

Los Angeles Audubon Society | laudubon.org

WESTERN TANAGER

November/December 2015 | Volume 82, Number 2



116TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS | PRESIDENT'S END-OF-YEAR APPEAL | SCHREIBER GRANT CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



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

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

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ON THE COVER

My interest in nature was instilled very early, as I grew up surrounded by small streams, woodlots and resident critters on my father's 133-acre dairy farm in southwestern Wisconsin. Some of my very earliest bird-related memories include (1) flushing a covey of recently hatched Ruffed Grouse frantically scrambling after their worried mother, (2) hearing the curiously loud calls of resident Ovenbirds, (3) listening to summertime Whippoorwills calling faintly in the distance at dusk, and, (4) under ultra-dark nighttime skies crowned by the Milky Way's steady glow, hearing the odd whinnying of Eastern Screech Owls and eerie screams of juvenile Great Horned Owls. At the time, such observations were nothing special to me; after all, didn't most people have similar sights and sounds in their backyards?

On a memorable autumn day in the 1960's, I first used binoculars to look at birds in my father's woods, and I was awestruck by the sudden sight of a flock (!!!) of Golden-winged Warblers. I still recall the exact spot: Lat-Lon = 43.734157, -90.366467 (from Google Map). That started a quest for finding other colorful migrants, and it wasn't long before I started keeping track of my "new" species in a Golden Field Guide (Robbins et al.).

None of my rural WI acquaintances were at all interested in birds other than as game quarry, and I met my first genuine birders while away from home, in Pasadena. On a bulletin board I saw a brief notice for a pelagic trip out of San Diego, and after looking up "pelagic", I signed up. On that trip I met Shum Suffel and many others, so then my serious birding finally began.

Photography became more important to me during my Peace Corps years in Kenya, East Africa, where I took about as many film photos of game park animals as I did of birds (among my favorites were



Worm-eating Warbler on Dec 28, 2014, 115th CBC | Photo by Don Sterba

Lilac-breasted Roller and Blue-shouldered Robin-chat). I now carry a digital camera mainly to record birds I find that may require more reliable documentation than I can store in my limited organic memory.

I took the photo of a Worm-eating Warbler on Dec 28, 2014, during last year's LA CBC, using a Canon EOS 7D camera with a Canon EF 100-400mm IS lens. This is only the 2nd time that a WEWA has been recorded on the LA count.

Don Sterba
Culver City

THE BIRDS OF LOS ANGELES NEED YOU.

Become a member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society to directly help the birds of our region. Your membership supports the organization's efforts in the following areas:

- **RECREATION** Join other members of the local birding community on field trips, bird walks and trips for the beginning to advanced birder. Join us at the beach, the mountains and places in between.
- **EDUCATION** Our outdoor education program has become a national model. Thousands of urban youth gain valuable insight into local ecosystems, including the Ballona Wetlands, the Baldwin Hills and their own school yard habitats. Our research grants support university students in biology and environmental sciences. Our lectures, workshops and acclaimed *Western Tanager* newsletter serve nature lovers throughout Los Angeles.
- **CONSERVATION** Los Angeles Audubon Society leads Los Angeles County in citizen science to monitor and protect habitat for birds and other wildlife through federal, state and local policy, programs and partnerships. We help resolve conflicts between urban populations and wildlife via education, advocacy and action.
- **RESTORATION** Our revitalization projects are transforming urban wastelands, parklands and school yards into prime habitat for birds and wildlife. Our Audubon at Home program helps Angelenos create native plant gardens which attract and support birds.

Individual membership only \$25 per year. Join today at: laaudubon.org

President's End-of-the-Year Appeal

By Margot Griswold, Los Angeles Audubon Board President and Education Chair

It's been a busy year for Los Angeles Audubon. We are so grateful to our program chairs for our monthly program at Debs parks, our four monthly bird walks throughout Los Angeles, as well as the special birding workshops (Gull Identification and Bird Photography), and field trips (Anza Borrego, Salton Sea, Carrizo Plain, southern Sierras and Owens Valley). None of these excellent programs/field trips would be possible without your great effort. Additionally, members and students contributed to the Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count, and the newest event, Bird L.A.

Our exemplary elementary and middle school education programs would not be possible without the many volunteer docents and college interns that led 5,000 students over the past year in meaningful outdoor education activities from central Los Angeles to the Ballona Wetlands. But let us not forget our Los Angeles Audubon staff, keeping all the parts of our education and conservation activities moving.

We are also proud of our community volunteers and student interns for their accomplishments improving open spaces and restoring vital habitat for birds - from the Baldwin Hills to the Pacific Ocean. Over the past 12 months, 469 volunteers have worked 1407 hours to clear 294 30-gal bags of weeds and debris, planting over 3,000 native plants. But we're not done yet! Our work continues within the parkland of the Baldwin Hills. And we've got exciting new plans for a re-imagined schoolyard habitat at Esperanza Elementary School which will be LA Audubon's second schoolyard habitat project following the success of native habitat that we helped to grow at Leo Politi Elementary School.

As an LA Audubon member, your contribution is so important in helping us to continue our conservation and education work. Los Angeles deserves to have a healthy and thriving environment where birds, wildlife and people can thrive.

Please renew your membership today and keep these important programs moving forward.

You can renew or make a donation at:

<http://losangelesaudubon.org/index.php/donations>

Our total End of the Year donations will be matched up to \$75,000, so make your money count double! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Dr. Margot Griswold

Los Angeles Audubon Board President and Education Chair

P.S. Here are a few of the ways that LA Audubon will put your money to work, investing in habitat for birds and educating the next generation of conservationists.

<https://magic.piktochart.com/output/8413894-los-angeles-audubon-invest-in-nature>

Los Angeles Audubon Society Receives Disney Conservation Grant

Los Angeles, CA, September 21, 2015 - **Los Angeles Audubon Society** has been awarded a **\$25,000** grant from the Disney Conservation Fund (DCF). The conservation grant recognizes **Los Angeles Audubon's** efforts to promote the conservation of the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover on Los Angeles County beaches through outreach and community-based science that engages local people.

"Los Angeles Audubon is dedicated to the long term success of the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover monitoring programs. Disney's support allows us to continue our efforts, working with coastal agencies and community volunteers, in monitoring of species, maintaining protection of nesting and wintering areas, and educating the public on these at-risk bird species," said Dr. Margot Griswold, president of Los Angeles Audubon's Board of Directors. Los Angeles Audubon will utilize the grant funds to engage volunteers of all ages in trash removal and habitat restoration at the Venice Beach nesting site of the Least Tern, and provide training and coordination for local community members to serve as tern monitors throughout the spring and summer months. Our outreach/education team - comprised of biologists, staff, interns, and trained volunteers - will engage hundreds of public school students and community members in presentations, field trips, and guided walks focused on the conservation of these beach-nesting bird species.

The Disney Conservation Fund focuses on protecting wildlife and connecting kids and families with nature. Since its founding in 1995, DCF has provided more than \$30 million to support conservation programs in 115 countries. Projects were selected to receive awards based upon their efforts to study wildlife, protect habitats and develop community conservation and education programs in critical ecosystems.

For information on Disney's commitment to conserve nature and a complete list of 2015 grant recipients, visit www.disney.com/conservation.

About **Los Angeles Audubon Society**

The mission of Los Angeles Audubon is to promote the enjoyment and protection of birds and other wildlife through recreation, education, conservation and restoration. An important strategic goal is to provide after-school environmental education targeting under-served youth and their communities in the urban core of greater LA. We protect birds and their habitat through citizen science volunteers to monitor and protect, through public education and docent programs, policy and planning advocacy, and litigation when necessary.

Visit www.losangelesaudubon.org

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INTERPRETING NATURE

A (Mostly) Native Garden

By Joyce Realegeno, Greenhouse Program Alumni, and Stacey Vigallon, Director of Environmental Education

If you've been a reader of the *Western Tanager* over the past few years, then you'll recognize Joyce Realegeno. A graduate of the Baldwin Hill Greenhouse Program in 2011 and a UC Santa Cruz grad as of just this past summer, Joyce has continued to work with Los Angeles Audubon on plover and tern projects, as well as habitat restoration and environmental education. In this issue's Interpreting Nature column, Joyce talks about how she and her family undertook their own "Kill Your Lawn" project, inspired by the comic book that Joyce helped create when she was in our program...

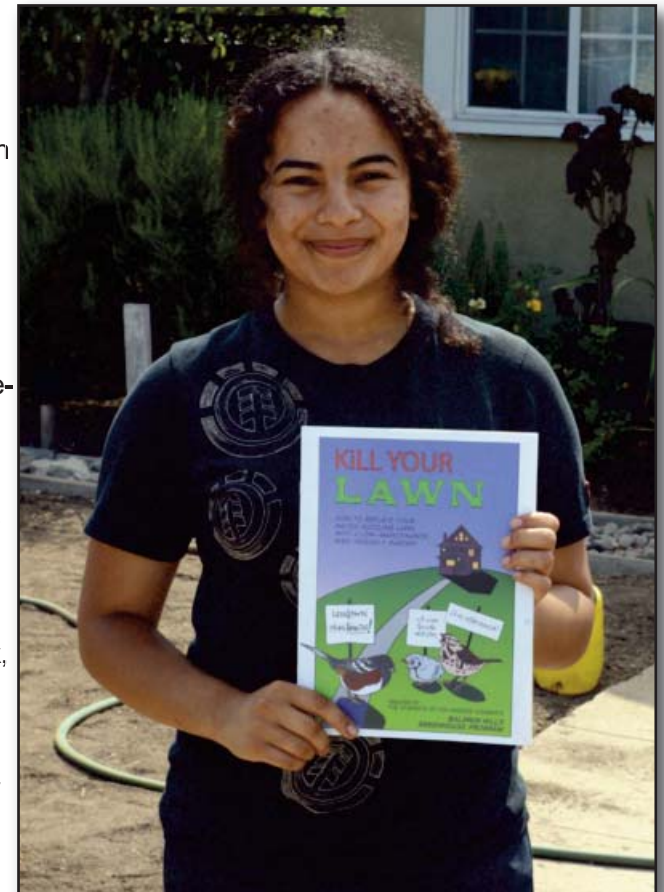
The summer after I graduated high school, I worked with a group of peers on Los Angeles Audubon's *Kill Your Lawn* comic book. It was a year-long venture, spending the months in school refining as well as discovering art techniques that worked and looked the best. Each of us were assigned a specific page of the comic book detailing different beneficial aspects of replacing lawns with native gardens. Around the same time that I was working on the art project, my father had stopped watering our front lawn because it was too expensive to maintain. As much as he loved the green grass, it was easy to see that our water bill was incredibly high because of it. Once the grass began to dry up, my sister began digging it out and for a few months, we had two medium sized plots of mostly soil in our front yard.

After the publication of the comic book I left for UC Santa Cruz to start my first year as an undergraduate. The idea of planting natives in the front yard never really struck until the following summer. My sister and I started brainstorming all of our options - my parents had a large collection of mostly decorative plants (that

they were given) in the backyard, so we figured the least expensive option was to just plant them in front. Although a lot of the work that I did prior to graduating high school revolved around native plants, creating a native garden in our front yard was simply out of reach financially. We were working with about an eighty-dollar budget. And, that was without asking our parents (my dad in particular) because they already had all of the bills and mortgage to worry about.

During the previous year the yard mostly resembled a cat litter box of extremely dry soil, but Los Angeles Audubon presented an opportunity to turn it all around. The following summer, the Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program donated plants so we could start a native garden. Stacey Vigallon and Robert Jeffers took me on a trip to the Theodore Payne Nursery in Sun Valley to purchase native plants. I remember feeling pretty lucky because some of them were on sale, so I was able to buy more. When we came back, they helped my family and I place them into our yard. Nothing had been planted since removing the grass, so a lot of the ground was compacted and really hard to dig out. During the process my dad went out to buy two fruit trees to place in the middle of each plot. And, finally after a few hours of digging and watering the new plants in, the garden had been planted.

Although the idea seemed grand, my parents were skeptical about whether the plants were going to live through the summer. We watered about two or three times a week up until I went back to UC Santa Cruz in mid September. I told my parents to keep watering them until they seemed a little stronger, and shortly after that I realized I couldn't really call the garden my own.



Greenhouse Program alumna, Joyce Realegeno, holds up the Kill Your Lawn comic book that she helped create. [photo credit Robert Jeffers]



The ReaLegeno's front yard in summer 2012, on the day the native plants were installed. [photo credit Robert Jeffers]



Joyce installs her native plants in the front yard, summer 2012. [photo credit Robert Jeffers]

In the very beginning I would work in the yard as often as I could. For the comic book, I worked on the page that was dedicated to wildlife, and it wasn't until I saw a worm while I was weeding that the image of the garden really took hold. When everything was being planted in, the yard was completely devoid of life. As my parents began calling to tell me about the garden, they would also talk about the number of hummingbirds that would visit the fuchsia, or the mockingbird who always pecked at our cat, Randy. During the calls, the first comment my dad would make would be about how much the plants were growing— every time with more and more excitement in his voice.

When I visited for holidays or extended weekends, I could see how much effort my parents had been putting into the garden. They added mostly decorative plants they had in the backyard, a few more plants that were given to them, and even red mulch. They now collect rainwater in buckets in the backyard, and they have a small bucket in the shower: whatever water is gathered goes to the fruit trees that need it more. The garden is completely theirs. Since finishing school, I've had to consult my dad before I trim any of the plants. I now mostly make suggestions or occasionally add a native plant wherever I can. He'll occasionally ask about spider or bird species that he sees, so I'm considering buying field guides in Spanish for them.

Our yard isn't a completely native garden— more like two thirds native and a third non-native, with a sprinkle of fruit trees. And that's okay! It provides some wildlife habitat, some food for my family, and a haven away from the stresses of the inner city. Almost like a personal pocket park. It's incredibly cherished and although it's not 100% native plants, it's firmly grounded in its ties to environmental and social justice in my neighborhood. 🐦



The ReaLegeno's front yard as of October 2015. The front garden is a mixture of California native plants, fruit trees and non-native decorative plants. [photo credit Joyce ReaLegeno]



The ReaLegeno's front yard in summer 2012, on the day the native plants were installed. [photo credit Robert Jeffers]

Young Authors

Volunteering at the Christmas Bird Count — You never know what bird you'll find

By Dessi Sieburth

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is an annual event around Christmas time that I always look forward to. I did my Christmas Bird Count with LA Audubon Society at Griffith Park, and I also volunteer to count birds with other Audubon chapters. I sign up for a specific area with my Audubon chapter and count all birds within that area. I mark the birds I see or hear in a checklist. The CBC is an annual program run by the National Audubon Society. It is a bird census that depends on many volunteers. Thousands of volunteers in the US, Canada, and many other countries go out and count birds in a 24 hour period. The CBC is important because it helps bird conservation. From the CBC data, scientists can find out about changes in bird populations. They are especially interested in declining species. Thanks to the collected data, conservationists can take actions to help birds that need protection. Participating in the Christmas Bird Count is also a lot of fun because it is a great way to bird the same area every year or try a new area. It is also an excellent opportunity for beginner birders since they can team up with expert birders. I always learn something on the CBC, and it is a great way to participate in a citizen science project.

You never know what birds you'll find. Three of my favorite species I've seen on the CBCs I did are Green heron, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Red-shouldered Hawk. These birds can easily be missed on a count due to their secretive, low abundance, and by simply being overlooked. Green Herons are tool using birds and they are found in marshes and wetlands. They are one of the few herons that have been known to lure fish in with bread and worms. Green Heron used to be called the Green-backed Heron and was considered a single species with Striated Heron and Galapagos Heron. This small heron has yellow feet, a rusty neck, and a dark cap. In spite of its name, there is not much green on the Green Heron, and its name does not describe it well.



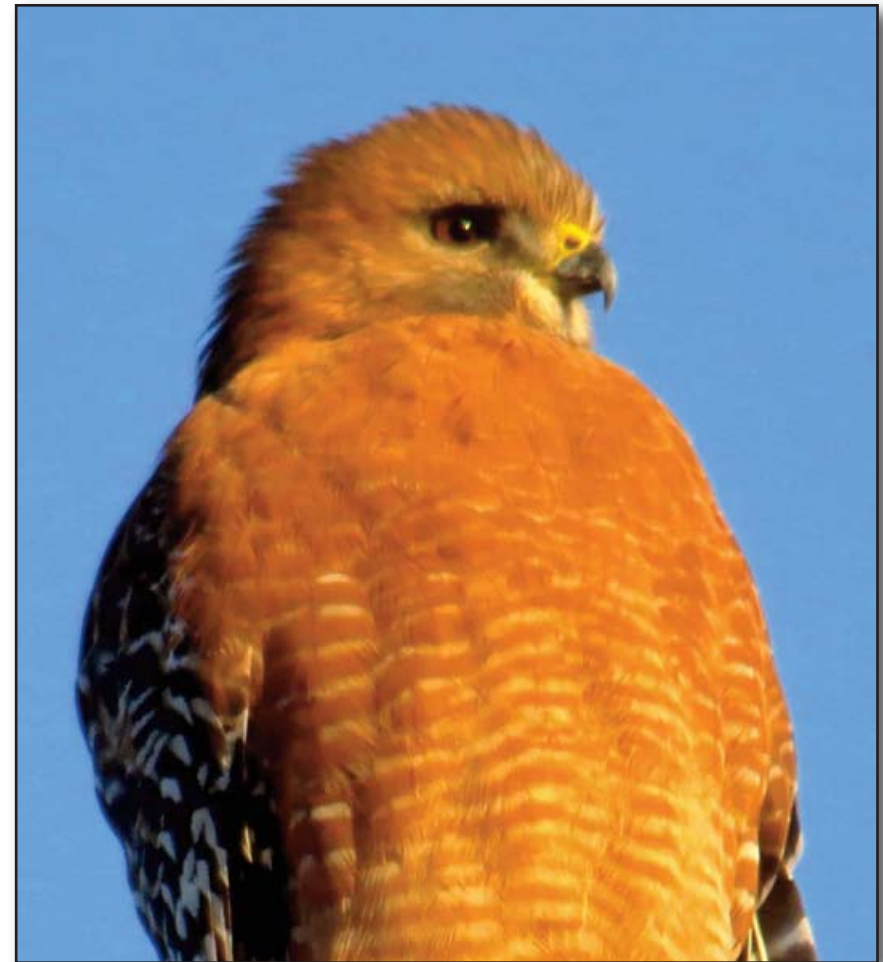
The Green Heron is one of my favorite birds found on the CBC. | Photo by Dessi Sieburth

It is always a treat to see a Red-shouldered Hawk on the CBC count. It is a raptor of riparian areas. There are 5 subspecies of the Red-shouldered Hawk. The California subspecies is brightest, the Eastern subspecies is slightly paler, and the Florida subspecies is palest. The Red-shouldered Hawk can be identified by its rufous shoulder patches, reddish underparts, and a boldly striped tail. They mainly eat small rodents, but they can also eat frogs, snakes, and birds.

The White-breasted Nuthatch is often found in open areas with large trees. This small bird loves to climb upside down on the trunks of trees. They have been recorded to store nuts in the bark of trees. There are 4 subspecies, which will very likely get split into 3 or 4 species soon. The subspecies vary mainly by voice. Nuthatches get their name from their habit of putting nuts inside the bark of trees, and then whacking them to “hatch” the seed out of the nut. White-breasted Nuthatches can be identified by their back cap, short tail, and gray up-parts.



White-breasted Nuthatch | Photo by Dessi Sieburth



Red-shouldered Hawk | Photo by Dessi Sieburth

None of these bird species are dramatically declining, however, many bird populations are declining greatly. Spotted Dove and Loggerhead Shrike are examples of greatly declining birds in Los Angeles County. It is important to collect data on bird populations. The CBC count is an excellent tool to get information about bird numbers to scientists. The success of the CBC and much of the future of our birds depends on people who volunteer for the CBC. 🦅

NATURE CORNER

The Western Spadefoot Toad: Poster Child (Amphibian!) for Past, Present and Future

By Cindy Hardin, Director of Outdoor Education

One of the most inspirational projects of Los Angeles Audubon's education division is the creation of a native habitat area at Leo Politi Elementary School. A 5,000 square foot patch of Bermuda grass was removed and replaced with native plants.

The hilly nature of the site allowed for the creation of a seasonal, or vernal pond. These rain-fed ponds were found all over the Los Angeles Basin less than two hundred years ago. The Western Spade Foot Toad was a denizen of this habitat, and although the site at Leo Politi is way too small to host this species, it is a great springboard to start a discussion about what our region was like in the not too distant past. What follows is a teaching aid created for the teachers at Leo Politi. Learn about this very interesting amphibian, and take the quiz afterwards to see if you are "smarter than a fifth grader"!



The Western Spade Foot Toad, although not "mega-fauna" by any stretch of the imagination, is certainly charismatic to me! How about that smile?




The black spots on each back leg are the "spades" that the Toad uses to dig its burrows. The Western Spade Foot Toad will back up to the ground, and use its hind legs to dig a hole for itself that can be up to three feet deep.

The Western Spade Foot Toad (*scaphiopus hammondi hammondi*), once found throughout the state of California, is a species whose numbers have radically decreased due to human impact on its habitat. The toad's life cycle and habits enable it to survive successfully in our Mediterranean climate. Unlike many other amphibians, the Western Spade Foot Toad can survive for months on end without water, and is in fact a largely terrestrial animal. This toad uses aquatic habitat strictly for reproduction and during the tadpole stage, most often breeding in seasonal or vernal ponds. The rest of its life is spent in burrows underground, which can be up to three feet in depth. They can remain in these burrows for eight to nine months, emerging only to mate and replenish themselves adequately to return to the torpor like state assumed when residing in their burrows. The seasonal pond at the Politi habitat is a great springboard to discuss and learn about the Western Spade Foot Toad.

- The toad takes its name from the glossy black spade shaped formation on the back of each hind leg. Like a spade, this feature helps the toad to dig a burrow that will be his shelter for the majority of his life cycle. The toad favors habitats with loose, sandy soil, which makes it easier for him to dig. This is the kind of fast draining soil that is characteristic of our coastal sage scrub habitat.
- The Western Spadefoot Toad is primarily nocturnal, which helps to prevent dehydration when it does emerge from its burrow. Its skin is quite porous, which enables it to absorb moisture while underground.
- The breeding sites of this species are usually vernal ponds and temporary rain pools. Water must be present in the pond for at least 30 days for the tadpoles to grow large enough to transform into adult toads. However, if the water remains in the pond for a longer period, the tadpole will delay transformation, taking advantage of the conditions to grow bigger and acquire more fat. Those tadpoles that have a longer period in the pond generally have a better rate of survival. The short-lived nature of these ponds is actually helpful to the toad's survival; the water is not present for enough time for native and non-native predators to establish.
- Adult toads spend on average eight to nine months in their burrows, emerging one to two days after a heavy rain to breed. Their breeding season is usually from February to Late May. While out of their burrows they eat voraciously, consuming insects, worms and other invertebrates. They love grasshoppers, ladybugs, moths and worms. They can consume 11% of their body weight in one sitting. This prodigious eating enables them to survive extended periods underground, at which time they do not consume food or water.
- In order to have a successful breeding preserve and prevent inbreeding it is thought that a minimum of 132 acres is required.
- During dry years the toads may skip breeding altogether. Most toads live through two rainy seasons before they are mature enough to breed.
- The Western Spadefoot Toad was once abundant in California. The diversion of water and depletion of groundwater for agriculture and other human needs has destroyed much of their habitat. Periodic drought has also impacted their breeding sites.

QUESTIONS

- 1) If a toad weighs 28 grams, how much (in grams) can it consume in one feeding session?
- 2) How has the alteration of the landscape by man changed the population of the Western Spade Foot Toad? Has it helped the species or harmed it? How?
- 3) In order to have a successful breeding population of Western Spade Foot Toads a minimum of 132 acres is required. The Habitat at Leo Politi is approximately 5,000 square feet. How many habitats the size of the one at Politi would need to be joined together to create a successful preserve?
- 4) If one of these toads stays out of its burrow past sunrise, what could happen to the animal?
- 5) Could one of these toads dig a burrow for itself in the Politi Habitat? In what parts of the area would the soil be loose enough for the toad to successfully burrow?
- 6) How long would there have to be water in the vernal pond for the tadpoles to reach maturity? 

Ralph W. Schreiber Ornithology Research Awards for 2016 Call for Applications

By Ryan J. Harrigan, Grants Committee Chairman



The Los Angeles Audubon Society presents an annual research grant, the Ralph W. Schreiber Ornithology Research Award, to support research relevant to the biology of birds. Award recipients are limited to students and amateur ornithologists with limited or no access to major granting agencies and who reside in southern California (from San Luis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino Counties south) or are currently enrolled in a southern California academic institution. There is no geographical restriction on the research area.

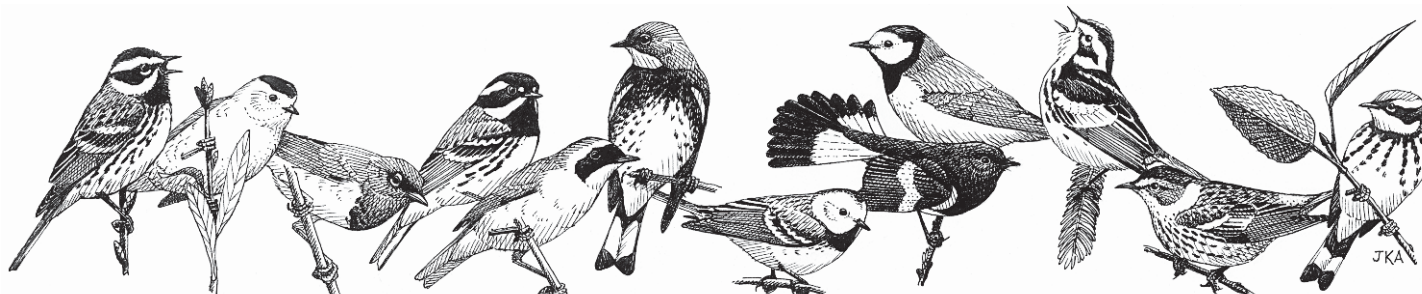
One or more awards will be given out in 2016. Between \$1500 and \$5000 are awarded each year. The application deadline for the 2015 Research Award is January 1, 2016; grants will be awarded in April, 2016.

To obtain further details and application materials:

Download the materials from the Society's website: www.laaudubon.org
Go to Main Menu, Environmental Education, Schreiber Research Grants

Contact:

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Birds of the Season — October 2015, By Jon Fisher

We all know that change is constant and inevitable — some is good, some not so good. For local birders nothing offers change of the good kind like fall migration. Of course in this context “fall” is loosely defined... beginning in early summer and lasting for six months. That long period sees birds of every type heading south, or west, or even north in some cases.

Given typical August and September temperatures in the southwest, it's hardly surprising that many passerines migrate by night. This strategy takes advantage of cooler temperatures and generally calmer conditions, both of which reduce the energy required during flight.

The hot days are put to best use resting and feeding and this also benefits birders, as it makes migrants easier to find. But flying at night has its perils: striking wires and buildings, flying off course or out over the ocean are not unusual occurrences.

Regular coverage of San Clemente Island — especially in fall — has produced a remarkable number of vagrants. The island is ideally located to attract south-bound birds that have missed the eastward bend of the California coastline and find themselves over the ocean. The concentrative effects of such migrant traps- islands, points of land on the coast, or oases in the desert- can be impressive.

Even strategically placed city and county parks can be quite good. They offer shelter, water and food for tired

migrants. Apollo Park near Lancaster, the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail in Lakewood, De-Forest Park in Long Beach and Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia were all good this fall.

While this period in 2013 was marked by an incursion of Blue-footed Boobies and 2014 was the year of the Varied Thrush, not surprisingly neither species was reported the following year. Whether cyclical or apparently random, these irruptions rarely occur in consecutive years.

This summer, Cedar Waxwings and Yellow-rumped Warblers arrived earlier than normal. By October there was a definite though not overwhelming movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets into the lowlands.

While good numbers of shorebirds were present, this group turned in a rather lackluster performance as far as vagrants were concerned. In fact no truly “high end” rarities of any kind were found during the period, but a good number and variety of expected vagrants definitely kept things interesting.

What was likely the same **Eurasian Wigeon** seen well into last spring — and may have summered locally — was again at Hansen Dam from August 31-September 2 (Kimball Garrett). A definitely summering **Canvasback** continued on the lower LA River through September 12.

Early **Common Mergansers** included three along the

San Gabriel River north of Azusa on September 13 (David Bell), three at Hansen Dam on September 14 and two more along the LA River in Glendale on September 25 (Kimball Garrett).

A **Common Loon** that spent the summer at Quail Lake near Gorman was reported through August 27. Two **Horned Grebes** at Entradero Park in Torrance on September 21 were early and away from expected areas (David Moody).

Always of interest in the county was a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** at Cortez Bank on September 10 (Gilbert Bouchard).

Brown Boobies were present in above average numbers with up to ten reported between September 6 and October 6. Far more unusual was a **Red-footed Booby** found in distress at the Redondo Beach pier on September 13. This bird was taken to rehab and doing well a month later. This occurrence was coincident with increased numbers in California waters this summer.

An **American Bittern** was at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB on September 19 (Frank & Susan Gilliland, Dessi Seiburth). Also at Piute was a **Least Bittern**—one of the few ever found at this seemingly suitable locale on August 16 (Bruce Aird, Steve Sosensky). Another **Least Bittern** was at the Sepulveda Basin on September 30 (Mike Stensvold). The **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** first found in June in the Ballona Area continued through October 4.

Bird of the Season cont'd.

Bald Eagles were at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas as early as September 30 (Rod & Pat Higbie) and in Redondo Beach on October 7 (Margarita Lee).

Always scarce on the coastal slope, and earlier than expected, was a **Ferruginous Hawk** over Pasadena on September 25 (David Bell). At least two more were seen with a large group of Turkey Vultures over Pasadena on October 7 (Luke Tiller).

Constituting only the second record for the Antelope Valley was at **Black Turnstone** at the Lancaster Water Treatment Plant ponds on August 22 (Mike Coulson, Kerry Morris, Jim Moore, Becky Turley).

Rare but occasional in fall was a **Pacific Golden-Plover** at the Ballona Creek Mouth on October 11 (Amy Williamson, Mark & Janet Scheel). Rather scarce as a migrant in the county was a **Red Knot** along the LA River in Long Beach on October 5 (Richard Barth).

A **Sabine's Gull**, rare away from the open ocean, was on the LA River in Long Beach on September 25 (Richard Barth).

White-winged Doves were at Colonel Leon H. Washington Park in Los Angeles on September 3 (Tom Miko), at Apollo Park near Lancaster from September 12-19 (Darren Dowell) and at El Dorado Park in Long Beach on October 7 (Karen Gilbert). A **Common Ground-Dove** continued at the Linden H. Chandler Preserve on the Palos Verdes Peninsula through October 8 (Philip Carnehl).

Quite rare in the county were **Short-eared Owls** over Hollywood on October 3 (Zach Smith) and offshore in the San Pedro Channel on October 3 (Kimball Garrett).

Foreshadowing what may be a decent winter for this species locally were five **Lewis's Woodpeckers** at Mt. Wilson on October 3 (C. Star), three at Oak Park Cemetery in Claremont on October 11 (Tom Miko) and two at Griffith Park on October 14 (Dan Cooper).

A **Least Flycatcher** was found on San Clemente Island on October 2 (Justyn Stahl), while far more regu-

lar **Gray Flycatchers** were at Wheeler Park in Claremont on August 16 (Tom Miko), at DeForest Park in Long Beach on September 12 (Jeff Boyd) and at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia on October 5 (Tom Wurster).

On the early end of expected arrival dates was an **Eastern Phoebe** at Peck Road WCP in Arcadia from October 3-6 (Jon Fisher).

About a half dozen **Vermilion Flycatchers** were recorded on the coastal slope, but the most noteworthy report was just the third ever recorded on San Clemente Island on September 18 (Justyn Stahl).

A **Tropical Kingbird**, probably a returning wintering bird, was at El Dorado Park in Long Beach from October 3-7 (Kim Moore).

Over a half dozen **Plumbeous Vireos** on the coastal slope between August 30 and October 12 was an above average number for a species that is more expected later in the year.

Seven **Pinyon Jays** at Chilao in the San Gabriel Mountains on October 1 was quite interesting, especially given a number of unconfirmed reports in the past few years (Christopher Rustay).

Regular as a migrant on the desert but scarce on the coastal slope was a **Bank Swallow** on the lower LA River in Long Beach on August 24 (Richard Barth).

Quite a decent selection of wood-warblers was found during the period, with a few nice highlights among the more usual vagrants. In addition to our eleven regulars, another sixteen species were recorded over the period for a total of twenty-seven varieties.

Northern Waterthrushes were at Hansen Dam near Lake View Terrace from September 1-2 (Kimball Garrett), at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia from September 19-20 (Jon Fisher) and along the LA River in Glendale on September 25 (Kimball Garrett).

In the rare but regular category were over a half dozen

Black-and-White Warblers recorded between September 3 and 25.

A great find was a **Prothonotary Warbler** at the West SGR Parkway Nature Trail in Lakewood on September 12 (Jim Roe, Jon Dunn).

San Clemente Island produced a **Lucy's Warbler** present from September 5-6 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers, Ben Sandstrom). **Virginia's Warblers** were at Hahamongna Watershed Park in Pasadena from August 28-September 6 (Darren Dowell), at the West SGR Parkway Nature Trail on September 14 (Jon Feenstra), at Creek Park in La Mirada on September 16 (Jonathan Rowley) and on San Clemente Island from September 17-20 (Ben Sandstrom).

Tennessee Warblers numbered about a half dozen between September 1 and October 3, while **American Redstarts** were found in Santa Monica on September 9 (Luz Plauzoles), on San Clemente Island on September 10 (Justyn Stahl), in Lakewood at the West SGR Parkway Nature Trail on September 13 (Larry Schmahl), at Lancaster City Park in Lancaster from September 24-25 (Trina Jones) and in Palmdale on October 4 (Kimball Garrett).

A **Northern Parula** was at Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale on October 10 (Andrew Lee) and **Magnolia Warblers** were found at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve in Van Nuys from September 17-20 (Larry Schmahl), at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area in Baldwin Hills on September 20 (Frank & Susan Gilliland, Dessi Seiburth) and near Cal State Dominguez Hills on October 12 (John Thomlinson).

At least six **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were reported between September 7 and 27, with the most interesting one being along Barley Flats Road in the San Gabriel Mountains on September 27 (Brad Rumble). This record is a reminder that we shouldn't restrict fall vagrant hunting to lowland hotspots.

About a half dozen **Blackpoll Warblers** turned up between September 11 and October 6, while **Palm Warblers** were notably absent thus far.

Bird of the Season cont'd.

A serendipitous find was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Pacific Palisades from October 2–6 (Larry Schmahl). **Prairie Warblers** were at Apollo Park near Lancaster from September 4–9 (Jon Fisher) and on San Clemente Island from October 2–5 (Justyn Stahl).

Quite unusual in the county was a **Canada Warbler** at the productive San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail in Lakewood from October 9–12 (Andrew Lee).

Two **Painted Redstarts** at Kenneth Hahn SRA on September 25 were remarkable in being together at the same place and time (Randy & Polly Ehler).

A **Green-tailed Towhee**, likely a returning bird, was at the West SGR Parkway Nature Trail in Lakewood on September 10 (Andrew Lee).

About ten **Clay-colored Sparrows** were found between September 10–October 8 and a handful of **Black-throated Sparrows**—scarce but regular fall migrants on the coastal slope—were noted between August 29 and October 6.

A **Lark Bunting** was on San Clemente Island from September 10–22 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers).

Rarely detected in migration were **Grasshopper Sparrows** at Hahamongna Watershed Park in Pasadena on August 26 (Darren Dowell) and at Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale on September 22 (Amy Williamson) with either the same or a new bird seen there on October 12 (Jon Feenstra).

The only **White-throated Sparrow** reported thus far was in Lakewood from October 9–11 (Andrew Lee).

The odd **White-crowned Sparrow** summering at the Sepulveda Basin in Van Nuys was reported through September 3, while early fall arrivals included one at the Piute Ponds on September 6 (Wayne Martin). By late September of course they were ubiquitous in the lowlands.

Rare in the county was a **Dark-eyed “Pink-sided” Junco** at the Rancho Sierra Golf Club in the Antelope Valley on October 4 (David Bell). Care is required to

separate this type from the common and variable regular “Oregon” type juncos.

Summer Tanagers numbered about six between August 22 and October 9, all being found on the coastal slope.

The over half a dozen **Indigo Buntings** found between August 16 and September 23 was an expected number, but more interesting was a female **Painted Bunting** at the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail in Lakewood from September 10–13 (Andrew Lee). Males of this species are regularly kept in captivity and thus inevitably have their origin questioned. This is far less an issue with the drab female and immature birds however.

Dickcissels were at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia on September 13 (Darren Dowell), along the San Gabriel River at Valley Blvd. from September 23–26 (Jon Feenstra).

A **Bobolink** was at Pepperdine University in Malibu on September 12 (Dan Cooper) and another was at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia on September 13 (Darren Dowell). Subsequently, up to three were at Peck through September 20 (Amy Williamson) and another was along the San Gabriel River at Dunlap Crossing from September 20–25 (Larry Schmahl). The last report was of one in the Wilmington Drain on September 28 (Philip Carnehl)

Yellow-headed Blackbirds included one along the LA River in Long Beach on August 30 (Darren Dowell) and four at Lake Balboa in Van Nuys on September 24 (Mike Stensvold, Kate Rogowski). A **Baltimore Oriole** was at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area from September 13–14 (Ann & Eric Brooks).

It has already been a productive fall, and with more to come. Even as the passage of passerine migrants comes to a close, lingering and wintering passerines will continue to be found. This is just one of the benefits of our mild climate.

Waterfowl will still be on the move into December and our inland deep water bodies of water will be


good places to check for possible Red-necked Grebes or Barrow's Goldeneye.

But at this point as we're still in the thick of autumn migration, it's hard to imagine that Christmas Bird Counts will begin in about six weeks. Our local counts — especially Los Angeles, Pasadena and Malibu — have produced many rarities over the years. Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Red-necked Grebe, Marbled Murrelet, Kentucky Warbler and many others have been found. While the Lancaster CBC doesn't enjoy the mild weather and resulting species diversity of the aforementioned counts, it has nevertheless produced a number of notable Antelope Valley records.

These CBCs produce a wealth of data on the bird life within their fifteen mile diameter circles. They also concentrate bird-finding efforts in a specific area for a single day and thus regularly turn up birds that otherwise might have gone unnoticed.

Participating in these counts is always enjoyable, as well as a worthwhile venture into the realm of citizen science.

All the data from Christmas Bird Counts is available online and is just one component of the wealth of resources available to birders today. Field guides and other published references have proliferated in recent decades. The online site Xeno-Canto offers a vast library of bird recordings and there is a seemingly endless supply of photographs at our fingertips. In addition there is mind-boggling array of optical and camera gear at the ready to help us both see and document birds.

The scant resources available when I first began birding seem laughable by comparison. Yet in the end, while all of these sources of information are useful, good birders know that there is no substitute for spending time in the field simply watching and listening to birds. 



Field Trip Listings

Nick Freeman, Field Trip Chair

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
Phone: (323) 876-0202

Please leave voice message if no answer.

Saturday, November 14

Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge SIGN-UP REQUIRED, NO FEE

Refuge volunteer John Fitch, our own Nick Freeman and a refuge manager will drive up to 20 lucky participants around this prime limited-access wetland / agricultural site where throngs of wintering shorebirds and numerous raptors are seen. Nelson's (Sharp-tailed) Sparrow and Pacific Golden-Plover are usually sighted. The refuge is part of the Naval Weapons Station. Must now send ZIP Code, first, middle-initial & last names, DOB, e-mail and home phone number, cell ph# optional but helpful; by November 6. Only LAAS-confirmed individuals of U.S. citizenship with photo ID allowed on base. No weapons, camera OK. Meet at the main public lot at 800 Seal Beach Blvd. at 8:00 a.m. for a high tide of about 5.7 feet around 9:38 a.m., and bird until noon. Take Seal Beach Blvd. S from the 405 Fwy, pass Westminster Blvd., turn left onto the base at the Forrestal Lane light, and left again into the lot (800 Seal Beach Blvd, Seal Beach). Spotting scopes and FRS radios helpful.

Saturday, November 28

San Jacinto NWR and Lakeview Area NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leaders: Nick and Mary Freeman. Little Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gulls (2!), Short-eared Owls (2!) seen on past trips may not be back this year; but surely something will take their places, such as the Iceland Gull and Gyrfalcon seen here in recent years (but not on our trip)! Take the 10 or 60 Fwy E to the 215 Fwy S, exit E at Ramona Expressway, continue E just past Perris Blvd., and meet at the Farmer Boys Restaurant on the S side of the road (145A Ramona Ex-

pressway, Perris). Leave from here at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, warm clothing and footwear for possible mud. We will try to carpool to defray the \$10 entrance fee for Lake Perris, if we go there.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS!

Originally started in 1900 by Frank Chapman, this will be the 116th Christmas Bird Count – the oldest continuous wildlife survey in North America! Originally only 25 counts, including Pacific Grove in California, there are now over 1,700 counts worldwide - mostly in the US and Canada – with over 45,000 participants. This huge database of information is frequently used to assess the health of bird populations, to help guide conservation efforts, and to better understand issues of habitat and our environment in general. All counts occur between December 14 and January 5 on any given year. CBC's were standardized in the late 1950's, and now typically have a 15-mile diameter. It's hard to find an activity that combines conservation and the fun of birdwatching quite as seamlessly. Some do 2, 3, even 4 counts!

Saturday, December 19

Lancaster Christmas Bird Count

Contact compilers Nick and Mary Freeman at: (818) 636-4361 or mnfreeman@earthlink.net to be placed on a team or be given an area. Christmas Counts are the ultimate

Sunday, December 20

Malibu Christmas Bird Count

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

Sunday, January 3

Los Angeles Christmas Bird Count

Contact compiler Daniel Cooper at: dan_cooper_90042@yahoo.com to be matched up with a team or a survey area.

Saturday, January 9

Tejon Ranch

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP REQUIRED (12 Max)
Leader: *Louis Tucker*. Visits to the Ranch are by special arrangement with escort only, as one could easily get lost on the web of gated dirt roads covering this huge working ranch. Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk all likely in the rolling hills of the ranch. California Condor and Lewis' Woodpecker also possible. Bring lunch, as we will be out most of the day. Take the 5 Fwy. north to the Roxford St. turnoff, and meet at the Denny's in Sylmar visible off the east side of the freeway (12861 Encinitas Ave., Sylmar). Be prepared to depart from here at 7:00 a.m. High clearance vehicles recommended, as we will carpool into these and ranch vehicles at the ranch. Rain cancels. Limit: 12 participants only. Please register with LA Audubon by phone (323) 876-0202 (or email to susancastor@laaudubon.org) and provide phone number, e-mail, high clearance Y/N, #spare passenger seats. FRS radios and scopes useful.

Sunday, January 24

Newport Back Bay #2

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE, NO LIMIT
Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Meet on the wooden boardwalk along the west side of the bay accessible from the end of University Drive (small street) at 7:30 a.m. for the 6.0' high tide (one of the higher tides of the season), and a full day of birding in the area. High tide at the mouth is 8:49 a.m., and may not peak in the back bay until after 9:25 a.m., but we want to be in position when birds flush to higher ground. Ridgway's Rail (previously some of the Clapper Rails), Sora, American Bittern, Eurasian Wigeon, Blue-

winged Teal and California Gnatcatcher are expected. Nelson's Sparrow and Short-eared Owl (both rare) will also be target birds. 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 (2301 University Dr., Newport Beach), walk down the hill, over the bridge, and to the end of the boardwalk. Bring lunch. 'Scopes and FRS radios helpful.

January 30 & 31 Weekend

Carrizo Plain

FEE: \$20, LIMIT: 16
Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Meet at 8 a.m. in Maricopa. Spectacular scenery. We will see Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Golden Eagles, LeConte's Thrasher, Merlin and pronghorn; with possible Rough-legged Hawk, Mountain Plover and Sage Thrasher. We will meet in Maricopa (vacant lot at 800 Stanislaus St., west of Shell station on south side of Hwy 166), drive around the Plain all weekend, then leave the Plain heading north via Bitterwater Road on Sunday before we away to LA. If possible, please carpool or avail your vehicle to others when you reserve. Your phone number will be released for carpooling unless you request otherwise. Mail reservation fee to LA Audubon, PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041-8301 and provide your Name, phone number, \$20 per person, and e-mail address for exact directions and further information. Net profits go to the Schreiber Grant Fund. Reserve your own room in Buttonwillow for Saturday night. Motel 6 is one option here. FRS radios & 'scopes helpful. Limit: 16.

February 20 & 21 Weekend

Salton Sea

FEE: \$10, SIGN-UP REQUIRED, NO LIMIT
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 by phone or email susancastor@laaudubon.org. Provide your e-mail and cell ph# for more details. Meet at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at Cattle Call Park south of Brawley (just downhill from 550 Cattle Call Drive, Brawley). Calipatria Inn (800) 830-1113, Brawley Inn (760) 344-1199, and Americas Best Value Inn in Westmorland (760) 351-7100 are recommended. Arrive fed with full tanks, and bring lunches and snacks. Those who wish will eat together Saturday night. Mail reservation fee to LA Audubon, PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041-8301, Provide: Name, e-mail, \$10 fee, and cell phone # if possible. FRS radios & 'scopes helpful.

Sunday, March 6

Ventura County Game Preserve

NO FEE, NO SIGN-UP, NO LIMIT
Leader: *Irwin Woldman*. The private duck hunting club in Ventura has a long history of producing the kinds of birds that most rich, well-birded and disappearing habitats can lay claim to, including Virginia rails, American Bittern, occasional Ruff, Solitary Sandpiper, and single Lesser Sandplover and Wood Sandpiper. Emphasis on this date will be late raptors and waterfowl, with shorebirds starting to move through. Get to the preserve by taking the 101 Fwy W to Rice Avenue S, following the Rice Ave. prompts to the T-

intersection terminus, then take Hueneme Rd. west (Rt.), take the first left turn, Casper, to the end, proceed through the gate and park across the street from the barn (6500 Casper Road, Oxnard). Meet here at 8:00 a.m. We will walk the property, so good hiking/mud shoes with energetic legs inside a plus. We may have one car. Scopes & FRS radios helpful. There is a slight chance of cancellation, so please check the LAAS website for trip status the day before.

March 19 & 20 Weekend

Anza-Borrego State Park

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

Leader: *Kurt Leuschner*. Peak time for both wildflowers (did somebody say El Niño?) and Swainson's Hawk migration! Caravan from the Colorado Desert up to Julian, with short forays to take in the sights and the wildlife. Kurt is a professor of desert ecology, and knows all of our deserts very well. Reserve your accommodations at Hacienda del Sol, Stanlund Motel or others in Borrego Springs months early! Meet at the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association (652 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs). Reserve the trip by mail with \$20 LAAS / \$40 non-LAAS fee; cell #, and E-mail address to LAAS. Mail reservation fee to: LA Audubon, PO Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041-8301. More details later.



GULL STUDY WORKSHOP

\$20 FULL WORKSHOP FEE

LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 20

Friday, February 5 — 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. This is a Ralph Schreiber Grant fundraiser. Mail \$20 fee, phone number, E-mail to LAAS, which gets you the lecture & field trip, and e-mailer with directions and details. NOT OFFERED SEPARATELY. Private residence in Altadena, from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m., with one refreshment break. 20 maximum.

Sunday, February 7 — FIELD TRIP

Leader: *Larry Allen*. Put your new knowledge to use in the field, perhaps even identifying immature California & Ring-billed gulls as they fly overhead! Meet in the field at 8:00 a.m. and ogle the gulls until we're all gull identification experts! Location will be confirmed during the lecture. We will likely go to Doheny State Beach in Orange County (34422 Park Lantern, Dana Point; then turn right into main the lot, and meet in SW corner by San Juan Creek). It is a fair drive to Doheny, but we have had large numbers of gulls on our workshops here, including Glaucous Gull twice, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull once! Maximum of 20 participants. See above to reserve lecture & field trip. Doheny Beach parking fee. Bring a lunch. NOT OFFERED SEPARATELY.

Mail reservation fee to:

LA Audubon, P.O. Box 411301, Los Angeles CA 90041-8301

NOTE: Provide your email address for confirmation email with directions and details.

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
November 7 & December 5
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 or call (310) 301-0050 if you have any questions.

Topanga State Park Birdwalk

1st Sunday of every month
November 1 & December 6
Time: 8:00–11:30 a.m.

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

Directions: FROM VENTURA BLVD: take Topanga Canyon Blvd 7 miles S. Turn E uphill on Entrada Rd. Follow the signs and turn left into Trippet Ranch parking lot. FROM PACIFIC COAST HWY: take Topanga Canyon Blvd. 5 miles to Entrada Rd. Parking fee. **Contacts:** Ken: (310) 455-1401, ksafarri@aol.com Chris: (310) 455-1270

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

4100 S. La Cienega Blvd
Los Angeles 90056
3rd Saturday of the month
(Except for July and August)
November 21 & December 19
Time: 8:00–noon

Leader: *Dick Barth*. This trip covers landscaped parkland, a lake and natural coastal scrub habitats and is paced for beginning birders. We will look for the birds of the Coastal Sage Scrub such as Spotted Towhee, California Towhee and Song Sparrow. The lake attracts herons, egrets, comorants, ducks as well as an Osprey. We will also look for wintering birds such as Hermit Thrush, Merlin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Fox Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow.

Directions: The park entrance is off of La Cienega Blvd. between Rodeo Rd. and Stocker St. After passing the entrance kiosk (\$6.00 parking fee) turn left (leading to the “Olympic Forest”) and park in the first available spaces.
KHSRA, 4100 S LA CIENEGA BLVD, LOS ANGELES 90056 | **Binoculars provided.**

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 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.

Upper Franklin Canyon Sooky Goldman Nature Center

2nd Sunday of the month
November 8 & December 13
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. Also expect to see some winter birds such as Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Fox Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow. This canyon is a hidden treasure where the surrounding urban residences of Sherman Oaks and Beverly Hills disappear from view. Meet in the lower parking lot of the Sooky Goldman Nature Center and bird for a few hours in the cool of native trees and creek.

Meet in the main parking lot for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center.

Directions: FROM THE 101 FREEWAY: follow Coldwater Canyon Blvd. south for several miles to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive (traffic signal). Make a 90 degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. There is NO sign indicating the entrance to the park; the turn at Franklin Canyon Road reads “Road Closed 800 Feet” and “Sunrise to Sunset” — this is the

park entrance; do NOT make a U-turn as this will take you onto Mulholland Drive instead of Franklin Canyon. Take Franklin Canyon Dr. down to park entrance, turn at first left into the parking lot.

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

Ballona Wetlands Bird Walk

3rd Sunday of the month
(Except December)
November 15
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