

WESTERN TANAGER



Red-tailed Hawk rescued from freeway overpass and released after rehabilitation. Photo credits from L to R: Asa Shumskas, Julie Drake, Nurit Katz

Urban Raptors Surviving on the Streets: the Los Angeles Raptor Study

by Nurit Katz, Outreach Coordinator, Los Angeles Raptor Study

Over the six years of the Los Angeles Raptor Study, a community science supported by Friends of Griffith Park, over 600 raptor nests have been found in locations that range from natural areas in open space to trees right next to the freeway. In our dense urban environment raptors are finding ways to make their home in backyards, and even on buildings in busy downtown areas. The study was first launched in 2017 as Griffith Park Raptor Survey and has expanded since then. More than 100 trained study volunteers monitor these nests in the Spring, tracking whether they are successful and how many chicks they have. “This data-gathering is vital to biologists because it represents a specific, comprehensive dataset of raptor habits over multiple years,” says Dan Cooper, the Study Director, who also serves as Senior Conservation Biologist for the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The life of our urban raptors in Los Angeles can be dangerous and difficult. Vehicle and building strikes, poisoning from rodenticides, disturbance from noisy construction projects, tree trimming and illegal nest removal, even diseases carried by pigeons, are all threats our hawks and owls have to navigate. On June 15, Courtney McCammon, Volunteer Coordinator for the Los Angeles Raptor Study, and Urban Ecologist for Recreation and Parks, got a call from Frances Tait, one of the Raptor Study volunteers. While walking her daughter to school her husband Asa had found an injured juvenile Red-tailed Hawk on a freeway overpass in Hollywood. Courtney was able to capture the hawk,

and Outreach Coordinator Nurit Katz transported it to Ojai Raptor Center, a specialized rehabilitation center in Ojai. “We knew the bird would be in good hands, but we were very anxious for updates,” Tait explained to the Eastsider, who covered the rescue.

The young hawk had suffered a right femoral fracture, bilateral coracosternal luxations (coracoid dislocated from the sternum) and mild right eye trauma, likely from a vehicle strike. Many rescued raptors do not survive because the injuries are too severe. In this case with veterinary care and after weeks of rehabilitation the young Red-tailed Hawk was fully healed and able to be released. In mid-August volunteers and raptor study staff gathered and released the hawk in a park not far from its nest territory- one of the most urban nests in the study, located in a tree right at a freeway ramp, surrounded by rushing traffic.

Some of the nests in the study staff are able to find by tracking hawks as they fly, but for many nests the study relies on community science data from iNaturalist and ebird, and tips from neighbors who have noticed the raptors or their nests and hear about the study via NextDoor or other social media outreach. Many residents in LA walk their neighborhoods every day without realizing there is a hawk or owl raising its young right above their heads, but for those who do notice, they often get excited and even connect with the raptor family long term, watching their progression over the years. Hawks and owls often



Pine tree with Red-tailed Hawk nest and hawks before and after trimming with distressed hawk perched at the tree. Photo credit Nurit Katz.

pair for life and will nest in the same territory year after year, and often in the same nest location. One neighbor fondly called his neighborhood Cooper’s Hawk Anderson, for Anderson Cooper. Study staff have heard all sorts of interesting stories from residents, from hawks bathing in pools and fountains and accidentally flying inside the house, to young Cooper’s hawk plucking a towel or playing with a pine cone as they practice hunting.

In July, the study Outreach Coordinator received frantic calls from multiple residents of a Mt. Washington neighborhood. The residents had observed a long standing pair of Red-tailed Hawks nesting on the street for over 10 years, watching multiple generations of young hawks take flight, and considered the hawks part of their community. A tree trimmer had come in and heavily trimmed the nest tree during nesting season, which is illegal, and ended up removing the nest despite neighbors trying to stop them. The neighbors were distraught and the hawk family was clearly distressed. Raptor Study staff were able to report the violation to the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and educate residents about the Cal Tip hotline for future. If you ever see a violation in progress you can call 1-888-334-CALTIP (888-334-2258), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To avoid these kinds of problems in the future, study staff also assisted in teaching a workshop for arborists across California on Tree Care for Birds and Wildlife. Helpful resources can be found at treecareforbirds.com.

Through the raptor study we continue to learn how these important indicator species are adapting to our urban environment. Continuing this work to better understand our urban ecology, and ensuring their survival, takes a village. Although human activity causes environmental harm, people can also work together to support raptors and other wildlife. Not trimming during nesting season, making sure not to use rodenticides, reporting illegal activity, taking care not to disturb nesting birds, and contacting a wildlife rehabilitator if you see injured wildlife, can all help these incredible birds have a better

chance of survival. Educate your friends and neighbors and help build a community that is more supportive of raptors and biodiversity.

You can help the Raptor Study by reporting nests or frequent raptor activity in your neighborhood to raptors@friendsofgriffithpark.org or to Outreach Coordinator Nurit Katz at 818-384-9493. You can also contact Nurit by text or call for assistance if you are unable to transport an injured raptor. If you would like to get more involved volunteer for the 2023 season you can fill out the application on the Los Angeles Raptor Study website. Volunteering requires attending a training workshop and then checking an assigned nest once every two weeks.

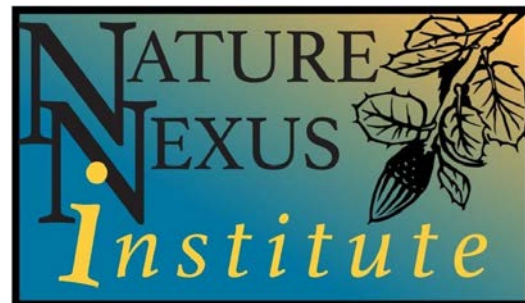
To learn more about urban raptors and here the results of the 2022 Los Angeles Raptor Study, join the study team on September 14 at 7pm for the Final Presentation. You can RSVP at this link: <https://friendsofgriffithpark.org/calendar-of-events/>



Fledgling Cooper’s Hawk in a front yard in the San Fernando Valley after leaving the nest. Photo credit: Nurit Katz

Nature Nexus Institute Takes Flight

The education programs that have grown under the wing of Los Angeles Audubon Society have taken flight. The Nature Nexus Institute (NNI) has been established as a standalone nonprofit organization, coalescing programs that have grown from serving 50 students in 2008 to more than 5,000 students, teachers, and community members a year now. The spin-off of these programs to a focused new nonprofit positions them to make even bigger strides to support opportunities for community-nature connection, stewardship, and youth leadership. The mission of the new organization follows:



Nature Nexus Institute (NNI) is founded on the belief that reciprocity between communities and nature is essential to the survival of both. We seek to provide equitable and intergenerational entry points to cultivating healthy community-nature relationships. To that end, we strive to be a nexus for science, culture, art, and research endeavors that result in a new generation of change-makers and storytellers.

Through collaborations, NNI strives to connect with BIPOC youth and communities that have been marginalized, providing programming that combines STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) activities and social-emotional connection to local nature.

Nature Nexus Institute programs include:

- Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program – STEAM & leadership for teens
- NNI Fellows - early-career environmental job training
- West Los Angeles College Conservation Studies Certificate Program
- Nature-based workshops at local libraries
- Nature-based STEAM field trips and on-campus programs, with a focus on Title 1 schools in Los Angeles
- Free STEAM Summer Camp at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area
- Community nature walks for all ages
- Habitat restoration volunteer opportunities for communities and organizations
- Docent Training Program – leading school and community nature walks

Los Angeles Audubon and NNI will collaborate to deliver the longstanding Ballona Wetlands youth education and docent program and other bird conservation and community science projects.

Staff of the new institute are Stacey Vigallon, Ed.D. (Executive Director), Carol Babeli (Development Director), Emily Cobar (Community Programs Director), Cindy Hardin (Outdoor Education Director), Brian Young (Arts and Education Specialist), Ingrid Carillo (Habitat Restoration Site Manager and Education Specialist), and Arely Mendia Perez (Habitat Restoration Site Manager and Education Specialist). The Board is Margot Griswold, Ph.D., Nicole Lawson, Ph.D., and David McNeill.

Be sure to keep up with NNI at their website <https://www.naturenexusinstitute.org/> and on social media.



We Are Looking For Volunteers!

Los Angeles Audubon Society's newly independent education partner Nature Nexus Institute is all about sharing and teaching local school children about the special habitats found right here in Los Angeles. They will soon be starting Fall training to get ready for school field trips to the Ballona Wetlands and the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

Tours take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Ballona, and on Fridays at the Overlook. All you need to be a volunteer is a love of the outdoors and the enthusiasm to work with some school age aspiring nature lovers. Training will begin in mid-September. Please contact Cindy Hardin at chardin@naturenexusinstitute.org or give a call at 310-301-0050 if you are interested.



CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Travis Longcore

The migration each year of nearly 5 billion birds from breeding grounds in North America to wintering grounds in Central and South America and the Caribbean (the “Neotropics”) is both one of the wonders of nature and what marks the season for birders. Some of those birds even stay and overwinter here in Los Angeles and other southern reaches of North America. A Western Tanager stopped under our oak tree as this column was going to press but it will be another month before the Yellow-rumped Warblers arrive for the winter.

Protecting birds through all the phases of the year from breeding, migrating, to wintering, is known as full life-cycle conservation (1). During the migratory period, birds are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of artificial light at night, because most diurnal species, including Neotropical migrants, move at night when it is cooler. Migrating birds are attracted to light, and the lights of cities draw them off course and dramatically influence their migratory pathways, which is not to their benefit. Birds attracted to lights of cities then must face the perils of the daytime, including walls of glass that pose a collision hazard during the day.

Glass is a problem because birds literally do not see it as a barrier and either try to fly through it to something on the other side, or perceive the sky or vegetation reflected in it and attempt to fly to it. Birds can see the magnetic polarity of the Earth and use it to orient, which humans cannot. We humans can see glass and understand it is a barrier, while birds cannot. An estimated 600 million birds per year die at windows in the United States each year (2). Spring and fall migrations are peaks of these deaths and the attraction of birds to lights puts them in places where this occurs.

Two pieces of legislation are in the works to help save birds from lights and glass. In California, a bill (Assembly Bill 2382) has been introduced by Assemblymember Alex Lee (Milpitas) that would reduce light pollution from State of California-owned and operated buildings. This is an Audubon-supported effort: Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society worked to get the bill introduced and Audubon California has taken it up as one of their legislative priorities. Los Angeles Audubon Society members joined SCVAS and Audubon California representatives to meet with State Senator Ben Allen (Santa Monica) and encourage that he support the bill and other statewide legislative

priorities for birds. Senator Allen has now signed on as a coauthor of AB 2382, which we greatly appreciate.

AB 2382 has passed the Assembly and the Senate and is now awaiting the Governor’s signature. You can help by calling the Governor’s office at (916) 445-2841 and encouraging that he sign AB 2382. Written comments can be submitted at <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>. Please also thank Assemblymember Alex Lee (<https://a25.asmdc.org/contact>) and Senator Ben Allen (<https://sd26.senate.ca.gov/contact/message>) for their leadership on this issue.

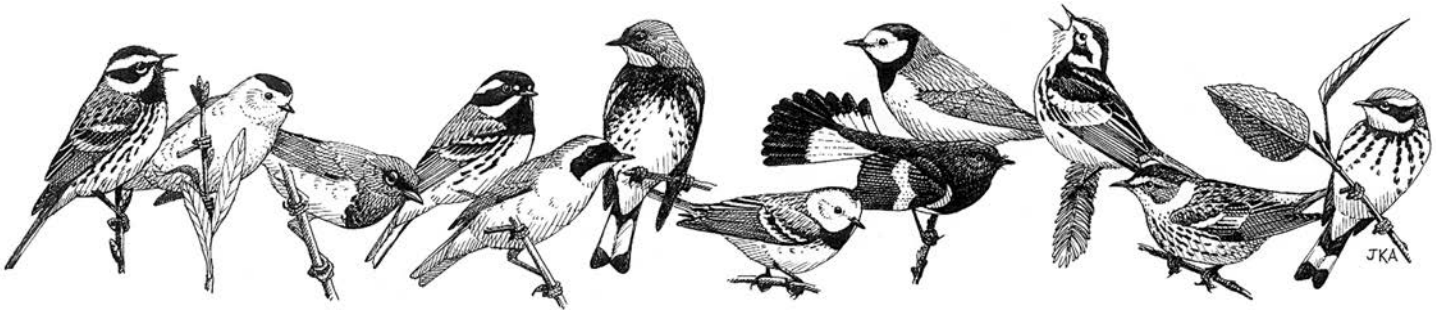
At the federal level, Congressman Mike Quigley (Illinois) and Senator Cory Booker (New Jersey) have introduced the Federal Bird Safe Buildings Act. This bill would require that federal buildings be designed and managed with bird-safe features and that the federal government create and disseminate a design guide for bird safe buildings. Bird safe or bird friendly building involves breaking up expanses of glass with architectural detail, using screens or grills to both avoid collisions and manage heat and light, and control of light at night to reduce bird attraction. This legislation has passed the House before, but still needs to make it through the Senate. You can call your Senators and let them know that you support the Federal Bird Safe Buildings Act and that they should too. A tool from National Audubon will send messages to all your members of Congress, <https://act.audubon.org/a/bird-safe-buildings-act>.

The effects on birds from light pollution and window collisions can be reduced. These two pieces of legislations are important steps to show state and federal leadership so that the private sector can follow suit. Other cities and states have already acted on bird-friendly building and light pollution controls, so we hope you will encourage the same here in California and at the federal level.

References

1. P. P. Marra, E. B. Cohen, S. R. Loss, J. E. Rutter, C. M. Tonra, A call for full annual cycle research in animal ecology. *Biology Letters* 11, 20150552 (2015).
2. S. R. Loss, T. Will, S. S. Loss, P. P. Marra, Bird–building collisions in the United States: estimates of annual mortality and species vulnerability. *Condor* 116, 8–23 (2014).





BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Jon Fisher

August 2022

In some respects, July represents the summer doldrums for birds and birding. Breeding activity is largely over and fall migration has yet to get into full swing. But nothing is static in the bird world. Shorebird migration was already well underway, and the first southbound passerines were not far behind. Though much of what migration has served up thus far has been standard fare, a handful of vagrants have already been recorded.

Productive locations this summer included the Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base, Malibu Lagoon, and the lower Los Angeles River. Pelagic birding trips and coastal spots also provided some interesting records.

Here's a look at birds of note in the county in July and August...

Common Mergansers are scarce in summer, but reports have been increasing of late and breeding has been confirmed. One was at Quail Lake near Gorman from June 25-August 12, with two there on July 23 (Brad Rumble, Naresh Satyan). Nine were at Castaic Lagoon on July 1, with three still present on July 22 (Hans Spiecker).

The **Greater Roadrunner** seen off and on along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach was reported through August 10. Individuals occasionally wander far from expected areas.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at the Piute Ponds on June 28-July 14 (Chris Dean) and on San Clemente Island on July 13 (Kandace Glanville, Ben Stalheim). This

species is presumably extirpated as a breeder in the county, but a handful of recent summer records leave open the possibility that a few pairs persist.

A few **Black Swifts** continued to be seen regularly in the late afternoon above Claremont through July 25, presumably returning to local but still unknown nesting sites.

Among a few obvious hybrids recorded so far this year, a fairly pure **American Oystercatcher** was in the Los Angeles Harbor on July 30 (Andy Birch).

Red Knots were at Malibu Lagoon from July 17-18 (David Hurst) and again on August 15 (Naresh Satyan), while **Stilt Sandpipers** were along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach on July 30 (Merryl Edelstein) and at the Piute Ponds on August 14 (Mark & Janet Scheel). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were on the Los Angeles River in Maywood from August 11-15 (Mark Wilson) and at Malibu Lagoon from August 14-21 (Chris Tosdevin).

Unusual away from offshore waters was a **Sabine's Gull** at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas from August 9-16 (Keith Condon). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was along the lower Los Angeles River in Long Beach from July 3-August 16, establishing the county's first summer record (David Bell, Luke Tiller). Also of note was a **Glaucous-winged Gull** in the Maywood area from July 4-August 2, with two birds present there from August 1-2 (Richard Barth, Brad Rumble).

Rare inland was a **Least Tern** at the Piute Ponds on July 4 (William Tyrer). A **Common Tern** was at Dockweiler State Beach

in El Segundo on July 30 (Kevin Lapp). An **Elegant Tern** breeding colony was again active on a barge in Long Beach Harbor with up to 400 birds present on July 14 (Kim Moore).

Very rare in LA County waters was a Wilson's Storm-Petrel in the Catalina Channel south of San Pedro on July 10 (multiple observers). Also unusual was a Townsend's Storm-Petrel southeast of Santa Catalina Island on July 31 (multiple observers). The latter species was until recently considered a subspecies of Leach's Storm-Petrel.

Rarely recorded in the county was a **Manx Shearwater** above Redondo Canyon off Redondo Beach on July 17 (multiple observers). The past decade has produced fewer than ten records.

A **Brown Booby** was in the Catalina Channel off of San Pedro on July 30 (Mark & Janet Scheel, Andy Birch, Naresh Satyan) and boobies of indeterminate species were at the Ballona Creek mouth on August 3 (Russell Stone) and off Leo Carrillo State Beach on August 5 (Jon Fisher).

Over a dozen **Neotropic Cormorants** were reported during the period, with a high count of eight in the Sepulveda Basin, including a nest with young.

A wayward inland **Brown Pelican** continued at the Sepulveda Basin through July 3. Emaciated pelicans continued to turn up in above average numbers along the coast; a handful of these were captured, rehabilitated, and released.

Most **Reddish Egret** appearances in the county to date have been ephemeral, but

one and then two at Malibu Lagoon from July 3-August 1 helped reverse that trend and gave many observers the chance to add this species to their lists (Peter Bedrossian, Chris Dean). Additionally, at least ten **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were recorded, all at coastal or near coastal locations.

An early **Western Wood-Pewee** was at the Piute Ponds on July 22 (Chris Dean). Several **Gray Flycatchers**, on territory and likely breeding locally, were along Ball Flat Road on the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains from June 12-24 (Kimball Garrett).

An **American Dipper**, ever more difficult to find in the county, was along the Burkhart Trail in the San Gabriel Mountains on June 30 (Jack Wickel). Another persisted in San Antonio Canyon below Mt. Baldy Village through July 4.

A handful of **Red Crossbills** were recorded in the high east San Gabriel Mountains where they are nomadic and scarce, or at least scarcely detected.

Away from the deserts where they are regular in spring and summer, a **Scott's Oriole** was at Wheeler Park in Claremont on June 25 (Tom Miko).

The Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB produced a **Lucy's Warbler** on August 14 (Femi Fam-inu), and another was along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach on August 18 (Jeff Boyd). A **Virginia's Warbler** was at Stephen Sorensen Park in Lake Los Angeles from August 20-25 (Kimball Garrett). Quite early was a **Wilson's Warbler** at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City on July 10 (Manuel Duran).

Summer Tanagers were found on San Clemente Island on June 29 (Ben Stalheim, Kandace Glanville), in San Antonio Canyon below Mt. Baldy Village on July 4 (Tom Miko) and at Farnsworth Park in Altadena on August 9 (Jeffrey Fenwick).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in Zuma Canyon on June 27 (William Tyrer) and again on August 13, on San Clemente Island on June 29 (Ben Stalheim) and at Rancho Sierra Golf Course in the east Antelope Valley on August 21 (David Bell). An **Indigo Bunting** was along the Los Angeles River in Glendale from July 29-August 19 (Jon Fisher).

Though summer shorebirding is rewarding, the best may be yet to come. September and October offer an impressive mix of birds of many genera, including both regular and unexpected vagrants. To my

mind, this is the most exciting time of year for birding in southern California. Another plus is that while spring vagrants often move on quickly, fall birds tend to linger, offering a better chance for birders to see them.

Water has always been a scarce resource in the west, and that is true now more than ever due to a prolonged drought and the effects of climate change. But parks, towns and ranches in the deserts and well-watered suburban areas throughout the region provide water and food that attract and nourish birds, especially those migrants not well adapted to arid landscapes. This is particularly true in the hot dry months from August through October. These will be good places to check in the coming months.

As we know well, each year can be markedly different from the previous one; we never know exactly what is going turn up. Last fall offered up a bonanza of vagrants, but what 2022 will reward us with remains unknown, though not for long.



Reddish Egret, Photo Credit: Jon Fisher

HOPE IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS

by Kelsey Reckling



Moore Lab of Zoology, Occidental College, 2022

My alarm rings loudly as I open my eyes in a panic, feeling for my phone in a pitch black room. I fumble a few times before I find it and then I quickly shut off the ear-splitting sound. The phone lights up: 4:30AM. I close my eyes for a few moments and think, “Maybe I should just go back to sleep.” Until another thought interrupts that one, “But then I will miss the birds!”

This is how I begin every morning during spring migration in Los Angeles. A fear of missing out that outweighs exhaustion or the desire for sleep. After all, I already spent 10 years asleep at life’s wheel. Wait, what? Let me rewind a little. My name is Kelsey, and I am a recovering alcoholic. One of my favorite pastimes is examining the past: whether it be the evolutionary history of birds, or reflecting back on my own life. About six and a half years ago, when I was 25, I found myself in a desperate place — and in hindsight, it was the best place to be in because it was when I decided to get sober and begin the healing process of a lifetime. Suddenly, I was met with feeling actual feelings, sorting through them and processing. I remember opening the front door to my house and feeling

like it was the first time I had walked outside in 10 years. In an effort to get out of my own head, I took to walking the nature trails nearby my house. The trees! The wind! Rocks! A bird! Everything was amazing. The world that was always around me felt brand new. And so began my daily investigation of a new world. It became an active meditation, a healing, and knowing. In these daily encounters, I became familiar with who surrounded me: *Quercus agrifolia*, California Scrub Jay, alluvium sediment. I needed to know more.

I’ve spent the last six years doing anything I could to learn more about birds. From getting to know my backyard visitors, learning who was who on nearby hiking trails, to working at a wildlife rehab to get a better sense of anatomy and handling live birds, to *trying* to find my way into the Ornithology collections at the Natural History Museum, but landing in Entomology instead, to being selected for an Artist-in-Residence program at a lab in Iowa where I prepped my first bird specimen and learned how to bird band, and finding the Moore Lab of Zoology here in Los Angeles where I regularly prepped museum specimens and where I now do research. I decided to take



Northern Mockingbirds, my backyard, 2016

some classes at a community college, became a certified California Naturalist, and eventually decided to actually pursue an undergraduate degree in Biology. In between, I also volunteered at different Audubon chapters, attending events, leading native plant walks, doing point counts along the L.A. River, and Least Tern nest monitoring. Now, at age 30, I'm three classes away from finishing my undergrad at Occidental College, and I get up before the sun, where I drive to a narrow mountain pass in the San Gabriel Mountains and collect data while watching the spectacular dawn bird migration.



Banding a Yellow-rumped Warbler at Bear Divide, San Gabriel Mountains, 2021

If you had asked me 6 years ago if I could ever imagine myself where I am today, the answer would simply be “No.” But we can learn a lot from taking a moment to get out of our own heads, connecting with nature, and peering into the lives of other organisms. It saved my life. It gave me a thirst I didn't know before — a thirst for knowledge and understanding.

For comments: kelseywreck@gmail.com

* Title of this piece from Emily Dickinson poem entitled “Hope”.



Black-headed Grosbeak, Hansen Dam, 2020

UPCOMING BIRD WALKS

Open Wetlands at Ballona Salt Marsh — Bird Walk (1st Saturday)

Saturday, Sep. 3 & Oct. 1
Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

The first Saturday and second Sunday of every month (EXCEPT AUGUST), from 9 a.m. to noon, Los Angeles Audubon Society hosts the “Open Wetlands” event at the Ballona Salt Marsh. Binoculars will be available to borrow, and volunteers will help visitors view aquatic invertebrates through microscopes, learn about the unique ecosystems found at Ballona, and view birds through powerful spotting scopes along Ballona Creek. Please call (310) 301-0050 if you have any questions.

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. Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

No baby strollers please

Open Wetlands at Ballona Salt Marsh — Bird Walk (2nd Sunday)

Sunday, Sep. 11 & Oct. 9
Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

The 2nd Sunday of every month (EXCEPT AUGUST), from 9 a.m. to noon, Los Angeles Audubon Society hosts the “Open Wetlands” event at the Ballona Salt Marsh. Binoculars will be available to borrow, and volunteers will help visitors view aquatic invertebrates through microscopes, learn about the unique ecosystems found at Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and view birds through powerful spotting scopes along Ballona Creek. Please call (310) 301-0050 if you have any questions.

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.

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area — Bird Walk (3rd Saturday)

Saturday, Sep. 17 & Oct. 15
Time: 8:00 a.m. – noon

Leader: Ann and Eric Brooks
This walk covers landscaped parkland, an artificial creek, and lake and natural and restored areas of Coastal Sage Scrub habitats within the Baldwin Hills. We are likely to see many of the resident birds such as Black Phoebe, Cassin’s Kingbird, California and Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, Red-tailed, Red-shoulder and Cooper’s Hawk.

The park entrance is off of La Cienega Blvd. between Rodeo Rd. and Stocker St. After passing the entrance kiosk (\$6.00 parking fee) turn left (leading to the “Olympic Forest”) and park in the first available spaces. (4100 S. La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles 90056). Binoculars provided.

South Los Angeles Wetlands Park — Bilingual Bird Walk

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022
Time: 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Leader: Brad Rumble
This introductory walk explores the avian diversity of the award-winning constructed wetland habitat and surroundings. Waterbirds, shorebirds, and migrants. Suitable for all ages and wheelchair accessible. Binoculars available. English and Spanish.

Esta caminata introductoria explora la diversidad de aves del galardonado hábitat de humedales artificiales y sus alrededores. Aves acuáticas, playeras y migrantes. Apto para todas las edades y accesible en silla de ruedas. Prismáticos disponibles. Inglés y español.

The park entrance is off of Avalon Boulevard just south of 54th street and north of Slauson Boulevard (5413 S Avalon Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90011).

La entrada al parque está en Avalon Boulevard, justo al sur de la calle 54 y al norte de Slauson Boulevard (5413 S Avalon Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90011).

Will Rogers State Historic Park — Beginner's Bird Walk (Experienced birders welcome too!)

Sunday, Oct. 16
Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am
RSVP via text, in advance is required, Limit 10

LOCATION: Will Rogers State Historic Park, 1501 Will Rogers State Park Road, Pacific Palisades, 90272

Join leaders Julie Hanson and Jane Klein for a beginners bird walk at this beautiful coastal location. Leaders will cover the basics of binocular use, bird identification, and common Los Angeles birds. Experienced birders welcome too. Some binoculars available to borrow. Children ages 8 and up welcome with parent. Please RSVP in advance by text to (310) 922-8153; limited to 10.

Meet at the picnic tables next to the parking lot at Will Rogers State Historic Park at 1501 Will Rogers State Park Road in Pacific Palisades.

Franklin Canyon Bird Walk (SFVAS; 2nd Sunday)

Sooky Goldman Nature Center
Sunday, Oct. 9

Time: 8:00 am – 10:00 am
Reservation required.

This event is organized and led by San Fernando Valley Audubon Society.

Time change is this weekend, and our website is giving us a hassle about the time. The walk starts at 8 am.

Paula Orlovich will lead this walk in one of L.A.’s hidden gems. Walk is limited to ten people due to narrow hiking trails.

Contact Paula by text to reserve a spot: (818) 481-5605

Further information here:
<https://www.sfvaudubon.org/birding-spots/franklin-canyon/>



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1–2	<i>Hawk On The Block</i>
Page 3	<i>Nature Nexus & Volunteers</i>
Page 4	<i>Conservation Conversation</i>
Pages 5–6	<i>Birds of the Season</i>
Page 7–8	<i>Hope Is The Thing With Feathers</i>
Pages 9	<i>Upcoming Bird Walks</i>

Board Officers & Directors 2022–2023

President	Travis Longcore
Vice President	Catherine Rich
Treasurer	Margot Griswold
Director	Diana Nicole
Director	Eric Wood

Programs & Activities

Conservation — Travis Longcore travislongcore@laaudubon.org

Education — Margot Griswold
mgriswold@naturenexusinstitute.org

Rare Bird Alert — Jon Fisher JonF60@hotmail.com

Scientific Advisor — Kimball Garrett kgarrett@nhm.org

Staff — 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 editorwtanager@gmail.com. Photos should be high resolution (300ppi) .jpg or .tif files. Submissions are due the 15th of the month to be included in the next issue, (Aug. 15, Oct. 15, Dec. 15, Feb. 15, Apr. 15, June 15.)

All rights reserved. All photographs are used by permission and are copyrighted material of the credited photographers.

Editor — Linda Oberholtzer editorwtanager@gmail.com

Layout — Susan Castor susancastor@laaudubon.org

© 2022 Los Angeles Audubon Society

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:
twitter.com/LAAudubon

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/LosAngelesAudubon

MONTHLY PROGRAM PRESENTATION WED., OCT. 12, 2022, 7:30 PM



Morning flight at Bear Divide: Why does it happen and what have we learned?

Bear Divide in the San Gabriel Mountains recently has been found to host spectacular morning flights of migratory birds in the spring. For the past four years, birders have been counting migratory birds at Bear Divide, and over the past two years, the Bear Divide Migration Count has been intensively surveying this location to learn more about this unique phenomenon. Join count organizer Ryan Terrill to hear about this site, what kinds of birds use it, and what has been learned so far about this fantastic bird migration location.

Dr. Ryan S. Terrill grew up birding in California, and after graduating from UC Santa Cruz received his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, where he studied the evolution of molt strategies in birds. He is a co-author of the Field Guide to the Birds of Bolivia and the recent description of the Inti Tanager, a genus and species of bird new to science, as well as 24 other publications in peer-reviewed journals. He is active in academic ornithology and California birding communities, and has dedicated much of his past four springs to standing around at Bear Divide and wishing he had thought to bring more coffee.

The program will be presented online at:
<https://bluejeans.com/362938347/2902>

November Program: *Andy Birch, Tracking Nocturnal Migration in Los Angeles*

**FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON ALL LAAS ACTIVITIES, PLEASE VISIT
 OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LAAUDUBON.ORG**