

Los Angeles Audubon Society | laudubon.org

November–December 2019 | Volume 86 Number 2

WESTERN TANAGER

SPEAKER SERIES — Galapagos Memories, presented by Photographer / Naturalist, Jerome Gaw, Wed. Dec. 11, 2019



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

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Malibu Coast - Field Trip Report

Message From Your President

2019 End-of-Year Appeal

BOOK REVIEW: *The Soul of an Octopus*

A Short History of the Los Angeles Audubon Society's Condor Fund

Birds of the Season - October 2019

PUBLIC LECTURES

Wed., Nov. 13 — UCLA: A living laboratory for urban ecology and sustainability | Nurit Katz

Wed., Dec. 11 — Recent Trip to Galapagos Island | Jerome Gaw

TIME

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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: <https://www.laaudubon.org/membership>

Mailing Address: PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041-8301
Phone: (323) 876-0202

UCLA: A living laboratory for urban ecology
and sustainability

Nurit Katz



Nurit Katz is UCLA's Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Officer of Facilities Management. She will share highlights of nature-based enhancements to the campus landscape such as the restoration of Sage Hill and development of nature-rich outdoor study spaces. We will learn how campus birds and wildlife are integrated into applied research, about UCLA's broader research and collaborations, and what people can do to support biodiversity at home and in the community.

DATE: Wednesday, November 13, 2019

TIME: 7:30 PM 8:30 PM

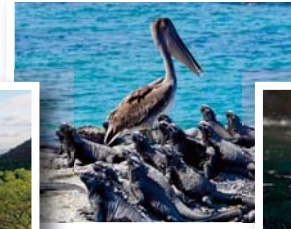
**WHERE: Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Visitor Center
6300 Hetzler Rd, Culver City 90232**

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

We hope to see you at this free event.

Learn more about Los Angeles Audubon programs and ways to support local species conservation and environmental education at <https://www.laaudubon.org/give>

Sharing the Galapagos Islands Jerome Gaw



Jerome Gaw is a wildlife photography enthusiast and certified California Naturalist. He will share stories and photos from a recent trip to the Galápagos Islands, along with what the trip taught him about local birdlife.

DATE: Wednesday, December 11, 2019

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

By Margot Griswold



As PRESIDENT OF LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, I want to thank you, members and volunteers, all for a great year! As I look back over 2019, I am grateful to have been a part of our efforts at conservation, community science, education, and spreading the joy of bird watching. With the recent reports of the decline of bird numbers, our efforts at local conservation and habitat restoration is what we can do to make a difference. Think globally but act locally – That is what we are doing here in Los Angeles to provide more and better habitat for birds and humans alike.

Renewing your membership to Los Angeles Audubon Society is a good step in support of local conservation for birds. Not only are we protecting and restoring habitat for birds, but we are growing conservationists and young scientists with our environmental education programs. And, I know it is

<https://www.laaudubon.org/membership/> where you can join/renew at a level of your choice. Susan Castor, our office administrator will keep your memberships straight.

Our newest endeavor is the formation of the Endowment Committee to start raising a significant endowment to fund at least half of our annual budget for our conservation and education programs. A robust endowment will protect our programs as funding for environmental education and conservation from grants and foundations becomes more difficult. Planned giving is one way to remember Los Angeles Audubon Society. You can look at various ways to donate on our website at laaudubon.org.

The following describes many of our programs and what makes me so grateful to lead Los Angeles Audubon

somewhat confusing, but Los Angeles Audubon Society is its own 501c3 non-profit organization, and while we are affiliated with National Audubon Society, we receive very little financial support from memberships assigned to us through National Audubon. We are on our own! So consider renewing your membership directly with Los Angeles Audubon Society at

Society. We have a very large, sprawling territory, but let's start at the coast!

We have an *Open Wetlands* on the first Saturday each month that is brought to us by the volunteer efforts of our Ballona Wetlands docents and our amazing environmental education staff leadership, with Cindy Hardin and Emily Cobar on hand to guide the docents. Open Wetlands is the only day that the public can visit the wetlands, a wildlife preserve managed by California Department of Fish & Wildlife. This same team of Los Angeles Audubon Society staff and volunteer docents leads environmental education field trips for approximately 2,300 elementary and middle school students each year, providing free buses to schools without adequate funding so that all students have an equal opportunity to visit a coastal wetland. Our docents' knowledge of the wetlands is enhanced each year by training sessions including local experts as well as field trips to other Southern California wetlands. Our Ballona Wetlands programs has been supported by grants from numerous foundations and by private donations for over 20+ years. You can become a volunteer docent if you want to train each fall to lead students in the wetlands; check out the volunteer opportunities on our website at www.laaudubon.org.

And speaking of the Ballona Wetlands, our board is supporting a rational, science-based approach to the restoration and enhancement of the Ballona Wetlands. There are far too many wildlife species, including sensitive bird species, to take a heavy handed, human-centric approach to drastically remake the wetlands into something that never existed. Almost two years, Los Angeles Audubon Society submitted detailed comments on the inadequacy of the draft EIR/EIS for the Ballona Wetlands project in defense of birds and wildlife.



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Ballona Wetlands project in defense of birds and wildlife.

At Los Angeles County beaches, a volunteer army of *Western Snowy Plover* and *Least Tern* monitors join our staff scientists, under the guidance of Tom Ryan and Stacey Vigallon, to provide an uninterrupted 12-year, and counting, data set on these shorebirds so that beach management by the California State Parks and Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors can be science-based. Los Angeles Audubon Society volunteers assemble and maintain ex-closures to protect the tiny Western Snowy Plovers on local beaches during the breeding season, resulting in the first successful breeding in 68 years. We partner with Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society on this important work. We also lead students and volunteers to maintain the Least Tern habitat at Venice Beach, and we offer community Beach Ecology walks at Dockweiler Beach. The specific shorebird conservation studies and activities have been supported by US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Susan and Daniel Gottlieb, and the Disney Foundation, as well as the hundreds of hours by volunteer community scientists. You can train to become a community shorebird monitor by checking out volunteer opportunities on our website at laaudbon.org.

Moving inland to the Baldwin Hills, I am pleased to tell you that our environmental education program now

includes a certificate course in conservation and parkland stewardship offered through West Los Angeles College at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) Park. The course is free through West Los Angeles College to all community members. It is taught by Emily Cobar with input from other Los Angeles Audubon Society staff, Arely Mendia, Ingrid Carrillo, and Edgar Pedroza, as well as myself. This program is a result of a three-year pilot grant from the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and the Baldwin Hills Regional Restoration Authority. The capstone project this past year was the development of a plan and implementation of the closure of 'volunteer trails' to improve KHSRA park.

Persons who complete the conservation and stewardship certificate are eligible to become docents for the KHSRA Outdoor Environmental Education Program. Cindy Hardin coordinates and trains docents to lead elementary and middle school field trips to the upland park where students learn about the geology, vegetation and wildlife of the Baldwin Hills and the Ballona Creek watershed. Our program is in its 10th year and currently serves approximately 1,000 students. Again, Los Angeles Audubon Society provides free buses to schools so that all students have the opportunity for quality outdoor environmental education. Our KHSRA education programs have been supported by California State Parks Foundation, the Annenberg Foundation, Green Foundation, and private donors.

Last quarter, you read about the volunteer habitat restoration work by Eleanor Osgood and Alan Starbuck, leading volunteers at KHSRA Park. Eleanor Osgood is a long time Los Angeles Audubon Society volunteer and true example for all of us. You, too, can join them pulling weeds - contact them at: gardenbird1@att.net

Under the leadership of Stacey Vigallon, our high school Baldwin Hills Greenhouse program is starting its 12th year training Restoration Leaders and Greenhouse Interns from three different local high schools in hands-on environmental science at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook (BHSO) State Park. Students not only carry out original research projects, but they learn teamwork helping each other and the park with restoration activities. This program is very successful in providing students with opportunities to explore potential college programs in environmental studies, science and environmental education. We are growing urban conservation scientists! Our students participate in Outward Bound programs as well as internships with Environment for the Americas. Our program started with a grant from the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, and has continued with grant funding over the past from Toyota Green, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation 5-star grants, and private donors.

Also, Los Angeles Audubon Society has led thousands of hours of habitat restoration each year at BHSO Park over the last ten years. We are making a difference, and you can help if you

volunteer with us. Join myself, Carol Babeli and Los Angeles Audubon staff restoring habitat at BHSO. Check out our volunteer opportunities in habitat restoration on our website at laaudbon.org

Linking to our Baldwin Hills Greenhouse program, Los Angeles Audubon Society started implementing Schoolyard Habitats within urban Los Angeles elementary schools in 2009. Each school community of parents, students, and teachers work with our high school Restoration Leaders to design and plant native habitats that serve as outdoor classrooms. Our high school Restoration Leaders develop and teach curricula based on each school's habitat, promoting intergenerational learning and community connections across Los Angeles. This work has been supported by National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, UCLA Class on Philanthropy, as well as private donors. We are working on our third Schoolyard Habitat. Below are photos showing the development of our second Schoolyard Habitat at Esperanza elementary School. These Schoolyard Habitats are located in some of the most highly urbanized areas of Los Angeles, and they allow students to interact with nature in very meaningful ways

Los Angeles Audubon Society also sponsors birding at locations across Los Angeles each week. Volunteers, coordinated by Eleanor Osgood, lead birding at Stoneview Nature Center, Franklin Canyon, Ballona Creek, KHSRA Park, and Topanga State Park, with

quarterly birding at Echo Park Lake (Spanish & English). Additionally, each Bird LA Day, Los Angeles Audubon Society leads bird walks at MacArthur Park, South LA Wetlands Park (Spanish & English), Ballona Wetlands, and KHSRA. These bird walks are open to all levels of birders and can be a great way to start watching birds. Check out the times and locations of the Calendar for bird walks at our website laudbon.org.

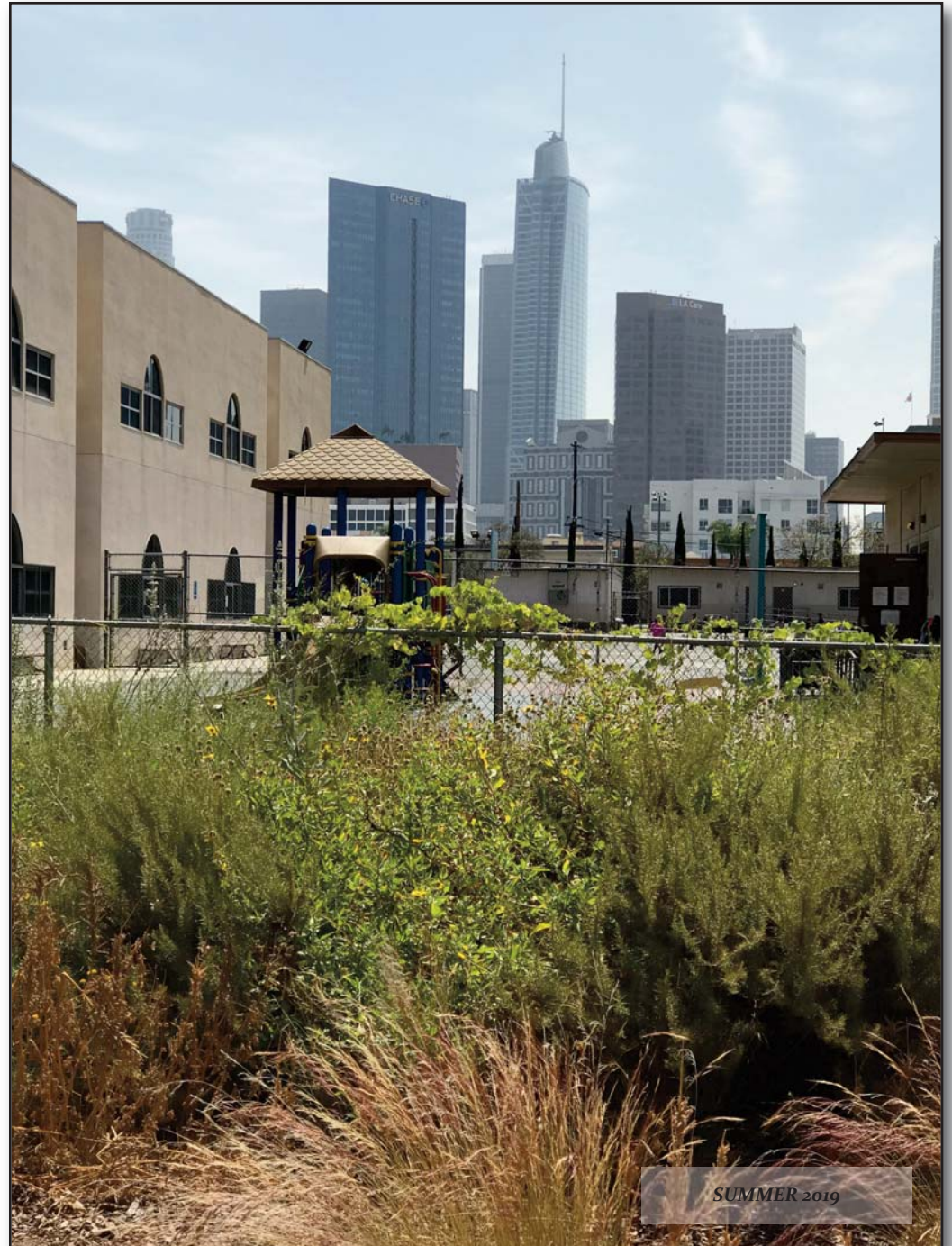
We also want to recognize the longtime volunteer work of Mary and Nick Freeman in organizing seasonal field trips throughout southern California. While coordinating all the field trips, Mary and Nick also lead some of these trips each year, especially for owls in the San Gabriel Mountains. For more information on the field trips, check out the Calendar on our website at laudbon.org

Be sure to check out our Calendar for the monthly program speaker and schedule. We offer these speaker programs for free mainly at BHSO but also at other locations. See what is upcoming at laudbon.org.

Thank you to the volunteer Board of Directors for meeting and working every month to make Los Angeles Audubon run smoothly. Special thanks to Nicole Lawson for coordinating the new website which was a ton of work last year. And, where would we be without our Tanager editor, Linda Oberholtzer. Thank you for your years and years of service!

Gratefully yours,

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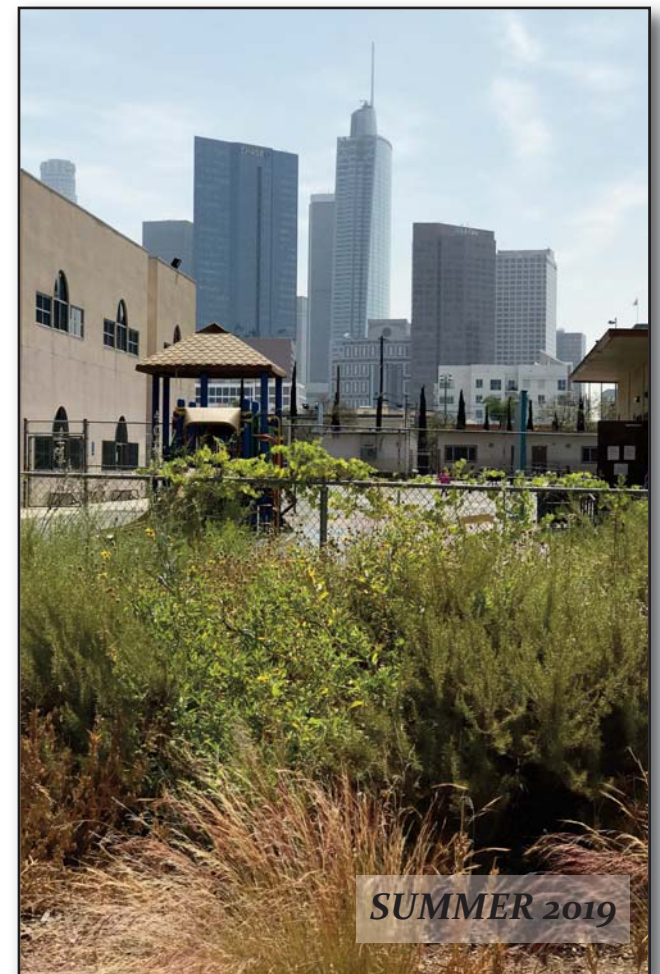
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Gratefully yours,

Margot Griswold, President

Los Angeles Audubon Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT: MALIBU COAST — OCT. 5, 2019

By Read Howarth | Photographer, Grace Wang

THE MALIBU COAST FIELD TRIP WAS a success with 12 participants at 8:00 am at Malibu Lagoon. The day got off to a great start with a Black-throated Gray Warbler adjacent to the parking lot in a sycamore tree as we gathered under the shaded ramada overlooking the lagoon.



Irwin Woldman had agreed to guide us through the early part of the trip and first took us to the overlook platform south east of the parking lot where we were treated to a Belted Kingfisher, a Green Heron and a Sora, among other birds. Heading out to the beach we stopped at the platform overlook across the way just before reaching the beach where good views were had of several birds on the island looking back toward the parking lot.

There and on the beach we had Gadwall, Mallards, American Widgeon, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Rock Pidgeon, Double Crested Cormorants, Brown Pelicans (no longer in breeding plumage) Marbled Godwits, Willets, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Snowy Plover, Black bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Sanderlings, Killdeer and others.

After the lagoon, we went to Legacy Park, across the Pacific Coast Highway, between PCH and the Malibu Library, where we saw a Red-tailed hawk being mobbed by crows, a Kestrel chasing a lbb. Irwin and Linda left after Legacy Park.

When the rest of us went to get sandwiches, we saw an Osprey over Malibu Creek along the south east side of Cross Creek Mall. After eating sandwiches in the shade next to Legacy Park, we headed up the coast.

We stopped first at Bonsall/Zuma Canyon where we saw two Coopers Hawks and another Red-tail hawk being mobbed, before heading to Zuma Lagoon.

At the Zuma Lagoon, beside the usual gulls, we saw Mallard, Eared Grebe, American

Western Tanager November – December 2019 Vol. 86 No. 2

Coot, Willet, California scrub-jay, sparrow. Also, we were treated to both Red-necked Phalarope and a Red Phalarope near the reeds close to the beach where we were standing.

There was some tentativeness about making the identification of the Red Phalarope, so we consulted Kimball Garrett and Nick and Mary Freeman, who confirmed the identification.



Red-necked Phalarope



Red Phalarope



Red-necked Phalarope



Red Phalarope

Thank you to all who participated in making it a fun productive day, and especially to Irwin for acting as our guide to Malibu Lagoon and Legacy Park and Grace Wang for capturing such wonderful photographs and allowing us to share them.

Malibu Creek Lagoon and Zuma Lagoon – Link to share:

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1Qip0AyYCApStdbWuyqzsjx26013n6VuzZn71_nqGHyROTqUKa3fktzova9aWlBkJ2NQ?key=WE10dEwxcckdBQUV6RVZIUS1hS1VknZctYkZ0Rjln

(Owner: Grace Wang)



OUR 2019 END-OF-YEAR APPEAL

By Carol Babeli, Director of Communications

Each year, *Los Angeles Audubon Society*, your local Audubon chapter, relies on your generous donations to advance species conservation and environmental education programs. Your support is vitally important and your contributions go directly towards environmental efforts right here in LA County. (Donations to National Audubon and/or Debs Park/California Audubon do not reach our chapter or vice versa.)

We are so grateful for people like you who care about birds and nature and who are helping to preserve what little wildlife habitat remains.

Please take a moment and donate today to the *Los Angeles Audubon Society* at: losangelesaudubon.org/donate. Here's how we put your donations to work.

SPECIES CONSERVATION

Los Angeles Audubon biologists and specially trained volunteers continue the annual monitoring of and data collection on Snowy Plover and Least Tern. We are grateful to generous donors like you and also for a new grant from the California Dept of Fish & Wildlife that will help to fund a portion of activities.

Your contributions help to support endangered and threatened shorebirds found on LA County beaches and to engage a range of community members - from retired local residents to elementary school students. We are thrilled to facilitate opportunities for people to connect to nature and to serve as stewards of sandy beach habitats. Activities like field trips, guided beach walks, and community-based science programs help people see the beach in a whole new way. More than 1,000 students and community members participate in this program each year.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Los Angeles Audubon's science-based nature programs rely entirely on grants and individual donations which help to pay for staff/supply costs including 50+ buses to transport under-served schools (over \$400 per each bus) to outdoor programs. Your donations help more than 5,000+ youth participate each year in outdoor nature activities which include

field trips to Ballona Wetlands and Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. The programs engage students in experiential learning activities and hiking, beach walks, habitat restoration events, bird-watching, and a summer camp program.

Our newest youth services partner, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles' Watts/Los Angeles (HACLA), selects youth representatives to serve as Urban Nature Specialists guided by Los Angeles Audubon staff.

Our schoolyard habitat program continues to inspire science/nature learning for elementary students at Politi and Esperanza schools and we are now expanding the program to a third school, Dayton Heights Elementary. High school and college interns are a big reason for this program's success as they serve as mentors to the younger students, write curriculum and help to maintain the habitats.



LA Audubon engages many local youth in their first-time job experience. Approximately 60 student interns gain valuable environmental work experience and share in paid stipends totaling over \$40,000 each year. We are excited to announce that *Los Angeles Audubon's* college-level pilot program, the Parklands Stewardship Program, is now a certificate course at the West Los Angeles Community College. LA Audubon staff will teach West LA College students how to take action to support nature and green spaces, address climate change issues, and ways to have a voice in the environmental future of Los Angeles.

In addition to youth programs, *Los Angeles Audubon* weekly public programs serve all ages and include field trips to the beaches, the mountains and local hiking and bird watching events throughout the greater LA area. Come join us! Check out our events calendar at laudubon.org

Los Angeles Audubon program staff consists of 5 full time and 2 part time people and, with your help, we hope to expand our program reach and inspire a new generation of environmentalists.

Your support matters – please donate now at: <http://losangelesaudubon.org/donate>

Here is a summary of Los Angeles Audubon programs that your donations help to support.

SNOWY PLOVER COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER MONITORING PROGRAM

Los Angeles Audubon biologists and specially trained community volunteers monitor and document Threatened Snowy Plovers activity. This data is provided to the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife as part of ongoing research of this species.

SHOREBIRD HABITAT RESTORATION

Hundreds of volunteers and students help to conserve shorebird habitat on beaches in LA County. This work is focused on the nesting and roosting sites of the Endangered California Least Tern and the Threatened Western Snowy Plover.

BALDWIN HILLS PARKLANDS CONSERVATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM WITH WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

Provides WLAC students with job experience via this Certificate Program that provides leadership and job skills in nature conservation.

BALDWIN HILLS ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM - AT BALDWIN HILLS SCENIC OVERLOOK

Offers after-school internships teaming high school students with biologists and restoration ecologists to actively engage in and improve their communities.

NATURE DISCOVERY PROGRAM - AT KENNETH HAHN STATE RECREATION AREA

A weekly field trip program that introduces thousands of elementary and middle school students to experiential learning and science-based activities.

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT

Showcases *Los Angeles Audubon's* 'School-Shed' concept of utilizing nature on urban campuses as a teaching tool and connects students from different communities in positive interactions.

SCIENCE ILLUSTRATION PROGRAM

Provides an opportunity for students (and teachers) to learn STEM concepts and then interpret them through visual media.

BALLONA WETLANDS OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

A weekly field trip program brings thousands of students and teachers each year to experience one of the last remaining coastal wetlands in Los Angeles.

BALLONA WETLANDS FIRST SATURDAY WALK

The first Saturday of every month, *Los Angeles Audubon* invites the public to tour the wetlands. People of all ages get a chance to view life in the wetlands using microscopes, binoculars and spotting scopes, and docents lead the way on an exciting hike through natural dune habitat to the Ballona Channel.

BEACH ECOLOGY EXPLORATION SCHOOL PROGRAM

Los Angeles Audubon hosts 8 Beach ecology field trips for under-served schools each year. The program explores ecology and stewardship along a coastline visited by millions of people each year.

BEACH ECOLOGY & NATURE SKETCHING WALKS

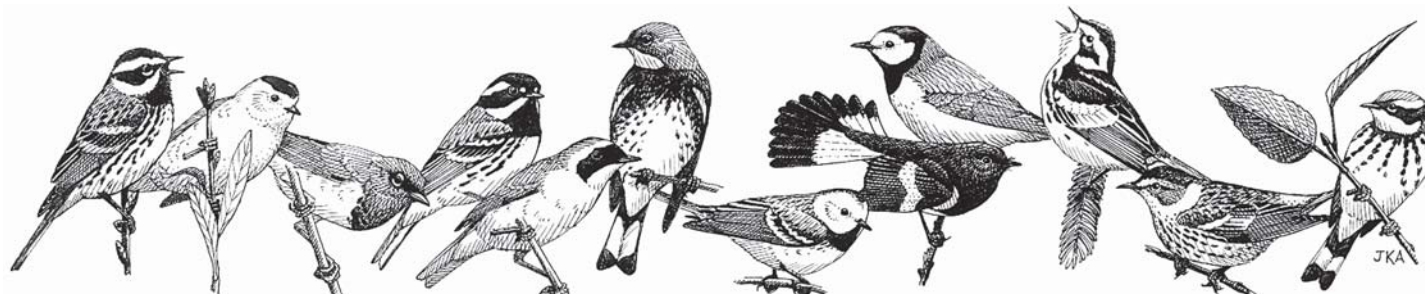
The public is invited to learn about shorebirds and beach habitat at beach walks within the Santa Monica Bay area, hosted by Los Angeles Audubon four times a year.

Other Special Programs & Presentations for members and the public include:

- Monthly presentations from field experts on a wide-range of interests that include bird, wildlife and environmental topics.
- Five monthly bird walks for beginners and experienced birders alike are conducted by volunteer birders at Topanga State Park, Franklin Canyon, Ballona Wetlands, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, and Stoneview Nature Center.
- Special field trips that venture outside of the immediate LA area to nature-filled locations such as: Kern River Valley, Big Morongo Wildlife Preserve, Salton Sea, and Anza Borrego.

We send our heartfelt thanks to you for your continued support of Los Angeles Audubon!
Wishing you a peaceful world filled with bird song!

Sincerely,
Los Angeles Audubon Board, Staff, Students and Volunteers



BIRDS OF THE SEASON — October 2019 | By Jon Fisher

There's no doubt that fall migration is a great time for birders. "Southbound migration" might be a better term, given that the passage takes place from June through November. Even that isn't exact, as not all migrants are headed south. Tropical Kingbirds are an obvious example of a species whose movements are to the north and west.

Predictably, a number of good rarities were discovered in the county. Among them were a couple of high end vagrants. Unfortunately, due to circumstances- either a lack of public access or a brief stay or both- neither was seen by more than a couple of observers.

Though these birds can and do turn up anywhere, the concentrating effects of the coastline were evident. Coastal and near coastal parks and green patches are often productive for both regular migrants and vagrants, and that was true this fall. Madrona Marsh, DeForest Park, Banning Park and Harbor Regional Park all had their share of good birds.

Four **Common Mergansers** were on the San Gabriel River's West Fork on September 11 and up to a half dozen were in the main San Gabriel Canyon through September 25, near where they have been confirmed breeding recently (Ryan Winkleman). Two early **Hooded**

Mergansers were along the LA River in Glendale on August 23 (Andrew Birch).

White-winged Doves included a continuing bird at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh through August 29- September 23, and others at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach on September 6 (Chris Dean), on the Palos Verdes Peninsula on September 13 (Mike Miller), at Madrona Marsh in Torrance on September 23 (Adam Johnson) and in Redondo Beach from October 23–27 (Lynne Sands).

A **Lesser Nighthawk** at Lake Palmdale on October 10 was a late date.

An **American Oystercatcher** continued at Royal Palms Beach near San Pedro through September 4. Other reports- possibly involving the same birds- were on the Palos Verdes Peninsula near Ocean Trails Reserve on September 8 (Mike Miller) and at King Harbor on September 27 (David Moody), at Dockweiler SB on October 3 (Dean Schaff). Two were at the Ballona Creek mouth on October 16 (Naresh Satyan).

Quite rare was an **American Golden-Plover** at the Piute Ponds on October 12 (Mark & Janet Scheel). More expected, and lingering far longer, was a **Pacific Golden-Plover** along

lower Ballona Creek from August 30-October 16 (Randy Ehler).

Red Knots, generally rather scarce in the county, included two along the lower LA River in Long Beach from September 4–9 (Becky Turley, Kim Moore, Richard Barth), another along lower Ballona Creek on September 11 (Kevin Lapp) and two there from September 11–14 (Sara Boscoe).

Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** along the lower LA River in Long Beach on August 25 were the last of the seven recorded since July (Jon Fisher, Sarah Ngo, Mark Scheel).

Sabine's Gulls were at Lake Palmdale from September 26–October 3 (Cal Yorke) and at the Sepulveda Basin from October 3-11 (Noelle Jorge). Very rare was a **Little Gull** at Lake Palmdale on October 10 (Cal Yorke). This species, the world's smallest gull, was the first in the county since 2007. Also of interest was a **Franklin's Gull** at Castaic Lake on October 16 (Cal Yorke).

Common Terns, generally scarce migrants in fall, included single birds at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB on August 24 (Mark Scheel) and at Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach on September 14 (Robb Hamilton) and two at Apollo

Park in Lancaster from September 20-23. One was also at Malibu Lagoon from September 26-29 (Jeff Tell). Much less expected were **Arctic Terns** at Malibu Lagoon on September 17 (Tom Miko, Sam Cooper) and at Cabrillo Beach on October 22 (Bobby Trusela).

Two **Neotropic Cormorants** continued below Hansen Dam in Lake View Terrace through September 21. Despite the recent uptick in records, no others were reported during the period.

A **Brown Booby** just east of San Clemente Island on September 22 was the only one found in the county during the period (Justyn Stahl), although thirty to fifty were repeatedly noted on nearby Santa Barbara Island through the period.

An **American Bittern** at the Dominguez Gap Wetlands in Long Beach on September 10 was presumably the same bird observed there last July (Jeff Boyd). Also notable were a **Reddish Egret** at Malibu Lagoon on October 4 (Dan Cooper) and a rare **Tricolored Heron** seen briefly at Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach on October 6 (Robb Hamilton, Nancy Salem).

Four **Cattle Egrets** were in the east Antelope Valley — two at the Piute Ponds and two more southeast of there — on September 18 (Jon Feenstra) and four were at Piute on September 24. A **Little Blue Heron** was at Madrona Marsh in Torrance from August 20–September 24 (Adam Johnson, Chris Dean).

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons included several continuing in the Ballona area — most often at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh — through October 20. Up to three more were at Sims Bio Pond in Long Beach through October 7 and one was at Cabrillo

Beach on October 6 (Bernardo Alps).

A **Broad-winged Hawk** at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City on October 17 (John Sterling) was the only report of this rare fall migrant during the period. **Zone-tailed Hawks** were near the Chatsworth Reservoir on September 5 (Dina Gathe) and at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas on September 20 (Karen Suarez). An early **Ferruginous Hawk** was in the east Antelope Valley on September 22 (Kimball Garrett).

Remarkably early was a **Merlin** along the LA River in Glendale on August 27 (Andrew Birch).

Tropical Kingbirds were at Entradero Park in Torrance from October 4–21 (Tracy Drake) and at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City from October 7–21 (Joyce Brady). Less expected was an **Eastern Kingbird** on San Clemente Island on September 6 (Vincent Weber).

Bank Swallows are scarce on the coastal slope in migration, thus one on the LA River in Long Beach on September 14 was of interest (Jeff Boyd, Richard Barth). Likewise was a **Purple Martin** in the same area on September 17 (Jeff Boyd, Richard Barth).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in above average numbers. This coincides with an irruptive year elsewhere in the state.

A **Townsend's Solitaire**, quite rare on the coastal slope, was at Hopkins Wilderness Park on October 1. Rather late was a **Swainson's Thrush** at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach on October 6 (Dessi Sieburth).

An excellent find was a **White Wagtail** on San Clemente Island from October 15–17 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers, Steven Munoz). This was quite possibly the same bird observed on Santa Barbara Island two days prior. This was the first county record since the Cabrillo Beach bird in December of 2012.

Both a **Lapland Longspur** and a **Chestnut-sided Longspur** were at the Toyon Landfill in Griffith Park on October 13 (Andrew Birch) and two **Lapland Longspurs**, a **Chestnut-colored Longspur** and a **McCown's Longspur** were in the east Antelope Valley at 50th Street East and Avenue M from October 20–21 (Mark & Janet Scheel, Naresh Satyan). At least one Lapland was still present through October 23. All three species are rare in the county, although a thorough survey of suitable habitat in the Antelope Valley and elsewhere would almost certainly turn up additional birds.

Nine **Green-tailed Towhees** were found on the coastal slope and offshore islands from September 15–October 18 and seven **Clay-colored Sparrows** were discovered between September 19 and October 4. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia on October 2 (Chris Dean, Joyce Brady).

Generally scarce away from the deserts in fall, eleven **Black-throated Sparrows** were found on the coastal slope and on San Clemente Island. Less often encountered was a **Lark Bunting** at Griffith Park's Toyon Landfill on October 5 (Andrew Birch).

A **White-throated Sparrow** in Pasadena from October 19–20 was the only one reported thus far (Jane Bork), while a rather early **White-crowned Sparrow** was at the Piute Ponds on September 8.

Bobolinks were reported on San Clemente Island on September 28 (Jimmy McMorran, Justyn Stahl), on October 1 (Nicole Desnoyers, Justyn Stahl) and at Madrona Marsh in Torrance from October 24–27 (Adam Johnson, David Moody, Mark Rubke).

Northern Waterthrushes were in the Sepulveda Basin from September 5–6 (Chris Dean), at the Exposition Park Rose Garden from September 24–25 (Kimball Garrett), on San Clemente Island on September 30 (Justyn Stahl, Jimmy McMorran) and on Santa Catalina Island on October 19 (Adrian Hinkle, Dessi Sieburth).

Seven **Black-and-white Warblers** were detected between September 19 and October 18, all on the coastal slope.

A half dozen **Virginia's Warblers** were found in the county between September 10 and 28 and **Lucy's Warblers** were at Creek Park in La Mirada on September 25 (Jonathan Rowley), on Santa Catalina Island on October 18 (Adrian Hinkle) and on San Clemente Island on October 19 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers).

Tennessee Warblers were at Creek Park in La Mirada from September 25–28 (Chris Dean, Joyce Brady), at Banning Park in Wilmington on September 26 (Chris Dean) and at the Exposition Park Rose Garden from October 4–8 (Kimball Garrett).

American Redstarts were at Rosedale Angeles Cemetery near downtown LA on September 13 (Brad Rumble), at Lake Palmdale on September 26 (Cal Yorke) and at DeForest Park in Long Beach from September 27–28 (Jeff Boyd, Richard Barth, Kim Moore) with three present there on September 28.

Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Banning Park in Wilmington on September 28 (Dessi Sieburth), at the South Coast Botanic Gardens in Rolling Hills Estates on September 28 (Randy Harwood), at the Piute Ponds from September 30–October 1 (John Birsner) and at the at the Exposition Park Rose Garden in Los Angeles from October 1–6 (Kimball Garrett).

A **Magnolia Warbler** was at Madrona Marsh in Torrance from August 28–30 (Manuel Duran) and eight **Blackpoll Warblers** were found between September 12 and 29. Seen by many was a **Prairie Warbler** at Madrona Marsh in Torrance from September 27–October 3.

A nice find on San Clemente Island was a **Canada Warbler** discovered on September 27 (Justyn Stahl).

Summer Tanagers were on San Clemente Island on September 24 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers), at Switzer's Picnic area on September 28 (Walter Heymann), at Hopkins Wilderness Park on October 3 and at La Mirada Community Park on October 14 (Jonathan Rowley).

Very rare in the county was a **Scarlet Tanager** at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City from October 16–22 (Chris Dean). Interestingly, this is the third record of this species at this locale in the past seven years. Another was at Madrona Marsh in Torrance on October 24 (Adam Johnson, David Moody, Mark Rubke).

Wrapping up reports was a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Pearblossom Park in Pearblossom on October 5 (Kimball Garrett).

Now that passerine migration is essentially over, late and lingering birds still remain to be found in the coming months. Given the mild climate, LA County's coastal slope offers excellent winter birding for Neotropical migrants that have decided not to head farther south.

The varied and interesting Antelope Valley will offer the usual winter specialties and possibly a surprise or two. From Quail Lake at the west end to the various agricultural fields at the east, there is much territory to be explored here.

The San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera, one of the county's best spots for waterfowl and for rare gulls over the last few winters, can be excellent depending on often wildly varying water levels.

Despite the fact that well known spots are regularly covered, there are plenty of places throughout the county that are under-birded.

Christmas Bird Counts will be underway in mere weeks. If you haven't ever participated, it's an enjoyable way to contribute to the avian record. Most counts welcome additional participants and more counters make for more successful and thorough CBCs. 🐦

SY MONTGOMERY STRIVES TO DISCOVER WHO AN OCTOPUS IS IN HER NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING BOOK: *THE SOUL OF AN OCTOPUS — A SURPRISING EXPLORATION INTO THE WONDER OF CONSCIOUSNESS*

BOOK REVIEW: By Savannah House, Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Intern

October 3, 2019

Contributor Savannah House is a senior at Culver City High School and a third-year intern in the Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program. Writing, science, and teaching are important activities in her life. Here she reviews of *The Soul of an Octopus* (2015) in an effort to get people to expand their connection to and compassion for the natural world.

Magnificently written, the endlessly beautiful and mystical story of *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery, follows the author through her journey of meeting and falling in love with four different octopuses - Athena, Octavia, Kali, and Karma- at the New England Aquarium as well as others during ocean adventures. At the New England Aquarium, she falls most in love with Octavia, who the story follows most closely, from Octavia's entrance into the aquarium through her relatively short life.

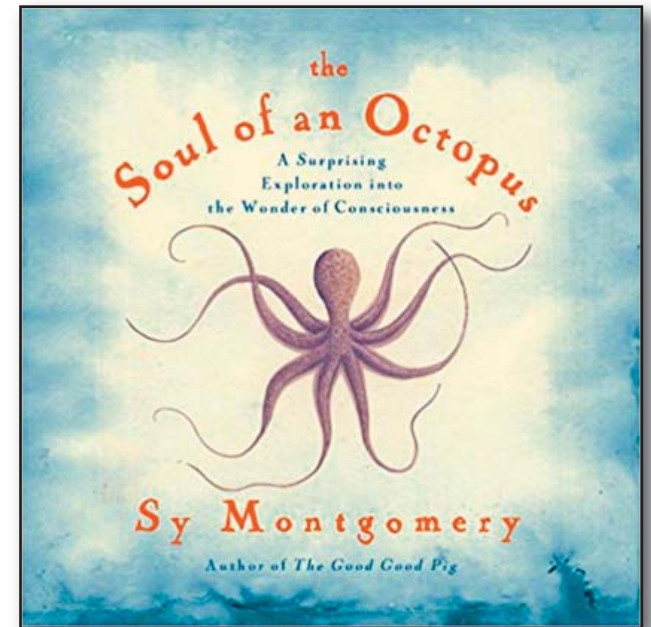
To open the book, Montgomery settles the debate between "octopi" and "octopuses" by explaining that it is grammatically incorrect to "put a Latin ending -i- on a word that is derived from Greek." The rest of the book follows the same witty and addictive qualities that make it nearly impossible to put down.

Throughout her adventures, Montgomery asks intriguing questions - some of which she finds answers to, while others hang in the air unanswered by the end of the book. The most pressing question Montgomery asks and strives to discover is "Who is an octopus?"

"And there is another way we alter our experience of time. We, as well as other animals can mimic another's emotional state.Perhaps, as we stroked her in the water, we entered into Athena's experience of time — liquid, slippery, and ancient, flowing at a different pace than any clock. I could stay here forever, filling my senses with Athena's strangeness and beauty, talking with my new friends."

The question is answered only through others, such as "What is the behavior of an octopus?" and "Do they remember those who visit them?" Largely, Montgomery discovers, this is a question of consciousness - in particular the comparison between human consciousness and other animals' consciousness.

Along with describing the other animals around the octopuses, Montgomery tells her readers about her own life. She is married with many animals at home, but her Border Collie is her favorite and presumably one of her best friends. The relation between Montgomery's life, that of the octopuses and that of the New England Aquarium later in the book leaves the reader feeling attached to the different parts of the story and thus making the digestion of this unfamiliar topic easier as she fishes out the humane characteristics of every aspect in the story.



Montgomery also meets and introduces the readers to many friends she finds through the aquarium. Most noteworthy are Bill, the man who manages and calls the shots for the octopuses living at the aquarium; Wilson, who helps Montgomery in her quest to get to know the different animals; and Anna, the high school intern who is quiet with immense compassion for the animals and finds therapy within the aquarium. Anna, in particular, was one of my favorite parts of the story. Her gentle touch and fearlessness with the animals were endearing. It gave an even further humanization to the animals.

The Soul of an Octopus opens your eyes to the natural world around you and leaves you with newfound knowledge and compassion for the world, you come to realize, you have largely overlooked. This true story is both motivating and captivating, even to those who know little about octopuses going in. 🐙

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY'S CONDOR FUND: A SHORT HISTORY

By Brian Pederson | pseudogryps.org | blog@pseudogryps.org

SINCE 1934, THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY has been publishing a regular newsletter titled *Western Tanager*. In reviewing backissues for mentions of the California condor, I was struck by the number of mentions to the group's fund for the condor.

In this post, I report some of what I learned about the organization's fund-raising for the California condor from issues of *Western Tanager* dated 1939-1969.

The April 1939 issue included an item headed "'Save the Condor' Fund – Benefit". Here's the full text:

The National Association of Audubon Societies, 1006 Fifth Avenue, N.Y., have created a Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley, to study the habits of the Condor and get a complete life history of these rare birds, to better determine the causes for their small numbers, and in the hopes of being able to check their losses before [it is] too late. The sole known habitat of these birds now is Los Padres National Forest, in California.

The October 1939 issue provided details about the research plans and fund raising in an article by C. V. Duff. Here are excerpts concerning the latter:

In order to finance this study it was necessary to appeal to people who were interested in bird study and conservation. Some substantial gifts have been received but in order for this most important study to go forward, a considerable amount of money is still needed. The local Audubon Societies raised some money through the showing of the remarkable pictures taken of the Tufted Jay and other interesting birds in Mexico, by Dr. R. T. Moore, who very generously gave of his time to show his pictures in the interest of the Condor Fund.

I like the idea of other bird species lending a wing to support the California condor.



In the April 1959 issue, Robert Blackstone, the president of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, notes that the California condor's habitat is "in the very 'back yard' ... of those of us who live in the Los Angeles area". So he calls for the organization to "take a lead in supporting the 'Condor Sanctuary'". In addition to requesting donations from members, Blackstone notes that most-recent issue of the Los Angeles Audubon Society's Year-Book did not include a membership list so as to save on printing. Some of those savings were allocated to the "Condor Sanctuary Fund".

The June 1962 issue reported that:

\$649.53 was contributed to the CONDOR FUND between June 26, 1961 and May 1, 1962. This far surpasses the \$494.00 collected over the previous year ...

The March 1965 issue included an item titled "Condor Fund". Here are excerpts:

Each year at this time the Los Angeles Audubon Society launches a campaign for funds to aid in the preservation of the California condor.

Enclosed with this issue ... you will find an envelope and card for your convenience in making your contribution ... If our willingness to work to preserve such species as

the Condor from extinction is [a] "measure of our civilization", let us not be "measured and found wanting".

In the latter 1960s, stand-alone notices appeared in a number of issues. These included:

Don't forget to send that check to the Condor Fund!

Give to the Condor Fund ... now!

Those brief notices sometimes appeared within the masthead of *Western Tanager*.

Another notice showed a simple drawing of a California condor as it would appear flying directly overhead. The accompanying text included:

Your past gifts have produced results. We must not stop now!

The above is just an overview. There is much more about the Los Angeles Audubon Society's efforts on behalf of the California Condor in the pages of *Western Tanager*, including after 1969.

I will close this post with my appreciation to members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society for their significant efforts, efforts that made it possible for the California Condor to still be with us today. —Brian Pedersen, Blog Post (dated Oct. 8, 2019)

<https://pseudogryps.org/2019/10/08/the-los-angeles-audubon-societys-fund/> 



Nick & Mary Freeman
Field Trip Chairperson
& Trip Leaders

FIELD TRIPS

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

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

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

CARPOOLING

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

FEE REQUIRED RESERVATIONS

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

Mail to:

Los Angeles Audubon

PO Box 411301

Los Angeles CA 90041-8301

MORE INFORMATION

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

Saturday, November 16

BETTE DAVIS PARK, AND NEARBY LA RIVER, AND GRIFFITH PARK

NO SIGN UP, NO FEE

Leaders are bird artists / local birders **Andy Birch** and **Mary Freeman**. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Bette Davis Park, parking along the SW side of Riverside Drive where it turns SE (beyond Victory, at 34.1583, -118.2963). Possible Neotropical Cormorant, among resident birds and a good compliment of wintering birds. Bring snacks to bird until about 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 1

SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA AND LAKEVIEW AREA

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

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

LAAS SPONSORED CBC's

Saturday, December 14, 2019

LANCASTER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

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

Sunday, December 15, 2019

MALIBU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

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

Sunday, January 5, 2020

LOS ANGELES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Contact compiler Daniel Cooper at: dan@cooperecological.com to be matched up with a team or a survey area. This CBC is often on a weekday, so if you have been waiting for a weekend opportunity to do an LA CBC, this is it!

Sunday, January 12, 2020

(signup by Jan. 6))

**SEAL BEACH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
LIMITED SIGN-UP REQUIRED, NO FEE**

A **Refuge Manager** (assisted by head cat-wrangler *Nick Freeman*) will guide. We should have base vehicles. Throngs of wintering shorebirds and numerous raptors will be seen. Nelson's (Sharp-tailed) Sparrow, Peregrine Falcon and Pacific Golden-Plover are usually sighted. The refuge is part of the Naval Weapons Station. TO REGISTER WITH LAAS, please email the following to membership@laudubon.org: •ZIP Code, •first, •middle-initial & •last names, •DOB, •e-mail and •home phone number, •cell phone (optional but helpful); **by January 6**. Only LAAS-confirmed individuals of U.S. citizenship with photo ID allowed on base. No weapons, camera OK. Meet at the main public lot at 800 Seal Beach Blvd. at 8:00 a.m., and bird until about noon. Take Seal Beach Blvd. S from the 405 Fwy, pass Westminster Blvd., turn left onto the base at the Forrestal Lane light, and left again into the lot. Spotting scopes and FRS radios helpful.

Saturday, January 18

EAST ANTELOPE VALLEY

NO FEE, 20 MAX SIGN UP BY JAN. 15

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Fair chance of seeing LeConte's Thrasher, Prairie Falcon, and Mountain Plover. We GUARANTEE close studies of the Common Raven and Eurasian Collared-Dove and some of the finest desert birding in LA County! There is a lot of raptors who visit the Valley this time of year which is can be a spectacle this time of the year! We should hit 110th St. E, Apollo Park and elsewhere in our travels. Meet at the Palmdale Ave. S Park N Ride at 8:00 a.m. To get here, take Hwy 14 N to Avenue S, head E and take the first (or second) Rt. Turn into the Park N Ride, and meet in the SW corner by Lake Palmdale. Bring lunch, sunblock and lots of water. Possible afternoon winds. Call LAAS to sign up.

Saturday, January 25, 2020

**CHASING PARROTS IN PASADENA
PLEASE SIGN-UP, NO FEE**

Leader: *Larry Allen*. The famous "Temple City" parrots are ever elusive, but always around! Join Larry as we follow the evening flock as it gathers members and moves to roosting sites in the suburbs. Possible Red-crowned, Lilac-crowned, Red-ored, and Yellow-headed Parrots and perhaps other parrot and parakeet species as well. Bring scopes if you have them. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. and bird until fully dark (about 6:30 p.m.), at a San Gabriel Valley meeting location dependent upon the current location of the main parrot roost. Contact Susan Caster with cell phone number and e-mail for 1 or 2 day-before directions from Larry, and last minute frantic communications with any changes. Depending on the location of the roosts, we will either walk or drive from the parrot / birder staging site to the roosting area.

February 1 & 2 Weekend

CARRIZO PLAIN

FEE: \$20, LIMIT: 18

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Meet at 8 a.m. in Maricopa. Spectacular scenery. We will see many Ferruginous Hawks and Golden Eagles, always see Prairie Falcon and LeConte's Thrasher; and should see Merlin and Sage Thrasher; with possible Rough-legged Hawk, Mountain Plover, Pronghorn, and Elk. Carrizo Plain is a designated National Monument. We will meet in Maricopa (vacant lot at 800 Stanislaus St., west of Shell station on south side of Hwy 166), drive around the Plain all weekend, then leave the Plain heading north via Bitterwater Road on Sunday before we away to LA. If possible, please carpool or avail your vehicle to others when you reserve. Your phone number will be released for carpooling unless you request otherwise. Please register with Susan at membership@laudubon.org, providing name(s), cell phone number, and e-mail address for exact directions and further information; and mail a check for \$20 each. Net profits go

to the Schreiber Grant Fund. Reserve your own room in Buttonwillow for Saturday night. Motel 6 is one option here. FRS radios & 'scopes helpful. Limit: 16.

Sunday, February 9, 2020

NEWPORT BACK BAY

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Meet at 8:00 a.m. for the 6.7' high tide. Ridgway's Rail, Sora, American Bittern, Peregrine Falcon, Blue-winged Teal and California Gnatcatcher are expected. Short-eared Owl is rare. We will have lunch and finish up at San Joaquin Marsh, upstream. Take the 405 Fwy S to the 73 Toll Road (free this far) to the Campus Dr. exit. Turn right on Irvine Ave., and left on University Drive. Park beyond the Preserve HQ (2301 University Dr., Newport Beach 92660), and walk down the trail and over the bridge to the boardwalk to meet. More details in November.

Saturday, February 22

SALTON SEA SOUTH

FEE: \$10, SIGN-UP REQUIRED

Leaders *Nick and Mary Freeman*. Large to huge flocks of Snow & Ross' geese, White-faced Ibis and Sandhill Cranes. Stilt Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Gila Woodpecker all possible to certain. Although late summer is more reliable, this is the only place in the U.S. to see the impressive Yellow-footed Gull, which we might see! No limit, but sign up by phone, and send e-mail and cell ph# for more details. Come and experience this jewel during the winter. Meet at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at Cattle Call Park south of Brawley (just downhill from 550 Cattle Call Drive, Brawley). Brawley Inn 760/344-1199, Calipatria Inn 800/830-1113, and Americas Best Value Inn in Westmorland 760/351-7100 are recommended. Arrive fed with full tanks, and bring lunches and snacks. Those who wish to will eat together Saturday night. Please register with Susan at membership@laudubon.org, providing name(s), cell

phone number, and e-mail address for exact directions and further information; and mail a check for \$10 each. FRS radios & 'scopes helpful.

Saturday, February 29

VENTURA COUNTY GAME PRESERVE NO FEE, SIGN-UP & LIMIT OF 15

Leader: *TBA*. This private duck hunting club in Ventura has a long history of producing the kinds of birds that only well-conserved, well-birded and disappearing habitats can lay claim to; including Virginia rail, American Bittern, occasional Ruff, Solitary Sandpiper, and single Lesser Sandplover and Wood Sandpiper records. Emphasis on this date will be late raptors and waterfowl, with shorebirds starting to move through. Get to the preserve by taking the 101 Fwy W to Rice Avenue S, following the Rice Ave. prompts to the T-intersection terminus, then take Hueneme Rd. west (Rt.), take the first left turn on Casper, and proceed to the end. Details for access through the gate to the barn (6500 Casper Road, Oxnard) will be provided to signed-up individuals. Meet at 8:00 a.m. Sign up by e-mail with Susan Castor, giving city of residence. We will walk the property, so good hiking/mud shoes with energetic legs inside a plus. We may have one car. Scopes & FRS radios helpful. There is a slight chance of cancellation, so please check the LAAS website for trip status the day before.

March 21 & 22 Weekend

ANZA-BORREGO STATE PARK \$20 LAAS MEMBER FEE / \$40 FOR NON-LAAS MEMBERS, LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 20

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

Meet at the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association (652 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs) at 7:15 a.m. both days. Please register with Susan at membership@laaudubon.org providing •name(s), •cell phone number, and •email address; and mail a check for \$20—LAAS member / \$40—non-LAAS fee. More details later.

April 25 and 26 Weekend

OWENS VALLEY GROUSE TRIP FEE: \$55, LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 20

Mary Freeman leads. Sage Grouse on the lek, Sooty Grouse in the trees, breathtaking scenery, raptor-rich valleys, and early shorebirds heading north. And yes, we can observe the Sage Grouse up close. Meet early Saturday and Sunday mornings in Bishop. Sign up by e-mail with names and cell phone #, and send \$55 (Schreiber Grant Fund Raiser), in a SASE to LAAS. More details in the Jan/Feb issue and in a confirmation mailer. Reserve rooms and trip early, for this perennially popular trip. Motel 6, Mountain View Inn, Bishop Elms are some of many hotels in Bishop.

STONEVIEW NATURE CENTER NATURE WALK Every Thursday morning

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

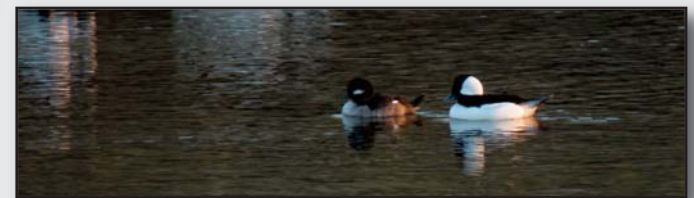
Come explore the wildlife of the Baldwin Hills. Our walks will focus on the plants and animals of the Coastal Sage Scrub habitat as well as that of the adjacent residential community. During our walks on the trails and streets that connect three nearby parks and the residential neighborhood we will document what we find with the goal of increasing our awareness, appreciation and overall knowledge of the wildlife with which we share our urban space. All knowledge levels welcome. Children seven years or older welcome. Binoculars provided. smart phones, cameras, field guides and field notebooks encouraged.

Directions: The park is in the small residential community of Blair Hills. One access road is off of southbound La Cienega south of Obama Blvd (aka Rodeo Rd) — the off ramp is on the right side (no northbound access); look for Blair Hills/Wrightcrest sign. A second access road is off of Obama Blvd, about a quarter mile west of La Cienega; turn south on Lenawee Ave. **Contact info:** STONEVIEW NATURE CENTER (310) 202-3002. The center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

OPEN WETLANDS AT BALLONA 1st Sat. of each month (Except August)

Nov. 2 & Dec. 7
Time 9 a.m. – Noon

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. Fall migration is in full swing, and many of our resident winter birds have returned to the wetlands. Come down to look for Buffleheads bobbing on the creek and enjoy the change of seasons at beautiful Ballona during *Open Wetlands*. Please drop-in! *Contact: Cindy Hardin, cindyhardin@laaudubon.org, (310) 301-0050*



Buffleheads on Ballona | Photo by Jonathan Coffin

BIRD WALKS

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

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

TOPANGA STATE PARK BIRDWALK

1st Sunday of every month

Nov. 3 & Dec. 1

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. This is 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

Nov. 10 & Dec. 8

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 mixed oak woodland nature preserve. We are likely to see the resident Wood Ducks as well as spotted and California Towhee, Wrentit and California Thrasher. Winter birds have arrived; we will look for Ring-billed Duck, Hooded Mergansers, Sharp-shinned Hawk (rare), White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Fox Sparrow among others. *Meet in the main parking lot for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center.*

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

KENNETH HAHN STATE RECREATION AREA

(4100 S. La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles 90056)

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

Nov. 16 & Dec. 21

Leaders: *Eric and Ann Brooks, Eleanor Osgood*

Time: 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.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 the resident birds (a total of 26 species) such as Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Cassin Kingbirds, Song Sparrow, California Scrub-jay, California and Spotted Towhee, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Great Horned Owl engaging in nesting activities. We will search for summer visitors that nest in the park such as Hooded and Bullock's Oriole, Barn Swallow, Western Kingbird and Western Bluebird.

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)

November 17th

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

