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WESTERN Tanager



Japanese Sparrow Hawk | Photo by Chukiat Nualsri



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The Western Tanager is the chapter newsletter of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, published online bi-monthly in PDF format, Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, July/Aug. Articles, letters drawings and photographs concerning conservation, birding, chapter activities, and articles of interest to the membership are welcome for submission. Please send copy as Microsoft Word, RTF documents, or plain text files to westerntananger@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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2018 END-OF-YEAR APPEAL

By Carol Babeli, Los Angeles Audubon's Development Director



Los Angeles Audubon Society needs your support each and every year to help conserve species, promote stewardship, educate and advocate for nature and wildlife preservation.

Each year, your donation advances species conservation efforts. For the second year in a row, snowy plovers nested on beaches in Los Angeles County! Two plover chicks fledged at Dockweiler Beach and two plover chicks fledged at Malibu Lagoon Beach this past nesting season. And, with your help, we restored beach habitat at the 7.7 acre protected tern colony at Venice Beach. Your contribution, along with hundreds of community volunteer hours makes this Los Angeles Audubon Society work possible.

Generous donations from members like you enable us to expand our education programs which now serve more than 5,000 students, grades 3–12, and community college, with experiential environmental learning, science illustration, youth mentoring, habitat restoration, and college

preparatory programs across Los Angeles. We are committed to providing academic enrichment in environmental science to both students and teachers in under-served communities.

Your donation connects local youth to environmental career opportunities. Emily Cobar — an alumna of Los Audubon Society's Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program, and a Los Angeles Audubon Society staff member since 2015, has been working on community connections to nature since her high school days. In the summer of 2018, Emily was accepted to the *ee360 Fellowship Program*, a new initiative led by the *North American Association for Environmental Education* that connects and promotes leaders dedicated to advancing environmental literacy for everyone. Los Angeles Audubon Society encourages interns to return as alumni between college breaks and then possibly become staff members/leaders in the very program where they once were students.


Your donation supports advocacy efforts. On June 20th, our youngest staff member, Arely Mendia-Perez, attended Advocacy Day at the Sacramento State Capital to meet with Audubon chapters from all over the State to discuss important bills that we were trying to get approved and passed. Participants had a debriefing about the bills and which bills each Audubon chapter would be advocating with a Senator or Assembly person. Each bill represented important issues and proper solutions that would benefit the community, including wildlife and nature.

NOW more than ever, your donation is needed to ensure that our work in species conservation, environmental education and advocacy continues.

Please include Los Angeles Audubon Society in your giving plan this year and every year.

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We THANK YOU for your generous and ongoing support!

Los Angeles Audubon Society 

HAWK MOUNTAIN OF THAILAND

By Linda Oberholtzer | Photos by: Chukiat Nualsri

Kao Dinsor, a raptor watcher's paradise, is near the town of Pathiu, which lies about 20 km northeast of the beach town of Chumphon. It is the Hawk Mountain of Thailand. A display at the bottom of the mountain has photographs of the birds that can be seen once you reach the top. There is now a Raptor Study Center at the site.

Jungle-like forest growth overshadows the pathway as I hike up the mountain. The path is rather steep and I'm glad I borrowed two hiking sticks to climb up. A porter carries our food and drink up the mountain for our lunch. The best time to raptor watch is between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Gulf of Thailand lies to the east and the Isthmus of Kra is to the west.

The trail winds its way through the vegetation. We come to a clearing where there are some shelters and a flat area to observe. Here, a group is already congregating. I hear a commotion from fellow birders and look up in the sky. A Booted Eagle swooshes by very low so I can see its markings closely. It has a magnificent 3.9 wingspan. Wow!

What a photographer's dream! With the light at your back throughout the day, the birds are easy to photograph. Hawk Mountain has offered to train Thai students and others in bird identification skills. The best time to visit is between mid-September to early November.

As I continue to train my binoculars skyward, I am rewarded by seeing thousands of birds form kettles in the sky. There is a local guide with a large telescope, which he trains on various hawks, so we can see the markings clearly.

Soon there are Japanese Sparrowhawks, Shikra, Crested Serpent Eagles, Pied Harrier, Eastern Marsh Harrier, Besra, Black Kites, Black Baza, Jerdon's Baza, Chinese Sparrowhawk, Oriental Honey Buzzards, Common Buzzard, Eurasian Hobby, Greater Spotted Eagle, Grey-faced Buzzards everywhere you turn.

There is a birding group from Malaysia here. Each birder is carrying a camera with a giant lens. "Shikra" cries one. Click click click go the cameras.

I sit down on a bench which is nicely shaded by a shelter where birders can rest between sightings. Our guide, Chintana, has brought up a cooler containing an ice-cold watermelon. This is very refreshing. Derick and Roy from our group share slices of watermelon with a British couple who come here every year for the migration.

Tassanee takes out a portable electric fan. Although it is fall in Thailand, it is still very humid and hot.



We find out about the history of Khao Dinsor during our break:

Chukiat Nualsri is the one who discovered an overlook that was well suited to watch the south-bound migration of raptors. The area became known to locals as Khao Dinsor or “Pencil Hill” and is near the City of Chumphon.

Nualsri noticed that raptors could be seen at close range from many different locations at Khao Dinsor. Many different raptors of different species migrate close to the ridge.

The Thai Raptor Group soon became involved and agreed that this was one of the best places to observe raptors in Thailand, if not all of Asia. With the consent of the village and major funding from Governor Karan Supakitvilakarn of Chumphon Province, wooden shelters were built to offer protection from the rain and sun, and a paved road was constructed from the main road to a level area.

Based on preliminary observations, the south-bound autumn migration is more than 790,000 raptors and at least more than 30 species, including five Accipiter species, the highest number of Accipiter species of any site in the World.

Robert DeCandido, PhD., Hawk Mountain intern graduate has worked extensively with raptors in Thailand and has been instrumental in connecting young conservationists with Hawk Mountain and its conservation science internship program.

Khao Dinsor is near the town of Pathiu approximately 25 km northeast of Chumphon. From Bangkok you can fly to Chumphon from the Don Mueang Airport (old airport) to Chumphon for about \$75.00-100.00. It is a one-hour flight. Khao

Dinsor may be accessed from the main north-south road, Highway 4 (Petchkasem Highway or the King’s Highway. Find the Tha Sae junction to the north of Chumphon and turn into the well-marked road 3180. Travel towards the coast on this road for 15 km until you reach the sign for ‘Pathio, Chumphon Airport’ and turn left onto Highway 3201; follow the 3201 for 5 km. A large wat (temple) on the left is the landmark for the Dinsor Hill about 500 m beyond. The Khao Dinsor sign is on the left with an access road which twists and turns up the hill for roughly 2 km to a large car park. You may park here or drive for another 150m until the road ends. You can park there. Nearby, a narrow concrete trail leads into the forest. It is a 45-minute walk to the top, although there are a number of observation points along the trail, some of which have wooden shelters that provide protection from sun and rain. Remember to bring water and sunscreen. Please take all your garbage—there are no receptacles (and no toilet facilities) along the trail.

If the Raptor Center is open there are facilities at the bottom of the mountain and you might be able to find a coffee. Otherwise, you need to bring all food and drink with you,

Accommodations can be found at several of the beach resorts along the coast, as well as in Chumphon City. The Novotel Hotel in Chumphon is very reasonable, although English isn’t spoken too much there. It has beautiful grounds near the beach and there is a pool. Popular with birders is to stay in the village of Thung Wua Laem, ten kilometers to the south, where several guesthouses and small restaurants are found along the beach. Chumphon is also a great place to snorkel and see the Whale Sharks in March and April. 🐋



THE RUFA RED KNOT: A LONG DISTANT MIGRANT DEPENDS ON THE DELAWARE BAY

By Dessi Sieburth



Red Knots at the Delaware Bay, photo taken during Camp Avocet. (Photo by Dessi Sieburth)

From July 28th to August 3rd, 2018, I attended Camp Avocet, a camp for young birders run by the American Birding Association (ABA). The Camp is stationed along the southern shore of the Delaware Bay. Late summer is a prime time to see migratory shorebirds, and during our six days at Camp Avocet, our main focus was to observe shorebirds in and around the Delaware Bay. The Delaware Bay, shared by Delaware and New Jersey, is considered one of the four most important shorebird migration stops in the entire world. Every spring (April and May) and fall (July to September), tens of thousands of shorebirds stop along the Delaware Bay to feast on the eggs of horseshoe crabs laid along its shore.

One of the species that depends on the

Delaware Bay as a stopover location during spring and fall migration is the rufa subspecies of the Red Knot. This subspecies has an incredible migration, breeding in the arctic tundra of northern Canada and wintering almost entirely in Tierra del Fuego in southern Argentina. This journey of nearly 9,000 kilometers is almost entirely taken over the open ocean with just a few stopover sites. During the northbound migration, the Delaware Bay is the knot's last stop before flying straight to the arctic for breeding.

In the late 1980's the population of the rufa Red Knot was estimated at 90,000 birds, nearly all of which came to the Delaware Bay to feed on the horseshoe crab eggs every spring and fall. However, beginning in the mid-1990's, birders started notic-

ing a dramatic decline in the number of knots wintering in Tierra del Fuego. In 1997, only 41,855 birds remained. Just six years later, in 2003, surveys in the Tierra del Fuego showed the population to be at just 16,255 birds. Clearly, there were some major threats to these birds, but where were they coming from?

As it turned out, the threats came from the Delaware Bay itself. In the 1990s, fishermen began harvesting young horseshoe crabs, which made perfect bait for catching conch and fish. In the late 1990's, up to two million crabs a year were being harvested. This decline in the horseshoe crab population meant fewer eggs for the knots to feed on. Each horseshoe crab lays 100,000 eggs, which are buried in the sand. The knots only gain access to the eggs that were inadvertently dug out by other crabs when laying their own eggs. Therefore, a large density of crabs is needed to provide enough food for Red Knots to sustain their migration. In 2004, scientists feared that the rufa Red Knot would become extinct within six years due to their drastic declines.

Bill Stewart, director of Camp Avocet had witnessed this decline firsthand when birding the Delaware Bay and did not want to see such a beautiful bird vanish. He was determined to reverse the declines of the Red Knot by protecting the Delaware Bay from horseshoe crab harvesting. In 2007, he took action and decided to raise money to buy shoreline so that it could be made off limits to crab harvesting. To raise money, he organized a bir-dathon in Delaware and New Jersey in which teams of birders would identify as many species as possible in a 24-hour day. The shoreline purchased was



Red Knot in flight in New Jersey, photo by Kevin Karlson



Horseshoe Crabs and eggs in hand, Photos by Greg Breeze/USFWS

made part of Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. In the first year the birdathon raised \$28,076 in donations, and in the 11 years since, has raised over \$400,000 and has protected 1,279 acres of the Delaware Bayshore habitat. Since the reproductive cycle of the horseshoe crab is six years long, it took time to see an increase in the Red Knot population. Surveys in 2011 in Tierra del Fuego counted 9,850 birds, and in 2017, surveys recorded 13,127 birds. However, in 2018, the population decreased by 25 percent to 9,830 birds, probably as a result of the exceptionally cold waters in the Delaware Bay that led to a poor year for the crabs.

Thanks to efforts like Bill Stewart's, we were able to see a couple hundred Red Knots along a beach in New Jersey across from the Delaware Bay. Seeing the rufa Red Knots, which are still listed as threatened, was one of the many highlights at Camp Avocet. On our first day at camp, one of the camp counselors spotted a Great Cormorant sitting on a pole in the Delaware

Bay. This Great Cormorant was just the second summer record for Delaware! Shorebirds at Camp Avocet did not disappoint, and by the end of camp, I had seen 23 species of shorebirds! Other highlights for me included nesting American Oystercatchers, Piping Plovers, and of course, American Avocets. The plovers were especially a treat to see since they are endangered due to increased development and recreational use of beaches.

We don't know yet if the Red Knot numbers will increase in the future, but the Delaware Bay is an example of how conservation efforts can protect shoreline, providing hope that Red Knot can be saved. To learn how to help birds please visit my website <https://protectingourbirds.my-free.website/>.

Special thanks to the American Birding Association for providing me with a scholarship and Pasadena Audubon Society for providing me with a grant to attend Camp Avocet. 🐦



Red Knot in breeding plumage. (Illustration by Dessi Sieburth)

INTERPRETING NATURE

Connecting Science and the Spirit of Nature

By Arely Mendia Perez, Restoration & Education Staff Member; Stacey Vigallon, Director of Environmental Education

Our guest author for this issue's Interpreting Nature column is Arely Mendia Perez. Greenhouse alumni and current LA Audubon staff member, Arely is back to give readers another great book recommendation.

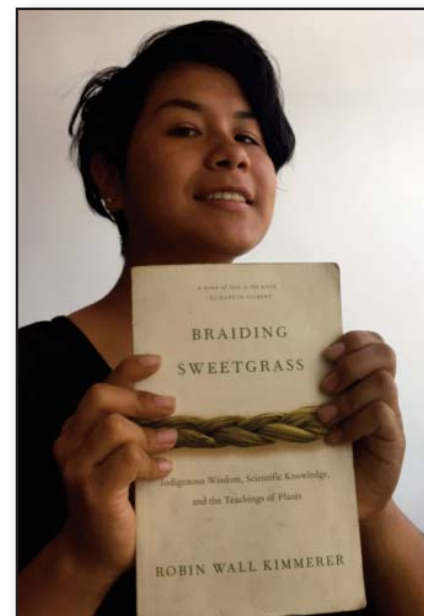
If you are a lover of science and nature, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, is a wonderful addition to your home library. Award-winning author, Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, gives her readers insight into her life as a botanist and indigenous scientist. Potawatomi knowledge runs through her veins, and she uses storytelling to teach us about nature and the value of reciprocity. With every chapter, Kimmerer captivates us with traditional Potawatomi stories, showing us the deep connection between her passion of scientific knowledge and traditional ways. Each story holds a personal memory that helps us understand how reciprocity is key. Whatever is given to us must eventually be given to another, whether it is a gift from the earth or from our neighbors.

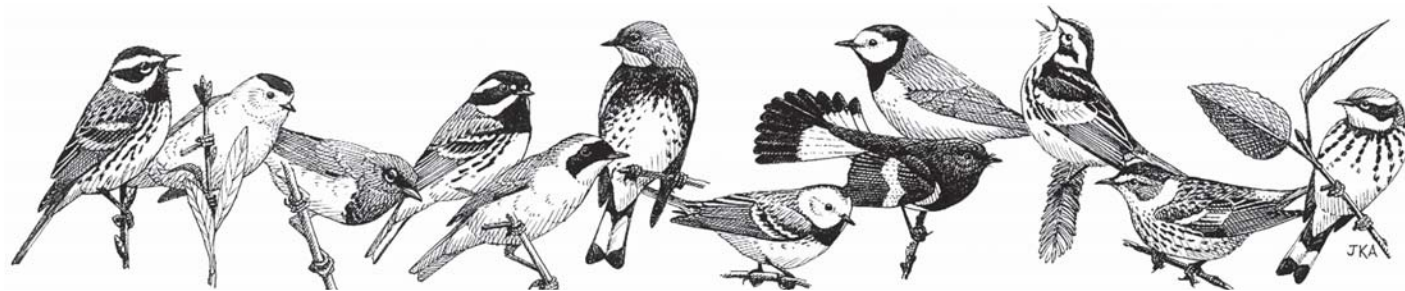
In reading *Braiding Sweetgrass*, I personally connected with many concepts. As one who is also passionate about botany, I was deeply entranced by the way Kimmerer described certain plants in her chapters such as sweetgrass, pecans, asters, goldenrod, witch hazel, and more. Kimmerer shows us there is more to plants that meets the eye, which the plants we see teach us to be thankful for what they give us, underscoring the idea of reciprocity. Using one of the stories from her culture as an example, Kimmerer explains how Skywoman gave trees, flowers, fruits, and seeds, thereby creating the earth, in thanks to the birds who saved her when she fell from the sky. Though I am not of Potawatomi descent, I am reminded of cultural stories about nature from my Aztec ancestors that made me think of the multiple ways that I connect to nature - through both botany and science as well as culture. Kimmerer quotes ethnobotanist Dr. Gary Nabhan, "We can't meaningfully proceed with healing, with restoration, without 're-story-ation.'" This truly spoke to me because I work in habitat

restoration in the Baldwin Hills and I teach students about restoration. Though I may know some history of the plants I grow and care for, I cannot honestly say that I know their cultural story, how they came to be and how through past generations they were cared for and used.

I learned that I need to have a scientific and a cultural/spiritual connection to the habitat restoration work I do. Kimmerer relays a friend's story about their time in the rainforest. Kimmerer's friend was astounded by the indigenous guide's knowledge of the plants. The guide responded, "Yes, I have learned the names of all the bushes, but I have yet to learn their songs." After reading this, I came to the same conclusion that Kimmerer did: I had been teaching myself the names of plants but had been not been listening for the plants' songs. This is indicative of many of the ideas behind using indigenous as a lens to view ecology.

In every chapter of *Braiding Sweetgrass* Kimmerer skillfully combines science, emotion, and storytelling. Every plant, native or non-native, has a story to tell us. In these times of ecological crisis, we need to use all the knowledge, ideas, and tools at our disposal. This book left me with a sense of awe about the possibilities of science and culture working together to inspire a connection with nature. 🐦





BIRDS OF THE SEASON October 2018, by Jon Fisher

All too soon we're nearing the end of autumn migration. As usual, this column is the longest of the year; we expect that quite a few good birds will be recorded in fall and 2018 was no disappointment in that regard. Starting at the end of August, a steady flow of vagrants made for an impressive couple of months.

The uncomfortable temperatures of August and September had subsided after September, making days in the field much more pleasant. Other good news was an early October storm that brought a half inch or more of rain following a very long dry period.

It's beginning to sound redundant, but San Clemente Island again this fall proved its remarkable ability to attract vagrants. So too did Santa Catalina Island which, though far more accessible to birders, actually receives much less coverage. Peck Road Park in Arcadia was a productive spot for seedeaters and coastal spots such as Sand Dune and Madrona Marsh produced a number of reportable birds. A handful other small parks and green patches proved worthy of coverage for both expected and rare migrants as did several locales on Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Increasing coverage by birders isn't everything, but it's a significant factor when it comes to turning up rare birds. It's logical and correct to assume that

the heavily populated coastal slope of LA County receives a large share of birding hours. Most vagrant reports come from this area. Also, in fall coastal areas tend to be the most productive to begin with.

As I've noted before, the norm of working Monday through Friday and birding on the weekend has become less and less prevalent. This means that more birds are being found on weekdays and that fewer of them escape detection. Despite that change, the vast majority of migrants and vagrant pass through without ever being seen. Still, we did find quite a few...

Twenty-four **Cackling Geese** were on Santa Catalina Island on September 24 (Neil Zhang) and ten were on San Clemente Island on October 6 (Justyn Stahl).

A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Hansen Dam in Lake View Terrace from September 14–27 (Kimball Garrett) and a "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** had returned for another winter to the LA River in Glendale as of October 4 (Andrew Birch). Not far downstream, a **Common Merganser** that summered in the area was reported through September 22. A **White-winged Scoter** was near the LA River mouth in Long Beach on October 19 (Tom Miko).

The Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB hosted a **Common Ground-Dove** from October 9–10 (Chris Dean, John Birsner) and a half dozen **White-winged Doves** were found between August 23 and October 6.

Away from breeding areas was a **Lesser Nighthawk** at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach on August 23 (Jun Wu, Bin Cao).

A **Chimney Swift** was along the LA River in Glendale on September 1 (Andrew Birch). Another one to two were at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach on September 3 (Jun Wu, Bin Cao).

Notably rare in the county was a **Broad-billed Hummingbird** spotted in Los Liones Canyon on September 26 (Kathleen Waldron).

Also quite rare- at least in pure form- was an **American Oystercatcher** at Royal Palms Beach from August 24–October 1 (Daniel Tran).

An **American Golden-Plover** was on San Clemente Island on August 27 and a presumed **Pacific Golden-Plover** was in the east Antelope Valley at Ave, N and 50th Street East from October 13–21. One and possibly two **Mountain Plovers** were at Dockweiler State Beach in El Segundo on October 19 (Kevin Lapp).

A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB from September 2-8 (Mark & Janet Scheel) and **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were on San Clemente Island on September 1 (Justyn Stahl), while two were seen over open water southwest of San Clemente Island on a pelagic trip on August 25 (Tom Benson).

Apparently the last of the fall **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were single birds on the LA River in Long Beach on August 26 (Dessi Seiburth) and on September 22 (Javier Vazquez, Naresh Satyan).

Normally expected only well offshore, **Red Phalaropes** were found in well above normal numbers inland. One was along the LA River in Long Beach from September 1–3 (Donna Bray, Fitches), another was at Peck Road Park in Arcadia from September 1–2 (Ed Stonick) and three were at the Lancaster Water Treatment Plant on September 10 (Tom Miko). Notable were ten were at Quail Lake near Gorman on September 16 (Brad Rumble), while bringing up the rear was one was along Ballona Creek on September 21 (Kevin Lapp)

A **Sabine's Gull** was at the Piute Ponds on Edwards AFB on September 10 (Tom Miko) as was one on September 22 (Mark & Janet Scheel) and a rare inland **Arctic Tern** was present there from September 22–23 (Joe Lepisto).

A pelagic trip on August 25 recorded a **Red-billed Tropicbird** and eighteen **Cook's Petrels** near San Clemente Island (Tom Benson, et al). Cook's Petrels, once considered very rare, are now known to be rather common well offshore.

A close in **Northern Fulmar** obligingly lingered around the Cabrillo Fishing Pier in Long Beach from September 21–23 (Jonathan Nakai).

Boobies, ever more commonly encountered in southern California waters, included a

Nazca Booby in San Pedro Harbor on September 8 (Dessi Seiburth), a **Brown Booby** at Thirty Mile Bank on October 7 (Tom Benson). A boat trip on August 25 found a **Masked Booby**, a **Brown Booby** and a **Red-footed Booby** west of San Clemente Island (Tom Benson). Another **Red-footed Booby** was in San Pedro on October 15 (Bernardo Alps). One significant driver of these increased records are food shortages. A number of these birds have shown signs of malnutrition.

Two of the original four **Brown Pelicans** that turned up last summer at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas continued through October 2. Any occurrence of this species away from the immediate coast is unusual.

An **American Bittern** was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on October 18 (Dean Schaff). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** included up to three at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh near Playa Vista with at least one reported there through October 20. What was presumably one of these birds was on the Marina del Rey breakwater on October 11 (Bernardo Alps). Another was at the Cabrillo Salt Marsh in San Pedro from September 11–27 (David Ellsworth).

An early **Ferruginous Hawk** of the scarce dark morph was west of Lancaster on September 14 (Anna Von Kovn).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in the Sepulveda Basin on October 20 was the first reported this season (Daniel Tinoco).

A significant find was the discovery of a **Ladder-backed Woodpecker** in Big Tujunga Wash on October 6 (Brad Rumble). Though there have been a smattering of coastal slope reports over the years, this is the first well-documented record away from the deserts.

Scarce on the coastal slope were **Prairie Falcons**

over lower Zuma Canyon in Malibu on September 3 (Kimball Garrett) and at Brackett Field in La Verne on October 20 (Rod Higbie).

The **Greater Pewee** that spent last winter in Pacific Palisades had returned to Rustic Canyon as of October 5 (Brian Daniels) and was reported there through October 21.

Up to eight **Vermilion Flycatchers** were at Oakdale Memorial Park in Glendora during the period. Others were at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City on September 14 (David Quadhamer) and at Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale on October 3 (John Garrett), with two present there on October 15. Single birds were also at El Dorado Park in Long Beach on October 16 (Joyce Brady) and a Peck Road Park in Arcadia on October 20 (Kimball Garrett).

Tropical Kingbirds were at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City from September 29-October 3 (Jonathan Nakai, Judy Matsuoka), at Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach from September 30-October 1 (Tracy Drake), at Madrona Marsh in Torrance on October 1 (Tracy Drake), one was at Entradero Park in Torrance from October 5-10 when it was joined by a second bird (Charlie Keller). Both were reported through October 24. Finally, one was along the LA River at Willow on October 6 (Jeff Boyd, Richard Barth).

Very rare in the county was a **Yellow-Green Vireo** photographed at Legacy Park in Malibu on September 12 (Dan Cooper, Dean Schaff).

Eight **Purple Martins** were recorded from September 1-16 and scarce coastally was a **Bank Swallow** over the LA River in Long Beach on September 29 (Jeff Boyd).

Other unusual passerines included a **Pacific Wren** at the LA County Arboretum from Arcadia from October 16-18 (Darren Dowell) and a **Gray Catbird** on

San Clemente Island on October 4 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers).

Red-throated Pipits were on San Clemente Island on October 7 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers, Jimmy McMorran), in the east Antelope Valley from October 13–14 (Mark & Janet Scheel) and on San Clemente Island- two birds- on October 15 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers).

A **Lapland Longspur** was at the Toyon Landfill in Griffith Park from October 7–9 (Andrew Birch).

A **Green-tailed Towhee** was at the South Los Angeles Wetlands Park on September 30 (Brad Rumble).

Above average were the seventeen **Clay-colored Sparrows** reported during the period, most of these on the coastal slope. A **Black-chinned Sparrow**- rare as a coastal migrant- was at Madrona Marsh from October 9–10 (Chezy Yusuf).

Vesper Sparrows were in Griffith Park in Los Angeles on September 2 (Andrew Birch), at Sand Dune Park in Manhattan Beach on September 21 (Jun Wu, Bin Cao), along the LA River in Long Beach on September 24 (Jim Moore) and at Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach on October 17 (Robert Hamilton).

Three **Black-throated Sparrows** in Tujunga Wash in Sunland on September 9 (Brad Rumble) were notable. This species is a scarce fall migrant on the coastal slope.

Lark Buntings were on San Clemente Island on September 4 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers) and again on October 4 (Nicole Desnoyers).

A **“Large-billed” Savannah Sparrow** was at the Ballona Creek mouth in Playa del Rey on October 17 (David Bell).

Grasshopper Sparrows were at Oakdale Memorial Park on August 26 (Rick Fisher), at Peck Road Park in Arcadia on September 22 (Judy Hwa), at Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale from October 5–6 (Joyce Brady, Chris Dean), again there on October 14 (Jon Feenstra) and at Peck Road Park from October 14–15 (Darren Dowell).

A **Swamp Sparrow** was at Peck Road Park in Arcadia on October 20 (Jon Fisher).

The first **White-throated Sparrow** of the season was at a residence in Torrance on October 18 (Lisa & Scott Sutton).

Rare on the coast were two dark-lored **White-crowned Sparrows** at White Point Nature Preserve on September 27 (Brian Daniels).

A **Dark-eyed “Slate-colored” Junco** at Hopkins Wilderness Park in Redondo Beach on August 30 was quite early. **Dark-eyed “Gray-headed” Juncos** were at the Chilao Visitor’s Center in the San Gabriel Mountains on September 24 (Luke Tiller, Melissa James), at Madrona Marsh in Torrance on September 27 and at Hahamongna Watershed Park from October 10-20 (Darren Dowell).

Bobolinks were on Santa Catalina Island on September 23 (Mark & Janet Scheel), at Peck Road Park in Arcadia on September 24 (Judy Hwa) and along the LA River in the Sepulveda Basin on October 13 (Daniel Tinoco).

Baltimore Orioles were on San Clemente Island on September 9 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers) and at the UCLA Botanic Garden in Westwood on October 19 (Samuel Bressler).

A fairly impressive eighteen species of wood-warblers were detected during the period, in addition to the nine expected western species.

Rare anywhere in the county, but quite a surprise at nearly 6,000 feet above sea level was an **Ovenbird** at Mt. Wilson on September 8 (Alex Viduetsky). Others were on Santa Catalina Island from September 24–27 (Steven Munoz) and at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester on October 7 (Russell Stone).

Northern Waterthrushes were at Hahamongna Watershed Park in Pasadena from September 1-2 (Darren Dowell, Jan Long), in the Sepulveda Basin in Van Nuys on September 1 (Daniel Tinoco), in Big Tujunga wash from September 15-October 6 (Brad Rumble) and on San Clemente Island from October 13–15 (Justyn Stahl).

Over a dozen **Black-and-white Warblers** were found over the period, the most notable sighting being three at the Piute Ponds on September 16 (Kathy Duret).

Prothonotary Warblers were in Glendale on September 24 (Mary Freeman) and at Ladera Park in Ladera Heights on October 7 (Richard Barth).

Seven **Tennessee Warblers** were reported from late August through October, a **Lucy’s Warbler** was on San Clemente Island on September 5 (Nicole Desnoyers) and six **Virginia’s Warblers** were found between September 1 and October 15.

An excellent find was a **Connecticut Warbler** on San Clemente Island from September 5–4 (Brian Flick). Though there are over 120 records for California, this was the first recorded in LA County.

American Redstarts were at the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail from September 16–17 (Dessi Seiburth), at Madrona Marsh in Torrance on September 17 (Chris Dean) and at Pearblossom Park in the Antelope Valley on September 24 (Candice Byers).

Very rare- with fewer than ten ever recorded in the county- was a **Cape May Warbler** on San Clemente Island from September 19-27 (Justyn Stahl, Nicole Desnoyers).

A **Magnolia Warbler** was at Peck Road Park in Arcadia from September 29–30 (Darren Dowell). **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas on September 8 (Trent Bell) and on San Clemente Island from September 19-26 (Nicole Desnoyers). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City from September 28–30 (Brian Daniels).

Blackpoll Warblers were at the Piute Ponds on September 22 (Darren Dowell), on Santa Catalina Island from September 22–24 (Dessi Seiburth, Chris Dean) and at Pearblossom Park in the Antelope Valley on September 23 (Kimball Garrett). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was on San Clemente Island on October 7 (Justyn Stahl) and seven **Palm Warblers** were also recorded over the period.

An early **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach on September 6 (Robert Hamilton) and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** was on San Clemente Island on September 19 (Nicole Desnoyers).

Canada Warblers were on San Clemente Island on September 2 (Justyn Stahl) and at Banning Park in Wilmington from September 12–22 (Merryl Edelstein).

Summer Tanagers were at Oak Park Cemetery in Claremont on September 8 (Tom Miko), at Peck Park in San Pedro on September 9 (Philip Carnehl), at the Piute Ponds on September 29 (Trina Jones).

A half dozen **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were detected between September 3 and October 16 and an equal number of **Indigo Buntings** turned up in September.

Dickcissels were at Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach from October 9-16 (Robert Hamilton), at Peck Road Park in Arcadia from October 14-15 (Darren Dowell) and near Agua Amarga Canyon on the Palos Verdes Peninsula from October 20-21 (Jun Wu, Bin Cao).

Though passerine migration is essentially over, that doesn't mean Neotropical migrants are gone. A number of rare and regular warblers, along with a few flycatchers, vireos, orioles and others will linger late and a handful will spend the winter.

Waterfowl will still be moving into the area for another month or so. The deserts provide good birding in fall and winter, offering a number of specialties generally difficult to find elsewhere.

The San Gabriel Mountains have held good- and sometimes quite unexpected- rare birds in past winters, though admittedly these are few and far during the colder months. On the flip side, these mountains don't receive much coverage at this time of year.

Though not uniform in terms of temperature and food resources, the Pacific Ocean offers an environment

free of physical barriers for birds. Thus the coast and offshore waters always have potential for regular and rare species.

Yet to arrive, if they do in any numbers this year, are Lewis's Woodpeckers, Varied Thrushes and other irruptive species. Either way, it's always interesting to see how the next few months play out.

By the time the next BIRDS OF THE SEASON comes out, Christmas Bird Counts will be largely completed. Most counts could benefit from additional participants, particularly birders with experience. The counts are not only an excuse to get out birding- often somewhere new and different- but the data collected over decades is very useful. So by all means, do join a local count... or two or three. 🐦



Black-throated Sparrow | Photo courtesy www.allaboutbirds.org.org

FIELD TRIPS



Nick & Mary Freeman
Field Trip Chairperson
& Trip Leaders

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

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

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

CARPOOLING

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

FEE REQUIRED RESERVATIONS

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

Mail to:

Los Angeles Audubon
PO Box 411301
Los Angeles CA 90041-8301

MORE INFORMATION

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

Please visit www.laaudubon.org for updates to Los Angeles Audubon's field trip listings.

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

Sunday, November 18

San Jacinto Wildlife Area and Lakeview Area

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

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

Sunday, December 9

Newport Back Bay

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Meet on the wooden boardwalk along the west side of the bay down from the end of University Drive at 8:30 a.m. for the 5.8' high tide, and a full day of birding in the area. High tide at the mouth is about 9:20 a.m., and may not peak in the back bay until after 10:00 a.m., so we will be in position when birds flush to higher ground. Ridgway's Rail, Sora, American Bittern, Peregrine Falcon, Blue-winged Teal and California Gnatcatcher are expected. Short-eared Owl (rare) will also be a target. We will finish up at San Joaquin Marsh, upstream. **Take the 405 Fwy S to the 73 Toll Road (free this far) to the Campus Dr. exit. Turn right on Irvine**

Ave., then turn left on University Drive, a small street. Park beyond the Preserve HQ (2301 University Dr., Newport Beach 92660), and walk down the trail and over the bridge to where the boardwalk starts to curve. Bring lunch. 'Scopes and FRS radios helpful.

Saturday, December 15

Lancaster Christmas Bird Count

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

Sunday, December 16

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!

Wednesday, January 2

Los Angeles Christmas Bird Count

Contact compiler *Daniel Cooper* at: dan@cooperecological.com to be matched up with a team or a survey area.

Saturday, December 29

East Antelope Valley, including Piute Ponds

NO FEE, 20 MAX SIGN UP, PERSONAL EAFB PASS REQUIRED before Dec. 20!

Leaders: *Mary and Nick Freeman*. Chance of LeConte's Thrasher, and occasionally Vermilion Flycatcher. Some of the finest desert birding in LA County! Some amazing birds have been seen here over the years! Continue to 110th St. E, Apollo Park and possibly elsewhere afterwards. Meet at the Avenue C gate at 8:00 a.m. **To get here**, take Hwy 14 N to Avenue D, head E to Sierra Hwy, head N to Avenue C, and go a block E to the gate at the end. Bring lunch, sunblock and lots of water. Possible afternoon wind. High clearance vehicles may be a plus.

TO SIGN-UP: First, talk with Misty Hailstone on the base by phone at (661) 275-2435 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. **before Dec 20** to arrange a *required annual pass*. Tell her your personal information (•legal name, •driver's license number and state issued, •social security number, •date of birth, •email address, and •phone number). *Please DO NOT e-mail or leave a message for Misty*. Access for foreign nationals is trickier but still possible. Cameras O.K. Then, send email (or call (323) 876-0202 to check available spots) to Susan at membership@laadubon.org to register with LAAS. Provide your •cell phone number and •email address and •zip code.

Saturday, January 12

West Antelope Valley Raptors and Less Consequential Birds

NO FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP of 20

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 at 12861 Encinitas Ave, Sylmar, CA 91342. Trip leaves at 7:00 a.m. Rain in the AV cancels, as decided at Denny's by Louis. 'Scopes and FRS radios helpful.

Sunday, January 20

Seal Beach NWR / Naval Weapons Station

LIMITED SIGN-UP REQUIRED, NO FEE

Nick and Mary Freeman and refuge volunteer Carolyn Vance will guide. We should have two short buses for our silly band of birders. Throngs of wintering shorebirds and numerous raptors will be seen. Nelson's (Sharp-tailed) Sparrow, Peregrine Falcon and a few Pacific Golden-Plover are usually sighted. The refuge is part of the *Naval Weapons Station*. **TO SIGN-UP:** Please send •ZIP Code, •first, •middle-initial & •last names, •DOB, •e-mail and •home phone number, •cell ph# optional but helpful; **by JANUARY 10**. 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., bird through the morning as the high tide of 5.7 feet around 9:00 a.m. catches us at Hog Island, and bird until about noon. Take Seal Beach Blvd. S from the 405 Fwy, pass Westminster Blvd., turn left onto the base at the Forrestal Lane light, and left again into the lot. Spotting scopes helpful.

GULL STUDY WORKSHOP

Lecture – Friday, January 25

\$20 FULL WORKSHOP FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP, (20 Max.)

Speaker *Larry Allen* will discuss most gulls that have appeared in North America — the majority 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 gentle 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 identifying to age and species. Slides, study skins and handouts will be used. *This is a Ralph Schreiber Grant fund-raiser*. **PLEASE REGISTER** with Susan at membership@laadubon.org, providing •name(s), •cell phone number, and •e-mail address; then **MAIL A CHECK for \$20 each**, which gets you the lecture & field trip, and an 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.

Field Trip - Saturday, January 26

\$20 FULL WORKSHOP FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP, (20 Max.)

(New Date & Time This Year!)

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 9:00 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 the San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Ponds in Pico Rivera, but the destination and directions will be disseminated after the Friday lecture. Some pretty amazing gulls have shown up here over the years, including Glaucous, Slaty-backed, Lesser Black-backed, 'Iceland & Thayer's', and Kelp (yes, Kelp!) gulls. Let's hope for one or two of these. Maximum of 20 participants. See above to reserve lecture & field trip. Doheny Beach parking fee. If goodly numbers of gulls are present around the Los Angeles Basin, we will assemble there instead. Bring a lunch.

Sunday, February 27

Techniques for Better Bird Photography

Marina del Rey / Santa Monica

\$40 FEE, LIMITED SIGN-UP OF 10

Your workshop host will be *Christopher Taylor*. During the field lab, shorebirds and gulls should highlight. Christopher will be addressing a basic approach to one of the most difficult arenas of photography. Christopher will cover different aperture, lighting and metering techniques to help make your photographs POP! Meet at the Del Rey Lagoon parking lot at 7:30 a.m. with a DSLR camera and 300mm-plus telephoto lens (required). Take the Marina Fwy (90) to Culver Blvd and turn left for a mile. Turn right on Pacific Ave. Turn into the lot on the right. After lunch, Christopher will review basic post-production Photoshop techniques, and tips to make good photos great and great photos truly eye-catching. A charged laptop with Photoshop loaded is useful but not required. Finish up 3 or 4 p.m.

Please register with Susan at membership@laaudubon.org, providing •name(s), •cell phone number, and •e-mail; **and mail a check** for \$40 each. More details in the January newsletter.

February 2 & 3 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, Pronghorn, Elk 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. **Please register** with Susan at membership@laaudubon.org, providing •name(s), •cell phone number, and •e-mail address for exact directions and *further information*; **and mail a check for \$20 each**. Net profits go to the SCHREIBER GRANT FUND. Reserve your own room in Buttonwillow for Saturday night. Motel 6 is one option here. FRS radios & 'scopes helpful. Limit: 16.

Saturday, February 9

Chasing Parrots in Pasadena

NO SIGN-UP, NO FEE

Leader: *Larry Allen*. The famous "Temple City" parrots have moved to Pasadena! Join Larry as we follow the evening flock as it gathers members and moves to roosting sites in suburban Pasadena. Possible Red-crowned, Lilac-crowned, Red-lored, and Yellow-headed Parrots and perhaps other parrot and parakeet species as well. Bring scopes if you have them. **We will meet** at 5:00 p.m. and bird until fully dark (about 6:30 p.m.). **Meet at** La Pintoresca Park at 45 E Washington Blvd. in Pasadena, at the northeast corner of Fair Oaks Ave. and Washington Blvd. Exit the 210 Freeway at Fair Oaks and proceed north about 1¼ miles. Park on the surrounding streets and gather around the small parking lot on the east side, off Raymond Ave. If you don't find the group there, look on the west side of the park. Depending on the location of the roosts, we will either walk or drive from the park.

Sunday, February 10

Ventura County Game Preserve

NO FEE, EMAIL SIGN-UP REQUIRED, 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 Sand-Plover 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. Sign up by e-mail** with Susan MEMBERSHIP@LAAUDUBON.ORG, giving city of residence. We will walk the property, so good hiking/mud shoes with energetic legs inside a plus. We may have one car. Scopes & FRS radios helpful. There is a slight chance of cancellation, so please check the LAAS website for trip status the day before.

Saturday, February 16

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. Osprey likely, Peregrine Falcon less likely, and Least Bittern rarely seen. **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, February 23

Salton Sea South

FEE: \$10, EMAIL 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)! **Meet at 7:00 a.m.** Saturday at Cattle Call Park south of Brawley (just downhill from 550 Cattle Call Drive, Brawley). Brawley Inn 760/344-1199, Calipatria Inn 800/830-1113, and Americas Best Value Inn in Westmorland 760/351-7100 are recommended. Arrive fed with full tanks, and bring lunches and snacks. Those who wish to will eat together Saturday night.

No Limit, but sign up by e-mail to: Please register with Susan at membership@laaudubon.org, providing •name(s), •cell phone number, and •e-mail address for emailer with exact directions and further information; **and mail a check for \$10 each.** FRS radios & 'scopes helpful.

March 16 & 17, 2019 Weekend

Anza-Borrego State Park

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

Leader: *Kurt Leuschner*. Peak time for both wildflowers and Swainson's Hawk migration! Caravan through the State Park from the Colorado Desert up to Julian, with short forays to take in the sights and the wildlife. Kurt is a professor of desert ecology, and knows all of our deserts very well. Reserve your accommodations at Hacienda del Sol, Stanlund Motel or others in Borrego Springs months *early*, as this is wildflower season too! **Meet at** the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association (652 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs). **Please register** with Susan at membership@laaudubon.org providing •name(s), •cell phone number, and •e-mail address; **and mail a check** for \$20 LAAS member / \$40 non-LAAS fee. More details later. 🐦



AUDUBON CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY, NOV. 2-4, 2018

Register Now!

Audubon California Chapter Assembly November 2-4, 2018 Long Beach, California

Chapter leaders, members, and friends are invited to join Audubon California for the 2018 Audubon Assembly! This will be an exciting opportunity for you to meet with chapter leaders, members, and partners from all over the state to enjoy birding coastal wetlands and other unique areas, explore conservation opportunities and practices, share stories with leaders from various regions, and establish peer-to-peer collaborations and partnerships.

Please visit the Audubon California website to view the program and reserve lodging.

<http://ca.audubon.org/about/chapters/audubon-california-assembly>

Courtyard Marriott Long Beach Downtown, 500 E 1st St, Long Beach, CA 90802

BIRD WALKS

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

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 Sat. of each month,
(Except August)

Nov. 3 & Dec. 1

The first Saturday of every month, from 9 a.m. to noon, Los Angeles Audubon Society hosts the "Open Wetlands" event at the Ballona Salt Marsh. Binoculars will be available to borrow, and volunteers will help visitors view aquatic invertebrates through microscopes, learn about the unique ecosystems found at Ballona, and view birds through powerful spotting scopes along Ballona Creek. The buckwheat is in bloom and lots of butterflies to see. Please drop-in!

TOPANGA STATE PARK BIRDWALK

1st Sunday of every month

Nov. 4 & Dec. 2
Time: 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: *Ken Wheeland and Chris Tosdevin*

Ken and Chris will lead participants through this beautiful and diverse coastal mountain area. An ideal trip for a beginning birder or someone new to the area. From Ventura Blvd, take Topanga Canyon Blvd 7 miles S. Turn E uphill on Entrada Rd. Follow the signs and turn left into Trippet Ranch parking lot. From Pacific Coast Hwy, take Topanga Canyon Blvd. 5 miles to Entrada Rd. Parking fee. Contacts: Ken: 310-455-1401, ksafarri@aol.com; Chris: 310-455-1270

UPPER FRANKLIN CANYON / SOOKY GOLDMAN NATURE CENTER

Second Sunday of the month

Nov. 11 & Dec 9, 2018
Time: 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Leader: *Eleanor Osgood*
Join us as we take a casual walk around the ponds and trails of this urban 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, flycatchers.

Directions: Please visit our website for directions to: (2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills 90210) (Take Franklin Canyon Dr down to park entrance, turn at first left into the parking lot. From Sunset Blvd: go north on N. Beverly Drive to Coldwater Canyon Dr to Mulholland Dr. Veer left on Mulholland Drive. At the next traffic signal, make a left turn onto Franklin Canyon Dr. continue to first parking lot on the left. Binoculars provided.

KENNETH HAHN STATE RECREATION AREA

(4100 S. La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles 90056)
3rd Saturday of the month (no walks in July or August)

Nov. 17 & Dec. 16
Time: 8:00 a.m.-12:00p.m.

Leaders: *Eric and Ann Brooks, Eleanor Osgood*

This trip covers landscaped parkland, a man-made lake and natural coastal scrub habitats within the Baldwin Hills. We are likely to see many of the resident birds such as Black Phoebe, Cassin Kingbirds, California and Spotted Towhee, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk. We will look for southbound migrating birds such as warblers, vireos and flycatchers.

The park entrance is off of La Cienega Blvd. between Rodeo Rd. and Stocker St. After passing the entrance kiosk (\$6.00 parking fee) turn into the first parking lot on the right leading to the lake. Binoculars provided.

BALLONA WETLANDS BIRD WALK

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

Nov. 18
Time: 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: *Bob Shanman and Friends*

Join us for a walk through L.A.'s only remaining saltwater marsh and the adjacent rocky jetty. Meet at the Del Rey Lagoon parking lot. Take the Marina Fwy (90) to Culver Blvd and turn left for a mile. Turn right on Pacific Ave. The lot is on the right. Lot or street parking is usually not a problem. Three hour walk. 'scopes helpful. Contact: Bob 310-326-2473; wbutorrance@gmail.com

