

Los Angeles Audubon Society | laaudubon.org

# WESTERN Tanager

May-June 2016 | Volume 82, Number 5



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**ANZA-BORREGO BONANZA | ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING | YOUNG AUTHORS-THE SNOWY PLOVER**



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

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The *Western Tanager* is the chapter newsletter of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, published online bi-monthly in PDF format.

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 [westernmanager@laaudubon.org](mailto:westernmanager@laaudubon.org). Photos should be high resolution (300ppi) .jpg or .tif files. Submissions are due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to be included in the following issue. All rights reserved. All photographs are used by permission and are copyrighted material of the credited photographers.

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## Members of Los Angeles Audubon are invited to the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting

**MEETING LOCATION**  
Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook  
Theater Room  
6300 Hetzler Rd  
Culver City 90232



**DATE: Sun., June 12, 2016**

Annual Members Meeting 1 – 2 PM  
LAAS Strategic Plan Workshop & Park Tours: Birds and Restoration 2 – 4 PM

MORE INFORMATION: [carolbabeli@laaudubon.org](mailto:carolbabeli@laaudubon.org) | (917) 923 9166

### ON THE COVER

A Caspian Tern banded 11 years ago in Oregon has been seen here in Playa del Rey. The bird was banded as a chick at East Sand Island in the Columbia River estuary (near Astoria, OR) on 7/12/2005. The bird has not been seen in the study area in the Pacific northwest since 2012.



### ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER:

I was born May 24, 1945 on a farm outside of Davenport, Iowa. I attended the University of Iowa, Iowa City in the glorious '60's. My job as a film buyer got me transferred to Los Angeles from Minneapolis in 1981. I was with Plitt Theatres then. In 1988 I went to work for Pacific/Arclight Theatres as a VP of film. Just to clarify each engagement of each picture is a separate contract and a separate negotiation with the studios based on competition in that zone. I bought for the Cinerama Dome, The Grove, the El Capitan, Beach Cities, Culver City and Sherman Oaks Galleria and most of the theatres in Hawaii just to name a few. I have always been interested in preserving the environment as were my parents. In the 1980's I got very interested in whale watching and did trips to Alaska and Mexico. As part of whale watching you got to learn a lot about birds. I also did Debra Shearwater's trips out of Monterey for both birds and Blue Whales. I started birding and photographing them after the whale watch season ended. With the advent of digital photography my birding and photography took on a new life. I have to especially thank Dan Cooper for helping me greatly learn so much and have the patience to answer the thousands of questions I heap upon him. He has been a great friend. Dean Schaff

## YOUNG AUTHORS | The Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) | By Dessi Sieburth

The Snowy Plover is a small shorebird that can be easily overlooked on our sandy beaches. The Snowy Plover is about 6 ¼ inches long and its back is dull gray to brown. The Snowy Plover has white underparts, and the breeding male has dark markings on the side of the breast, the auriculars (ear patch), and the crown. Non-breeding males and females lack these dark markings on the head and breast. The dark bill is small and slender, and the legs are dark gray.



A breeding Western Snowy Plover, Morro Bay, CA | Photo by Steve Kaye, [www.birdsbysteve.com](http://www.birdsbysteve.com)

The Snowy Plover, which used to be a subspecies of the Kentish Plover, has been listed as a threatened species since 1993. There are currently two subspecies of the Snowy Plover, the Western *nivosus* and the Gulf Coast *tenuirostris*. The Western subspecies is substantially darker gray on the back than Gulf Coast subspecies. Western Snowy Plovers are found from coastal Washington south to the coast of El Salvador in Central America. They also breed in the Great Basin area and inland to New Mexico, central Texas, Kansas, and Colorado. Locally, they can be found year-round at coastal locations such as Malibu Lagoon, Zuma Beach Visit [laudubon.org](http://laudubon.org) for updates and more

in Malibu, the Ballona area in Playa del Rey, and Cabrillo Beach in Long Beach. They were formally found regularly during migration in the Antelope Valley near Lancaster, but now they are very scarce there. The Gulf Coast Snowy Plover can be found along the Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida. They are also found in the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica. The Western subspecies is threatened, while the Gulf Coast subspecies is not threatened but is declining.

The Western Snowy Plover generally lays three eggs in depressions in sand or in shallow sand scrapes. Common nesting habitat for the Snowy Plover includes coastal beaches, sand spits, beaches at creek and river mouths, as well as salt pans at lagoons and estuaries. Once the chicks hatch, the female will abandon them, and the male will take care of the chicks. Snowy Plovers usually raise two broods a year. The main source of food for both the chicks and the adults are aquatic insects and other insects found on beaches.

The Western Snowy Plover is declining rapidly and is now threatened in all the states where it is found along the coast. In Oregon, the Snowy Plover has experienced a 40% decline, and in Washington, there has been a 65% decline. In California, there is also a significant decline in the Snowy Plover population. Human disturbance is probably the greatest threat. Human activities like walking, jogging, and taking pets where the plovers breed contribute to the low reproductive success. Those disturbances can lead to nest abandonment. Urban development and non-native vegetation growing over Snowy Plover nesting habitat is also an issue.

Many conservationists are working to help the Western Snowy Plover. Efforts to help Snowy Plovers include

putting up fences and signs in Snowy Plover habitat, making people aware of nesting Snowy Plovers. A group in Arcata, CA, is working to maintain Snowy Plover breeding grounds all along the West Coast. They are also working to manage breeding and wintering grounds to make the land safe for Snowy Plovers. Los Angeles Audubon Society also helps the Snowy Plover by conducting annual Snowy Plover surveys along the Southern California coast and making beaches safe for Snowy Plovers to use. If you would like to support Los Angeles Audubon Society's effort to help the Snowy Plovers, please contact Stacey Vigallon at [tern@laudubon.org](mailto:tern@laudubon.org). Everybody can help the Snowy Plover by minimizing the disturbance in Snowy Plover habitat and by keeping out of areas designated for Snowy Plovers. 

#### References:

Dunn, Jon L., and Jonathan K. Alderfer. *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Washington DC: National Geographic, 2001, p168.  
<http://www.fws.gov/arcata/es/birds/WSP/plover.html>  
<https://losangelesaudubon.org/index.php/conservation> a restoration mainmenu 82/species projects mainmenu 105/threatened snowey plover project mainmenu 94  
[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Snowy\\_Plover/lifehistory](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Snowy_Plover/lifehistory)



A non breeding Western Snowy Plover at Malibu Lagoon, CA | Photo by Dessi Sieburth

# ANZA-BORREGO BONANZA BY NICK FREEMAN

The March 19-20, 2016 field trip to Anza-Borrego State Park did not disappoint. As with the last few years, our guide was the amiable Kurt Leuschner, professor of natural resources at College of the Desert in Palm Desert. At our first stop at Tamarisk Grove, we were able to pick out two Peninsular Bighorn ewes with their lambs high on the hill across the road; as well as a much closer, more unexpected (for this site) and truly stunning and aptly named Vermilion Flycatcher. Small, iridescent Costa's Hummingbirds with extended gorgets and white "ears", were also seen zipping around. Right across the street at (poorly named) Yaqui Wells, we found no ground moisture, but lots of mistletoe and attendant Phainopeplas on ironwood and smoke trees. These and Verdin were both with us in many spots throughout the weekend. But driving out of the well we happened across one of the most docile and beautiful of snakes in North America – a Rosy Boa! It was quite a ham, posing for many photos and tolerating the gentle touching of the curious and the fanatic. Okay, maybe I'm waxing anthropomorphic a bit, but I personally could have headed home right then and there, chalking the trip up as an unbridled success.

Up canyon near Scissors Crossing, we heard and saw an unexpected Bell's Vireo, which has become difficult to see in this area. Heading further up the hill towards Julian, we crossed

elevations still in high bloom, unlike the desert flatlands, which had passed their prime. Yellow brittlebush, white sage, various blue and white *ceanothuses*, deep yellow flannel bush, some blue lupine, and eventually white apple blossoms were very evident along the road. We stopped in at the Nature Store in Julian, to check the feeders for the numerous Pine Siskins and Anna's Hummingbirds (and checked out the wares within), and as we were leaving, Kurt spotted one, and then two, Golden Eagles circling high above! Quite unexpected for us, and for the store-owners!

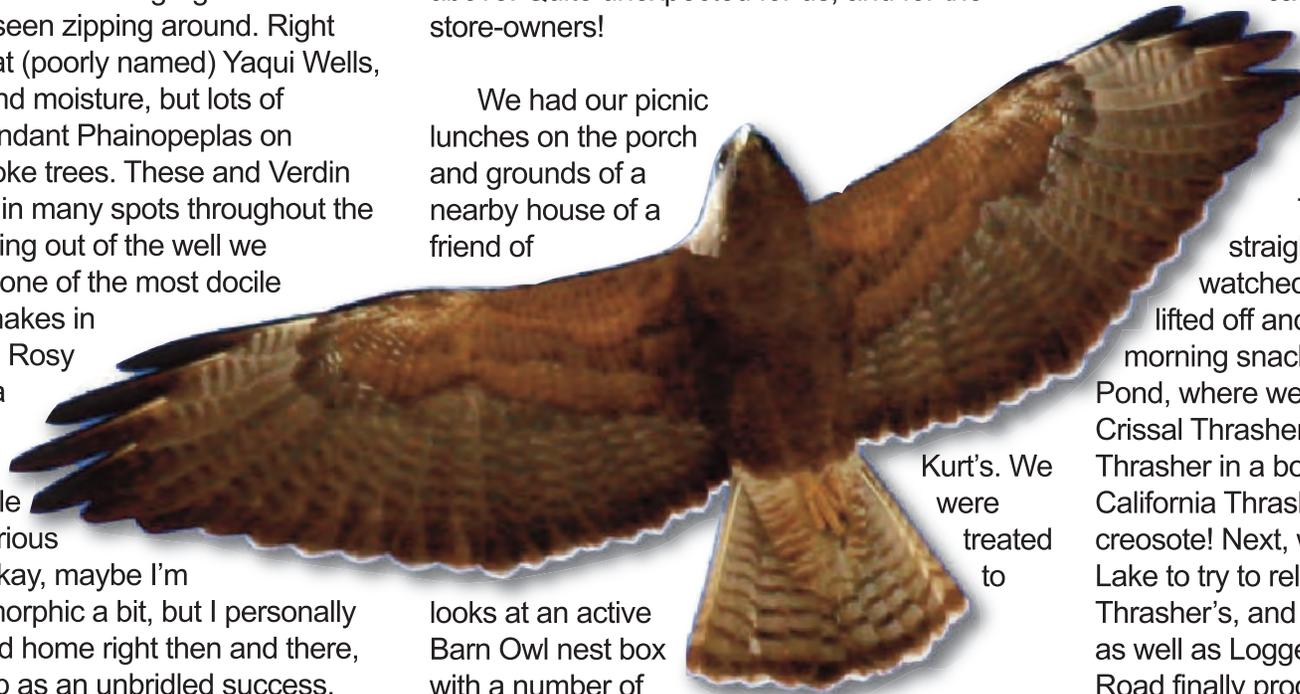
We had our picnic lunches on the porch and grounds of a nearby house of a friend of

looks at an active Barn Owl nest box with a number of eggs! While toodling around looking for Turkeys (which the group sadly never found), about half the group got glimpses of a bobcat crossing a small meadow! At our next stop near Lake Henshaw, we were able to see a distant Bald

Eagle on the ridgeline, by an historic nest site.

Next, we headed directly down the hill to check in on the afternoon goings on at the hawk watch site on Borrego Springs Rd., NE of Borrego Springs. This site has been monitored by Hal Cohen and others for 14 years, and this year has been a banner year for Swainson's Hawks, with almost 9,000 showing over this Spring migration! There were probably 200 hawks foraging for white-lined sphinx moth caterpillars in the fields to the east and west, with more dropping in until dusk (and later?!). This left us with plenty to talk about at dinner in town.

The next morning, we all headed straight away to the hawk watch, and watched the hundreds of hawks as they lifted off and headed north after their morning snack. We headed to the Sewage Pond, where we found – not the expected Crissal Thrasher – but an unexpected Sage Thrasher in a boxthorn bush and an oddly placed California Thrasher singing from the highest creosote! Next, we headed over to Clark Dry Lake to try to relocate reported LeConte's Thrasher's, and found – more Sage Thrashers, as well as Loggerhead Shrikes! Old Springs Road finally produced a pair of expected LeConte's Thrashers! At this point, it was getting pretty warm, so a visit to the malt shop in town seemed in order to wrap up a truly excellent weekend! 



Kurt's. We were treated to

Swainson's Hawk | Photo by Mary Freeman

Visit [laudubon.org](http://laudubon.org) for updates and more

BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE SEEN, MARCH 19-20, 2016 ANZA-BORREGO FIELD TRIP

List submitted by Kurt Leuschner, [KLeuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu](mailto:KLeuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu)



Anza Borrego Badger | Photo by Roger Skidmore

**90 bird species**

American White Pelican LH  
Mallard Club Circle Resort  
American Wigeon CCR  
Northern Shoveler LH  
Green-winged Teal - LH  
Cinnamon Teal pair CCR  
Ring-necked Duck - CCR  
Wild Turkey Warner Springs (Freemans)  
Western Grebe Lake Henshaw, many  
Clark's Grebe - LH  
Double-crested Cormorant LH one

Great Blue Heron LH two  
Great Egret - LH  
Turkey Vulture BS, LH  
Bald Eagle LH  
Golden Eagle 2 over the Birdwatcher, Julian  
Northern Harrier - LH  
Red-shouldered Hawk Julian - heard  
Red-tailed Hawk Sentenac Canyon Birding Trail  
Swainson's Hawk BS Hundreds!  
American Kestrel Julian  
California Quail Heard at Old Mine Road  
American Coot CCR, LH  
Killdeer Borrego Sewage Pond  
Black-necked Stilt - LH  
Ring-billed Gull - LH  
Band-tailed Pigeon Barrel Spring, Ranchita, many  
White-winged Dove BS  
Common Ground-Dove CCR, one  
Mourning Dove BS  
Eurasian Collared-Dove - BS  
Greater Roadrunner - BS  
Barn Owl BS, Ken's  
Costa's Hummingbird BS  
Anna's Hummingbird BS  
Rufous Hummingbird - Julian  
Acorn Woodpecker - Julian  
Ladder-backed Woodpecker TG  
Nuttall's Woodpecker Scissors Crossing  
Northern Flicker Julian  
Vermilion Flycatcher one male TG  
Black Phoebe BS  
Say's Phoebe BS



Greater Roadrunner | Photo by Roger Skidmore



Costa Hummingbird | Photo by Roger Skidmore

Western Kingbird TG  
 Cassin's Kingbird near Lake Henshaw  
 Loggerhead Shrike BS  
 Bell's Vireo one heard near Scissors Crossing  
 Western Scrub-Jay Julian, Barrel Spring  
 Common Raven BS  
 American Crow Julian  
 Violet-green Swallow LH  
 Tree Swallow hawk watch site  
 Barn Swallow Borrego Sewage  
 Oak Titmouse Wynola Rd, Julian (heard)  
 Mountain Chickadee Julian at Ken's  
 Verdin BS  
 Bushtit Scissors Crossing  
 Bewick's Wren TG  
 Cactus Wren TG  
 House Wren- one heard near Scissor's Crossing  
 Rock Wren Scissors Crossing  
 Black-tailed Gnatcatcher TG heard  
 Western Bluebird Julian  
 Northern Mockingbird BS  
 Sage Thrasher 6 total Old Springs Rd., YW, Clark Dry Lake  
 California Thrasher YW and Sewage Pond  
 Le Conte's Thrasher Old Springs Road  
 European Starling BS  
 Phainopepla TG, BS  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler TG  
 Orange-crowned Warbler - YW  
 Common Yellowthroat Borrego Sewage  
 Spotted Towhee - Julian  
 California Towhee Julian  
 Black-throated Sparrow TG (heard)  
 Lark Sparrow near Lake Henshaw  
 Savannah Sparrow Borrego Sewage Pond  
 Brewer's Sparrow many singing YW...  
 White-crowned Sparrow TG  
 Dark-eyed Junco Julian  
 Western Meadowlark LH  
 Red-winged Blackbird - CCR, Julian  
 Great-tailed Grackle BS

Brewer's Blackbird CCR  
 Tricolored Blackbird near LH  
 Brown-headed Cowbird CCR  
 Hooded Oriole BS  
 House Finch BS  
 Lesser Goldfinch TG etc.  
 Lawrence's Goldfinch Heard at TG  
 Pine Siskin - Julian  
 House Sparrow BS

**Some butterflies:**

Becker's White  
 Painted Lady  
 Sleepy Orange  
 Tiger Swallowtail  
 Monarch  
 Duskywing (skipper)  
 Marine Blue

**Some mammals:**

Coyote  
 Peninsular Bighorn Sheep 2 ewes and 2 lambs  
 Desert Cottontail  
 Badger (hole)  
 Bobcat  
 Beechy's Ground Squirrel  
 Mule Deer

**Reptiles and Insects:**

Banded Gecko  
 Rosy Boa  
 Side-blotched Lizard  
 Great Basin Whiptail  
 Zebra-tailed Lizard  
 Spider Beetle  
 White-lined Sphinx Moth  
 Caterpillars



Rock Wren | Photo by Lee Huniu



Nick and Mary Freeman with Rosy Boa, very tame and beautiful. | Photo by Lee Huniu

**Some Wildflowers:**

- Cryptantha or Forget-me-Not
- Checker Fiddleneck
- California Primrose
- Dune Primrose
- Ceanothus blooming
- Daffodils
- Wild Heliotrope
- Fremont or Desert Pincushion
- Bajada Lupine
- Brittlebush
- Dune Sunflower
- Desert Sunflower
- Desert Dandelion
- Desert Chicory
- Whispering Bells
- White Sage
- Sand Verbena
- Lots more! 🐦



*California Thrasher | Photo by Lee Huniu*



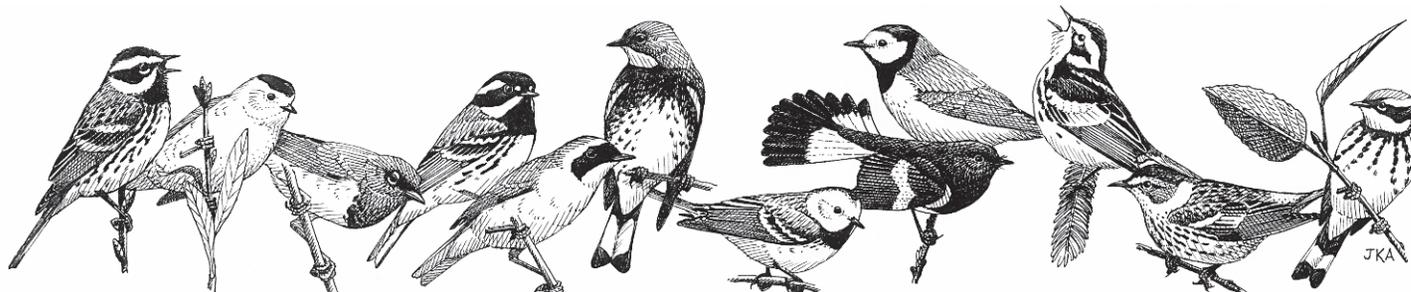
*Ladder backed Woodpecker female | Photo by Lee Huniu*



*Sphinx Moth Caterpillar (Hawk food) | Photo by Lee Huniu*



*Black tailed Gnatcatcher | Photo by Lee Huniu*



## Birds of the Season — April 2016 By Jon Fisher

In the end El Niño was hardly the drought buster that southern California had hoped for, but even with less than half of average rainfall March and April were adequately spring-like. There was enough precipitation to fill streams, create swaths of greenery and produce copious wildflowers.

March saw our early passerine migrants arrive on schedule. Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds and Bullock's and Hooded Orioles were in evidence by the middle of the month. What begins with just a few migrants scattered about the county soon becomes a virtual stream of birds. By mid-April it was difficult to go anywhere without encountering decent numbers of northbound passerines.

Though the focus in spring is on songbirds, a far wider variety of birds are on the move from waterfowl to raptors to hummingbirds. And just as the timing of each species ranges from subtly to significantly different, so does their distribution. If you want to see a Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, Bank Swallows or Sage Thrasher, you head to the deserts. For Brant and Pacific Loons, a trip to the coast is warranted.

Differences such as those aside, other migrants can be found throughout the county.

Spring migration wasn't the only news. A significant number of unusual wintering birds lingered into April and rare gulls also made a good showing.

In addition, another new county bird was added to the list during the period, an event that has been remarkably regular recently. Increased awareness and ever increasing time in the field have produced some memorable records over the past few years.

Common along the coast but scarce inland, twenty-one **Brant** at Quail Lake near Gorman on March 29 was a good count (David Compton).

Diving ducks included a **White-winged Scoter** off Dockweiler State Beach in El Segundo on April 2 (Mark & Janet Scheel) and a wintering **Long-tailed Duck** near the Ballona Creek mouth reported through April 2. Scarce coastally were three **Common Mergansers** at Malibu Lagoon on February 10 (Joshua Moses).

**Red-necked Grebes** were represented by a continuing bird at Castaic Lagoon through March 21 and one off the Palos Verdes Peninsula on February 18 (Jun & Bin Wu).

A **Brown Booby** was in the Santa Catalina Channel on February 18 (Philip Carnehl) and another was off Pt. Vicente on March 27 (Andrew Lee).

A first for the county was a **Neotropic Cormorant** found at Bonelli Park in San Dimas on February 17 and reported through April 9 (Rod Higbie). Perhaps overdue, and certainly anticipated, this species has greatly increased in numbers in Imperial County and was recorded last year in nearby Ventura, Riverside and San Diego Counties. Clearly this is a species to be looked for in the county.

Quite rare in LA County waters was a **Red-billed Tropicbird** in the Santa Catalina Channel on March 14 (Chris Rohrer).

An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, very likely the same bird present as an immature from May to October in 2015 was at the Ballona Wetlands from April 8-9 (Bob Pann). More expected but still scarce in the county was an **American**

**Bittern** continuing at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh through February 27.

Intergrade oystercatchers are uncommon and their identification is often problematic, but quite rare was an apparently pure **American Oystercatcher** at the San Gabriel River mouth in Long Beach from March 13–28 (David Bell).

The only other shorebird of note was a typically pelagic **Red Phalarope** at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB on February 19 (John Birsner, Wayne Martin).

Quite unusual was a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** found at the San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera on February 28 (Luke Tiller, David Bell), with two documented there on March 5 (Andrew Lee). One continued to be seen on and off through March 11. This were only the fourth and fifth ever found in the county. Records of this European gull have increased significantly in North America and well over 100 have now occurred in California.

Even rarer for LA County at least was a **Yellow-footed Gull** at the spreading basins from March 2–6 (David Bell). This constitutes only our second record, almost exactly twenty years after the first was found at Cabrillo Beach. With a significant population in the Gulf of California and at the Salton Sea, it's somewhat surprising that so few have appeared along the west coast. A few may have been overlooked given their general similarity to the common and expected Western Gull.

Rounding out the gulls in Pico Rivera was a **Glaucous Gull** almost certainly the same bird found there on January 10 on March 19 (Andrew Lee). The size and composition of the gull flock at these

basins is constantly changing, and is dependent on the ever-changing water levels. Though some visits produce nothing of interest, clearly this spot is worth checking repeatedly.

Any alcid away from the immediate coast and off-shore waters is unusual, thus a **Common Murre** well up Ballona Creek near the 90 Freeway on March 11 was noteworthy (Brittany O'Connor).

Long declining, but maintaining at least a tenuous foothold, **Spotted Doves** were at the LA County Arboretum in Arcadia on February 13, along the LA River in South Gate on February 15 (Bobby Figarotta), at Col. Leon H. Washington Park in Los Angeles on February 21 and in Lynwood from March 17–April 1.

A few **Common Ground-Doves** continued along the San Gabriel River in Bellflower through February 24 and up to five **Inca Doves** were at Leon H. Washington Park in Los Angeles through March 4.

A **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** that was in Chatsworth from March 2–7 (fide Nick & Mary Freeman) begs the question of how many might winter in the lowlands. Not often found in the county was a **Short-eared Owl** continuing at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB through February 25.

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continued at Veteran's Park in Sylmar through March 19 while another was at the LA County Museum of Natural History Nature Gardens on March 16 (Kimball Garrett).

Low elevation **Williamson's Sapsuckers** included two continuing at Veteran's Park with at

least one present through March 16 and one at Brand Park in Glendale from February 13–16 (Yvonne Burch-Hartley).

Pure **Northern "Yellow-shafted" Flickers** included a continuing bird at Wheeler Park in Claremont through March 2 and new finds at the San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds on March 8 (Curtis Marantz), at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester on March 19 (Russell Stone) and at Columbia Park in Torrance on March 31 (Richard Barth).

A **Crested Caracara** that bounced around the Channel Islands for a while and then settled on Santa Catalina Island was reported there through February 13. Rare on the coastal slope was a **Prairie Falcon** seen briefly at the Sepulveda Basin in Van Nuys on March 10 (Mike Stensvold).

Wintering Empidonax included a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at John Anson Ford Park in Bell Gardens from February 16–March 3 (Richard Barth) and a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** continuing at Monte Verde Park in Lakewood through February 28.

A handful of **Vermilion Flycatchers** were on the coastal slope during the period, with the most notable being three breeding pairs along with six juveniles at Oakdale Memorial Park in Glendora on April 10 (Rick Fisher).

The **Eastern Phoebe** at Madrona Marsh in Torrance was reported through March 23 and a wintering **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was seen there through March 3 and probably through March 26, by which time migrants cloud the picture. A **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** at Creek Park in La

Mirada was present from April 6-10, but likely wintered there as it has done since 2008 (Jonathan Rowley).

The **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica was reported through March 6 and what may have been a different bird was nearby in Pacific Palisades at the DWP Reservoir on March 3.

Presumably a very early spring migrant, a **Western Kingbird** was at Alondra Park Reservoir on February 28 (Andrew Lee). The **Tropical Kingbird** at El Dorado Park in Long Beach continued through April 10 and another was found at West LA College on February 25 (Don Sterba).

Two **Bank Swallows** at the Piute Ponds on March 30 were a bit early (Lee Jones).

One to two **Pacific Wrens** continuing in Big Santa Anita Canyon above Arcadia through March 1 were the only ones reported.

Remarkably rare in the county was a wintering **Gray Catbird** continuing through April 4 at Monte Verde Park in Lakewood.

Following last winter's big invasion, **Varied Thrushes** continued to be scarce. Reports included one at Rancho Sierra Golf Club in the Antelope Valley from February 9-March 26 (Paul Wolter), with two observed there on February 29 (Becky Turley, Brittany O'Connor), one in Elysian Park on March 1 (Kevin Bohannon) and one in Griffith Park on March 6 (Jon Fisher).

At least eight **Black-and-white Warblers** were

present during the period, all on the coastal slope as expected.

**American Redstarts** included one at Middle Ranch on Santa Catalina Island on February 13 (David Rankin), one continuing at the San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds through March 12 and one in West Long Beach from March 10-13 (Richard Barth).

A **Palm Warbler** continued along the LA River by the 91 Freeway through April 9 and a new bird was at Dominguez Seminary in Compton from April 11-14. The **Pine Warbler** previously discovered at Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale was reported through February 15.

The **Painted Redstart** first discovered in December continued in Mar Vista through February 13.

A wintering **Grasshopper Sparrow** continued at Madrona Marsh through March 8 and up to five spring birds were in Mormon Canyon above Porter Ranch on March 9 (Mark Osokow).

Continuing **Clay-colored Sparrows** included one Vina Vieja Park in Pasadena through April 6, one at Madrona Marsh in Torrance through April 12 and one at Oak Park Cemetery in Claremont through April 4.

Eight **White-throated Sparrows** were present during the period.

A **Dark-eyed "Pink-sided" Junco** was found at Gloria Heer Park in Rowland Heights on March 5 (Richard Barth) and a **Dark-eyed "Gray-headed" Junco** continued at a residence in La Canada through March 5.

**Summer Tanager** reports were of single birds along Ballona Creek in Culver City on February 29 (Walter Lamb) and at Wardlow Park from March 12-13 (Andrew Lee).

Very rare in winter was a **Lazuli Bunting** that persisted at Madrona Marsh through March 4.

Occasional in winter on the coastal slope was a **Scott's Oriole** at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas on February 20 (Paul Clarke, Catherine McFadden). A **Baltimore Oriole** at the same locale from March 29-April 11 may well have wintered there undetected (Lew Johnson).

While the bulk of migrants will have passed through by early May, there will still be plenty of birds throughout the month. This is prime time for such species as Willow Flycatchers, Western Wood-Pewees, Swainson's Thrushes and Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, all of which will be passing through in good numbers.

The deserts are always a go-to spot during spring migration and though migrant numbers will taper off in May, the odds of finding vagrants tend to increase. Migrant traps on the deserts are obvious—patches of wetland and greenery are conspicuous in this landscape—but the situation isn't so simple on the coastal slope. With vegetation and sources of water practically everywhere, birds too can be almost anywhere. Thus the places to look for birds are practically limitless...

Of course nothing lasts forever, and so it is with migration. Not to worry... it will begin anew starting in June, but the birds—at least most of them—will be heading in the other direction. 🐦

## LOS ANGELES AUDUBON'S SCHOOLYARD HABITAT PROGRAM RECEIVES GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM UCLA STUDENTS IN *PHILANTHROPY AS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CLASS*

Students from the UCLA Philanthropy as Civic Engagement Class researched 19 local non-profit organizations and chose 3 to receive grant funding support. Los Angeles Audubon received the top award of \$48,612, following a UCLA site visit and rigorous interview process with the LA Audubon staff, board president and students.

The award will help to fund Los Angeles Audubon Society's (LAAS) second schoolyard habitat project located at Esperanza Elementary. Los Angeles Audubon will collaborate with Principal Rumble, now based at Esperanza Elementary and with school stakeholders to build another amazing outdoor learning center. The UCLA grant was generously funded by Once Upon A Time Foundation through its Philanthropy Lab Program.

Habitat restoration and creation of schoolyard habitats is at the heart of LA Audubon's 'School-Shed' approach connecting students of different ages along a watershed in Los Angeles. The new schoolyard habitat will be based on the successful program at Leo Politi Elementary School. In 2009, Los Angeles Audubon Restoration Leaders and Leo Politi Elementary School, under the leadership of then Principal Brad Rumble, collaborated to install a native habitat on 6,000 square feet of under-utilized schoolyard, the first schoolyard habitat project in LA to receive a US Fish and Wildlife grant. The schoolyard habitat contin-

ues to be essential in engaging students, teachers, and community in hands-on nature activities in a neighborhood largely devoid of parks. The Los Angeles Times featured the project on its front page in April 2012, describing the documented increase in science proficiency at the school from 9 to over 50 percent.

High school restoration leaders from LAAS' Baldwin Hills Program will help to develop the Esperanza Schoolyard Habitat and curricula that will combine science and nature as part of the student-to-student mentoring program. Additionally, the experience that the high school restoration leaders will gain by implementing this program will be invaluable in their future work and resumes. This program perfectly illustrates LA Audubon's 'School-Shed' approach to outdoor education and environmental stewardship.

Los Angeles Audubon is extremely grateful for the support of UCLA students in Philanthropy as Civic Engagement Class and we are excited to move to the next phase in the development of the Esperanza Schoolyard Habitat.

For more information about LA Audubon and the education programs: [www.laaudubon.org](http://www.laaudubon.org)

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Check Presentation to Los Angeles Audubon Society by UCLA Philanthropy as Civic Engagement Class



Esperanza Elementary School site preparation.



Leo Politi Elementary School Habitat, March 2014

I had a great time on the bird photography workshop. Christopher Taylor was very laid back, which I liked. The first bird of the day was a female long-tailed duck, which I hadn't expected great, as I only previously had poor photos of this species. Lots of good opportunities through the rest of the morning, including a lovely Eared Grebe on its way into alternate plumage.

Here are a few of my efforts from the day.

Thanks for all your efforts in organizing the day.

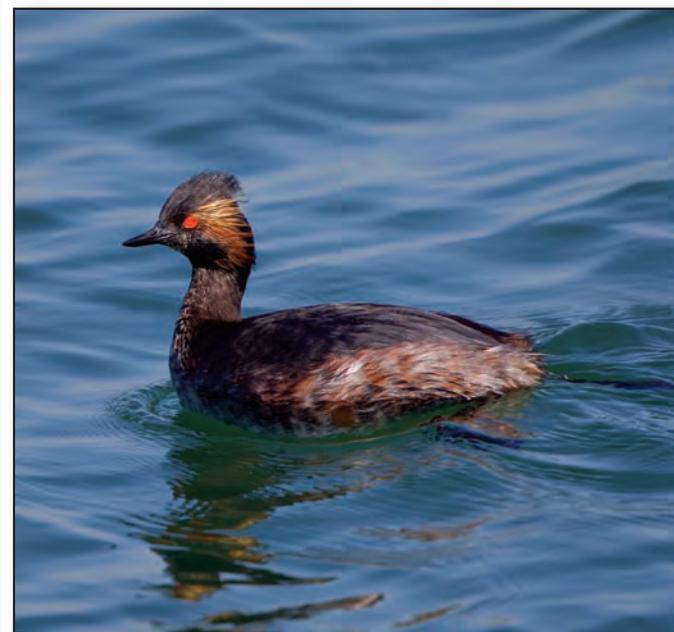
All the best, Matthew Binns



*Long-tailed Duck*



*Surf Scoter*



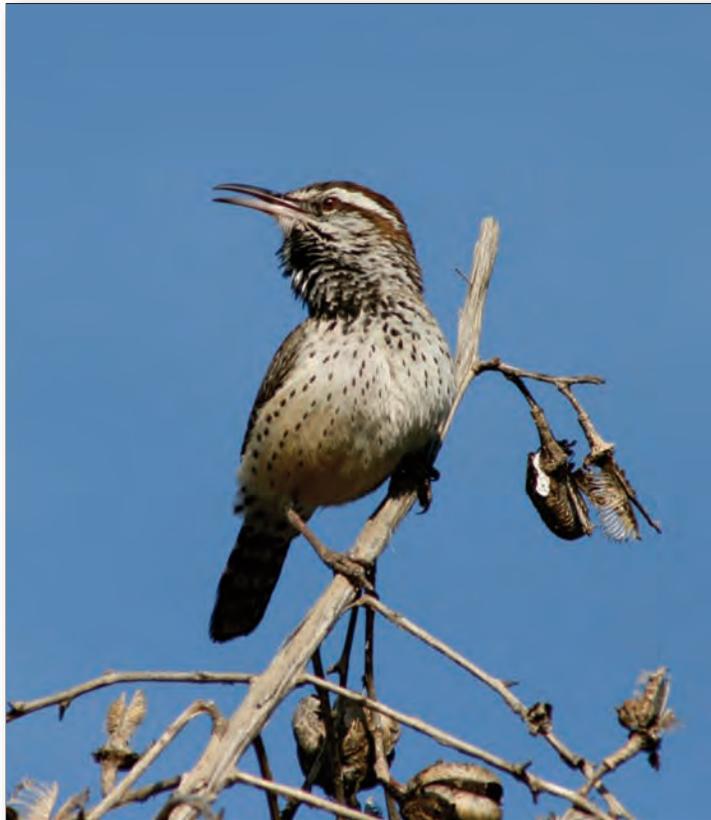
*Eared Grebe*



## Wednesday, May 11, 2016

### Coastal Cactus Wren Relocation and Habitat Restoration Program in Orange County, CA

Presented by Milan Mitrovich, Ph. D. and Margot Griswold, Ph.D.



Milan Mitrovich's background is in conservation science, with an emphasis in landscape and wildlife ecology. Over the last 10+ years, Milan has served in research and advisory roles for several public and private sector organizations, including Solution Strategies, Inc. an environmental consulting and strategic advisory firm based out of Los Angeles, California; the Biological Resource Discipline of the U.S. Geological Survey; the national award-winning Orange County Great Park Design Studio; and the Natural Communities Coalition.

With the Coalition, Milan works with the organization's directors and officers as well as representatives from partnering organizations and the public to coordinate research and management activities associated with the protection and recovery of sensitive plant and animal species found within the 38,000-acre Reserve System. Milan holds a B.S. in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution from the University of California, San Diego, and a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Davis, and San Diego State University.

Margot Griswold is president of Los Angeles Audubon by way of habitat restoration. She is the senior restoration ecologist at Land IQ in Los Angeles and has over 25 years experience in restoring native habitats in California. Much of her work centers around providing habitat for avian species such as the Coastal Cactus Wren. Other work has included restoring habitat for the California Gnatcatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, Southwest Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and the many wildlife species around Owens Lake. She is currently part of the team working with Milan Mitrovich to update the habitat restoration plan for the 38,000 acre Reserve System in Orange County.

LOCATION: 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. (NO Program Presentations in July or August)

# INTERPRETING NATURE | Spring Break at Joshua Tree National Park

By Carlos Jauregui, Emily Cobar, and Brian Young – Greenhouse Program Assistant Instructors

Photos by Brian Young



The student team in action.

What can someone gain from spending their spring break at Joshua Tree National Park? Los Angeles Audubon provided seven students from the Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program and three staff members the opportunity to join Outward Bound, an organization that connects people with wilderness experiences, for four days and three nights in Joshua Tree National Park. Everyone gets something different from being outdoors, and that was true about this experience. It was the first time many of us spent a few days away from our family. Many of us had never been camping in the desert and some had never been camping at all. Another first experience for a lot of us was learning to rock climb. We

The students all experienced something new during this trip and were pushed to learn more about themselves and their abilities through the obstacles they faced. They were able to push fear aside to accomplish the tasks, whether it was reaching the top of the rock climb or sharing something about themselves with the rest of the group that may not have been so easy to share. They were very supportive of each other throughout the trip, cheering one another on as they climbed up the face of the rock and pushing the climbers to keep trying to maneuver their way to the top. The group was lot closer at the end of the trip and were a lot more confident in their abilities to reach their goals.

were all pushed outside of our comfort zones in different ways. For some of us it may have been surviving without our cell phones, or it may have been relying on another person to lower you to safety after attempting to rock climb 40 to 50 feet above ground.

The staff experienced similar obstacles and also learned something new about themselves. Brian Young, a Greenhouse Program alumnus, served as a chaperone during the trip and shares his experience:

Before coming on the trips I was nervous about a lot of things. This was going to be my first time as a person of authority on an over night trip. I didn't know how strict or how "buddy buddy" I should be with the students. While I knew that all of the students were pretty good when it came to listening and making good judgment calls, I was still worried about the risk of someone getting seriously in-



The team had the opportunity to do some rock climbing, thanks to great instruction by Outward Bound.

jured or worse. It was not long after arriving in Joshua Tree that my anxiety began to fade.

The most important thing I learned was how irrelevant the line between teacher and student, between adult and teenager really is when you are dangling more than 30ft above the ground in a climbing harness! One of the highlights of the trip was when a group of us decided to go scrambling up and over a very large rock formation. This was no easy task and was pretty difficult for me and some of the other students. We all pushed through together, suffering cuts and bruises and stinging hands. Even now, more than a week later, I am still touched by the amount of teamwork, patience, and support that was shown during our time on those rocks.

I think these kinds of trips are needed because it gives you a chance to get to know the students in a different setting. You really get to see a lot more of the students' strengths, weaknesses, fears, skills, and quirks. And they get to learn just the same about you. All of this builds to a mutual sense of respect and understanding.

Emily Cobar, also a Greenhouse Program alumna, served as a chaperone as well:

I had been on a few camping trips as a high school student myself, so it was interesting to go on a group trip as chaperone. As a chaperone, I learned the material with the students and also kept them engaged throughout the trip. I have been rock climbing at indoor gyms before, but I have never

rock climbed on boulders in nature. This was a new learning experience and I was excited that I got to share the same emotions with the students. The best thing I experienced during the trip was to watch the students support each other, either through words of encouragement while climbing or complimenting on their progress (whether they made it to the top or not). I learned on this trip students' different comfort levels and how important it is for an environmental educator to engage students outside of their comfort level. This four-day trip impacted me as a growing and developing environmental educator and I look forward to more trips in the future!

Both staff and students are grateful for this opportunity to explore Joshua Tree National Park. Students grew as leaders whether it was through facing their fears or encouraging and supporting one another. Trips to wilderness areas like Joshua Tree National Park may allow people from the city to connect with nature in a new way and gives them the opportunity to think about important environmental issues. Trips like this also help inner-city youth find a new passion, whether it's recreational (like rock climbing) or political (like taking action for environmental stewardship). We look forward to future opportunities for Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program students. 🐉



There was abundant desert wildlife to see each day of the trip, including this rosy boa.



Evenings during the trip were a time for reflection and sharing stories.

# 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.

## "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

## 'NO FEE' RESERVATIONS / MORE INFORMATION

**Email:** [membership@laudubon.org](mailto:membership@laudubon.org)  
**Phone:** (323) 876-0202

Please leave voice message if no answer.

## Friday, May 13

### Small Owls of the San Gabriels #2 (FULL)

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. We will be looking for Flammulated, Saw-whet, Northern Pygmy and Western Screech-Owls. Sign up, and meet at 5:00 p.m. on the frontage road for Angeles Forest Hwy just north of the 210 Fwy in La Canada. Turn N on ACH, take the second right (Milmada Dr.), and a quick left (Flanders Rd.). Meet along the first 50-yard stretch, fed and gassed up, and we will carpool from here. Bring quiet cold weather gear (no nylon if possible), a small walking flashlight, binoculars, powerful flashlight optional. Photo ops possible. LAAS telephone / e-mail sign-up mandatory. 10 max.

## Sunday, May 15

### Mojave Area

SIGN-UP REQUIRED, NO FEE

Leaders: *Nick and Mary Freeman*. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline. Reptiles may be encountered! Veer right heading north out of Mojave, take Hwy 14 for about 20 miles, just over the riverbed, and take Jawbone Canyon Road on the left. Meet right at the turnoff at the ranger station parking lot at 6:30 a.m. (restroom). 6:30 a.m.??? Birds start shooting up this canyon at first light, so even this will get us into Butterbredt a tad late, but if we happen to hit migration on the nose, it will be magical! We will carpool to Butterbredt Springs from Jawbone, back-track to California City environs for lunch and more birds afterwards, and possibly finish the day at Apollo Park. LAAS sign-up with ph# & e-mail mandatory. 12 max. Bring lunches, sun block, FRS radios. Reserve rooms (Motel 6 or other) in Mojave, or Best Western in CA City. Those wishing to night-herp, meet Saturday

evening at 5:30 p.m. at Gloria's Mexican Restaurant, 7027 California City Blvd.

## Sunday, May 22

### South Bay Parks

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE (TENTATIVE)

Leader, *Dinuk Magamma*, visits many of the South Bay parks regularly, including Madrona Marsh, Sand Dune Park, and Wilderness Park. Colorful warblers and other passerines should headline. Start and finish at Madrona Marsh Preserve, for carpoolers, and visit the parks listed as time allows. To get here, get yourself from the 405 Fwy to Prairie Ave. (becomes Madrona Ave.) heading south. Pass Carson Street, and turn left (E) at Plaza del Amo, and into the parking lot on the left. Meet at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, especially if you might carpool, as we may bird until 3:00 p.m., if enthusiasm warrants. Please consider this trip TENTATIVE until posted otherwise (DEFINITE / CANCELLED) on the website.

## Friday, June 3

### Small Owls of the San Gabriels #3 (FULL)

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. We will be looking for Flammulated, Saw-whet, Northern Pygmy and Western Screech-Owls. Sign up, and meet at 5:30 p.m. on the frontage road for Angeles Forest Hwy just north of the 210 Fwy in La Canada. Turn N on ACH, take the second right (Milmada Dr.), and a quick left (Flanders Rd.). Meet along the first 50-yard stretch, fed and gassed up, and we will carpool from here. Bring quiet cold weather gear (no nylon if possible), a small walking flashlight, binoculars, powerful flashlight optional. Photo ops possible. LAAS telephone / e-mail sign-up mandatory. 10 max.

## **June 10 thru 13 Long Weekend Birds of the Southern Sierra and Kern River Valley**

LIMITED SIGN-UP, FEE (SEE BELOW)

Leader: *Bob Barnes*. Bob has led over 300 formal birding field trips to the Kern River Valley, Southern Sierra, and Kern County Mojave desert oases for Audubon groups, senators, bird clubs, as the local guide for two WINGS Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada trips led by Jon Dunn. Bob has gotten ranchers and environmentalists together in the Kern watershed for some amazing conservation results.

\*\*\*BASIC "NO FRILLS" ITINERARY\*\*\*

Fr, 6/10/16 - Sierra Nevada East Side Birding

Sa, 6/11/16 - Kern River Valley & Southern Sierra Birding

Su, 6/12/16 - Kern River Valley & Southern Sierra Birding

Mo, 6/13/16 - Greenhorn Mountains Transect Birding, including early a.m. owling and +/- 2pm trip conclusion.

As part of the carpooling process at the beginning of each day, participants will be expected to vie for the honor and privilege of chauffeuring the leader hither and yon, enjoying a personal play-by-play of the Sierra, devoid of dust; gas expenses absorbed by the lucky and dutiful driver. Min. 8 participants, max. 12 participants. Sat & Sun \$35 ea., Fri & Mon \$25 ea. (i.e. F-M is \$120 ea.). Bring FRS radios if you've got 'em. Meet early each day (a little after 5 a.m?), and pack lunches each day. More details in the confirmation flyer.

## **Saturday, June 18**

### **San Gabriel Mountains / Mt. Wilson Observatory TOUR FEE:**

\$10/head (\$8 over 62) payable at Mt. Wilson  
SIGN-UP MAX: 16

Leader: *Mary Freeman*. Meet at 7:00 a.m. on the frontage road for Angeles Forest Hwy just north of the 210 Fwy in La Canada. We will bird the morning away up in the conifers, buy lunch at Newcomb's Ranch (the Biker Bar) and end up at Mount Wilson Observatory after noon, to take the guided 2-hour tour around the grounds and facility, including the 100-inch telescope. The one-mile walking tour is unsuitable for individuals with respiratory and heart problems or with limited mobility. Please visit the observatory website at [www.mtwilson.edu](http://www.mtwilson.edu) for more exciting and cautionary details before the trip. A Forest Service Adventure Pass is required. To reserve with LAAS, call or e-mail Los Angeles Audubon by June 15 with name, phone number, and e-mail address and await confirmation. No sign-ups without tour, please. Meeting details next month.

## **July 2 thru 5 Long Weekend — Saturday through Tuesday**

### **Southern Sierra Owls at Ponderosa**

SIGN-UP (6 MIN / 10 MAX), \$100 – BUDGET  
PRICED!

(3 NIGHTS CABIN, 1 HOT DOG BBQ DINNER, & OWLS INCLUDED)

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Ponderosa is above Porterville in the southwest Sierra. Owling by night, bird walks by day! Must be a night owl (1 – 2 a.m?). We always see (yes, see) Flammulated and Spotted owls, and almost always see Saw-whet. Last year we had

Pygmy Owl as well! Screech Owl is sometimes tough, as we stay above the oak belt. Days wandering in the Sequoias are delightful. Pacific Wren, Pileated Woodpecker and Goshawk are all possible. We have presently arranged for a nice big cabin. Our first dinner will be potluck, others provided or eat out. Meet Saturday 3:00 p.m. at the cabin at 5701 Tamarack Drive, Ponderosa (directions in confirmation flyer), finally leaving the mountains late Monday morning. To reserve, send phone, \$100 check for cabin, and e-mail. 10 sign-ups maximum, including leaders. The leaders pay too, to bring this price to you! No small children or pets, please. And please plan to stay around for the Monday clean-up!

## **Saturday, July 9**

### **Big Bear Lake Vicinity Field Trip**

NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP

Leaders: *Nick and Mary Freeman*. Meet in the Aspen Glen Picnic Area parking lot in Big Bear at 7:30 a.m. Take Hwy 18 or 38 to Big Bear Lake, then proceed about half way along the south side of the lake on Hwy 18 (Big Bear Blvd.) and turn south on Tulip Lane. The lot will be on the south side of this short street. Target birds include Williamson's?and Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Calliope and Rufous Hummers, mountain finches and White-headed Woodpecker. Later, we may go to Arrastre Creek (east) or Upper Santa Ana River (south). It should be warm and there may be bugs, so come prepared. Bring lunch for a full day, and a Forest Service Adventure Pass. Those wishing to go owling with Mary in the evening (probably near Bluff Lake or Hart Bar Campground), plan to?eat with us, and get a room for Saturday night as well.

## Field Trip Listings, cont'd

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

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

### Sunday, July 31

#### Lower LA River Shorebird Migration

NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP

Leader: *Larry Allen*. Take the 710 (Long Beach) Fwy S to the Willow Street offramp, head E over the LA River, and take the first left on Golden Ave, the first left on 26th, and follow this past the pump station onto DeForest Ave. Park near the river access by the bridge, meet along the river at 8:00 a.m., and bird until noon. More details in July.

### Sunday, August 7

#### Sweltering Salton Sea

\$15 FEE, SIGN-UP 8 CARS LIMIT

Leaders: *Nick and Mary Freeman*. Anticipate 95-105°F. This is the gauntlet of SoCal birding, but we will see Yellow-footed (only place in the U.S.) and Laughing gulls, Black Tern, Abert's Towhee, and Gila Woodpecker. We may also see Wood Stork, Lesser Nighthawk, and Stilt Sandpiper. Find a friend, as singles will be bumped if we fill up the trip. Mail \$15, cell#, and e-mail address to reserve. Brawley Inn - (760) 344-1199 offers a better continental breakfast, \$80, and there is a decent restaurant next door. America's Best Value Inn in Westmorland - (760) 351-7100 is \$70. Ask for AAA discount. Continental breakfast. Meet at Cattle Call Park at 5:30 a.m., and bird until about 3 p.m. Bring lunch, FRS radios, scope, sunblock, minimum 1 gallon of water, and a big hat. Other lodging suggestions and information in e-mailer.

### Saturday, August 20

#### Piute Ponds, Edwards AFB

NO FEE, 20 MAX SIGN UP,  
*PERSONAL EAFB PASS REQUIRED!*

Leaders: *Jim Moore*. A good mix of shorebirds, with a chance at LeConte's Thrasher, and Pectoral and Baird's sandpipers. Some of the finest desert birding in LA County! Some amazing birds have been seen here over the years, including a pair of Hudsonian Godwits, and a Little Stint just four years ago! Extension to Apollo Park and possibly elsewhere afterwards.

Meet at the Avenue C gate at 7:30 a.m. To get here, take Hwy 14 N to Avenue D, head E to Sierra Hwy, head N to Avenue C, and go a block E to the gate at the end. Lunch and finish at Apollo Park. Bring lunch, sunblock and lots of water. Likely hot weather, and possible afternoon wind. High clearance vehicles may be a plus. Cameras O.K.

Call LAAS to sign up. Limited to 1<sup>st</sup> 20 with the *required* EAFB annual access pass in-hand.

*Talk with Misty Hailstone on the base by phone at (661) 275-2435 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. before Aug 10 to arrange a **required annual pass**.* Tell Misty your personal information (legal name, driver's license number and state issued, social security number, date of birth, email address, and phone number). Please do not e-mail or leave a message. Access for foreign nationals is trickier but still possible.



*Birding Under the Giant Sequoia, Photo by Mary Freeman*

# 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.

## Open Wetlands at Ballona

1st Saturday of every month

**May 7 & June 4**

**Time: 9:00–Noon**

Los Angeles Audubon Society hosts the ongoing 1st Sat. of the month “Open Wetlands” event at the Ballona Salt Marsh. Binoculars will be available to borrow, and volunteers will help visitors view aquatic invertebrates through microscopes, learn about the unique ecosystems found at Ballona, and view birds through powerful spotting scopes along Ballona Creek. Please drop-in!

ENTER THROUGH THE GATE located in the northeast corner of the parking lot behind Alkawater/Gordon’s Market, in the 300 block of Culver Blvd. in Playa del Rey. *No baby strollers please.* Please contact Cindy Hardin at [cindyhardin@laaudubon.org](mailto:cindyhardin@laaudubon.org) or call (310) 301-0050 if you have any questions.

## Topanga State Park Birdwalk

1st Sunday of every month

**May 1 & June 5**

**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](mailto: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)

**May 21 & June 18**

**Time: 8:00–noon**

Leader: *Eric and Ann Brooks, Eleanor Osgood* This trip covers landscaped parkland, a man-made lake and natural coastal scrub habitats within the Baldwin Hills. We are likely to see many of the resident birds such as Black and Say’s Phoebes, Cassin Kingbirds, California and Spotted Towhee, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk. We will also look for newly arrived migrants such as Bullock’s and Hooded Orioles, Western Kingbird, Warbling and Hutton’s vireos. Resident birds have begun to nest providing a whole new way of watching birds

**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

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.

CARPPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED!

To provide your information to join the LAAS CARPOOL DATABASE [membership@laaudubon.org](mailto:membership@laaudubon.org) or call (323) 876-0202 leave a message. We will attempt to connect you with other birders interested in sharing a ride to our events.

left (leading to the “Olympic Forest”) and park in the first available spaces. |

**Binoculars provided.**

## Upper Franklin Canyon

### Sooky Goldman Nature Center

2nd Sunday of the month

**May 8 & June 12**

**Time: 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.**

Leader: *Eleanor Osgood*. Join us as we take a casual walk around the ponds and trails of this urban oak woodland nature preserve. We are likely to see the resident Wood Ducks and as well chaparral bird species such as California Quail, Spotted and California Towhees and California Thrasher. We will look for migrants such as warblers, vireos, flycatchers; we may also encounter resident birds building nests and feeding young. Meet in the main parking lot for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center. This canyon is a hidden treasure where the surrounding urban residences of Sherman Oaks and Beverly Hills disappear from view.

**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)

**May 15 & June 19**

**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 [wbutorance@gmail.com](mailto:wbutorance@gmail.com)