, December 16

Malibu Christmas Bird Count

Contact compiler *Dick Norton* at: (310) 455-1138 or richardjnorton@gmail.com to be matched up with a team or a survey area. *Historically, our best-attended count!*

Wednesday, January 2

Los Angeles Christmas Bird Count

Contact compiler *Daniel Cooper* at: dan@cooperecological.com to be matched up with a team or a survey area. 🐦



Secrets of the Chaparral
Richard Halsey



September 12, 2018

Monthly Program Presentation

Secrets of the Chaparral

with Speaker *Richard Halsey*

WHEN: Wednesday, September 12

TIME: 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

WHERE: Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, 6300 Hetzler Road, Culver City 90232

<http://losangelesaudubon.org/monthly-programs>

2018 Audubon California Assembly

Registration open for Audubon California Assembly, Nov. 2-4

Chapter leaders and members are invited to join us November 2nd through the 4th in Long Beach for the 2018 Audubon Assembly!

The theme of the 2018 Assembly is *Look Up*. The weekend will be an opportunity to look outside our local programs and learn from each other.

Please visit our website to see the program, list of field trips, and reserve lodging. If you have any questions in the interim, please feel free to contact us at chapternetworkca@audubon.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Long Beach this fall!