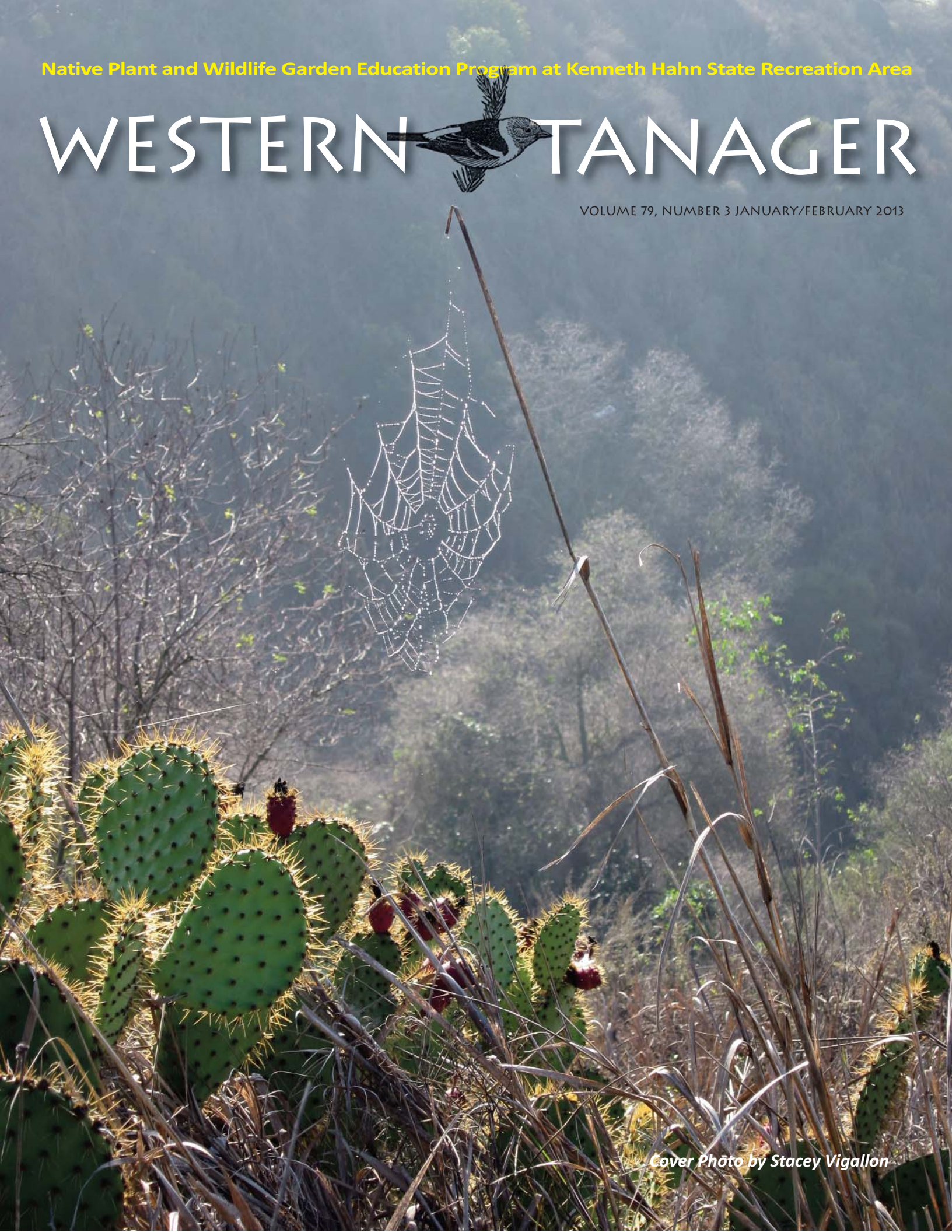


Native Plant and Wildlife Garden Education Program at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

WESTERN TANAGER

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Cover Photo by Stacey Vigallon



Volunteer Connie Semf leads her group through cool misty weather that brings: Sparkling, shimmering spider webs (cover photo) and marvelous mushrooms! (next page)

Native Plant and Wildlife Garden Education Program at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

By Cindy Hardin, Director Environmental Education Programs
Photography by Stacey Vigallon

Los Angeles Audubon is the sponsor of two education programs that bring local school children to the great outdoors. The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is the site of one program, while the second, newer program takes place at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA), more familiar to some of you as Kenneth Hahn Park. Both programs are modeled on the same format. Students hike around trails and stop at several stations along the way, which are designed to highlight and demonstrate learning objectives taken from the California State Science Curriculum. The goals of both operations are the same: to get students excited about nature and to foster a greater understanding of the unique ecosystems found in the Los Angeles area. However, the specifics of each endeavor are quite different, which keeps things interesting for all who are involved! In the last issue of the Tanager I covered all that goes on at Ballona. Now it's time to fill you in on our activities at Kenneth Hahn.

While Ballona is a protected Ecological Reserve with limited public access, KHSRA is a public park, surrounded by urban and suburban Los Angeles. It is one of the largest

open spaces in our park poor city, and is enjoyed by many of the local residents for hiking, dog walking, picnicking and family and group gatherings. At times there are lots of simultaneous festivities taking place, which gives the park a nice feeling of vitality. All of this activity gives our group lots of opportunity for public outreach, as those using the park are very curious as to what's going on as we set up for the field trips. The binocular table always attracts a lot of attention from the general public. Most guess correctly that we are giving some sort of nature tour, but when we explain that the attendees will be schoolchildren the response is always positive. "Good to get them outside" is the usual comment, and we couldn't agree more!

As at Ballona, the bus pulls up at around 9:45, and sixty excited children pour out into the parking lot. If it's a clear day the first thing they see is the iconic view of downtown Los Angeles, back dropped by the mighty San Gabriel Mountains. This image often winds up on the front page of the Los Angeles Times, particularly when the mountains are capped with snow after a recent storm. We have two different curriculums at Kenneth Hahn; one de-



grade visitors. Both groups learn about the importance of native habitat, and have the opportunity to touch the leaves and inhale the fragrance of sage and sagebrush. They speculate about which pollinators are attracted to specific plants, and how much taller the stand of cactus must grow before it will be a suitable nesting site for the once ubiquitous Cactus Wren. In addition, the sixth graders conduct a scientific exercise to determine composition (sand, silt, clay or a combination thereof) and rate of drainage for different types of soil, allowing them to formulate and test hypotheses.

The Scientific Illustration Station is adjacent to the Native Garden. Under the tutelage of Stacey

signed for third graders and one for sixth grade students. As at Ballona, the students are divided into four groups, and assigned a docent to be their tour leader. Each child is given a pair of binoculars to use during their visit. At Kenneth Hahn each child is also issued a compass and a mini field notebook. The students use their compasses to navigate their course through the park, and like all good scientists, record their observations and data in their notebooks.

The park has an elevation of over 200 feet, which allows for sweeping views of the entire basin, from the mountains to the sea. We incorporate the geological history that created the Baldwin Hills and the bird's eye view of the Ballona watershed in our curriculum for both age groups. There are many features in the park that provide opportunity for "teachable moments". Parts of the park include remnants of the coastal sage scrub habitat that was once abundant in Los Angeles. This habitat has been amplified by the efforts of LA Audubon and others at the Native Plant and Wildlife Garden. The garden was first opened in 2006, replacing non-native vegetation with young plants and seeds that are historically native to the region. Six years later it is a thriving habitat, with plenty of shelter and fodder that attracts all kinds of animals native to the area. The garden is a major stop for both third and sixth

Vigallon, we have learned to help students to be better observers of nature and to communicate non-verbally through the power of illustration. Using their Field Notebooks as a canvas, they are encouraged to draw images of various surrounding flowers and leaves, or interesting insect specimens. New to the station this year are microscopes, which are used to magnify and highlight features of observed items. Insects, leaves, flowers and even a blade of grass take on a whole new dimension when viewed through ten power magnification, and help the stu-



Compasses help us navigate our nature hike and determine the direction of migration paths.



Intern Felix Corrodi highlights the Laurel Sumac at the Native Garden Station. Its curved leaves, which help this shrub to catch precious water, give Laurel Sumac the nickname of “Taco Plant”.

space at this location, as the city grew up around the oil fields. This “island of habitat” provides a refuge for animals and stressed out city dwellers—a happy unintended consequence of the industrial activity present in the Baldwin Hills.

Both grade levels are taken from the more manicured and managed sections of the park and led onto the natural habitat trail. The third grade crowd uses their time on the trail to look for Spotted Towhees hopping about on the ground in search of seeds, or gnawed upon pine cones that are the calling card of squirrels. They marvel over the size of the nest high up on the utility towers that was built by a pair of Ravens last spring. This section of the tour gives them a chance to experience the sights, sounds and

dents to better understand the functionality of the various parts of a plant or an insect. After their drawings are completed it’s time to pull out the compasses and navigate their way North along the edge of an area known as “Janice’s Green Valley”. This is the site of a former reservoir that flooded the businesses and neighborhoods below when the reservoir dam failed in 1963. It is now a well-used section of the park, named for the daughter of then County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

The valley is a perfect location for us to teach the third graders about birds and the challenges they encounter during migration. Along the way they use their binoculars to look for Red-tailed Hawks and the Scrub Jays that are swooping about, raiding the oak and walnut trees for a snack for now, or maybe later! So how do you teach a nine-year-old about migration? We ask them to pretend that they are part of a flock of birds, pull out their compasses, locate south and migrate! As they chart their path they make two stops, one for foraging and one for resting. Alas, not every child gets food or a safe place to rest. To the back of the line they go; these little birds will probably not survive the journey. This gives the docents a great opportunity to highlight the importance of preserving open spaces like Kenneth Hahn Park for our avian friends to use as a resting place or even a winter home.

The sixth grade groups do not participate in the migration exercise. Instead, they stop to view the oil wells across La Cienega Boulevard in order to spark a discussion about the extraction of natural resources and its impact on habitat. Ironically, the drilling of oil that has been occurring in the Baldwin Hills since 1924 has inadvertently saved open

smells of the coastal sage scrub that once dominated the region. We use this same trail to discuss geological activity with the sixth graders. The Baldwin Hills sit atop the Newport-Inglewood fault. Millions of years ago matter from deep in the earth was thrust up through this fault, forming the Baldwin Hills, the Dominguez Hills, Signal Hill and the Bolsa Chica Mesa. In addition, this thrusting pushed oil reserves close to the surface, allowing access to this valuable natural resource that was and is one of the driving forces of the development and economy of our region. Sixth grade science students spend much of their year studying plate tectonics and natural resources; on this field trip they are able to see real examples of these concepts. Ballona Creek is also visible from this area, which contains the most essential resource of all: water. The unobstructed views of Los Angeles that we see as we reach the top of the trail is where we can discuss the Ballona watershed. The students even have a chance to pour water over a three dimensional model of the local mountains and observe how some flows into Ballona Creek, while that which pours down the backside of the Hollywood Hills ends up in the LA River, and is part of the Los Angeles watershed.

Obviously, the habitat and activities that the students experience at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area are very different from the program at Ballona. There is also one other significant difference between the two programs: our personnel. Like Ballona, we have several docents that are older adults, many of them retired educators. But the majority of our tour leaders and station docents are college age interns. They attend or are recent graduates of several local colleges, and their



*Intern Ryan Duncans shows students evidence of erosion.
Water can move mountains!*

The Native Plant and Wildlife Garden Education Program at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area is in existence largely due to the support and encouragement provided by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Audubon Society. Our docent staff and students that we serve are the richer for their involvement with the program, and we are all most grateful for the support of the chapter. The program depends upon the generosity of the community. If you would like to donate your time as a volunteer, please contact Cindy Hardin at (310) 301-0050. Financial contributions are also needed and deeply appreciated. Currently, due to the many cuts that our state has made to education, transportation for field trips is the biggest challenge for teachers. LAAS has a bus scholarship program, but each bus costs approximately \$400.00! If you would like to help students get to the park in order for them to experience wonderful day learning about the great outdoors, please contact Susan at LAAS Member Services, membership@laaudubon.org. As always, we welcome visitors who might want an up close view of the fun we have learning and teaching about nature. Please come see us!

youthful energy resonates with the visiting students. Some of our interns are old hands with LA Audubon, as they worked with Stacey Vigallon and Margot Griswold as Restoration Leaders or Greenhouse Interns while attending Dorsey High. Others were recruited from Student Intern Fairs or word of mouth. Several interns are in their third year as docents with the Kenneth Hahn Program, and their interpretive skills continue to improve by leaps and bounds. These more experienced members of the team also mentor and encourage those that are newer to the program. These young people have years ahead of them to educate others about the natural world. It is our hope that by providing them with the opportunity to work with Audubon and the school children of Los Angeles they will become stellar stewards of the environment and act as role models for others to do the same. In fact, there are more than a few in this group who plan to become school teachers upon completion of their studies, and the real world experience that they are gaining by working with us will be of help to them when they begin their careers after school. It is quite inspiring to watch them progress towards these goals.



This year we have dedicated an entire station to Scientific Illustration. The new addition of microscopes allows aspiring artists to see greater detail of the natural beauty found in the park.

Interpreting Nature

By Robert Jeffers, Dorsey High School Teacher

A Teacher's Perspective on Connecting Students to Nature

For this issue's Interpreting Nature column, please welcome guest author, Robert Jeffers. Mr. Jeffers, a teacher at Dorsey High School, is a key component to the success of the Greenhouse Program over the past five years. A Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year, and Finalist for California State Teacher of the Year, Mr. Jeffers is also involved in education policy through fellowships and conferences. He teaches English, Film, and Environmental Stewardship courses for 10th-12th grade students, and he is also faculty advisor for the school's EcoClub. In the essay below, he speaks to the importance of getting students involved in nature-related activities...

"Hey Mr. Jeffers, I think that's a Steller's Jay! Can you help me ID it?" asks Monica in her always earnest tone when it comes to the species she loves. Even armed with iBird Pro 6 in my iPhone I didn't want to admit that I couldn't help her out, and as usual I deferred to the more experienced birders in my life during this Spring Break class trip to Yosemite. At the same time I couldn't really contain my joy at both Monica's budding skills as a birder and at her growing interest in our feathered friends. She's a bona-fide bird-nerd of the highest order and I couldn't be happier or prouder. Sure, Monica was probably born with a proclivity toward the natural world and toward animals, but if I'm being honest it's a program like the Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Internship that's nurtured what started as a kernel of interest into something that she may pursue in college and beyond. Credit for Monica's evolving interest should be spread around, but much should reside with those of Los Angeles Audubon who support the Greenhouse Program. I can't impress enough how powerful a program like this can be for our city's "at risk" youth.

My tenure in LAUSD started now ten years ago when I moved here from Seattle to join Teach For America as an English teacher. Having come to LA by way of Seattle, and before that Humboldt County in Northern California, the natural world always held special sway for me even though I was neither a biologist nor naturalist by trade. And, as a teacher, I've witnessed arguments about Nature Deficit Disorder by those like Richard Louv play out in real time, so I worked to integrate elements of the natural world into my curriculum inside the classroom and through extracurricular activities like running the campus EcoClub and working with organizations like Outward Bound Adventures, Inc. to get students off the pavement and onto the trail. Now in my ninth year at Dorsey High School, I'm more than convinced that students, especially inner-city students like mine, need nature for both their personal and academic

development. Dorsey is in a special position, as it's located less than three miles from Kenneth Hahn Park and the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. This access to parks can provide Dorsey students with the very thing they lack, green space. Though geographically close to these parks, my students don't necessarily have a "nature connection" or think of these areas in terms of ecology and conservation. Even though a brisk 45-minute walk could get most of my students to these parks, many students don't go – the lack of a car, potentially unsafe walking routes, or the obligation of weekend and afternoon babysitting obligations often serve as obstacles keeping students close to their homes and away from the parks. In addition, most Dorsey students live in apartment buildings without yards, and the few that do live in houses tend to have limited yard access. Nature is not easily accessible to them, a tragedy as alarming as any below-basic test score, and it demonstrates even more the divide that exists between students of disparate socioeconomic strata. While many see test scores, and only test scores, as the sole metric of student achievement, I find lack of exposure to the natural world just as troubling. Economically challenged inner-city students and families rarely have the time or the money to vacation in nature like their wealthier counterparts might. The Greenhouse Program tackles this disparity directly and offers a bridge that links students to nature in a way that conventional curricula might not. Being a part of the Greenhouse Program has been a high point in my career as an educator. Over the past ten years I've taught thousands of students at two different high schools in Los Angeles – I've received recognitions, awards, and been published at local, state, and national levels. I feel that I know the educational needs of inner-city students – and in particular, the urgency with which they need quality education both inside and outside the classroom.

Monica is a second year Greenhouse Intern. You've read about her research in these pages in issues past, and

while she's not a birding virtuoso yet, she's getting better by the day. Her skills are formidable, and this is no small feat for a minority inner-city high school student. Though I'm sure everyone can guess, birding is not winning any popularity contests over Flaming Hot Cheetos, Facebook, or video games among most teenagers. However, when presented with opportunities like the Greenhouse Program, like the Restoration Leader Program, like a school Eco-Club, birds can provide a point of entry into appreciation, stewardship, and in many cases, love of the natural world. Unfortunately, sciences like ecology, that can be studied in our backyards, neighborhoods, and parks, are sorely absent from classrooms across the country as well as our national dialogue about the state of the environment. After-school programs like the Greenhouse Program help connect the classroom to the real world, and most importantly, connect the students to the opportunities science affords in places where many residents don't expect it.

And, it's not just my school where the positive effects of LA Audubon's work can be found. For physical evidence and remarkable academic outcomes, look no further than the ever-growing and evolving schoolyard habitat over at Leo Politi Elementary School. For three years now I've witnessed students from Dorsey High and LA Audubon's Greenhouse Program teach Leo Politi Elementary students about ecology, lead them on bird walks, and help build the habitat that continues to attract more and more species with each passing season. That Los Angeles Audubon offers programs that support students from elementary to high school age is good news for birds and students alike. By learning from each other, the students develop respect for diversity among themselves and the species they're directly and indirectly working to protect. When I hear Monica talk unprompted about her favorite bird, the White-tailed Kite, I have hope and confidence that no matter what profession she chooses, she'll be an admirable ambassador for the environment (and birds!), and I can credit Los Angeles Audubon for helping her get there.



Robert Jeffers, Dorsey High School teacher, instructs students in film production techniques as part of the Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program's summer training session at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

ON SEEING A SUMMER TANGER IN THE GLEN IN MY YARD

by Tamar Cooper, LAAS Member

Red Bird
 could you be in
 costume Red Bird
 here I am in
 Hollywood
 could it be
 some extreme
 makeover sipping
 sipping
 at my birdbath
 Red Bird
 are you
 were you
 real
 Bright red Bird
 Red Red Bird
 I cannot get
 you out of
 my mind
 in all
 my years
 I have
 NEVER
 seen a Red Bird
 all Red
 Bright Red
 Bird
 sip,sup at
 my birdbath
 like a dream
 in
 my head



Photo © Larry Sansone

Snowy Plovers (or Not) and Beach 8, Malibu

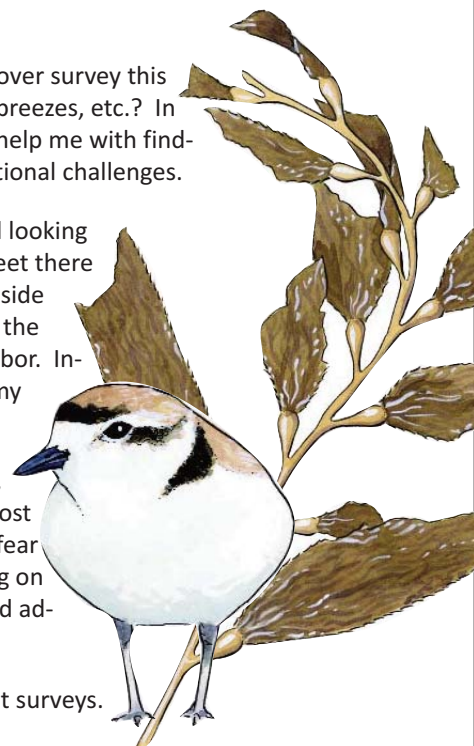
By Judy Thompson, LAAS Member

I conned my husband, an architect, into accompanying me on a quarterly snowy plover survey this past summer. Wouldn't it be nice to walk on the beach, with ample photo ops, bracing breezes, etc.? In fact at birth I was deprived of any shred of a sense of direction, and I thought he could help me with finding Beach 8, Malibu Bluffs State Park, as well as parking, access stairs, and other navigational challenges.

We set out and found Malibu Colony Drive, and then drove along a residential road looking for a beach access gate and a nearby parking space. As we made our way along the street there appeared a construction trailer with ANDO in large letters on the side. The architect beside me did a double take and jammed on the brakes. Holy cow! Is that TADEO Ando? Now the quest was not for snowy plovers, but for the fruits of this famous Japanese architects labor. Interest level in getting to the beach shot up; in fact I was left in the dust, or sand, to do my own plover investigations, while husband made a beeline for the construction site.

This was our first time at Beach 8 and we were totally unfamiliar with it. If you are, you know that even low tide is high. The waves spread up under the houses' stilts at most hours of the day, and no self-respecting snowy plover would set foot on that beach for fear of drowning. No plover sightings that day, and otherwise I saw the odd mallard bobbing on the surf and a pelican or two. But Mr. Ando's massive concrete pilings were located and admired, and the contractor granted a chat to my eager husband. All was not lost.

Suffice to say, I had no problem getting my husband back to Beach 8 for subsequent surveys.



*We are most grateful to all our many supporters and members of Los Angeles Audubon Society.
Your dues and donations help us to fulfill our mission ...*

*“Our mission is to promote the enjoyment and protection of birds and other wildlife through
recreation, education, conservation and restoration.”*

<i>Larry Allen</i>	<i>Susan Lapham</i>
<i>Martha Balkan</i>	<i>Babette Lawall</i>
<i>Richard Barth</i>	<i>Kimberly Little</i>
<i>Todd Battey</i>	<i>John Lobel</i>
<i>Marianne & Rob Bender</i>	<i>Mary Lumkin</i>
<i>Bergman Medical Group</i>	<i>Michael McLaughlin</i>
<i>John Birsner</i>	<i>Sharon Milder</i>
<i>Lorna Bitensky</i>	<i>Richard Miller</i>
<i>Joseph Brooks Jewelry</i>	<i>Susan Mogilka</i>
<i>Andrew Bunting</i>	<i>Bonita Myers</i>
<i>David Campbell</i>	<i>Sallie Neubauer</i>
<i>Hilma Carey</i>	<i>Paul Neumeister</i>
<i>Francis & Edna Chen</i>	<i>Geraldine Oasay</i>
<i>Olga Clarke</i>	<i>Geoffry Oblath</i>
<i>Julia Cotts</i>	<i>David & Joyce Oppenheim</i>
<i>Wendell Covalt</i>	<i>Linda Othenin-Girard</i>
<i>Friedrich Czech</i>	<i>Robert Pann</i>
<i>Mark & Sonya DeLange</i>	<i>The Roth Family</i>
<i>David DeLange and Emiko Horne</i>	<i>Bradley Rumble</i>
<i>Edwin Dewees</i>	<i>Raymond Schep</i>
<i>Belinda Dombrowski</i>	<i>John & Dorothy Schwarz</i>
<i>Julian & Kathy Donahue</i>	<i>Carol Selvey</i>
<i>Brack Duker</i>	<i>John Shrader</i>
<i>Roberto & Hideko Fernandes</i>	<i>Melvin Sigman</i>
<i>Grace Fernandes</i>	<i>Diane Smith</i>
<i>Mary Flicker</i>	<i>Don Sterba</i>
<i>Susan Frank</i>	<i>Pamela Stones</i>
<i>Ellen Gelbard</i>	<i>Linda & Terri Taber</i>
<i>Garry George</i>	<i>Stephen Tabor</i>
<i>Thomas Goebel</i>	<i>Jeanne Tamak</i>
<i>Karen B Haack</i>	<i>John & Marianne Thompson</i>
<i>David & Jan Haft</i>	<i>Wilson Vallet</i>
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<i>Nobuko Higuchi</i>	<i>Vintage Canvas</i>
<i>Virginia Hill</i>	<i>Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology</i>
<i>Nancy Hoskins</i>	<i>Crispin Whittell</i>
<i>John Kelly</i>	<i>Robert R Zappala</i>
<i>Therese Krentz</i>	<i>Joe Zell</i>
<i>Esther Krisman</i>	

BIRD WALKS

LAAS Bird walks are geared for the beginner/intermediate birders looking for an introduction to local birds and are interested in reducing their carbon footprint by birding relatively close to home. All are welcome, but no pets or small children, please. Appropriate for young bird watchers age 6 years and older. Binoculars are provided on some walks as noted.

For further bird walk information contact Eleanor Osgood at birdwalks@laaudubon.org or call her at (310) 839-5420.

Bird walks DO NOT require advance sign-up, just show up at the specified meeting time and place. Carpooling is encouraged, call (323) 876-0202 to provide your contact information. We will share with other birders interested in the same walk.

TOPANGA STATE PARK BIRDWALK

1st Sunday of every month

January 6 and February 3

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

**UPPER FRANKLIN CANYON
SOOKY GOLDMAN NATURE CENTER**

**2600 Franklin Canyon Dr
Beverly Hills 90210**

2nd Sunday of the month

January 13 and February 10

Time: 8:30-11:30

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 also look for south bound migrants such as warblers, vireos, and flycatchers.

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 Drive to Coldwater Canyon Dr to Mulholland Dr. Veer left on Mulholland Drive. At the next traffic signal, make a left turn onto Franklin Canyon Dr. continue to first parking lot on the left. Meet in the main parking lot for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center.

If lost the morning of the walk, call (424) 298-1376 between 8-9:00 a.m. **Binoculars provided.**

BALLONA WETLANDS BIRD WALK

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

January 20 and February 17

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. 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

KENNETH HAHN STATE RECREATION AREA

4100 S. La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles 90056

In the Baldwin Hills

3rd Saturday of the month

January 19 and February 16

Time: 8:00 a.m.-noon

Leaders: *Eric and Ann Brooks or 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 wintering birds such as Merlin, Rufous-crowned, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Binoculars provided.

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.

FIELD TRIPS



Photograph by Liz Muraoka

Mary Freeman, LAAS Field Trip Leader &
Nick Freeman, LAAS Field Trip Chairperson.

FIELD TRIPS OFTEN REQUIRE MORE DRIVING AND TIME IN THE FIELD THAN DO OUR BIRD WALKS. No pets or children under 12 please. When you sign-up by email, we will confirm your reservation and provide any supplemental trip information by email. If you do not have convenient email, you may always US Mail your reservation request and fee; include a SASE, we will mail back your confirmation. Please provide complete contact information with your day-of-event phone number and an alternate phone number (I.C.E.) Contact information will be released to others inquiring about carpooling unless requested otherwise. When carpooling, remember to offer compensation to your driver in these times of spiking gas prices.

Please support LAAS field trips with your donations. And be sure to share your photos and stories with other LAAS fans on Facebook and Twitter. [facebook.com / LosAngelesAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesAudubon) or [twitter.com / LAAudubon](https://twitter.com/LAAudubon).

Mail reservation fees to:
Los Angeles Audubon
PO Box 931057
Los Angeles CA 90093-1057

email requests:
membership@laaudubon.org

Phone reservations to:
(323) 876-0202
(leave voice message if no answer.)

Gull Study Workshop 2012

Jan. 25 - Lecture, Jan. 27 Field Trip

LIMITED SIGN-UP, 20 MAX.

\$20 WORKSHOP FEE

Lecture and Field trip NOT offered separately

RESERVATIONS: Mail \$20 fee to PO Box 931057, Los Angeles, 90093-1057. Please provide day-of-event and I.C.E. phone numbers. And provide the email address LAAS is to use to send confirmation and provide the directions.

Friday, January 25

Gull Study Workshop - Lecture

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. Plummer Park, 7-9:30 p.m., with one break. 20 maximum. This is a Ralph Schreiber Grant fund-raiser. Mail \$20 fee, phone number, E-mail to LAAS, which gets you the lecture & field trip, and e-mailer with directions. Not offered separately. Park in the south lot, so you don't get locked in.

Sunday, January 27

Gull Study Workshop - Field Trip

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 7:45 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! Maximum of 20 participants. See above to reserve lecture & field trip. Doheny Beach parking fee usually starts at 8:00 a.m. Bring a lunch. Bring a lunch.

Friday, January 4

Point Mugu NAWS

\$5 DEPOSIT BUT NO FEE, SIGN-UP (TRIP CLOSED)

Leader Matthew Page and base biologist Martin Ruane should find plenty of waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, gulls, scoters and other wintering birds to remark upon in this limited access tidal wetland area. During one visit we found a Masked Booby! Exit 101 fwy N onto Las Posas Road S in Ventura, to Hueneme Road west, to Wood Road south, across PCH, and meet in the main (#1) gate lot at 8:00 a.m. The attendance list must be submitted to the base, so sign up early; deadline December 19. Must be 16 years old, U.S. citizen, and no cameras or video recorders, please. Include in your reservation request letter, your citizenship status (U.S. only), last 4 of SS#, phone number & e-mail, full name with middle initial or NMN (to indicate no middle name), address with zip, CDL# (or other state license), and a \$5 deposit check to be refunded at the gate.

Saturday, January 5

West Antelope Valley Raptors and Less Consequential Birds

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP (10 LAAS / 10 Conejo VAS)

Louis Tucker will lead us from Quail Lake east, viewing the Antelope Valley through the warped lens of his raptor-loving mind. Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon likely, Golden Eagle possible. Wear warm clothing, bring lunch, and have a full tank of gas. Meet at Denny's at 6:45 a.m. to carpool. Take 405N to Roxford in Sylmar. Turn right, then right into the Denny's parking lot. Trip leaves at 7:00 a.m. Rain cancels. 'Scopes and FRS radios helpful. Joint LAAS / Conejo Valley AS trip – sign up with LAAS.

Saturday, January 12

Newport Back Bay

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Meet on the boardwalk along the NW bay at the "Sharp-tailed Sparrow Spot" accessible from the end of University Drive (small street) at 8:00 a.m. for the 6.7' high tide (highest weekend of the season), and a full day of birding in the area. High tide at the mouth is 8:53 a.m., but may not peak in the back bay until after 9:30 a.m. Three rails, American Bittern; Nelson's Sparrow and Short-eared Owl (both rare) will be target birds. Eurasian Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, California Gnatcatcher, and American Bittern expected. Take the 405 Fwy S to the 73 Toll Road (free this far) to the Campus Dr. exit, which becomes Bristol St. Turn right on Irvine Ave., drive 1.4 miles, then turn left on a small street called University Drive. Park at the end, walk down the hill, over the bridge, and to the end of the boardwalk. Bring lunch. Spotting scopes helpful.

Saturday, January 19

East Antelope Valley

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leader: *Stan Gray*. We will be birding beyond 50th Street East for much of the day, in areas sometimes neglected by birders. However, Stan knows some spots where Mountain Plover, raptors, LeConte's Thrasher and other AV specialties can be easier to find than in the west valley. Take Hwy 14 N to Avenue H, proceed east to 110th Street East, and meet Stan at this corner at 8:30 a.m.; or carpool at the west end of the Park-and-Ride just to the east of the Avenue S offramp (next to Lake Palmdale), and leave here about 7:45 a.m. to meet Stan and the others at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch and a full tank of gas for a full day of splendor in the alfalfa. No fee, no reservation. 'Scopes and FRS radios on 11-22 helpful.

February 2 & 3 Weekend

Carrizo Plain

FEE: \$20, LIMIT: 16

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman* and *Matthew Page*. 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. Joint LAAS / CVAS trip. Limit: 16.

February 9 & 10 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 and Gila Woodpecker all possible to certain. This is 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. We may visit Fig Lagoon near El Centro on Saturday. Calipatria Inn 800/830-1113, Brawley Inn 760/344-1199, 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.

Sunday, February 17

Ventura County Game Preserve

NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP

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. Get to the preserve by taking the 101 Fwy W to Rice Avenue S, following the Rice Ave. prompts to the T-intersection, then take Hueneme Rd. west just past the buildings on the right. Meet on the side of the road at 7:30 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.

Saturday, February 23

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.

Saturday, March 2

Bonelli Regional Park

NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP

Leader: *Rod Higbie*. Bonelli Regional Park is a remarkable island of habitat. It contains extensive coastal sage habitat, along with a large lake surrounded by parkland. Birds regularly seen in the past include California Gnat-catcher, Cactus Wren, dancing grebes, and occasionally Golden Eagle. 200 other species throughout the year. From LA, take the 10 or 210 Fwy east towards San Dimas to the top stretch of the 57 Fwy. Proceed N from the 10, or S from the 210 on the 57 Fwy to the Via Verde exit just N of the 10/57 interchange (at the bottom of Kellogg Hill). If coming from the N, turn left onto Via Verde, and left into the "Park and Ride" lot. If coming from the S, take the Via Verde offramp and proceed Rt. to the "Park and Ride" lot on the Rt. We will meet here at 7:30 a.m. to carpool since there is a \$10.00/car park entrance fee. Rod will continue after lunch if there is interest. There are picnic tables and facilities. Bring lunch, if you plan to bird past noon.

Sunday, March 17

Ventura County Game Preserve

NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP

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 shorebirds for this date. Get to the preserve by taking the 101 Fwy W to Rice Avenue S, following the Rice Ave. prompts to the T-intersection, then take Hueneme Rd. west just past the buildings on the right. Meet on the side of the road at 7:30 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.

March 23-24 weekend

**Anza Borrego Birds, Wildflowers, Insects, and More
\$20 LAAS FEE / \$40 FOR NON-LAAS, LIMITED SIGN-UP**

Leader, *Kurt Leuschner*, is a Professor of Natural Resources at College of the 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. 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 due to rainfall but there is always something interesting and exciting to see and it's a beautiful time of year to be in the Lower Colorado Desert and Julian. The sunrises and overall scenery are 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 downtown Borrego Springs and next to Carlees. This is NOT the same as the State Park Visitor Center. We will 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. Expect pleasant to hot days, cool to cold nights (40-100 degree range).

**April 20 & 21 Weekend
Owens Valley Grouse Trip**

\$55 FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP, 20 Max.

Mary and Nick Freeman lead. Greater Sage Grouse on the lek, Sooty Grouse, Chukar, Swainson's Hawk, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, breathtaking scenery, more shore-birds and other migrants. Mary's 22nd year leading! Meet early Saturday and Sunday mornings in Bishop up Hwy 395, at Jack's Restaurant. Limited to 20. To sign up, send \$55 (Schreiber Grant fundraiser), phone#, and e-mail to LAAS. Reserve rooms early. Motel 6, Mountain View Inn, Bishop Elms are some of many hotels in Bishop. More details in e-mailer.

**Saturday, May 4
South Bay Parks**

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leader *Dinuk Magammama* visits many of the South Bay parks regularly, including Madrona Marsh where he works. Colorful warblers and other passerines should headline. Dinuk will visit Alondra Park, Madrona Marsh, Sand Dune Park, and Wilderness Park if time allows. Start and finish at Alondra Park, for carpoolers. To get here, get yourself from the 405 Fwy to Redondo Beach Blvd. heading east. Turn left (N) into the large parking lot at Yukon Avenue, turn right and park by the concrete walkway. Walk just to the lake, where we will meet at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, especially if you might carpool, as we may bird until 3:00 p.m.

**May 11 & 12 Weekend
Mojave Area**

SIGN-UP REQUIRED, NO FEE, 12 Max.

Leaders: *Nick & Mary Freeman*. Western warblers and flycatchers should headline. Reptiles may be encountered! Saturday: Take Hwy 14 about 4 miles past Mojave, then turn right on California City Blvd. Drive through town about a mile past the shops, turn left into the golf course parking lot past the fenced driving range. Meet here at 6:30 a.m. Sunday: Veer right heading north out of Mojave, take Hwy 14 for about 20 miles over the river bed to Jawbone Canyon Road on the left, and meet right at the turnoff at the ranger station parking lot at 6:30 a.m. We will carpool to Butterbredt Springs, and finish the day at California City or Piute Ponds. LAAS sign-up mandatory. 12 max. Bring lunches, sun block. Reserve rooms (Motel 6 or other) in Mojave.

**Saturday, May 18
Small Owls of the San Gabriels**

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP, 10 Max.

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. We will be looking for Flammulated, Saw-whet, Northern Pygmy and Western Screech-Owls. Sign up, and meet at the bottom of Angeles

Crest Highway at 5 p.m. Take the 210 Fwy to La Canada, exiting at Angeles Crest Hwy, turn uphill, and turn right into the second small street, and quickly left onto the ACH frontage road. Meet along the first 50-yard stretch, fed and gassed up. Bring quiet cold weather gear (no nylon if possible), a small walking flashlight, binoculars, powerful flashlight optional. LAAS telephone / e-mail sign-up mandatory. 10 max.

**July 4-7 Long Weekend
Camp Nelson Cabin Owling**

**SIGN-UP (6 MIN / 8 MAX), \$100 – BUDGET PRICED!
(3 NIGHTS CABIN, 1 HOT DOG BBQ DINNER, & OWLS INCLUDED)**

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Camp Nelson is above Porterville in the southwest Sierra. Owling by night, bird walks by day! Must be a night owl. We usually see (yes, see) Flammulated, Saw-whet, and Spotted owls. Days wandering in the Sequoias are delightful. We are still shopping around for a cabin, and are hoping to get one that sleeps eight. Our first dinner will be potluck, others provided or eat out. Tentatively meet Friday 3:00 p.m. at the cabin (directions pending), finally leaving the mountains late Sunday morning. More details in flyer. To reserve, send phone, \$100 check for cabin, and e-mail. 8 sign-ups max. including leaders. The leaders pay too, to bring this price to you! No small children or pets, please.

Note: Bob Barnes has retired from leading his always-popular Southern Sierra Breeding Bird trip. We will miss you Bob!



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February 15-18, 2013
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16TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Counting by 2012
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January 9, 2013 — Program Presentation

Steve Rothstein presents:

“THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS AND ITS DIVERSITY

The Galapagos Islands is one of the most intact ecosystems in the world because it has been exposed to human contact for a very short period of time. It is of course, also a virtual showcase for evolution and biodiversity and a place naturalists and even tourists in general want to see. Visits to the Galapagos Islands have traditionally been based from mostly small boats with visitors going ashore onto various islands for a while each day. But if you are prone to seasickness, this way of seeing the islands can be a real challenge. Recently lodges have become established with tour services providing

speedboat trips between lodges on different islands making visits a lot easier for those who do not want to spend long periods on small boats. This talk will describe this new way of seeing the islands, which also provides visitors with more freedom of movement while on the islands. The talk will also discuss recent evolutionary research on the islands and new threats to this unique assemblage of unique plants and animals. Lastly, the talk will address the dilemma of whether the ever growing number of visitors eager to see the islands' unique biodiversity are essentially loving the Galapagos to death because people of course have impacts wherever they go.



LOS ANGELES AUDUBON'S EVENING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

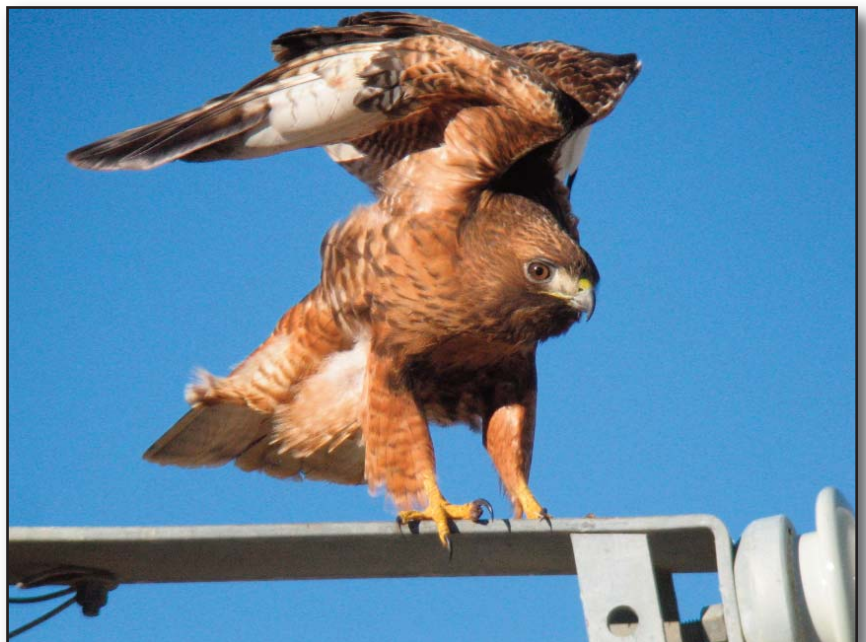
*Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and are over at 9:30 p.m. All are welcome! Meeting location:
AUDUBON CENTER AT DEB'S PARK 4700 N Griffin Ave., Los Angeles CA 90031 (323) 221-2255*

February 13, 2012 — Program Presentation

Pete Bloom presents: “MIGRATION PATTERNS OF THE RED-TAILED AND RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS

Pete Bloom will be showering us with new findings of patterns of vagrancy, initial migration patterns, and natal dispersal in our coastal Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks.

Pete has been banding raptors for over 20 years and much of that work was performed in Los Angeles County, namely the Antelope Valley. His many years of studies will be discussed in his talk.



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Northern Cardinal by 2012 GBBC Participant Michele Black



THE 2013 GBBC TAKES PLACE FEBRUARY 15 THROUGH FEBRUARY 18.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Create a GBBC account. Beginning in 2013, the GBBC will be integrated with eBird--a worldwide bird data collection program used for keeping track of your personal bird records and bird lists. The change means you must create a free GBBC account in order to enter your bird checklists, even if you have participated in the GBBC before. It also means you will be able to access all your GBBC observations and eBird observations under a single account. If you're already registered with eBird, you can use the same login information.
2. Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day for each new location or even from the same location. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you saw during your count period.
3. Enter your results on the GBBC website (or eBird). You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklists!" on the GBBC website home page beginning at 7:00 AM Eastern time (U.S.) on the first day of the count. See our downloadable instructions below for additional details on entering your checklists via your GBBC account. If you already use eBird, please continue using eBird to submit your sightings but be sure to enter at least one checklist during the GBBC weekend!

Visit birdcount.org to learn more.