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WESTERN Tanager

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Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, April 1992 | Photo by Larry Sansone

WESTERN Tanager

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Los Angeles Audubon Society is non-profit organization and a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

The mission of Los Angeles Audubon Society is to promote the enjoyment and protection of birds and other wildlife through recreation, education, conservation and restoration.

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Los Angeles Audubon volunteers - doing important work in habitat restoration!

We are so grateful to the hundreds of community volunteers and students who are helping to restore acres of coastal sagescrub at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park. In the past few months, over 200 people have volunteered their time and energy, planting and weeding on the hillsides of the park. This work is important on a number of levels: 1) more native plants means more habitat for local birds and wildlife; 2) helps conserve water by reducing runoff; 3) as the habitat grows we hope to see an increase in the number of rare birds like the California Gnatcatcher.

Hats off to the Yale Alumni group, Metal Flowers Media, UCLA, Ballona Creek Renaissance, International Visitors Council of Los Angeles, and the Academy of Science and Engineering for their good work!

Los Angeles Audubon also wishes to thank these organizations for their financial contribution to the Ballona Creek watershed restoration: USDA Forest Service; Environmental Protection Agency; and FedEx.

If you'd like to join us at a future restoration event - send me an email and I will keep you posted on upcoming events.

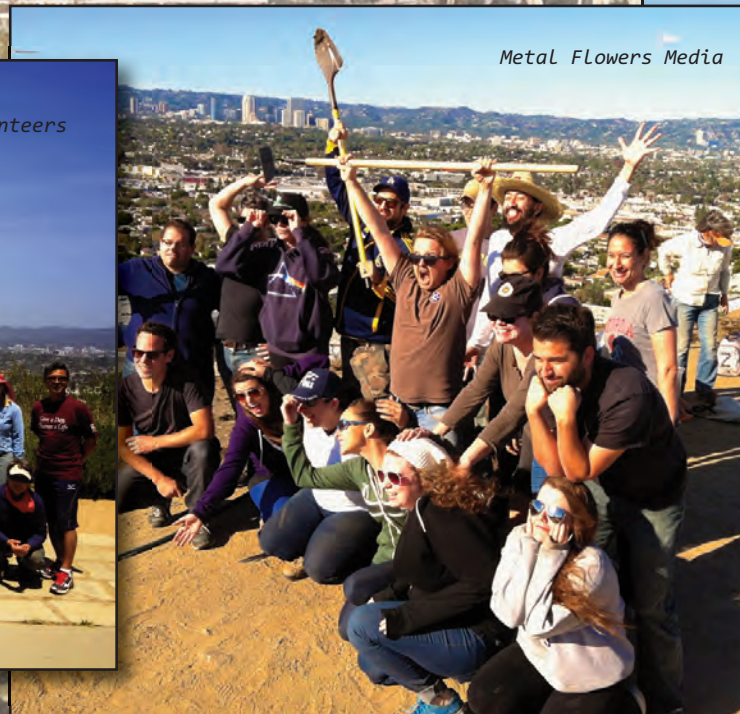
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UCLA restoration day with LAAS at Baldwin Hills

Metal Flowers Media

Yale Alumni Restoration Volunteers



Why Build Local Membership in LA Audubon?

By Brad Rumble, Director At Large, Los Angeles Audubon


Hundreds of thousands of people live within the boundaries of the area covered by Los Angeles Audubon Society, yet fewer than 3,000 are members of our local chapter. This intrigues me enough that I have volunteered to take on a leadership role in increasing the membership of our dynamic organization.

A map of where our members reside shows there are many parts of LA Audubon's territory in which few if any residents are local members. I can't imagine any zip code devoid of birders. It may well be they have not found us yet.

An interest in birds crosses all demographics. Our interest unites us, and we learn from one another through the sharing of our experiences. Think of your arc as a birder and all you gained from conversation with other birders. In an urban setting where folks sometimes can feel isolated from one another, our organization provides a forum for us to build the local birding community. This happens at LA Audubon's monthly Wednesday evening meetings, at formal and informal bird walks, on excursions to parts farther out and online. Through the trailblazing work of the Education branch of LA Audubon, it also happens in indoor and outdoor classrooms throughout the region.

I can't help but think that when a birding community is robust and in touch this can only be helpful to the birds—and in Los Angeles our birds need birders more than ever. Consider the loss and fragmenting of habitat which is the narrative of our county over the past one hundred years. Presently there are precious reminders in our midst of what once was, places like Ballona Wetlands and the San Gabriels. What remains needs knowledgeable people to serve as ambassadors to the broader population so they can grow to appreciate the rich diversity of species and understand why it's important to all of us. But LA Audubon goes even further, creating opportunities to become involved in the actual restoration of habitat for birds. This, too, brings us together.

As someone who became interested in birds later in life, I have come to appreciate the work of LA Audubon in supporting the ornithological community through the posting of rare bird sightings, participation in bird counts and the support of research being conducted at the university, high school, middle school and elementary levels. It's hard to know all the ways in which this work will touch our future.

Over and over I have seen how a passing interest in, say, a noisy mockingbird or a brilliant woodpecker can lead to further exploration and even to a lifetime of birding adventures. The local chapter of Los Angeles Audubon Society is a conduit to such adventures. Let's build our membership so many Angelenos from every corner of our region are part of our local birding community. It'll be good for people and definitely good for the birds. 



Ash-throated Flycatcher at Leo Politi Elementary
 Photo by Brad Rumble, April 14, 2012

Western Scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)

By Dessi Sieburth

The Western Scrub-jay is my favorite bird for many reasons. First, it was the bird that got me hooked into birding. It was the first bird that visited my feeders, and I was surprised by its beauty and interesting behaviors. The Scrub-jay also taught me an important lesson about keeping your cat inside. When my cat was an outdoor cat, it killed a Scrub-jay, and from then, I kept my cat inside. I also like Scrub-jays because they are smart and tame. I was able to teach my favorite bird to take peanuts from my hand, hence naming the bird “Peanut.”

The Western Scrub-jay is the “Blue Jay” of the western lowlands. It replaces its eastern cousin, the Blue Jay, here in the West. It is deep blue overall, with a pale belly and brown back. Scrub-jays are hard to miss with their bright colors, boldness, and loud calls. About 20 different calls of the Western Scrub-jay have been recorded, the most common being a “weep weep weep” given in flight and a loud “shlenk”.

There are 3 well-defined groups of the Western Scrub-jay that may represent separate species. The coastal *californica* group is a dark blue above, has a well-defined blue breast-band, and is common and bold. The interior *woodhouseii* group is paler blue above, has an indistinct blue breast-band, a thinner bill, and is less common and shyer. The *sumichrasti* group, confined to southern Mexico, is similar to the *woodhouseii* group but has a thick and hooked bill like *californica*. The Western Scrub-jay was formerly grouped with Florida and Island Scrub-jays and considered one species, the Scrub-jay.

Scrub-jays are also very intelligent, like other corvids. Scrub-jays can plan ahead in the future, which only primates and dolphins can also do. They also have excellent memory and can remember the exact locations of 200 caches, as well as the item in each cache. Scrub-jays live in dry shrublands, oak woodlands, and pinyon pine-juniper forests. They are also common visitors to backyards and urban areas. Scrub-jays are absent in high mountains but can be found at some places in the low mountains like the San Gabriel Mountains. Western Scrub-Jays eat nuts, acorns, and peanuts as well as some insects. They may even eat small animals such as lizards and nestling birds, sometimes shadowing adult birds to find their nests.

Although Western Scrub-jays are still common, there has been a small decline recently. The West Nile Virus is affecting these birds. House cats are another reason for the decline. You can help protect the Western Scrub-jay by keeping your cat inside. Window crashes are another threat to these birds. You can prevent those by pasting paper hawks on your windows. You can also help provide food and habitat for this amazing bird by planting natives, especially oak trees. —

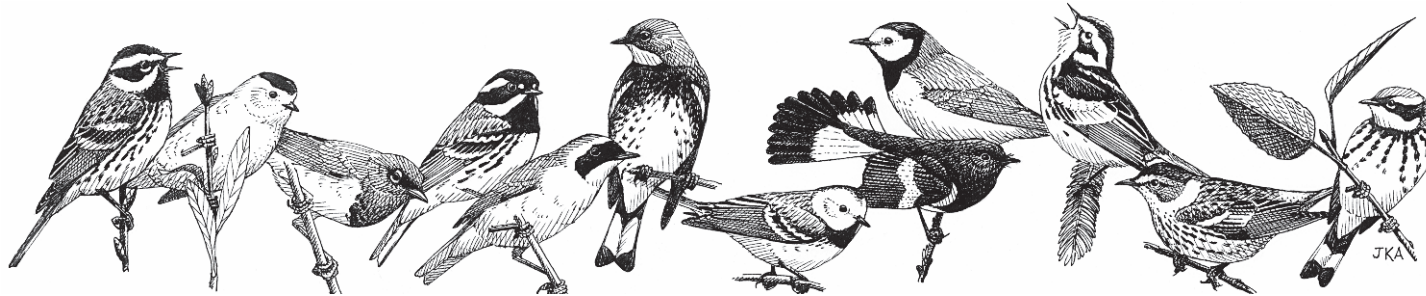
Dessi Sieburth, a 12 year-old birder and conservationist, lives in Montrose, California with his parents. He has been birding and drawing birds since he was eight-years old. This year, Dessi participated in the ABA Young Birder of the Year contest. He also received a scholarship to attend the Western Field Ornithology conference in San Diego, California this October. He regularly participates in field trips with Los Angeles Audubon. At Dessi's young age, his life list is currently at 460 species!



Western Scrub-jay, Photo by Dessi Sieburth



Western Scrub-jay, Photo by Beatrix Schwarz



Birds of the Season — December 2014, By Jon Fisher

Even with the intense urbanization of the Los Angeles basin and surrounding areas, this area of the county produces a remarkable variety of birds. Each season demonstrates that diversity in its own way, but autumn is notable for its complexity.

The most obvious migrants are shorebirds from July through September and passerines that follow roughly a month behind. Rare songbirds from the eastern and northern parts of the continent are regularly found and often linger or spend the winter.

A handful of species from Mexico and the southwest undertake a reverse migration in fall, with Tropical Kingbirds and Painted Redstarts being examples of this group. In addition, misoriented vagrants from Eurasia— such as White Wagtails and Arctic Warblers— are possible.

Within these groups of course, no two species have exactly the same “fingerprint” in terms of timing, numbers and distribution. As if all that weren’t enough, the movements of some are variable and unpredictable. Autumn is indeed complex and this fall truly exemplified an “all of the above” theme.

A good example of this unpredictability is the Varied Thrush. Most years see very few recorded in the county, while occasionally modest numbers are seen. Neither of those scenarios was true this fall, as this was a significant flight year, perhaps the most pronounced in decades. The first few birds were noted in mid-October on San Clemente Island and by early November they were widespread on the mainland. Multiple birds were in almost every place with suitable habitat and even flyovers were encountered with some regularity. Farther north these movements were even more dramatic.

Exactly what drives such events is unknown. Drought, a lack of food, a good reproductive year, or a combination of these factors may be responsible. Whatever the cause, these attractive and enigmatic thrushes are welcome sight for local birders.

Lewis’s Woodpeckers also vary in numbers from year to year. Yet in spite of a few early reports in October, seeming to portend another good winter for this species, no others materialized. Likewise, there was little evidence of such irruptive species as Red-breasted Nuthatches moving into the lowlands, nor much sign of

Mountain Chickadees dispersing away from breeding areas.

But if some birds were lacking, plenty of others were there to be discovered. Here’s a look at what was around...

Two **White-winged Scoters** were off Dockweiler State Beach on November 16 (Richard Barth) and single birds were at Quail Lake on November 20 (John Kelly) and at the Ballona Creek mouth on November 22 (Jonathan Coffin).

Still exceedingly rare in the county— the three birds found last winter notwithstanding— was a possible **Barrow’s Goldeneye** at Quail Lake near Gorman on November 17 (Becky Turley). This bird showed an all yellow bill, but other features were less conclusive. Separating the two goldeneyes- adult males excepted- is hardly the simplest of tasks. If Barrow’s are present however, Quail Lake appears to be the prime place to look for them.

A **Pacific Loon**, scarce but regular inland, was on Westlake Lake in Westlake Village on December 9 (Jeri Edwards).

Red-necked Grebes included one flying past Pt. Dume on November 15 (Kimball Garrett), one at the Ballona Creek mouth on November 25 (Bob Pann) and two at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas on November 21 (Rick Fisher).

An **American Bittern** was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh from November 16–December 11 (Doug & Joyce Waterman) and two **Cattle Egrets** were in Pico Rivera on November 29–December 4 (Ed Stonick).

A late **Swainson's Hawk** was over Long Beach on November 2 (Bob Schallmann) and a dark morph **Ferruginous Hawk** returned to the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area in Baldwin Hills for a second winter on November 7 (Ann Brooks).

Single **Bald Eagles** were at Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City on November 7 (Manual Duran) and at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas on November 28 (Ken Damon).

Unusual in the county were two **Sandhill Cranes** at the Piute Ponds, first found in late October and still present on November 22 (Wanda Deal).

Two **Lesser Yellowlegs**, scarce in winter, were on the lower LA River in Long Beach on November 28 along with a surprising nineteen **Dunlins** (Richard Barth).

The only gull of interest was a **Sabine's Gull** at Lake Palmdale on October 21 (Cal Yorke).

A **Burrowing Owl** returned to the Ballona Wetlands for yet another winter as of November 2 (Jonathan Coffin).

Late was a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** in La Crescenta until October 25 (John Oliver) and a **Costa's Hummingbird** in west Palmdale on November 27 (Cal Yorke, Becky Kitto).

Lewis's Woodpeckers were at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area on October 18 (Lynn Bossone), near Agoura on October 23 (Dan Cooper) and over Cabrillo Beach on October 29 (Bernardo Alps).

Now expected in fall and winter at Veteran's Park in Sylmar was a male **Williamson's Sapsucker** from October 30–November 7 (Julia Ray) and a female there from October 31–November 11 (Amy Worrell). At least the male was still present on November 30. Another male was at Holiday Lake in the west Antelope Valley from November 15–25 (Mary & Nick Freeman).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were at Schabarum Regional Park on November 1 (Kimball Garrett), at the South Coast Botanic Garden in Rolling Hills Estates on November 2 (Manual Duran), at Veteran's Park in Sylmar- returning for another winter— as of November 4 (Mei Kwan, Pam Dong), with a juvenile reported there from November 11–12 (John Oliver, Ed Stonick).

Five **Red-naped Sapsuckers** and an equal number of **Northern "Yellow-shafted" Flickers** were also found in the county during the period.

Western Wood-Pewees at the Sepulveda Basin through October 18 (Daniel Tinoco) and at Apollo Park near Lancaster on October 20 (Brittany O'Connor) were both tardy, this species being rare after September.

Also late was **Hammond's Flycatcher** at St. Andrew's Priory near Valyermo on October 25 (Raewyn Mundhenk) and **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** at Lake Balboa in Van Nuys on November 25 (Kris Ohlenkamp) and in Lawndale through November 28 (Andrew Lee).

A **Gray Flycatcher** was at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas— in the same spot one has spent the past few winters— from November 24–December 1 (David Bell).

An **Eastern Phoebe** at Madrona Marsh in Torrance from November 6–8 (Dave Moody) was the only one thus far reported.

A **Vermilion Flycatcher** was at Apollo Park near Lancaster from October 15–19 (Cal Yorke) and one was at the Piute Ponds near Lancaster on November 15 (Wayne Martin, John Birsner). Another previously wintering bird continued in Willowbrook and two to three persisted at Oakdale Memorial Park in Glendora through December 6.

Late or potentially wintering **Ash-throated Flycatchers** numbered five in November and early December.

The **Tropical Kingbird** back for another winter at Legg Lake in South El Monte continued, as did one at El Dorado Park in Long Beach through December 8. Another was briefly at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh near Playa Vista on October 28 (Dean Schaff).

Far rarer and back for its second winter as of November 15 was a **Thick-billed Kingbird** at Horsethief Canyon Park in San Dimas (Tom Miko).

Late **Western Kingbirds** were at the Kenneth Hahn SRA and the Village Green Condominiums in Los Angeles both on November 5 (Don Sterba).

Exceptionally rare was an “**eastern**” **Bell’s Vireo** on San Clemente Island from November 10–17 (Justyn Stahl). Even birds of the western subspecies are very unusual in late fall and winter.

The usual handful of **Plumbeous Vireos** began to turn up by mid-October, while less common were late **Cassin’s Vireos** were at Schabarum Regional Park on November 2 (Kimball Garrett) and in Rancho Dominguez through November 5 (Richard Barth).

A very nice find was a **Yellow-Green Vireo** at the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail in Lawndale on October 30 (Joyce Brady). It wasn’t until weeks after its discovery that this bird’s identity came to light.

Three **Pacific Wrens** were in Big Santa Anita Canyon above Arcadia on November 22 (Lance Benner) and one was nearby at Chantry Flat on November 24 (Kathi Ellsworth).

Quite late was a **Swainson’s Thrush** at Reseda Park on November 5 (Dan Cooper). This is a species that— aside from the occasional injured bird— is entirely absent in late fall and winter.

San Clemente Island produced a **Lapland Longspur** was on November 30 (Ben Sandstrom) and a **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was near Nebeker Ranch in the Antelope Valley on November 11 (David Bell).

Five **Black-and-white Warblers** were found between late October and early December.

A **Tennessee Warbler** was on San Clemente Island on November 17 (Nicole Desnoyers) and a **Lucy’s Warbler** was at Legacy Park in Malibu from October 23–November 3 (Dan Cooper) with another— perhaps the same bird— was across the road at Malibu Lagoon on November 8 (David Garrett). One was also at Madrona Marsh in Torrance from November 16 (Tracy Drake).

Late **Nashville Warblers** were in West Long Beach on November 21 (Richard Barth) and in Lakewood on November 28 (Andrew Lee) and a **Virginia’s Warbler** continued at DeForest Park in Long Beach through October 31.

Two **American Redstarts** were at the Sepulveda Basin on October 25 (Jon Fisher), one was at the Kenneth Hahn SRA on October 29 (Don Sterba) and another was at Exposition Park in Los Angeles on November 20 (Kimball Garrett).

A **Northern Parula** was at Wilson Cove on San Clemente Island on October 27 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers), a **Magnolia Warbler** was at the South Coast Botanic Gardens in Rolling Hills Estates on November 2 (Bryne Bryan) and a **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester from November 8–9 (Russell Stone).

A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia on October 26 (Jon Fisher), while **Blackpoll Warblers** were in Rancho Dominguez on October 14 (Richard Barth) and at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach on November 1 (David Moody) and at the

West SGR Parkway Nature Trail in Lakewood on November 2 (Andrew Lee).

Up to five **Palm Warblers** were on San Clemente Island on October 14 (Justyn Stahl) and about a dozen more were scattered over the coastal slope during the period.

Quite rare was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at the William Clark Memorial Library in Los Angeles from November 25–28 (Rebecca Marschall).

Three **Painted Redstarts** turned up in rapid succession in late November, though they may have been present before then. The first was at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino on November 23 (Frank & Susan Gilliland), the second was at Oakdale Memorial Park in Glendora from November 23–December 12 (Rick Fisher) and the third was in Sierra Madre from November 26–December 5 (Patricia Duarte).

A **Green-tailed Towhee** at the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail in Lakewood through November 28 was the only report from the coastal slope (Andrew Lee).

Clay-colored Sparrows were at Vina Vieja Park in Pasadena on October 17 (Luke Tiller, Catherine & Charles Hamilton) and at Augustus Hawkins Natural Area in south central Los Angeles on October 20 (Richard Barth).

Rarely detected as a migrant was a **Grasshopper Sparrow** on San Clemente Island on November 4 (Ben Sandstrom, Justyn Stahl).

Two “**Red**” **Fox Sparrows** were at the South Coast Botanic Garden on October 31 (David

Moody) and one was at Ralph Dills Park in Paramount on December 7 (Andrew Lee, Richard Barth).

At Holiday Lake in the west Antelope Valley, a **Swamp Sparrow** was present on October 22 (Cal Yorke). Another returned for a second winter to Legg Lake in South El Monte as of November 19 (Howard King) and one was at Quail Lake on November 28 (Kimball Garrett).

Dark-eyed "Pink-sided" Juncos were reported at Bonelli Regional Park on November 26 (Richard Fisher), at Rocky Oaks Park in the Santa Monica Mountains from November 30–December 4 (Zach Smith) and at Rancho Sierra Golf Club in the east Antelope Valley on December 9 (Dan Maxwell, Jon Feenstra).

At least eight **White-throated Sparrows** were found between October 22 and November 28.

A **Summer Tanager** returned for another winter to the Bette Davis Picnic Area in Glendale as of November 7 (Julia Ray). Others were in Griffith Park on November 12 (Mario Pineda), at Recreation Park in Long Beach on November 23 (Andrew Lee) and at the Los Angeles National Cemetery in Westwood on December 11 (Richard Barth).

Late was a **Blue Grosbeak** at Peck Road WCP in Arcadia on November 2 (Darren Dowell) and a **Black-headed Grosbeak** at Elysian Park on November 13 (Richard Barth). An **Indigo Bunting** at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia on October 19 was the

last one reported this fall (Andrew Lee).

Lingering **Hooded Orioles** were at Commonwealth Gardens in Los Angeles on October 23 (Kathryn Robinson) and in Granada Hills through November 26 (Scott Logan). A male **Scott's Oriole** was at the St. Andrew's Priory near Valyermo on November 15 (Mark & Janet Scheel, Darren Dowell).

Far and away the most remarkable find of the fall was a **Brambling** that turned up at a residence in Rolling Hills Estates from October 9–22 (Christine Wojtowich). While hardly the rarest of Eurasian vagrants in North America, this is still a great state bird. This was the first for the county and for southern California. And as if one weren't enough, another was found in Orange County from November 6–10. Prior to October there were but five accepted records for all of California. The fall of 2014 nearly doubled that with four new records— pending CBRC acceptance of course.

A **Cassin's Finch** found its way to Wilson's Cove on San Clemente Island, being observed there from November 6–7 (Nicole Desnoyers, Justyn Stahl). Regular coverage of this island has clearly shown just how productive it can be in fall.


Now as we move into winter, parks and residential areas offer attractive habitat for vagrants, as they do for more common species. There are literally hundreds of such places and many are overlooked or rarely checked. While some may offer little in terms of birds, they can also hold some surprises.

While most chances for rare shorebirds have long gone, unusual waterfowl and seabirds can turn up in winter. Barrow's Goldeneye, King Eider and Black-tailed Gull have all been found in recent years.

Christmas Bird Counts will have barely ended when the first spring migrants start passing through. Soon after, masses of northbound swallows will be obvious over most any body of water. It is indeed a short winter in southern California, but thankfully it looks as though it may finally be a wet one.

In spite of the scores of birders out in the field each week, a lot of effort is concentrated on favored spots or on chasing known rarities. There's nothing wrong with that: we tend to go where lots of birds are, and the phenomenon of vagrancy is one of the most exciting aspects of birding.

That said, the county is rife with opportunities to go exploring, to head off the beaten path, to spend time in areas that get little attention and to fill in gaps in our knowledge. Birding anywhere can be rewarding whether we see ten species or eighty.

Whatever your birding tastes, it's a safe bet that Los Angeles County will offer something that appeals to you. It's easy to forget how fortunate we are to live in such a bird rich part of the continent. 

Interpreting Nature

By Stacey Vigallon and Cindy Hardin, Los Angeles Audubon Environmental Educators

Los Angeles Audubon's Teacher Training Fellowship: Working Together and Learning from Each Other

No doubt about it, Los Angeles is a city of global significance. In fact, it's ranked 6th in the world in terms of the economic, political, and cultural influence it has on the rest of the globe¹. Los Angeles has over 200 museums, 240 public libraries (with over 50 million book loans per year!), and 28,000 restaurants, greater than 2,000 musical performances a year, and more than 50 film festivals². Culturally, there's a lot going on! But, according to the Trust for Public Land, of the 60 largest cities in the US, Los Angeles ranks just 45th in terms of how well it's meeting the need for parks³.

Thinking like the environmental educators we are, this leads us to contemplate the role that one of the biggest landholders in the city, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), plays in the issue of public green space and land use decisions in our city. Los Angeles Audubon has a long history of working with local public schools in various capacities. Thousands of children take LAAS sponsored tours at the Ballona Wetlands and Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area every year. Our Greenhouse Program works with the students of Dorsey High School, and sees an increase of participants every year. The Native Habitat Garden at Leo Politi Elementary School continues to thrive, nurtured and maintained through a long-term partnership with LAAS as well.

Here are some quick facts about LAUSD land⁴:

- LAUSD's boundaries cover 720 square miles, including Los Angeles, over 30 smaller cities, and some unincorporated areas.
- LAUSD manages over 900 K-12 school sites and 187 public charter schools.
- Within the state of California, LAUSD is one of the largest users of water and energy⁵.

Here are some quick facts about LAUSD humans⁶:

- There are 651,322 students enrolled in K-12.
- Roughly 80% of these students come from economically disadvantaged families.
- Over 150,000 students are English language learners, and over 90 languages other than English are spoken in LAUSD schools.
- Over 250,000 adults are also served by LAUSD through adult education programs.
- There are approximately 4.8 million people living within LAUSD's boundaries.

The bottom line? As the second-largest school district in the country⁴, that's a lot of land and a lot of humans, and more than 85% of LAUSD's operating budget comes from the state⁶. So, even if you or your children never matriculated through the LAUSD system, the district still has a potentially huge impact on everyone living in Los Angeles. Facilities-related decisions about how schools use land, water, and energy not only affect the city as a whole in real-time, but also set the context for how students learn, directly and indirectly, about their role in environmental awareness and stewardship. One way to achieve this awareness in students is to make these urban campuses more "green". There are many ways to do this. It can be something as simple as planting container gardens that attract butterflies and contain fodder for their larvae, or as grand in scale as the above mentioned 5,000 square foot native habitat area at Politi ES. Though LAUSD passed a resolution in 2007 with the goal of becoming the most sustainable urban school district in the county⁵, systemic change takes time. In 2014 a task force appointed by Los Angeles Board of Education Vice President Steve Zimmer presented to the board recommendations for creating and sustaining nature-based schoolyards on a district-wide basis. This is certainly a promising direction, but district-wide greening will be decades in the making. In the meantime, it's heartening to know that exciting things are happening *now* at the classroom level and the school level, thanks to individual educators.

Already on the front lines of social justice issues in our city, LAUSD teachers (over 26,000 of them⁶) are also on the frontlines of environmental justice in urban settings. Teachers are often the first link to nature that city kids may have. Through Los Angeles Audubon's education programs, we've had the privilege of meeting many dedicated teachers who make nature-based learning and environmental stewardship priorities for their students. In an effort to reach more teachers, and thanks to a grant from Boeing, this fall we kicked off the inaugural year of Los Angeles Audubon's Teacher Training Fellowship. Our premise is that even on the most asphalt-laden campuses, motivated teachers can find ways to use nature to inspire and inform classroom learning. Through the Teacher Training Fellowship, we aim to (1) work with teachers to help them develop strategies for using outdoor campus areas as instructional space that can enhance and promote cross-curricular, standards-based learning among students; and (2) provide an out-of-school context where mentoring, collaboration, and idea-sharing among participating teachers is encouraged and fostered.

The teachers that were selected for the Fellowship are all extremely motivated and enthusiastic about using the outdoors as a teaching tool, and they've been making things happen on their respective campuses for years. Every one of them has taken their classes on one of our field trips to Kenneth Hahn, Ballona, or Dockweiler Beach. Some of them have green spaces and projects on their own campus, while others have little to no such resources at their work site. Through the training we are demonstrating how even the most paved campuses can be used as a teaching tool.

This first year's cohort of ten teacher-fellows is a powerfully talented and professionally accomplished bunch. They hail from public elementary and middle school sites throughout Los Angeles, and we are extremely fortunate to be working with and learning from them during our series of workshops. Here are some highlights from their resumes...

- **Rodette Doreza** has a master's degree in marine biology and taught at the University of the Philippines for 17 years before moving to the US in 1999. An LAUSD teacher for 14 years, she also has a master's degree in educational administration. And, she is a certified scuba diver!
- **Rosa Lopez** has been teaching for 15 years, and humor and the arts are important aspects of her teaching style. She led her 7th grade choir to perform at the Southern California Vocal Association, and has also led challenging students to academic success through a behavior intervention class. She comes from a musical family and performs with her family band.
- **Marne Treves** carries on the birding tradition in her family and loves to get her students involved in environmental science. She has a long history with Mar Vista Elementary School — she attended the school as a child, her sons attended as well, and she's been teaching there since 2005.
- **Sharon Nakata** is a Special Education teacher with over 25 years of experience. She now regularly writes grants to ensure that students at her school get access to nature-based field trip opportunities.
- **Maxime Salzburg** embraces the challenge of teaching middle school students, as she was inspired by the great teachers she had when she was in middle school. A graduate of UC Santa Cruz and UCLA, Maxime strives to create hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences for her students.
- **Evelia Medina** was told by her high school counselor that she'd never get in to UCLA. She rapidly proved that counselor wrong by becoming a UCLA grad in 1999. After graduation she jumped right into teaching in the community in which she grew up, inspiring her elementary and middle school students to dream, plan, and work toward college.
- **Cynthia Archer** had a master's degree in painting and years of experience teaching art and design at the college level before she became an elementary school teacher 17 years ago. She fosters inquiry and critical thinking skills in her students by exploring environmental stewardship issues.
- **Brandyn Scully** has been teaching in LAUSD for almost 30 years. She developed a love of insects through her time spent working in her school's garden, a place where she's been able to link multiple disciplines to nature for her students.
- **Jane De Haven** started her career in financial world before being called to the teaching profession. In her 15 years at LAUSD she has mainly taught 5th grade and enjoys teaching all subjects. She also serves as a volunteer dog-walker at a local shelter for German Shepherds.
- **Linda Dowell** has been a long-time collaborator with Los Angeles Audubon through programs at Politi Elementary School. Not only is she the Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator at Politi ES, but she also mentors and tutors at-risk students. She is an avid hiker and organic gardener.

We have completed two of the five workshops we have planned for the 2014-2015 school year. We kicked off our workshop series in October with a gorgeous day at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park, sharing goals and challenges associated with using the outdoor spaces at each teacher's school site, hiking the park, and practicing the hands-on watershed curricula. This first session included a hands-on lesson about mapping storm drains and gutters at each participant's campus. Students and teachers then compared the modern systems with the courses of historical rivers and streams that once flowed around the site, fostering discussion of watersheds and how development impacts spaces that were formerly natural.

Our December workshop was a day spent at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in order to explore ways that art can serve as a bridge between disciplines and a springboard for talking about civic responsibility and environmental stewardship. It included ways to take advantage of the online catalogue of art found at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, with a special focus on Thomas Moran's *Hot Springs of Yellowstone* and Taneyuki Dan Harada's *Barracks-Tule Lake*. Both works were chosen to exemplify the artist as an activist for environmental and social justice, and the role that art can play in highlighting and creating awareness of the natural environment.

Next stop for January — the Natural History Museum. We hope to do an insect survey in the gardens of the museum, weather permitting. This is another activity that can be practiced back at school. These small invertebrates are an often overlooked link in the food chain, and can be found just about everywhere, even in the most urbanized of spaces. We are thrilled to be working with this outstanding group of public education professionals, and can't wait for our next workshop. 🐛



We kicked off our Teacher Train Fellowship at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Parks. For several teachers, the workshop was the first time they had visited this site.



Teachers worked in teams at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook visitor center to develop curriculum that met California State Science Standards and Common Core Standards.



Our second workshop was held at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.



Teachers explore the Levitated Mass sculpture on the LAMCA ground, a work with many ties to themes within environmental stewardship and earth science.



Taking advantage of smart phone technology, teachers were able to “collect” artwork while touring the galleries at LACMA that they could then share and discuss with the group when we reconvened.

Online Resources Used

¹ Global Cities, Present and Future: 2014 Global Cities Index and Emerging Cities Outlook
<http://www.atkearney.com/research-studies/global-cities-index/full-report>

² World Cities Culture Forum – Los Angeles
<http://www.worldcitiescultureforum.com/cities/los-angeles>

³ Trust for Public Land ParkScore Index – Los Angeles
<http://parkscore.tpl.org/city.php?city=Los%20Angeles>

⁴ Los Angeles Unified School District, District Information
http://home.lausd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=178745&type=d

⁵ Green LAUSD Resolution. LAUSD School Board. Adopted October 23, 2007
http://www.laschools.org/documents/download/sustainability%2fdocuments%2fGreen_LAUSD_Board_Resolution.pdf

⁶ Los Angeles Unified School District, Fingertip Facts
<http://achieve.lausd.net/cms/lib08/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/32/Fingertip%20Facts%2013-14-100913.pdf>

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you want to help preserve nature in Los Angeles? Here are a few ways that you can help.

Threatened Western Snowy Plover Project Volunteer Training Begins in January 2015

Threatened Western Snowy Plover Project Volunteer Training begins in January 2015

Los Angeles Audubon will conduct a training session for volunteers interested in helping to monitor the Snowy Plover, a small bird that lives on Los Angeles County beaches.

Volunteers have been surveying Los Angeles County beaches since 2007, gathering data on wintering plovers and that might attempt to breed in the spring. Once volunteers are trained, they can help observe birds during four survey windows throughout the year.

Volunteers help monitor from Malibu to Long Beach.

This is a great opportunity to learn about our beaches from a conservation point of view. If you are unable to attend the January training session but would still like to participate in monitoring, other training options may be available in the coming months. Once you've registered with us, the volunteer coordinator will provide you with details about where exactly we'll meet and what to bring.

Contact Stacey Vigallon: tern@laaudubon.org



Business, Community & Alumni Groups Ongoing Restoration Work Scheduled Monthly

Los Angeles Audubon is seeking volunteers to assist with ongoing habitat restoration located at two of the last great open spaces surrounded by urban LA, Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park & Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

The restoration work is scheduled monthly with support from community volunteers, students and local business and alumni groups. Work includes the planting of native Coastal Sage Scrub, which has been reduced to only a fraction of its original distribution, largely due to urbanization.

The Baldwin Hills area represents one of the largest remaining open spaces in the Los Angeles Basin, the largest intact portion of Coastal Sage Scrub in the Los Angeles Basin, and the only remaining natural habitat in the middle portion of the Ballona Creek Watershed.

Habitat restoration in the uplands of Baldwin Hills will have a positive affect on species here and at the watershed level. The scrublands habitat at Baldwin Hills is vital to several rare and threatened species including the California Gnatcatcher. As the coastal sage scrub habitat is restored, we hope to see the return of the Cactus Wren, once a resident here, but not seen in decades.

Contact: carolbabeli@laaudubon.org

Endangered California Least Tern Project Volunteer Training Begins in March 2015

Los Angeles Audubon is seeking dedicated volunteers to help monitor the California Least Tern (an endangered migratory bird) at Venice Beach.

In Los Angeles County, this species returns to only two breeding colonies, one at Venice Beach and one at the Port of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Audubon works with project biologists and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife studying the Tern colony in Venice by coordinating a community-based science monitoring program during the nesting season.

Volunteers receive training and then help monitor the colony for one hour each week from mid-April to mid-August.

This is a great opportunity for families looking for a way to learn about nature together, for students looking to gain some field experience in environmental science, or anyone who'd like to know more about urban wildlife.

Contact Stacey Vigallon: tern@laaudubon.org

Donate Your Business Skills

If you'd like to help support our conservation and restoration efforts in other ways — web development, marketing, fundraising, business administration, we'd love to hear from you!

Please contact: carolbabeli@laaudubon.org



Nick Freeman, Field Trip Chairperson and Mary Freeman, Field Trip Leader

Field Trip Listings

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 may be shared with other confirmed participants unless you specify otherwise at sign-up. When carpooling, remember to offer compensation to your driver in these times of spiking gas prices.

"FEE REQUIRED" RESERVATIONS

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

Mail to:

Los Angeles Audubon—Field Trips
Attn: Susan Castor
PO Box 411301
Los Angeles CA 90041

'NO FEE' RESERVATIONS / MORE INFORMATION

Email: membership@laaudubon.org
Phone: (323) 550-8533

Please leave voice message if no answer.

GULL STUDY WORKSHOP 2014

\$20 FULL WORKSHOP FEE

Lecture—Fri. Jan. 30 | Field Trip—Sun. Feb. 1

Lecture and field trip are NOT offered separately.

20 LIMITED SIGN-UP

Gull Study—LECTURE

Friday, January 30 | 7:30–10:30 p.m.

Speaker *Larry Allen*, will discuss most gulls that have appeared in North America – most of which have made it to California. So, you've been avoiding gulls for the last decade (if that's possible), hoping that they would migrate out of the Southern California region. Well, that's not going to happen. But Larry has a kind touch when it comes to Gull I.D., and will rapidly get you up to speed with how to evaluate and identify our gulls. Larry will specifically address general aspects of gull topography, the confusing (but orderly) logic of molt sequences, and the finer aspects of identification to age and species. Slides, study skins and handouts will be used.

Gull Study—FIELD TRIP

Sunday, February 1 | Meet time: 8 a.m.

Leader: *Larry Allen*. Put your new knowledge to use in the field, perhaps even identifying California & Ring-billed Gulls as they fly overhead! Meet in the field at 8:00 a.m. and ogle the gulls until we're all gull identification experts! Location will be determined and communicated during the lecture. We will likely go to Doheny State Beach in Orange County, but perhaps elsewhere, depending on scouting. If we go to Doheny, it is a drive, but we have had large numbers of gulls on our workshops here, including Glaucous twice and a Lesser Black-backed! Doheny Beach parking fee. Bring a lunch.



Mew Gull, Santa Barbara, Photo by Mary Freeman

RESERVATION INSTRUCTIONS GULL WORKSHOP

Mail \$20 check or money order, payable to Los Angeles Audubon. Please provide your phone number and email address. When the fee is received, we will send a confirmation e-mail with directions to the lecture location—a private residence in Altadena—and any further details. Lecture is planned from 7:30–10:00 p.m., with one refreshment break.

Mail to: LA Audubon—Field Trips, Attn: Susan Castor,
PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041,

*This is a *Ralph Schreiber Grant* fund-raiser. Fees or donations greater than \$25, also provide LAAS Chapter Only membership.

Saturday, January 3

Tejon Ranch (As of Nov. 3, 2014 Fully Booked)

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP REQUIRED

Leader: *Louis Tucker*. Visits to the Ranch are by special arrangement with escort only, as one could easily get lost on the web of dirt roads covering this huge working ranch. Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk all likely in the rolling hills of the ranch. Bring lunch, as we will be out most of the day. Meet at the Denny's in Sylmar visible from the 5 Fwy. Take the Roxford St. turnoff, and be prepared to depart at 7:00 a.m. High clearance vehicles recommended, as we will carpool into these and ranch vehicles at the ranch. Rain cancels. Limit: 12 participants only. Please register with LA Audubon by phone (323) 876-0202, and provide phone number, e-mail, high clearance Y/N, spare passenger seats. FRS radios and scopes useful.

Same location as meeting point Sat/Sunday mornings.... There is a small lecture fee at the door.

January 10 & 11 Weekend

Salton Sea

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, Inca Dove and Gila Woodpecker all possible to certain. The only place in the U.S. to see the impressive Yellow-footed Gull (likely)! No Limit, but sign up with phone, and send e-mail for more details. Meet at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at Cattle Call Park south of Brawley. Brawley Inn 760/344-1199 (leaders here – try Expedia), Calipatria Inn 800/830-1113, and Americas Best Value Inn in Westmorland 760/351-7100 are recommended. Arrive fed, bring lunches. Those who wish will eat together Saturday night. Mail request to LAAS with name, e-mail, \$10 fee, and cell phone # if possible. FRS radios & 'scopes helpful.

Saturday, January 17

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area

NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP

Leader: *Kris Ohlenkamp*. "Freeway close" morning of birding. Kris has led this walk on-and-off for over 30 years, noting 240 species, and averaging 60-65 per walk. Peregrine Falcon seen about half of the time. Take the 405 fwy N into the San Fernando Valley, turn W on Burbank Blvd. and N (Rt.) on Woodley Ave. to the second Rt., which is marked "Wildlife Reserve". Turn here and park in the lot at the end. Meet at 8:00 a.m., and bird until about 11:30 a.m.

January 24 & 25 Weekend

Carrizo Plain

FEE: \$20, LIMIT: 16

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Meet at 8 a.m. in Maricopa. Spectacular scenery. We will see Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Golden Eagles (maybe 20?), LeConte's Thrasher, Merlin and pronghorn; with likely Rough-legged Hawk, Mountain Plover and possible Sandhill Crane. We will meet in Maricopa, 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. Mail name, phone number, \$20 per person, and e-mail address for exact directions and further information. 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 8

San Jacinto Valley

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leader: *Zach Smith*. Zach is a welcome addition to our fieldtrip leader stable, with considerable fieldwork on raptors under his belt. San Jacinto Valley is a stellar area

for raptors of all sorts including Peregrine & Prairie falcons, often a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk, Bald & Golden eagles, Ferruginous Hawk, many Northern Harriers to study (that aren't as easy to age as we once thought!), two Short-eared Owls just last year, as well as a Gyrfalcon and Iceland Gull making unprecedented visits last year and. The area has also produced regular sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the nearby egg farm. 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. We will carpool from here at 8:00 a.m., and bird until about 3 p.m. Bring lunch, warm clothing and footwear for possible mud. FRS radios and scopes helpful.

Saturday, February 14

Sandhill Cranes at Pixley NWR & Kern NWR

NO FEE, SIGN-UP

Leader: *Jim Moore*. Snow Geese, Burrowing Owls, raptors, Common Gallinules, up to 15 duck species, and up to 1,000 Sandhill Cranes in the alfalfa fields surrounding Pixley, Allensworth State Historic Park, and Kern NWR. The turkey farm nearby should have 1,000 Tricolored Blackbirds and a few Yellow-headed. Kern NWR has an auto tour route around shallow ponds and marshes that attract waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines. Meet at 5:30 a.m. at the McDonald's on Lake Hughes Road, off Interstate 5; or meet the group at 7:00 a.m. at the USA gas station on West Sierra Ave (J22), on the west side of Hwy 99. This is the second Earlimart exit when driving northbound. There are several motels in Bakersfield area. Contact Jim Moore at jimmoore@socal.rr.com if you need more information. Free, but please sign up with LAAS, by phone (323) 550-8533 or email membership@laaudubon.org. Please provide your e-mail address & your cell phone number.

Field Trip Listings, cont'd

Sunday, February 22

Ventura County Game Preserve

NO FEE, NO LIMIT

Leader: *Irwin Woldman*. The private duck hunting club in Ventura has a long history of producing the kinds of birds that most rich, well-birded and disappearing habitats can lay claim to, including Sora and Virginia rails, American Bittern, Eurasian Wigeon, dark morph Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, and one Lesser Sand-Plover. Emphasis on raptors and waterfowl for this date, with perhaps some early shorebirds. 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, Casper, to the gate at the end. Meet here at 8:00 a.m. 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 one or two weeks before. Bring lunch if you want to bird with Irwin afterwards.

March 21 & 22 Weekend

Anza-Borrego State Park

\$20 LAAS MEMBER FEE / \$40 FOR NON-LAAS, LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 20

Leader *Kurt Leuschner* is a Professor of Natural Resources at College of the Desert in Palm Desert. He specializes in field ornithology, entomology, and desert natural history. On Saturday and Sunday we will car-caravan in and around Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, from Julian to the desert floor. This is a peak time for both wildflowers and the annual migration of Swainson's Hawks! High points over the years include: hundreds of Swainson's Hawks in

migration, LeConte's Thrasher, Bald Eagles nesting, Wild Turkeys, Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Desert Lilies, Long-eared Owl, Chuckwalla, Baja Collared Lizard, Great Purple Hairstreak and Silvery Blue. Every year is different. Scenery is spectacular!

Suggested accommodations in Borrego Springs: BORREGO PALM CANYON CAMPGROUND in the State Park (reserve through www.reserveamerica.com), HACIENDA DEL SOL motel (760) 767-5442 is quite near our meeting point, STANLUND MOTEL (760) 767-5501 and PALM CANYON RESORT (800) 242-0044 are just down the road. Anticipate a busy weekend and **make your reservations months ahead of time.** We will meet at 6:45 a.m. both days in the parking lot of the BORREGO DESERT NATURE CENTER (address: 652 Palm Canyon Drive), just west of Christmas Circle in Borrego Springs, and finish up around lunchtime on Sunday. Net profits go to the Ralph Schreiber Grant Fund. Limit 20 people. Reserve by mail with \$20 fee for LAAS members / \$40 non-LAAS fee; cell #, and E-mail address to LAAS. E-mail attachments with more details will be sent later.

April 18 & 19 Weekend

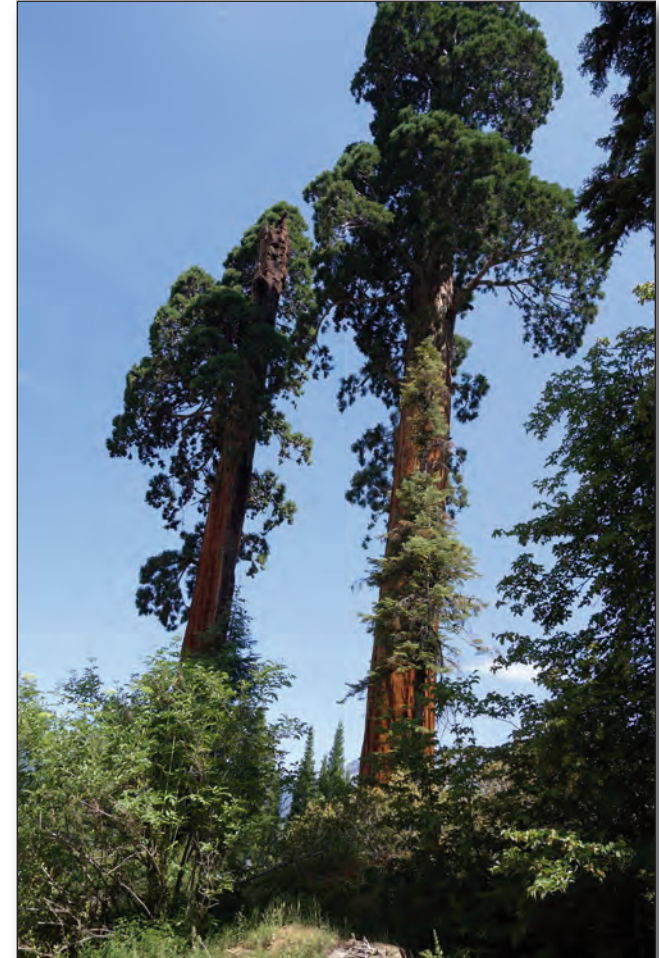
Owens Valley Grouse Trip

\$55 FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP of 20

Mary and Nick Freeman lead. We will meet on the second morning in the very early A.M. for better Sage Grouse viewing! Sooty Grouse also. Meet in Bishop both mornings. More details later.

Please support LAAS with your donations.

Donate online at www.laaudubon.org using PayPal and your credit card.



Birding Under the Giant Sequoias | Photo by Mary Freeman

July 3 thru 6 Long Weekend

Southern Sierra Giant Sequoia Owl Trip

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Mark your calendars — 4th of July Long Weekend **Giant Sequoia National Monument**, Tulare County Owling Trip. More details online soon!

Giant Sequoia National Monument Field Trip

4th of July Long Weekend, Tulare County Owling Trip

Nick and Mary Freeman are planning another southern Sierra Nevada long weekend of owling during the July 4th weekend in 2015, Friday July 3 to Monday July 6.



The mighty Sierra Nevada forest near Stagg Tree, July 2013 | Photo by Mary Freeman

Ponderosa, north and west of Kernville. From here birders can even take walks around this forest hamlet in search of montane bird species. Pileated Woodpecker was found down the street from the cabin last year!



Owlers waiting for the night to set, July 2013 | Photo by Mary Freeman

Each night is planned for a dedicated species of owl consistently found in these forests. We will be under majestic Giant Sequoias. One night we will visit a remote mountain road where we have had the opportunity of finding many Spotted Owls. Flammulated Owls seem to be found regularly during our forays into the night. We have a chance of experiencing chocolate teddy bears — juvenile Northern Sawwhet Owl. Last year's trip, added to this mix was a Northern Pygmy Owl!

The leaders will procure a rental cabin, and for the second time we will rent a cabin in

Added to this adventure is the camaraderie of the group. Dinners consist of an LA Audubon arranged weenie roast, an organized potluck, and a final night eating tasty left-overs or eating in "town". There is a lot of fun as we talk during meals about the owls found at night and other birds found during our daytime trips.

Be on the lookout for details on signing up in upcoming LA Audubon newsletters and homepage editions. Nick and Mary are so thrilled to do this trip that they pay full fare to make it happen, and to bring it to you at the lowest price possible!



Troop of happy owlers, July 2013 at the Stagg Tree | Photo by Mary Freeman



Pileated Woodpecker across from the Trail of 100 Giants National Monument, July 2013

Bird Walk Listings

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

Topanga State Park Birdwalk

1st Sunday of every month

Jan. 4 and Feb. 1

Time: 8:00–11:30 a.m.

Leaders: *Ken Wheeland* and *Chris Tosdevin*. Ken and Chris will lead participants through this beautiful and diverse coastal mountain area. An ideal trip for a beginning birder or someone new to the area.

Directions: FROM VENTURA BLVD: take Topanga Canyon Blvd 7 miles S. Turn E uphill on Entrada Rd. Follow the signs and turn left into Trippet Ranch parking lot. FROM PACIFIC COAST HWY: take Topanga Canyon Blvd. 5 miles to Entrada Rd. Parking fee.

Contacts: Ken: (310) 455-1401, ksafarri@aol.com Chris: (310) 455-1270

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

4100 S. La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles 90056

3rd Saturday of the month (Except for July and August)

Jan. 17th and Feb. 21st

Time: 8:00–noon

Leaders: *Eric & 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 and Cooper's Hawk. We will also look for wintering birds such as Merlin, Rufous-crowned, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Western Meadowlarks, Ring-billed Ducks and American Wigeons among others.

Directions: The park entrance is off of La Cienega Blvd. between Rodeo Rd. and Stocker St. After passing the entrance kiosk (\$6.00 parking fee) turn left (leading to the "Olympic Forest") and park in the first available spaces.

KHSRA, 4100 S LA CIENEGA BLVD, LOS ANGELES 90056 **Binoculars provided.**

CARPPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED!

To provide your information to join the LAAS CARPOOL DATABASE membership@laaudubon.org or call (323) 550-8533 leave a message. We will attempt to connect you with other birders interested in sharing a ride to our events.

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.

Upper Franklin Canyon Sooky Goldman Nature Center

2nd Sunday of the month

Jan. 11th and Feb. 8th

Time: 8:30 a.m.–noon

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 as well chaparral bird species such as California Quail, Spotted and California Towhees, and California Thrasher. Winter birds have arrived; we will look for Ring-billed Duck, Hooded Mergansers, Merlin, 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; the turn at Franklin Canyon Road reads "Road Closed 800 Feet" and "Sunrise to Sunset" — this is the park entrance; do NOT make a U-turn as this will take you onto Mulholland Drive instead of Franklin Canyon. Take Franklin Canyon Dr. down to park entrance, turn at first left into the parking lot.

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

Ballona Wetlands Bird Walk

3rd Sunday of the month (Except December)

Jan. 18th and Feb. 22nd

Time: 8:00 a.m.–noon

Leaders: *Bob Shanman and Friends*. Join us for a walk through L.A.'s only remaining saltwater marsh and the adjacent rocky jetty. MEET AT THE DEL REY LAGOON PARKING LOT.

Directions: Take the Marina Fwy (90) to Culver Blvd and turn left for a mile. Turn right on Pacific Ave. The lot is on the right. Lot or street parking is usually not a problem. Three hour walk. 'scopes helpful. **Contact:** Bob (310) 326-2473 wbutorrance@gmail.com

More information on birdwalks contact Eleanor Osgood at
birdwalks@laaudubon.org or (310) 839-5420.

Wednesday, January 14th

Training Rehabilitated Free-Flight Birds Using Operant Conditioning Positive Reinforcement

Presented by Melissa Loeb



Ms. Loeb will explore the subject of training rescued and rehabilitated free-flight birds for showing, using operant conditioning with an emphasis on positive reinforcement. Featuring the beauty and grace of these majestic birds to the public helps to bring awareness and support to their issues and needs. We will learn how training birds of prey, parrots and others can be done successfully using natural behaviors. We will examine successes and failures of bird training strategies.

Originally hailing from Oregon, Ms. Loeb studied at CSU Long Beach, receiving her B.A. in Psychology. She has completed a Graduate certificate in Wildlife Management and she hopes to continue to pursue her Master's degree in fisheries and wildlife administration through Oregon State University. She is an active member of the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF), the International Association of Avian Trainers & Educators (IAATE), the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the editor/founder of the Raptors of North America Facebook page. The Aquarium of the Pacific employed her as a marine mammal and bird trainer from 2005 to 2011. She's currently an animal trainer for the LA Zoo, performs field biology work focusing on raptor biology and migration, and volunteers with South Bay Wildlife, teaching their education programs.

She is a wife and mother of two children, two dogs, two cats, two tortoises, and will soon to be adding a new addition to the family: a Peregrine falcon. Melissa is known for her passion for education and conservation of all wildlife and enjoys spending her free time outdoors with her family.

Los Angeles Audubon's monthly evening program presentations are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the AUDUBON CENTER AT DEBS PARK | 4700 N Griffin Ave | Los Angeles 90031 | 323-221-2255 | <http://debspark.audubon.org>
Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and are over at 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11th

Predicting How California Birds Will Be Impacted by Global Warming

Presented by Andrea Jones



Long-billed Curlew | Photo by John Van de Graff

Andrea Jones will discuss the research recently released by National Audubon describing how North American birds are predicted to be impacted by climate change. Specifically, she will discuss the science and how Audubon scientists created models to predict future ranges of almost 600 species of North American birds and how they will fare in the future under predicted global warming scenarios. Andrea will focus on California birds and in particular birds in the Los Angeles Basin. She will discuss how Audubon will use this research to help guide its conservation work going forward and how local people can help ensure that birds have a chance for survival as conditions change.

Andrea Jones is the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California. Andrea leads our coastal programs and works with staff and the network of Audubon chapters across the state to implement conservation projects at high priority Important Bird Areas (IBAs). She oversees our efforts in priority bird species and serves as a spokeswoman for bird conservation across California. Prior to California, Andrea worked at Massachusetts Audubon where she served as the Director of the Coastal Waterbird Program. Andrea received her M.S. in Wildlife Conservation/Ornithology and her B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Management from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is a past board member and continues to volunteer for her local Audubon chapter, Morro Coast Audubon Society.

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WFO Annual Conference

bringing the west together

Mark your calendar for the next WFO Conference in
Billings, Montana
June 10-14, 2015

The 40th annual conference of Western Field Ornithologists will be held in Montana, marking the first time for the state. Open to all interested birders, the event is scheduled to highlight the peak of bird activity. Field trips will visit a variety of habitats from the high mountains (Black Rosy-Finch) to the grasslands (Sprague's Pipits). One can see courting McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs in their finest plumage, along with Upland Sandpipers and Lark Buntings. Other field trips will take you to the scenic mountains for montane specialties or along the riparian corridors of the Yellowstone River alive with exciting birds. History buffs will delight in viewing the Little Bighorn Battlefield where Custer saw his last Sharp-tailed Grouse.



There will be workshops on field identification of sparrows (Jon Dunn) and flycatchers (Dan Casey), natural history of owls (Denver Holt), bird sound identification (Nathan Pieplow), raptors (Steve Hoffman), and more. Friday and Saturday afternoon science sessions will update you on the most current avian research from the region and the Saturday evening banquet will feature a keynote address by Stephen Dinsmore on Mountain Plovers. Ed Harper and Nathan Pieplow will again offer their ever-popular sessions on bird ID by sight and sound.

Registration for the conference will open in February 2015 with the exact date to be announced via a future WFO News email. If you are NOT currently on our electronic mailing list, please send an email to erpfromca@aol.com, include your full name along with city and state of residence, and we'll put you on. WFO members are able to register for our conferences at a reduced rate and have early access to registration. If you are not currently a WFO member, you can join at (<https://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/join.php>).