

# WESTERN TANAGER



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

**BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

|                           |                      |  |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>          | Margot Griswold      | <a href="mailto:mgriswold@landiq.com">mgriswold@landiq.com</a>                 |
| <b>Past President</b>     | Travis Longcore      | <a href="mailto:travislongcore@laaudubon.org">travislongcore@laaudubon.org</a> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | Robert Jeffers       | <a href="mailto:jeffers@laaudubon.org">jeffers@laaudubon.org</a>               |
| <b>Secretary</b>          | Nicole Lannoy Lawson | <a href="mailto:nicolelawson@laaudubon.org">nicolelawson@laaudubon.org</a>     |
| <b>Directors at Large</b> | Catherine Rich       | Not Published  |

**COMMITTEES**

|                     |                 |  |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Conservation</b> | Travis Longcore | <a href="mailto:travislongcore@laaudubon.org">travislongcore@laaudubon.org</a> |
| <b>Education</b>    | Margot Griswold | <a href="mailto:mgriswold@landiq.com">mgriswold@landiq.com</a>                 |
| <b>Membership</b>   | Position Open   | <a href="mailto:membership@laaudubon.org">membership@laaudubon.org</a>         |

**PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES**

|                                |                 |  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Field Trips</b>             | Nick Freeman    | <a href="mailto:mrfreeman@earthlink.net">mrfreeman@earthlink.net</a>           |
| <b>Bird Walks</b>              | Eleanor Osgood  | <a href="mailto:gardenbird1@att.net">gardenbird1@att.net</a>                   |
| <b>Monthly Programs</b>        | Travis Longcore | <a href="mailto:travislongcore@laaudubon.org">travislongcore@laaudubon.org</a> |
| <b>Rare Bird Alert</b>         | Jon Fisher      | <a href="mailto:JonF60@hotmail.com">JonF60@hotmail.com</a>                     |
| <b>Schreiber Grant Program</b> | Ryan Harrigan   | <a href="mailto:ryanharrigan@laaudubon.org">ryanharrigan@laaudubon.org</a>     |

**STAFF**

|   |                 |  |
|---|-----------------|--|
| <b>Director of Communications &amp; Development</b> | Carol Babeli    | <a href="mailto:carolbabeli@laaudubon.org">carolbabeli@laaudubon.org</a>   |
| <b>Director of Outdoor Education</b>                | Cindy Hardin    | <a href="mailto:cindyhardin@laaudubon.org">cindyhardin@laaudubon.org</a>   |
| <b>Director of Environmental Education</b>          | Stacey Vigallon | <a href="mailto:tem@laaudubon.org">tem@laaudubon.org</a>                   |
| <b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>                        | Cindy Hardin    | <a href="mailto:cindyhardin@laaudubon.org">cindyhardin@laaudubon.org</a>   |
| <b>Member Services</b>                              | Susan Castor    | <a href="mailto:membership@laaudubon.org">membership@laaudubon.org</a>     |
| <b>Website Liason</b>                               | Nicole Lawson   | <a href="mailto:nicolelawson@laaudubon.org">nicolelawson@laaudubon.org</a> |

*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](mailto:westernanager@laaudubon.org). Photos should be high resolution (300ppi) .jpg or .tif files. **Submissions are due the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

|                            |                   |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Editor</b>              | Linda Oberholtzer | <a href="mailto:westernanager@laaudubon.org">westernanager@laaudubon.org</a> |
| <b>Design &amp; Layout</b> | Susan Castor      | <a href="mailto:susancastor@laaudubon.org">susancastor@laaudubon.org</a>     |
| <b>Scientific Advisor</b>  | Kimball Garrett   | <a href="mailto:kgarrett@nhm.org">kgarrett@nhm.org</a>                       |

© 2019 Los Angeles Audubon Society

# CONTENTS

- REQUIEM FOR HABITAT LOST,  
By Louis Tucker
- WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER MONITORING PROGRAM,  
By Stacey Vigallon & Carol Babeli
- BIRDS OF THE SEASON,  
By Jon Fisher

## SCHEDULES

- Field Trips
- Bird Walks

# PUBLIC LECTURES

**Wed., March 13** — Brian Elliott  
presents BIRDING IN NEPAL

**Wed., April 10** — Ryan Harrigan  
presents BIRDS AND DISEASE

## TIME

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM PT

## LOCATION

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

## 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](http://laaudubon.org)

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

# REQUIEM FOR HABITAT LOST

By Louis Tucker, Los Angeles Audubon Member & Field Trip Leader

*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine*

Grant them eternal rest, o Lord

*et lux perpetua luceat eis*

and let perpetual light shine upon them.

*Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion*

You shall have praise in Zion, o God,

*et tibi redetur votum in Jerusalem.*

and homage shall be paid to you in Jerusalem.

*Exaudi orationem meam.*

Hear my prayer.

*Ad te omnis caro veniet.*

All flesh shall come before you.

*Kyrie eleison.*

Lord, have mercy.

*Christe eleison.*

Christ, have mercy.

*Kyrie eleison.*

Lord, have mercy.

These words are the introduction to the Catholic Requiem Mass for the Dead. When I transferred out of Boston University over to Boston Conservatory of Music, my original aim was to be an opera singer, and I followed a voice teacher from BU over to BCM. The program at BCM for all voice students, as well as instrumentalists who didn't make it into the orchestra was to sing in the chorus. And, my sophomore, junior and senior years at BCM, the big concert with the chorus and orchestra was each year, a Requiem by great composers. So, in my sophomore year, we did Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem for orchestra and chorus and four vocal soloists: soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor and bass. I was the "stand by" for the bass solos. (I got to sing most of the rehearsals, but didn't get to sing the solos in the concert). My junior year, we did Johannes Brahms' "German Requiem": a rather Protestant departure of the Catholic text and the text is taken from both Old and New Testament Scriptures. And, it was for soprano and baritone soloists. I sang the baritone solos in that work. My senior year, we did the Antonin Dvorak's "Requiem", back to the Catholic texts, for orchestra and chorus and the soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, and bass solos. The bass solos were much too low for my high baritone voice; so, I was back in the chorus.



Background image: Ferruginous Hawk, Kern County | Photo By Larry Sansone

I thought about some of these musical masterpieces as I went up to scout out the western portion of the Antelope Valley: from Highway 14 and Avenue A west, which straddles Los Angeles and Kern Counties. With what unfolded during this fishing expedition caused me to add several more Requiem Masses to the aforementioned list. The two that I add to this list stretch the boundaries of something that has religious solemnity to a case for these masses to be incredibly dramatic, and almost cataclysmic. These requiems employ massive components that are even possibly beyond the religious and musical imagination. One is of the nineteenth century: Hector Berlioz's "La Grande Messe des Morts". The other is Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem". In writing this article, I got my inspiration by listening to all five of these monumental masterpieces. As I mentioned, the

Berlioz and the Britten break all kinds of rules of restraint, in terms of a

musical and spiritual journey. The Brahms, Verdi, and Dvorak don't show much restraint either. But, the last two are simply volcanic!

Interestingly, of these great musical works, the Berlioz was written and performed first in 1837. In some ways, it is the most visceral and savage. And it employs one of the largest orchestras and chorus for these works, in terms of musical imagination, it also could be defined as the most outrageous and amazing (that said, not in a bad way). The Brahms was performed in 1867. The Verdi was 1874. The Dvorak was performed in 1891. Britten's opus was premiered in 1963. I remember the American premiere of the "War Requiem" the following year in 1964 from Tanglewood, with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, on network TV. And, it not only uses the Catholic

liturgy, it also is inspired and propelled by the anti-war poetry of Wilfred Owen, a pacifist soldier who was killed in World War I.

I mention these gigantic musical works because I listened to them all as I began to grieve, tried to use my anger and disappointment for something positive, after my day up in the west AV. Each requiem was cathartic. They make writing easier. I'm glad to have recordings of these masses to carry me along. I started my scouting this day at the east end of the west AV, just leaving highway 14. The plan was to weave my way through the farm land and agriculture areas all the way to Quail Lake, as I had in past years when I discovered this winter paradise for birds. This winter, that scouting day proved to be shocking, disappointing, and sad. I will explain.

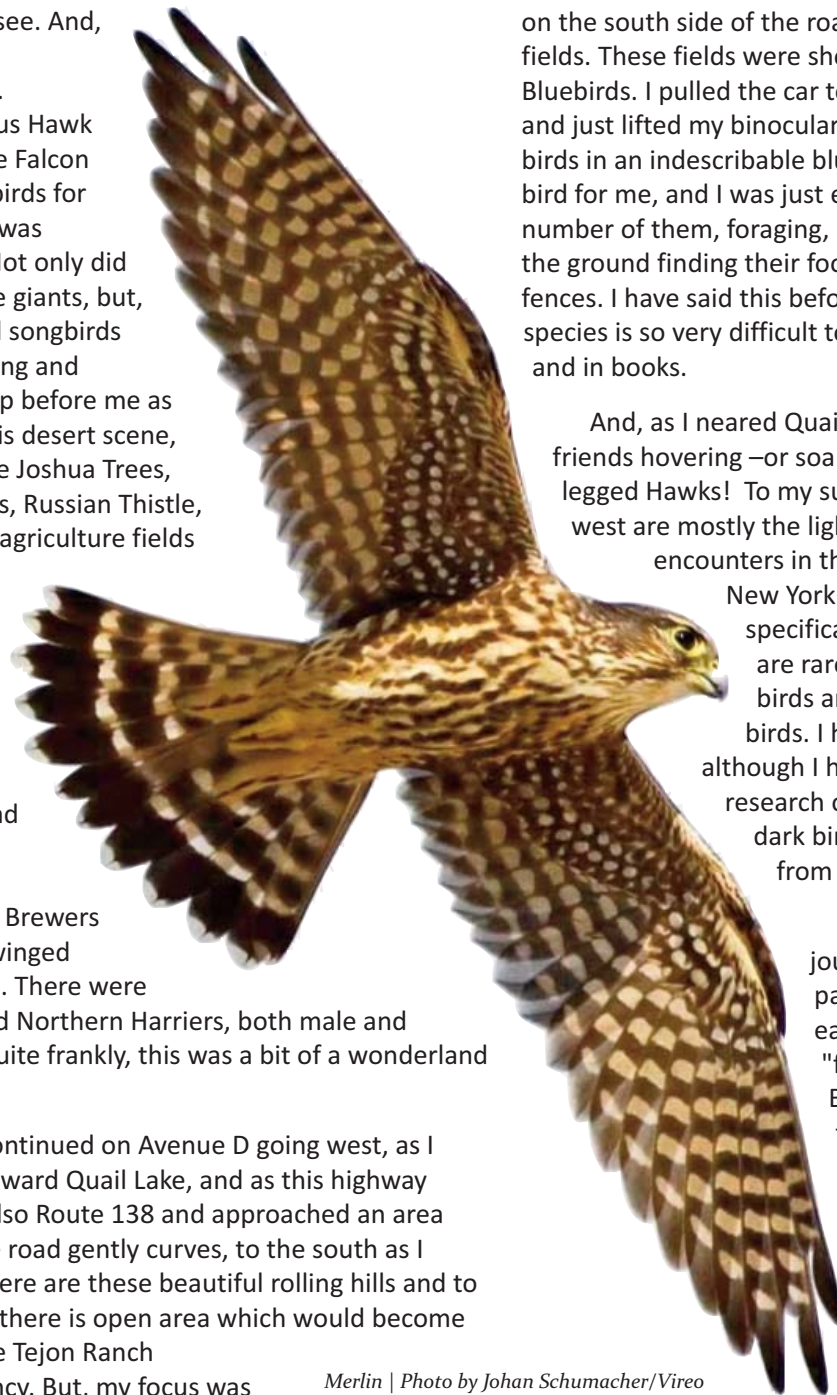
As of January 7, 2019, I have been in Los Angeles for 32 years. Ugh! I can't go into the reasons why I find myself here, there really is too much to tell, and maybe a book would be in order. However, I called the LA Audubon chapter and visited my first week here and I wanted to know where I could go to find wintering birds of prey. I remember speaking with dear Olga Clarke, who was incredibly helpful. I will never forget her kindness to me and the open smile on her face. And, she also suggested that I get in contact with Kimball Garrett, which I also did. And, I did find out exactly where I could go from Kimball to satisfy my hunger to see these creatures. I got maps; I charted my route and headed up to Highway 14 all the way northeast to Avenue D west.

Leaving the highway and starting on Avenue D, I was immediately stunned. Not even a mile into this journey there were telephone posts with Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Prairie Falcons. I was less than two miles into this search and already I had more than I had even

hoped to see. And, I was just beginning. Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon were life birds for me, and I was ecstatic. Not only did I see these giants, but, wonderful songbirds were singing and popping up before me as well. In this desert scene, there were Joshua Trees, and Cactus, Russian Thistle, as well as agriculture fields which had Horned Larks, Cactus Wrens,

Loggerhead Shrikes, Western Bluebirds, Brewers and Red-winged Blackbirds. There were Merlin and Northern Harriers, both male and female. Quite frankly, this was a bit of a wonderland for me.

As I continued on Avenue D going west, as I headed toward Quail Lake, and as this highway which is also Route 138 and approached an area where the road gently curves, to the south as I looked, there are these beautiful rolling hills and to the north there is open area which would become part of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy. But, my focus was



Merlin | Photo by Johan Schumacher/Vireo

on the south side of the road and those rolling fields. These fields were showered with Mountain Bluebirds. I pulled the car to the side of the road and just lifted my binoculars and saw hundreds of birds in an indescribable blue. This was another life bird for me, and I was just enthralled with the large number of them, foraging, hovering and landing on the ground finding their food and perching on fences. I have said this before that the blue in this species is so very difficult to duplicate in pictures and in books.

And, as I neared Quail Lake, there were friends hovering—or soaring—in the sky. Rough-legged Hawks! To my surprise, these birds in the west are mostly the light morph. Having many encounters in the northeast, southern New York and New Jersey, specifically, the light morph birds are rare. The north eastern birds are mainly dark morphed birds. I have since found out, although I haven't done great research on this that the northeast dark birds come over mainly from Greenland.

I would make this journey up to the western part of the Antelope Valley each winter to see my "friends" for several years. But, in the early nineties things began to change. The Antelope Valley was beginning to be developed. And, the first species that started disappearing was the Rough-legged Hawk. Apparently, that

species is averse to civilization. Coming from NYC, this seemed strange to me because I've seen Rough-legs soaring down the West Side Highway, in New York City along the Hudson River, and over such crowded areas as on the southern coast of Long Island. Here, they have left. There was a visitation of this species about five years ago, around Quail Lake, a female. And, this winter, there is a bird near the Piute Ponds in Edwards Air Force Base. I just don't get how, in the west, this species doesn't want to be around buildings and other things that go along with civilization. And, in the west Antelope Valley, it's not like it's a bustling metropolis.

During those early years of the nineties, the other hawks stayed around. At the eastern edge of the western AV, closer to Highway 14, there is a ranch, called the Nebeker Ranch. This ranch/farm was fully operational. I remember one year when I led an LA Audubon trip up there, where there was a sheep carcass out and there were at least four Golden Eagles gobbling up that rich morsel. Also around that ranch were Ferruginous Hawks light and dark morphs on the ground. The farm with its metal open shelters for hay bales harbored small birds and, of course rodents, which is why the predators were around. Occasionally you would see Roadrunners, Western Meadowlarks, and sometimes large insects which the Shrikes would grab and impale on barbed wire. Rabbits and Jackrabbits abounded around as well. There were coveys of Quail to look at.

With the development of the west end, the Golden Eagles were driven away, but the other big hawks still remained. And, so did the falcons. You could find Kestrels hovering over the fields for insects, small birds, or even lizards. Merlin would blast through low to the ground, and there were enough Horned Larks to keep the Prairie Falcons fed.

Slowly, the Mountain Bluebirds disappeared. On trips in more recent years, instead of seeing hundreds of them, I would only see maybe ten. Even though there were still Joshua Trees and cactus, the Cactus Wrens also seemed to vanish. I am not even talking about some issue of an even modest housing development began to happen. There would just be isolated houses in these open fields. Closer to the 14, more malls were being constructed, but, they were not going into highway 138. The land was still open, albeit pretty desolate. And, species continued to disappear. As recently as the winter of 2018, there were still things to see up there.

So, this winter, this January which is kind of my annual pilgrimage to the west part of the AV, I get off of the 14 at Avenue A, which in past years had also been quite productive, and started to work my way west; straddling the LA and Kern county lines. I did see Horned Larks, and lots of Starlings, some Savannah Sparrows, and being somewhat crestfallen, I headed for the Nebeker Ranch. I looked for the familiar landmarks, the three hay bale shelters. Gone! I went up and down Avenue B and there was nothing. On the north side of Avenue B, I looked for the neighboring farm area. That too seemed to be deserted. I'm now scratching my head. I ride north then south and east and west and I find something that completely stuns me.

These agricultural fields are now a farm for something else — solar energy. There are now fields upon fields of solar panels. I am slack-jawed. Huge areas which were once habitat for wintering birds



*Golden Eagle | Photo by Larry Sansone*

and habitat for other mammals and reptiles are now solar farms. And, I'm not seeing many birds at all. And, I start thinking the worst: these solar panels fry these birds and insects and bats. The birds and the bats think of these panels from the sky as water. And, over water there are always insects, and the birds come down and get radiated and fry and die.

This creates a conundrum. We need clean energy. So, here we are with a solution. I have not studied this, but, I'm sure the solar energy company(ies) paid the farmers, the ranchers a fair price for their land. And, the farmers took the cash and left. So, hooray for steps taken to get solar energy going. But, wait! The people who have done this are doing it to try to get a grip on climate change. But, one consideration was obviously not nearly as important: habitat for creatures. I can imagine that when you look at the west AV; on first

glance, all you see is desolation. What on earth is there to consider? Because of years of drought, most of this land is parched and starved for water. What life could there be here?

I raise this question, because there was life here. And, I understand the desperate need to get a grip on trying to ward off the demise of civilization. It also presents a circumstance like the wind turbines have. That is, killing vital living things we also need so that we are not overrun by insects and other things that could also be harmful to civilization. As the wind turbines are working to try to stop those machines from killing song birds, birds of prey, and bats, the solar energy companies have to figure out how not to draw birds to something that resembles water, so that it doesn't fry waterfowl and song birds and bats. And, also being thoughtful and inventive as to not take away vital habitat from the creatures that need it. We shouldn't only be thinking about saving ourselves; we should be thinking about saving all life forms. Because there are life forms which are going to be extinct before this climbs the ladder of evolution and finally zaps us. I even heard rumored that the companies are thinking of putting flowers and other vegetation around the panels to draw in birds and insects. If true - that would be a huge mistake. Birds would still have to navigate the solar panels which quite frankly would be death for them.

The only bird of prey I saw in this area was one Red-tailed Hawk! — One— when in the past there had been dozens. I confess that I haven't pursued finding out if there has been any feathered carnage around the panels. That is something that we should find out. And, further along Route 138, there is going to be a new gigantic housing development project, called Centennial; which has been agreed to by some environmental groups, to pay for the Tejon Ranch Conservancy's overall land and staff

management. That has raised a number of concerns about the life forms which already live in the proposed area. Not to mention that Route 138 will be widened to support more traffic when more people are in the area. Route 138 has already gone through a huge traffic metamorphosis. Thirty-two years ago, traveling west on 138 was quite leisurely as there weren't a lot of cars driving through. Today, Highway 138 serves as a link from Highway 14 to the 5 Freeway. Not only are there speeding cars, but, there are also massive eighteen and twenty wheelers pressing through at a great clip. The "onion" is that if there is no Centennial, there will possibly be no Tejon Ranch.

Well, ain't we got fun! For a bit of consolation, there were ducks and other waterfowl on Quail Lake. But, that's a lot of driving to just see waterfowl. No offense duck lovers! I had to make a choice. And, I couldn't see leading a trip some sixty or so miles away and have very slim pickings. So, I cancelled the field trip. I understand that the east side of the AV still has agricultural fields; so, next winter that hopefully is an option. Also on the east side, there are the Piute ponds which draw lots of different birds. But, in order to do that you do need a permit, because it is on Edwards Air Force Base property. And, there are designated days during duck hunting season when you can and cannot go there. Also, during various Christmas Bird Counts, there seemed to be an assessment that there were less land birds than usual. Does this mean that climate change is much more aggressive than we've first believed? It seems so.



*Loggerhead Shrike | Photo/Brad Rumble*

There have already been reports that each fall migration in recent years, birds have been migrating one mile less southward each season. The permafrost is disappearing in the arctic. Siberia has seen huge sink holes in the earth happening in areas where there was permafrost. How do we stop the madness? This present administration has no desire to halt the pursuit of corporate greed, and their aberrant need to make profit no matter the cost to all life forms on this planet. Even those corporations that want to slow the pace of the planet's warming have to start thinking about how everything that has life on this planet has a stake in trying to continue its life cycle. And, most of these entities don't have a vote. This is beyond profits and shareholders' financial benefits.

I was trying to look for something that might be uplifting. I was looking for something that would give us something to hope for — something

cheery— but, that doesn't seem to be the way this is going. Of the five requiems that have carried me along this written journey, Brahms' German Requiem being different from the other four ends with Revelations chapter 14, verse 13: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." The Berlioz and the Dvorak end with the *Agnus Dei*:

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

*dona eis requiem, dona eis requiem sempiternam.*

grant them rest, grant them eternal rest.

But, I'm quite partial to Giuseppe Verdi's ending. It's quite dramatic, for the soprano and chorus.

**"LIBERA ME"**

*Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna in die illa  
tremenda*

Deliver me, o Lord, from eternal death on that  
awful day

*quando coeli movendi sunt et terra,*

when the heavens and earth shall be shaken

*dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.*

and you shall come and judge the world by fire.

*Tremens factus sum ego et timeo,*

I am seized with fear and trembling

*dum discussio venerit atque ventura ira:*

until the trial is at hand and the wrath to come:

*quando coeli movendi sunt et terra.*

when the heavens and earth shall be shaken.

I have hope that we will find ourselves out of the possibility of all life being erased. Leaving the Antelope Valley, things looked so bleak to me. However, we have to become more aware and more involved. And, I know that many of us are exhausted with the constant barrage of outrageous acts that endlessly flow from the White House and all of those factions around it. But, instead of turning off and tuning out, we have to become more engaged, so that we don't lose those precious things that continue to raise

our spirit and make us happy. From the Garden of Eden, we have been commanded to be stewards of what we've been given. And, as stated before, even those corporations who are looking to slow down the warming of this planet, we have to make them most accountable, in their zeal to find solutions. They can't pursue this with blinders on. They, too have to be aware that the goal to save this planet is also to save all the lives which inhabit it, as well.



Quail Lake, NE Los Angeles County CA | Photo by Callyn Yorke

# Western Snowy Plover Monitoring Program

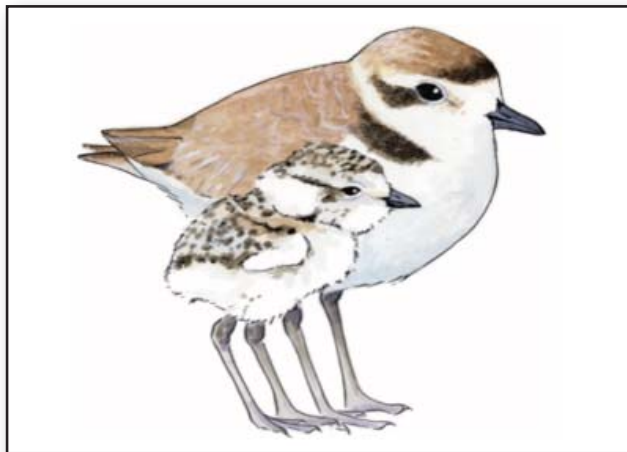
By Stacey Vigallon, Director of Environmental Education & Carol Babeli, Director Communications

*Los Angeles Audubon Society would like to thank Susan and Daniel Gottlieb for their major gift contribution in support of the Snowy Plover Program, helping Los Angeles Audubon to continue to monitor and protect this threatened species.*

**S**outhern California beaches serve as highly-prized recreation space for local communities and tourists. Los Angeles County beaches are visited by 50 million people annually, putting continual pressure on sandy beach habitat that historically served wildlife populations. Public outreach and opportunities for the public to actively engage in plover conservation are essential components to species recovery in highly urbanized areas.

Los Angeles Audubon Society (LAAS), Ryan Ecological Consulting, and other Audubon chapters collaborate to accomplish data collection and monitoring needs of plover conservation through community science opportunities for the public. The information collected will be shared with land managers, federal and non-federal partners, and the public through reports and meetings, which will facilitate informed species management decisions as human populations grow and fluctuations in the environment occur. For the second year in a row, plovers nested on beaches in LA County. Two plover chicks fledged at Dockweiler Beach and two plover chicks fledged at Malibu Lagoon this past nesting season. No nest attempts were observed at Santa Monica this year.

Working with volunteers and Cal Parks, we installed a seasonal protective enclosure at Malibu Lagoon to protect both plovers and least terns. This seasonal enclosure was in place from the spring through the end of September. It's taken down in the fall so that it doesn't get dragged out to sea, as the beach between the lagoon and the ocean is quite narrow. This collaboration has been ongoing since 2008.



Snowy Plovers | Photo by Murayama/Loeher





### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AT SANTA MONICA BAY**

LAAS staff and Project Coordinators provide specialized training and coordinate 30-40 community volunteers who collectively devote over 200 hours annually to monitoring Western Snowy Plovers.

To learn more about Snowy Plover conservation and/or how to volunteer for this program click here:  
<https://www.laaudubon.org/western-snowy-plover-conservation>

### **SHOREBIRD EDUCATION—SCHOOL OUTREACH, PUBLIC WALKS**



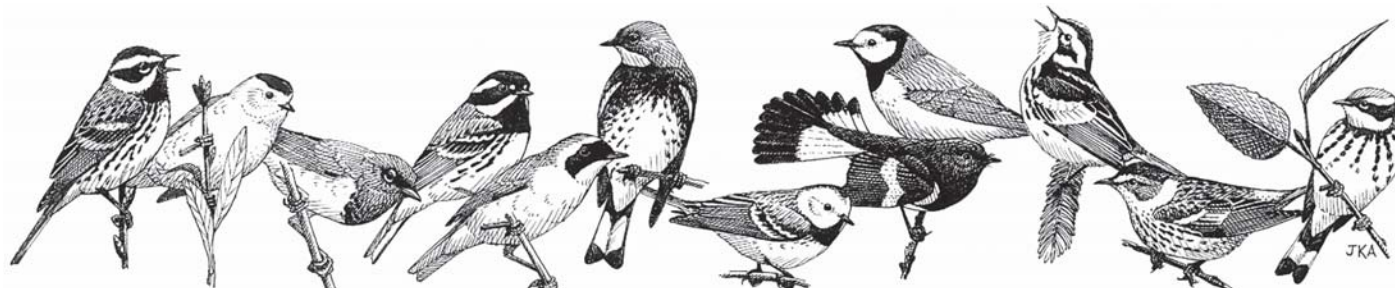
### **SCHOOL PROGRAM — DOCKWEILER BEACH ECOLOGY WALKS**

Each year, LAAS Biologist/Environment Education Director and Project Coordinators host 10+ beach ecology field trips focused on plovers/shorebirds for public school students. Over 400 elementary and middle school students from under-served communities participate each school year. Lessons include beach habitat (from dunes to the wrack line), the food web, and animal adaptations to living on the beach. Students learn to use binoculars, spot birds camouflaged along the beach and make drawings and written observations in field notebooks to further explore beach ecology back in their classrooms.



### **PUBLIC BEACH — ECOLOGY WALKS**

In collaboration with beach recreation facilities, LAAS hosts 3 guided beach walks annually for the general public with a focus on beach ecology, shorebirds, and to spot the Federally Threatened Western Snowy Plover during November, December and January at Dockweiler Beach. LAAS staff and college interns provide binoculars for attendees and enjoy pointing out all of the amazing bird and marine life that share the shores. Twice a year, at the Annenberg Community Beach House at Santa Monica Beach, LAAS staff, interns, collaborators from Santa Monica Bay Audubon, and Annenberg staff invite beach house members and the general public to an up-close look at beach ecology and a lesson in science illustration sketching birds and their beach habitat. 🐦



## BIRDS OF THE SEASON — February 2019, by Jon Fisher

**D**ecember through February is that slow time of the bird year when nothing much of interest turns up, right? In some years that statement may ring true, but it was hardly accurate this winter. Some truly unexpected birds were found along with many lesser vagrants. As usual plenty of continuing rarities were regularly reported at their respective locations.

Irruptive species were essentially absent this winter, hardly a surprise given there was little evidence of any such trends last fall. By February breeding activity was much in evidence for many resident species. Great Horned Owls, Anna's Hummingbirds, Mourning Doves and others start even earlier.

Spring migration was underway as well. Turkey Vultures were on the move early and swallows had appeared by the latter half of February.

Though long range forecasters were reluctant to commit to what sort of winter we were going to get, precipitation was plentiful and above average. Rain brings its own problems in a county that is dry for eight

months of the year and prone to wildfires, but on balance it is most welcome. Years like this produce plenty of food, a boon to birds either passing through or raising hungry broods.

As always the list of noteworthy birds was diverse. Vagrants are found throughout the county, but their distribution is far from uniform. Neotropical migrants—with few exceptions—are concentrated closer to the coast where milder temperatures and an abundance of well-watered plantings ensure a steady supply of insect food. Fewer and hardier birds are found on the colder deserts.

Three **Tundra Swans** were at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB from December 29–January 8 (Mark & Janet Scheel).

Single "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** continued at the San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera through January 27 and along the LA River in Glendale through January 18.

Diving ducks included a rare inland **White-winged Scoter** at Westlake Lake in Westlake Village from January 27–February 19 (Dan

Cooper) and two off Santa Monica Beach on January 9 (Happy Chambers). A **Black Scoter** was off Dockweiler State Beach in El Segundo from January 1–February 10 (Richard Barth, Martin Meyers). One was at Del Rey Lagoon in Playa del Rey on January 26 (Matt Cahill) and two were on the lower LA River in Long Beach in early January (Jeff Boyd) with one remaining through January 13.

The **Red-necked Grebe** on Lake Palmdale remained through January 27 and was the only one found during the period.

A **White-winged Dove** was along the LA River in Long Beach from January 10–29 (Kurt Mize, Jim Rowth). **Spotted Doves**, greatly reduced in numbers since their heyday, are still hanging on locally, with up to four in Compton from January 14–17 (Kathy Miller, Alex Lamoreaux, Usha Tatini).

Scarce in winter was a lone **Vaux's Swift** in San Dimas on December 24 (John King), while up to seven birds along the LA River in the Los Feliz area through February 14 (Brad Rumble, Chris Dean).

A **Black-footed Albatross** was near San Clemente Island on February 8 (Alex Wilson).

A **Neotropic Cormorant**—presumably the same bird sighted at several other nearby locales—was at Echo Park in Los Angeles from January 2–February 19. What was surely the same bird was at MacArthur Park on January 13.

An **American Oystercatcher** continued at Royal Palms Beach in San Pedro through February 18. Another was at the Ballona Creek mouth on January 5 (Graham Hamby) and again on January 21 and one was at Topanga State Beach from January 13–20 (Naresh Satyan). These records may have involved fewer than three separate birds.

The wintering **Pacific Golden-Plover** along lower Ballona Creek was present through February 18. A handful of **Mountain Plovers**—with a high count of forty-five—continued in the east Antelope Valley through February 12.

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, either a new or continuing bird—was at the San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera on January 8 (John Garrett, Ryan Terrill). Two were at the Rio Hondo Spreading Basins on January 20 with one still there on January 22 (Darren Dowell).

A rare winter visitor was a **Rough-legged Hawk** at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB from December 29–January 19 (Mark & Janet Scheel). Likewise unusual was a

**Zone-tailed Hawk** at Grand Ave. Park in Monrovia on January 12 (Karen Suarez). It continued to be seen in the area through February 1.

Fairly common as a spring migrant but very rare in winter was a **Swainson's Hawk** also near Grand Ave. Park on January 19 (Lauren Harter, David Van der Pluym, Dessi Sieburth).

**Short-eared Owls** were at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB on January 29 (Joe Lepisto, Becky Kitto) and at Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale on January 18 (Chris Dean). A **Burrowing Owl** was at the Rio Hondo Spreading Basins in Pico Rivera on January 13 (Larry Schmahl).

A low elevation **Williamson's Sapsucker** was in Sierra Madre on January 16 (Holly Coates, Emmet Iverson), while **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** included a continuing bird at the Sepulveda Basin through February 19 and a new bird was at El Cariso Park in Sylmar on February 11 (Richard Norton).

A **White-headed Woodpecker** and two **Hairy Woodpeckers** at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont on January 26 were away from expected areas (Cathy McFadden, Paul Clarke).

Pure **Northern "Yellow-shafted" Flickers** were at Veteran's Park in Sylmar from January 16–31 (Scott Logan), at North Weddington Park in North Hollywood on January 2 (David Barton), at Hahamongna

Watershed Park in Pasadena on January 23 (Darren Dowell) and at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City on February 9 (Bobby Trusela).

"**Black**" **Merlins**—subspecies *suckleyi*—were represented by continuing bird at the Bette Davis Picnic Area in Glendale through December 24 and a newly found bird along Barley Flats Road in the San Gabriel Mountains on January 30 (Brad Rumble). A pale "**Prairie**" **Merlin**—ssp. *richardsonii*—was at South Gate Park on January 8 (Richard Barth).

The wintering **Ash-throated Flycatcher** continued at Madrona Marsh in Torrance through February 16.

Seven **Tropical Kingbirds** were present on the coastal slope during the period. As a side note, such birds are all presumed to be Tropicals, though if no vocalizations are heard, Couch's can't be ruled out. Based on past records of birds that have vocalized, we know that Couch's is an extreme rarity in California whereas Tropical is a rare but regular fall and winter bird. Another kingbird—a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**—continued along the LA River in Long Beach through January 26.

**Hammond's Flycatchers** included a continuing bird at Madrona Marsh in Torrance through February 19, one at Vina Vieja Park in Pasadena from January 5–February 18 (Kimball Garrett) and one at the South Coast Botanic Garden in Rolling Hills Estates on February 16 (Alejandra

Decillo, Manuel Duran). At least five **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** were also detected during the period.

An **Eastern Phoebe** found at Apollo Park near Lancaster on January 1 was reported there through January 19 (Naresh Satyan).

Two very early **Bank Swallows** were at Lake Balboa in the San Fernando Valley on February 7 (Mike Stensvold).

**Cassin's Vireos** were at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City from December 23–January 22 (Robert Trusela), at the Village Green Condominiums in Los Angeles on January 27 (Don Sterba) and at the South Coast Botanic Garden in Rolling Hills Estates on February 16 (Alejandra Decillo, Manuel Duran).

Exceptionally rare on the coastal slope was a **Verdin** at Willow Springs Park in Long Beach on January 2 (Jan Wilson). There have now been four such records over the past six years, which may be a result of increased observer coverage.

A **Pacific Wren** along the Winter Creek Trail off Big Santa Anita Canyon on February 1 was the only one reported (Darren Dowell).

Now we come to the bird of the year, if not the decade. A suspected **Red-flanked Bluetail** was confirmed on January 7 at the Clark Library in Los Angeles (Rebecca Marschall). This often furtive bird was present at least since December 21 before

its identity could be established and it was reported there through February 19. Prior to this, only two had ever been found in California, both in fall and both on offshore islands where they were one day birds and access was impossible. This Old World flycatcher is extremely rare anywhere in North America and a wintering bird on the California mainland was unprecedented. Needless to say, the attention this vagrant received from the birding community was beyond extraordinary. The only bird in recent memory that might top it is the one day wonder Eurasian Wrenneck on San Clemente Island in September of 2017. But as far as a bird that the community at large could pursue and view, the bluetail takes the prize.

The wintering **Clay-colored Sparrow** Madrona Marsh continued through January 20 and was the only one reported. Two **“Red” Fox Sparrows** were at Occidental College on January 30 (Ryan Terrill, James Maley, Whitney Tsai) and one was in Bailey Canyon in Sierra Madre on February 5 (John Garrett).

Two **Swamp Sparrows** continued at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas with at least one reported through January 14. New birds were found along the LA River in Atwater Village on December 30 (Andrew Birch), at the Dominguez Gap Wetlands in Long Beach on January 2 (Kim Moore, Becky Turley) and at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park from January 22–23 (Bobby Trusela).

At least a half dozen **White-throated**

**Sparrows** were reported over the period. Also of note was a dark-lored **White-crowned Sparrow** at Castaic Lagoon on December 29 (John Garrett).

A rare winter visitor to the county was a **Harris's Sparrow** at Hahamongna Watershed Park in Pasadena from January 16–February 18 (Darren Dowell).

A **Dark-eyed “Pink-sided” Junco** continued at St. Andrew's Priory near Valyermo through December 22 and five **Dark-eyed “Gray-headed” Juncos** present during the period.

The wintering adult male **Orchard Oriole** at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester was seen through February 16. **Hooded Orioles** included one at North Hollywood Park on January 3 (Rebecca Marschall), one continuing at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino through January 26 and another in Silver Lake on February 7.

**Rusty Blackbirds** included a continuing bird at Lake Balboa in the San Fernando Valley through February 7 and one at Jesse Owens Park in Los Angeles from January 7–February 4 (Richard Barth).

El Dorado Park in Long Beach produced another great find this winter. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen by many there from February 16–20 (Brian Daniels). This bird would have been the find of the winter were it not for the aforementioned Red-flanked Bluetail. Regardless, this

species is extremely rare at this time, with only a couple of previous winter records for the entire state and less than a half dozen ever for Los Angeles County.

Substantially more common, **Black-and-white Warblers** were at Banning Park in Wilmington from December 23–January 1 (Kim Moore, Vincent Lloyd), at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park from December 23–January 3 (Don Sterba), at Madrona Marsh in Torrance through February 19, at Hemingway Park in Carson on from January 6–February 16 (Dessi Sieburth) and continuing at El Dorado Park in Long Beach on January 13

A **Tennessee Warbler** was at a residence in South Pasadena from January 4–6 (Debbie C.) and a returning wintering **Lucy's Warbler** was at North Weddington Park in North Hollywood from February 4–15 (Rebecca Marschall).

**Nashville Warblers**, common as migrants but rare in winter, were at Holmby Park in Los Angeles (Kimball Garrett) and at Penmar Recreation Center in Venice, both on January 2 (Bob Packard).

**American Redstarts** included a continuing bird at Hemingway Park in Carson through February 11. Others were at El Segundo Library Park on December 31 (Richard Barth), and at Holmby Park in Los Angeles on January 2 (Kimball Garrett) and at Marsh Street Nature Park in Glassell Park from January 30–February 7 (Andrew Birch).

Two **Palm Warblers** continued in Long

Beach into February and one remained at Entradero Park in Torrance through February 1, while single birds were at Columbia Park in Torrance on January 3 (Bobby Trusela) and on San Clemente Island on February 7 (Vincent Weber).

Other good warbler finds were a Pine Warbler and a very rare Grace's Warbler at Recreation Park in Long Beach from January 24–February 19 (Jeff Boyd). Only about a dozen Grace's Warblers have ever been recorded in the county, with just three winter records.

The **Painted Redstart** at Brookside Park in Pasadena remained reliable there through February 17.

**Summer Tanagers** included one at the LA County Arboretum in Arcadia on December 31–February 3 (Darren Dowell). This bird was probably present there since at least late November. Other Summer Tanagers continued at Veteran's Park in Sylmar through January 23, in Altadena through January 10 and at the Village Green Condominiums in Los Angeles through January 19.

Wrapping up the impressive list of rarities for the winter was a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in Long Beach on December 24 (Tracy Drake).

As we head into March a greater variety of migrant passerines will begin to appear. Within an all too short couple of months we'll hit the peak of spring migration. Of course it's not just songbirds that are passing through. Loons, Brant and others are flying northward along the coast, shorebirds can be found at almost any wetland habitat and hummingbirds are attracted to flowering plants and feeders.

Spring is a great time not only to enjoy migrating birds, but to watch for and document breeding activity in eBird. The topography and mix of habitats in Los Angeles County is quite complex. This makes for an equally complex pattern of distribution for many residents and summer visitors. Interested and inquisitive birders are in a position to contribute new information about our local avifauna. There is much yet to be learned and no shortage of places to explore. 🐦



Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*), Photo Public Domain

# BIRD WALKS

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

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

## OPEN WETLANDS AT BALLONA

1st Sat. of each month,  
(Except August)

Mar. 2 & Apr. 6

The first Saturday of every month, 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. The buckwheat is in bloom and lots of butterflies to see. Please drop-in!  
Contact: Cindy Hardin,  
cindyhardin@laaudubon.org,  
310-301-0050

## TOPANGA STATE PARK BIRDWALK

1st Sunday of every month

Mar. 3 & Apr. 7  
Time: 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: *Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin*

Ken and Chris will lead participants through this beautiful and diverse coastal mountain area. An ideal trip for a beginning birder or someone new to the area. From Ventura Blvd, take Topanga Canyon Blvd 7 miles S. Turn E uphill on Entrada Rd. Follow the signs and turn left into Trippet Ranch parking lot. From Pacific Coast Hwy, take Topanga Canyon Blvd. 5 miles to Entrada Rd. Parking fee.

**Contacts:** Ken: 310-455-1401, ksafarri@aol.com;  
Chris: 310-455-1270

## UPPER FRANKLIN CANYON / SOOKY GOLDMAN NATURE CENTER

2nd Sunday of the month

Mar. 10 & Apr. 14  
Time: 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

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

**Directions:** From the 101 Freeway, follow Coldwater Canyon Blvd. south for several miles to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive (traffic signal). Make a 90 degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. There is no sign indicating the entrance to the park until you have crossed the intersection; the turn at Franklin Canyon Road

reads "Road Closed 800 Feet" and "Sunrise to Sunset"-- this is the park entrance; do not make a U-turn as this will take you onto Mulholland Drive instead of Franklin Canyon. Take Franklin Canyon Dr down to park entrance, turn at first left into the parking lot.

**From Sunset Blvd:** go north on N. Beverly Drive to Coldwater Canyon Dr to Mulholland Dr. Veer left on Mulholland Drive. At the next traffic signal, make a left turn onto Franklin Canyon Dr. continue to first parking lot on the left. BINOCULARS PROVIDED.  
Contact Info: Eleanor 310-839-5420; gardenbird1@att.net

## KENNETH HAHN STATE RECREATION AREA

(4100 S. La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles 90056)  
3rd Saturday of the month (no walks in July or August)

Mar. 16 & Apr. 20  
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 and Say's Phoebes, Cassin Kingbirds, California and Spotted Towhee, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk many of which be in the beginning

stages of their breeding cycle. We will continue to look for wintering birds such as Merlin, Rufous-crowned, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Western Meadowlarks, and wintering ducks among others. Finally we will look for early spring migrants.

**The park entrance** is off of La Cienega Blvd. between Rodeo Rd. and Stocker St. After passing the entrance kiosk (\$6.00 parking fee) turn into the first parking lot on the right leading to the lake.  
BINOCULARS PROVIDED.

## BALLONA WETLANDS BIRD WALK

3rd Sunday of the month (with the exception of December)

Mar. 17 & Apr 21  
Time: 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: *Bob Shanman and Friends*

Join us for a walk through L.A.'s only remaining saltwater marsh and the adjacent rocky jetty. Meet at the Del Rey Lagoon parking lot. Take the Marina Fwy (90) to Culver Blvd and turn left for a mile. Turn right on Pacific Ave. The lot is on the right. Lot or street parking is usually not a problem. Three hour walk. 'scopes helpful.  
Contact: Bob 310-326-2473; wbutorrance@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@laudubon.org](mailto:membership@laudubon.org) | (323) 876-0202

Please visit [www.laaudubon.org](http://www.laaudubon.org) for updates to Los Angeles Audubon's field trip listings.

For more information: (323) 876-0202 or [membership@laudubon.org](mailto:membership@laudubon.org)

## March 16 & 17, 2019 Weekend

### Anza-Borrego State Park

**\$20 LAAS MEMBER FEE / \$40 FOR NON-LAAS MEMBERS, LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 20** (as of Feb. 24, (2) spots remain.

Leader: *Kurt Leuschner*. Peak time for both wildflowers and Swainson's Hawk migration! Caravan through the State Park from the Colorado Desert up to Julian, with short forays to take in the sights and the wildlife. Kurt is a professor of desert ecology, and knows all of our deserts very well. Reserve your accommodations at Hacienda del Sol, Stanlund Motel or others in Borrego Springs months early, as this is wildflower season too! Meet at the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association (652 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs). Please register with Susan at [membership@laudubon.org](mailto:membership@laudubon.org) providing name(s), cell phone number, and e-mail address; and mail a check for \$20 LAAS member / \$40 non-LAAS fee to: L.A. Audubon—Field Trips. PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041. For more information call (323) 876-0202.

## Friday — April 19 (Also: May 17 & June 21)

### Small Owls of the San Gabriels #1

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

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. We will be looking for Northern Saw-whet, Western Screech-Owl, possibly Spotted Owl, as well as the vanguard of Flammulated Owl migration. Sign up, and meet at 6:00 p.m. on the frontage road for Angeles Forest Hwy just north of the 210 Fwy in La Canada. Turn N on ACH, take the second right (Milmada Dr.), and a quick left (Flanders Rd.). Meet along the first 50-yard stretch, fed and gassed up, and we will carpool from here. Bring quiet clothing for very cold weather (no nylon if possible), a small walking flashlight, binoculars, powerful flashlight optional. Photo ops possible.

**SIGN-UP:** *Email sign-up mandatory.* Send email to: [membership@laudubon.org](mailto:membership@laudubon.org). Provide •name(s), •email addresses, & •cell phone #s and wait for email confirmation. (10 max.) Please allow others to attend this popular series by signing up for *one date only*. (Other dates: Friday, May 17, Friday, June 21) For more information call (323) 876-0202, leave voice message if no answer.

## April 27 & 28 / Weekend

### Owens Valley Grouse Trip

**SIGN-UPS LIMITED TO 20, FEE \$55**

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Friday (April 26) evening in Bishop, a grouse biologist will hopefully be available to present a slide show on the Sage Grouse, at the BLM headquarters building. She's really knowledgeable! We will meet at the Crowley lek turnout ("the Green Church" at 34 Benton Crossing Rd, Mammoth Lakes – GPS address) very early on Saturday for Sage Grouse photos and viewing, distant Bald Eagles, waterfowl and shorebirds down by Crowley Lake afterwards, and later possible Black-backed Woodpecker and Evening Grosbeak! Sunday, plan to meet in Bishop at Jack's Restaurant (437 N Main St) as we foray to Aspendell, Glacier Lodge and elsewhere for Grey-crowned Rosy-Finch, Sooty Grouse, Bank Swallow, Juniper Titmouse, and perhaps Golden Eagle or Chukar. An e-mailer will be sent out to the participants who have signed-up and paid for this trip, including some hotels. Arrange your own lodging in Bishop for Friday and Saturday nights. Net profits go towards the Ralph Schreiber Grant Fund.

**TO REGISTER:** 1) Send an email to: [membership@laudubon.org](mailto:membership@laudubon.org) providing •names, •cell phone number, and •town of residence for possible carpooling. 2) Mail \$55 per person check payable to: Los Angeles Audubon, and mail to: Los Angeles Audubon, PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041-8301. For more information call (323) 876-0202.

## Saturday, May 11 (Tentative Date)

### Tejon Ranch

**\$20 FEE, MAX SIGN-UP OF 12, MIN 6**

Leader: *Louis Tucker*. Visits to the Ranch are by special arrangement with escort only, as one could easily get lost on the web of gated dirt roads covering this huge working ranch. Hopefully the ranch will have dried out by May from the winter storms we've so desperately needed. This is spring bird migration peak time. This will be a great time to see various passerine species: warblers, flycatchers, bluebirds, and other songbirds. There are resident Red-tails, Burrowing Owls, Golden Eagles, and Prairie Falcons, which are all out there to be found. Even Swainson's Hawks may be passing through or nesting! California Condor is also a possibility if it's a bright sunny day. There also is a chance of catching sight of some Pronghorn Antelope. FRS radios and scopes useful.

We will meet at Denny's in Sylmar. Take the Roxford Exit off of the 5 Fwy. Denny's can be seen on the east side of the Fwy. 12861 Encinitas Ave. Sylmar. Be prepared to carpool and leave from there at 7 a.m. to be at the 300 St. West Gate at 8 am. At the gate at Tejon Ranch, we will transfer to the ranch vehicles, for a number of reasons - first and foremost, safety - as roads on the ranch can be treacherous. Bring lunch, as we will be out most of the day. Any decision to cancel due to rain will be made at Denny's. LIMITED SIGN-UPS: 12 participants only.

Trip date and how to sign-up instructions are pending approval of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy. To express interest, call or write to Susan at (323) 876-0202, [membership@laaudubon.org](mailto:membership@laaudubon.org).

---

## Friday, May 17 (Also: April 19, & June 21)

### Small Owls of the San Gabriels #2

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP (10Max.), *PLEASE REGISTER FOR ONE OWL DATE ONLY (See Apr. 19th write-up.)*

---

## Sunday, May 19

### Big Morongo Canyon

**NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 15**

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Meet at 8:00 AM in the preserve parking lot, or 7:00 AM at Covington Park next door. Breeding desert and oasis birds such as Brown-crested and Vermilion Flycatchers, Summer Tanager, Scott's and Hooded Orioles, Yellow-breasted Chat and late migrating Empidonax flycatchers. To get there, take the 10 Fwy E about 17 miles past Banning to Hwy 62 N. Pass through the town of Morongo Valley, take a right on East Dr., then a left into the preserve (or straight to Covington Park). Bring lunch, water, sensible clothing and sun block. Yucca Valley and Desert Hot Springs offer nearby accommodations, or camp at Joshua Tree NP. LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 15. TO SIGN-UP: Send email to: [membership@laaudubon.org](mailto:membership@laaudubon.org), provide names(s), cell phone #'s and your Zip Code. For more information call (323) 876-0202. Contact information WILL BE released to others inquiring about carpooling unless requested otherwise.

---

## Friday, June 21 (Also Apr. 19 & May 17)

### Small Owls of the San Gabriels #3

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP (10 max.), *PLEASE REGISTER FOR ONE OWL DATE ONLY. (See Apr. 19th write-up.)*

---

## Thursday thru Sunday, July 4-7

### Owls & other Birds of the Southern Sierra

**\$140 FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP**

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. We will be renting a different summer home this year, which should be just as nice as last years'. Flammulated and Spotted Owls have been seen in multiples every year. Saw-whet (adult & juv.) and Pygmy Owl are less reliable, but we will look hard! Saw-whet was very obliging last year! During days, we will search out Pileated Woodpecker, Pacific Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and perhaps Goshawk, Dipper or Evening Grosbeak! Meeting time and location in Ponderosa is still being firmed up. Couples will probably be prioritized, and singles in sleeping bags will be wait-listed until reservations open up on June 15. Coordinate your contribution for the Thursday potluck with Mary. LAAS will provide a weenie roast one other night, and we always have plenty of left overs for a third dinner! For more information call (323) 876-0202, and leave a voice message if no answer.

---

## Saturday, July 20

### Big Bear Area

**NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP FOR DAY BIRDING AND / OR NIGHT OWLING**

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Get a hotel room for July 20 (or wake up really early), and a room for July 21 if you plan to dine and owl with the Freemans. Target birds include Williamson's?and Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Calliope and Rufous Hummers, mountain finches, White-headed Woodpecker, and Mountain Quail. Meet in the Aspen Glen Picnic Area parking lot in Big Bear at 7:30 a.m. Take Hwy 18 or 38 to Big Bear Lake, then proceed about half way along the south side of the lake on Hwy 18 (Big Bear Blvd.) and turn south on Tulip Lane. The lot will be on the south side of this short street. Bring lunch for a full day, and a Forest Service Adventure Pass.

**SIGN-UP:** *Email sign-up mandatory.* Send email to: [membership@laaudubon.org](mailto:membership@laaudubon.org). Provide •name(s) •email addresses, & •cell phone #'s and wait for email confirmation.