



www.pvsb-audubon.org

Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

February/March 2015 Vol. XXXVII No. 1

What's Happening With YES



PVPLC and YES teamed with Simon Tech High School of Watts to conduct habitat restoration at White Point Preserve.

Photo by Marcos Trinidad

Audubon YES has been working hard the past year and the fruits of our labor are now ready for harvest. Our partnership with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) brings a smile to my face each time one of our projects are mentioned, sited or highlighted as I scroll through our newsfeed on our YES social media sites.

The PVPLC and YES have been in partnership with a small high school in Watts this past year as a result of a Toyota TogetherGreen Innovation grant. The grant had enabled the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society to expand our Audubon YES program to the students of Simon Tech High School. The YES club at Simon Tech

made multiple trips to San Pedro's White Point Nature Preserve and adopted a site for coastal sage habitat restoration. As part of the restoration, students weeded, planted California native plants and mulched their site.

"It's been a year since the first Simon Tech field trip to White Point ... the garden has grown up so much over the past year and is now green and blooming due to the much-needed rain. Shrubs that these students planted are now thigh-high and already providing necessary habitat for pollinators and wildlife. The space still has some growing to do and ongoing maintenance will keep us busy for a long time," said Adrienne Mohan of the PVPLC.

See YES, next page

2015 PV/South Bay Audubon Programs

Feb. 17
"Birding in Africa"
Dr. Randy Harwood

March 17
Kimball Garrett
L.A. County Natural
History Museum

April 21
"Alondra Native Plant Garden:
Improving Habitat for Wildlife"
Jeanne Bellemin, Ann and
Eric Brooks, Dave Moody

May 19
"Desert Birds"
Sylvia Gallagher
Sea and Sage Audubon

June 16
"Hawk Migration"
Dr. Peter H. Bloom
President of Bloom Biological, Inc.

July 21
"Native Plants Habitat Gardens that
Attract Birds and Other Wildlife"
(6 p.m. Garden Tour)
Tony Baker

Sept. 15
"Spiders"
Dr. Lenny Vincent

Oct. 20
Dr. Brynne L. Bryan
Aquatic Ecologist/Lecturer

Programs start at 7 p.m. at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center in Torrance; visit www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.

YES, from Page 1

Adrienne has been crucial to Audubon YES and the students we serve and we look forward to connecting our members to Palos Verdes and the South Bay with meaningful restoration projects this coming year. In addition to the student's hard work, Simon Tech also spent some time exploring the beach, getting their feet wet and experiencing the healing powers of nature, something that most of the students were experiencing for the first time in their lives.

Audubon YES has had such a great year in 2014 it is often hard to choose only a couple of projects to highlight. Lucky for us social media outlets Facebook and Instagram have allowed us to highlight our projects in ways that were not possible before. One project that I have chosen to highlight a bit more has seemed to stretch its reach.

Local Student Shares Passion for Outdoors in Nicaragua

For the past couple of years, a small village in Nicaragua has had a few remarkable visitors. One of these visitors is none other than Audubon YES', Alison Hong, of Palos Verdes Peninsula High School. Alison has been lucky enough to visit Nicaragua not just once, but many times. She and her family have been spending much of their summers in Nicaragua.

Alison has been involved with Audubon YES for just over five years and received her YES award in the spring of 2013. Many of her hours have been spent working on a Palos Verdes blue butterfly restoration site and most recently on her adopted site in Lunada Canyon, where she is restoring habitat for the California gnatcatcher and cactus wren.

At the young age of six, Alison started studying the Spanish language and as a world traveler, she did not waste any time as she was getting to know the locals while she was visiting Nicaragua. Alison was able to get to know the village's young children pretty well.



Alison Hon teaching elementary students in Nicaragua.

During her multiple visits to Nicaragua, Alison spent many days at the local elementary school, Santa Marta. There Alison would share about her hometown of Palos Verdes and all the projects she had been working on as a high school student. With the environment high on Alison's priority list, passion for the outdoors led her to encourage the students to talk about their hometown and village. She asked them to share what they like about where they live and how they feel about the nature that surrounded them. And even a step further, she asked them to draw pictures of what inspires them.

When Alison returned from her summer expedition, I had the privilege to meet with her and discuss her projects at great length and hear Alison describe her experience. Alison shared, "I learned so much about the children!" and "They are really connected to their environment."

As I listened to Alison describe her memories in detail, I flipped through page after page of illustrations by Nicaraguan children between the ages of 5 and 12. On each page, a common theme seemed to be shared amongst the students. Images of trees, rivers, birds and mountains had decorated the pages.

I listened to Alison's idea about how she would like to put together a book of

these drawings. In this book, she will include her experience as a child of Palos Verdes and her very different life in America and the experience of being in a foreign land. She explained how she wanted to highlight each child's drawing and show how much the environment meant to the students. And for a short moment I could not explain or put to words what I had just witnessed.

Over the years I had witnessed Alison Hong grow into a young leader. And what is so amazing about the work that she is doing is that she is involved with sharing her experiences on many different levels. Her impact and selfless service not only has reached her community and local environment but now extends thousands of miles away!

I am glad to report that Alison's book idea is in the works and that all the proceeds of the book will be donated to the Santa Marta School in Nicaragua. Please stay tuned for the release date of Alison's book "Beinestar Saludable para Los Ninos" It is definitely not to be missed.

Audubon YES is open to all student members of the Audubon Society and their families. If you know of any local organizations or areas in need of volunteers, please contact Marcos Trinidad, YES Director, at marcos@pvsb-audubon.org or 323-945-4346.

ON THE ROAD

The Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve

By Steve Wolfe

Las Vegas may be known for “glitz, glamor and girls,” but it also has its share of areas that are excellent for viewing wildlife. The Henderson (Nevada) Bird Viewing Preserve is certainly one of the best places in southern Nevada for bird watching — up close and personal, and in that respect quite different from other, more natural areas.

The HBVP began as part of the Henderson sewage treatment system, but changes in the system means the city now uses reclaimed water. The sewage smell is gone — and the birds remain. It’s a bit tricky to find, but follow the blue “Bird Viewing Preserve” signs leading to the sewage treatment plant, and you’re there.

The preserve is nine ponds, some marshy, others open, and there is a wide selection of birds there — waterfowl such as Northern Shoveler that are safe from hunting during the hunting season so they’re not fleeing from you if you approach, raptors such as Harriers, marsh birds such as American Bittern, Marsh Wren and Red-winged Blackbirds, along with Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Helpful and informative displays are everywhere, giving background on the wildlife to be found here along with history of the sewage treatment ponds and the new means of water reclamation. You have to remember that this is a harsh desert land. Nesting birds are found here, too, such as this Costa’s female who put a nest on top of a pine cone right off a busy pathway — and successfully raised two nestlings (see below photo).

So if, while visiting the Las Vegas area, you find yourself wanting to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city, the Bird Viewing Preserve in Henderson, Nevada is a quiet oasis well worth visiting.



©Steve Wolfe

The birds observed at this preserve include the Verdin (above), Costa’s Hummingbird (below at left) and Northern Shoveler (directly below).

Photos by Steve Wolfe



Under Milk Weed

By Evi Meyer

Over the last few years as a birder I have had plenty of opportunities to observe mating, brooding and parenting of different species. I have followed the lives of Red-tailed Hawks, Cactus Wrens and Allen's Hummingbirds and watched new generations of birds emerge, each in their own special way. But none of that matched the awe I experienced in my own front yard this past fall when Monarch Butterflies decided to take up residence in my milkweed plants.

When I created my native garden a few years ago, I made sure to use lots of plants suitable for butterflies and other insects. I paid particular attention to milkweed, the exclusive host plant for Monarchs, the toxins of which make these butterflies unpalatable or even toxic for birds and other potential predators. As a result of those plantings, a steady stream of these orange and black visitors graced my garden from September on to lay their eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves.

The light yellow eggs of Monarch Butterflies are about the

size of small pinheads. They hatch within a few days, and begin their lives as caterpillars (larvae) by eating their eggshells, before moving on to their exclusive diet of milkweed. During their development these caterpillars molt (shed their skin) several times, often eating their shed skin before returning to eating milkweed. The intervals in between molts are called instars, and Monarchs go through five distinct instars of increasing size.

Even the first tiny instars of only a few millimeters already showed the black, white and yellow zebra-like banding, which made it easy to follow their movements on the host plant despite their small size. I noticed that many of these first instars migrated towards flower buds and devoured the soft, closed flower petals (photo 1). Only when they grew to a later instar stage did I see them move down on the plant (photo 2) and eat the leaves. I wondered if the reason for the different food sources was that the mandibles had to be a certain minimal size to chew through the tough leaves, or if the immunity to the toxins in the plant was perhaps not completed in the first

See *MILK WEED*, next page



1

2

3

4

5



6

7

8

'BIRDING IN AFRICA'

Presented by Dr. Randy Harwood
Adventure Traveler & Photographer
Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
Madrona Marsh Nature Center

"Birding in Africa" will be a photographic journey to many of Africa's best countries for tourism and wildlife appreciation including Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Madagascar and Mozambique. It will include many of Africa's signature animals, highlighting primarily the amazing birds found there. Hopefully it will inspire arm-chair travelers as well as anyone contemplating a "once-in-a-lifetime" trip to consider Africa as a destination.



Dr. Randy Harwood will share his photography and tales of Africa at the upcoming Audubon Chapter meeting.

Photos by Randy Harwood

Dr. Randy Harwood has been fortunate to be able to travel a few times a year to many wonderful countries for over 40 years, primarily traveling to warm-water countries for SCUBA diving and underwater photography until about 10 years ago when he took a group on safari to Tanzania, where he started attempting "above-water" photography. Randy has been organizing "adventure-dive" travel trips for more than 30 years. Currently he has a dive trip to Indonesia, and a Peruvian trip to Machu Picchu and the Amazon in the works.

MILK WEED, from Page 4

instar, and they needed to eat parts of the plant that might be less toxic.

Once the caterpillars had reached their last instar of 25 to 45mm they were ready to turn into a chrysalis (pupa). They searched for solid structures on which they could start their metamorphosis into a butterfly. After having found a suitable spot they attached themselves upside-down in a hanging J-shape (photo 3).

After a couple of days, they started to move their bodies vertically in an accordion-like manner, producing a dorsal slit of the cuticle. Heavy circular wriggling and writhing completed the shedding of the skin, leaving a gorgeous waxy jade-green chrysalis with brilliant gold spots and tiny black dots (photo 4).

As soon as the skin was shed from the emerging chrysalis, the latter became much less mobile, only exhibiting movement when disturbed.

After a couple of weeks, the green chrysalis turned transparent and the folded up black and orange wings of the Monarch Butterfly became visible (photo 5). For the butterfly to emerge, the chrysalis cuticle must be split open along a zipper-like line of weakness. To achieve that, the butterfly inside the chrysalis has to swallow air through the pupal spiracles, small holes on the chrysalis used for oxygen intake during development. As a result, the body of the butterfly expands and splits the chrysalis open (photo 6).

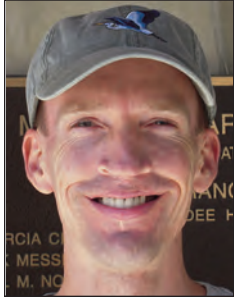
When the butterfly emerged from the chrysalis, its wings were damp, soft and folded against its body. For the wings to

become functional, it has to pump blood from the thorax into the wings, while still hanging on to the open chrysalis (photo 7). As the wings are being prepared for flight, the proboscis is formed by snapping two curled up mouth parts called maxillae together. Once the wings and proboscis are ready for use, the adult Monarch Butterfly is ready to take off and start the life cycle again (photo 8).

While watching baby birds being reared by their parents was definitely exciting for me as a birder, witnessing the complete metamorphosis from a Monarch caterpillar to butterfly, and observing the intricate details necessary to make this whole process possible, was mind-boggling. I will never look at Monarchs in the same way as they glide silently through my garden and my life.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Christmas Bird Count



By David Quadhamer

Our 49th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) went well. Our initial tally is 176 species of birds on count day, which is the highest count total for our count circle in the last 10 years! Some rare birds for our area were found, including a Black-throated Green Warbler, and of course Varied Thrushes,

which have been seen regularly throughout Los Angeles this year.

After everyone was finished counting birds, they were invited to Madrona Marsh for the potluck dinner. I always enjoy the potluck dinner. This is where all of the groups tally the birds that they found. It is fun to hear what rare birds the other groups have found. It's a long day, but well worth the effort.

I would like to thank everyone who participated. If it was a new experience for you, hopefully you enjoyed it and will join us again in December. If you weren't able to participate, you can join us this year. The more people we have out there counting birds, the better the count will be.

Following is a summary of the last 10 years for our count circle: In 2013, 173 species were found; in 2012 and 2011, 170 each; in 2010, 165; in 2009, 162; in 2008, 158; in 2007, 162; in 2006, 171; in 2005, 158; and in 2004, 170.

One might wonder how our count compares to all of the other CBCs that take place. For the 114th (2013) CBC, our total of 173 species put us in a tie for 27th place for counts north of the U.S.-Mexico boarder. Not bad! In case you're wondering, there were 2,408 individual count circles, 1,863 of which were in the United States. In the U.S., 652 species of birds were tallied, and the total number of birds tallied was 62,857,532. There were 55,462 observers participating in the CBC nationwide.

Our CBC data is used with the data from all of the other CBCs, and researchers use this data to spot trends in the number of birds and their locations. Specific to the Peninsula, we can use data from past counts to analyze how the bird population here has changed over the years. California Quail were found on our count 30 years ago at the South Coast Botanic Garden and in other areas on the Peninsula. There were 7 found in 1984. They are now highly unusual. Thirty years ago, Loggerhead Shrikes were somewhat common. There were 51 found in 1984. Now we are lucky if we find one for our count.

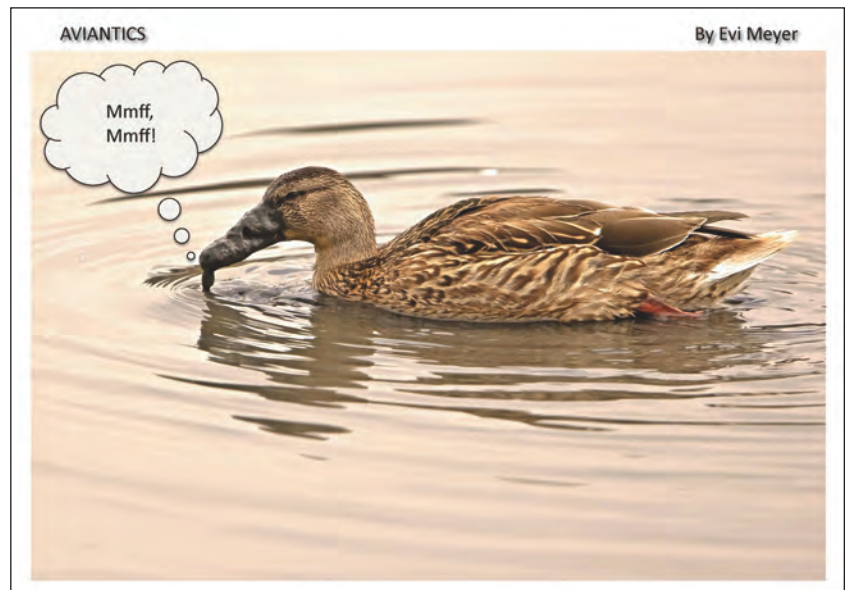
If you are interested in participating in another citizen science project, the Palos Verdes Peninsula

Land Conservancy is starting a Cactus Wren Citizen Science Monitoring program. This will be an annual program to track the wrens, their nests and their breeding success. Training will take place in February, with the monitoring set for March through August. If you would like to participate, please contact Ann Dalkey at 310-541-7613 ext. 208, or adalkey@pvplc.org; or visit the PVPLC website and the PV/SB Audubon website.

I got my start birding by volunteering for a bird survey in the Three Sisters Reserve. I enjoyed participating in the survey, learned about birds and discovered that I wanted to learn more about birds. I have been birding ever since. I initially started going on some bird walks (which are conveniently listed in the calendar in this newsletter) and found a bird class taught by Ann and Eric Brooks. Eventually I started going on field trips around Southern California as well. I then became a board member for Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon and eventually President. You never know what participating in a program like this might start!

Our chapter is still looking for people to get involved as Executive Officers and Board Members. We are looking for a Secretary to take notes at our board meetings and distribute them to Board Members. We are also looking to fill some vacant positions on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in any of these positions, please let me know. The board meets six times per year, usually on the first Wednesday of even-numbered months at 7 p.m. at Madrona Marsh.

We have a lot of interesting speakers on the schedule this year. We offer a number of bird walks each month throughout the South Bay, led by knowledgeable walk leader glad to help with bird identifications. Join us at a meeting or a bird walk.



Your Backyard Habitat



By Dr. Constance M. Vadheim
CSU Dominguez Hills

Lemonadeberry *Rhus integrifolia*

The recent rains have plants greening up — some even flowering. Lemonadeberry, *Rhus integrifolia*, is blooming spectacularly this year in the wild; it's also brightening up many a fortunate South Bay garden.



Lemonadeberry is a true local native, growing from south of Santa Barbara to Baja California, primarily in ocean-facing canyons and on north-facing slopes. It is found commonly on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

In the wild, Lemonadeberry is a majestic large shrub, attaining heights of 6 to 10 feet and spreads of 10 to 12 feet. Fortunately for gardeners, it takes well to pruning; in fact, deer and other creatures prune it in the wild. It can be grown as a smaller shrub or even pruned to a hedge as short as 4 feet tall and wide. Such an adaptable shrub!

Lemonadeberry makes a wonderful habitat plant. Its dense foliage protects small animals, as well as perching and nesting birds. Its flowers, which appear in late winter or early spring, are a magnet for bees of all sizes. Later, the fruits are

enjoyed by fruit-eating birds like Northern Mockingbirds, Jays and Flickers. You'll probably want to use some of the fruits to make "lemonade," syrup or jelly. Just soak the fruits in cool water to dissolve the tangy coating, remove the fruits, then use the flavored water to make your favorite treat.

Lemonadeberry is an easy shrub to grow in many local gardens. It's not fussy about soil type. It likes full sun along the coast and some afternoon shade in hotter inland gardens. It is very drought tolerant once established (about three years).

While mature plants are dense, *Rhus integrifolia* takes a few years — and some pruning — to achieve a pleasing shape. Let plants grow for three years, or until long, gangly branches appear. Then prune back when plants are actively growing, after flowering and fruiting have ceased (in summer).

Lemonadeberry is ideal for life-friendly hedges and mixed hedgerows. It provides ever-green beauty year-round. And it's part of our local heritage. To learn more, visit <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2014/12/plant-of-month-december-lemonadeberry.html>



For more information on growing and purchasing this plant, visit the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. You can also learn about local native plants at the "Out of the Wilds and Into Your Garden" series on the first Saturday of each month at the center.



CONSERVATION CORNER

Frightening Facts About Fracking



By Lillian Light

In spite of how dangerous it is to our health and safety, fracking is expanding at an alarming rate. In a recent article from Food

and Water Watch (<http://documents.foodandwaterwatch.org/doc/fracking.pdf>), I read the following:

“Today, many communities near oil- and gas-bearing shale deposits are witnessing a mad rush to drill and frack. Starting with the Barnett Shale in Texas, the Haynesville in Louisiana and the Fayetteville in Arkansas, Big Oil and Gas has turned their attention to other shale plays in Texas, and to plays in North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Kansas. In California, the top prize for frackers is the Monterey Shale formation, which stretches from Monterey County to the Northern Los Angeles area. “

Hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” for short, poses many risks to America’s water supply and to the people near the drilling sites. Fracking uses millions of gallons of water mixed with secret toxic chemicals, pumped deep underground at high pressure to release trapped pockets of oil or gas, a process that many say has contaminated groundwater with toxic chemicals across the country.

A single fracking well can require more than a million gallons of water, and the process depletes and contaminates local water. After a well is fracked, a portion of the water remains

underground; the rest is recovered as wastewater that contains hazardous chemicals and radioactive material from underground. The fracking waste, re-injected underground at disposal wells, acts as a lubricant between rock faces and causes earthquakes while also producing thousands of cases of contamination.

When fracking loosens gas, it can cause methane to migrate into nearby household wells and drinking water. It can make tap water to catch fire and build up in the air where inhaling the fumes can cause nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and suffocation. Residents in Dish, Texas, near the Barnett Shale, complained about sickness in humans and animals since drillers came to town. Testing seven miles west of town revealed high levels of benzene, a known human carcinogen, in the air.

Increased development of shale gas will accelerate climate change because large amounts of methane leak during fracking. Methane is a greenhouse gas over 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Stopping fracking will help reduce the dangers of the looming climate crisis. This dangerous method of oil and gas drilling is receiving opposition in many areas. More than 440 local resolutions opposing fracking have been passed, and Vermont and New York State have banned it.

We need to urge Governor Brown to protect California’s drinking water by implementing a ban on fracking for oil and gas!

Please visit the governor’s website to find his contact information and to send him a letter via e-mail:

<https://govnews.ca.gov/gov39mail/mail.php>.

Will Global Warming Research Inspire a New Wave of Green Birding?

By Garrison Frost
Audubon California

While no one is going to say that people looking at birds are a remotely significant source of the global greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, there is a growing number of birders who are exploring less carbon-reliant ways to enjoy the wonders of nature. After all, the folks might say, if we’re going to talk about the threat to birds from global warming, and ask lawmakers to take action, birders should at least do their part. The idea of green birding is nothing new, but as Audubon is talking more about the impacts of global warming on birds, some say that it’s time to focus more attention on the practice.

One of these people is Martin Byhower, a past president and current board member of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society in Los Angeles County. Back in 2006, Byhower founded a Green Birdathon for his chapter. The event worked in every way like every other birdathon fundraiser (people are asked to pledge a certain amount of money to the chapter for every species identified during a set period of time), with one exception: The birding group can’t use any motor-powered vehicle other than public transportation.

“I’d love to travel the world and see 10,000 species, but that would leave a huge carbon footprint,” Byhower says. “That’s probably not

See GREEN BIRDING next page

BIRDER'S DIARY

Hermit Thrush

By Jess Morton

The soft “chup” from deep in the shrubbery is easy to translate. It says, a hermit thrush is here wondering who you are and what you are doing so close to where I live. And you can answer, should you wish to using that same soft sound. The final “p” is not the plosive p of English, but the more restrained p of Spanish, and the opening “ch” is not the usual English ch made with the forward part of the tongue against the palate, but with the middle tongue instead. It comes as a sound as soft and pleasing as the soft browns of the bird’s plumage, should you chance to see it.

But seeing a hermit thrush is not so easy, even though they are abundant in our more shrubby hillsides, canyons and yards during the winter months. These birds are secretive and can be hard to see even when you are looking directly at one. Their muted colors blend with the dense brush in which they are usually found so that until the bird moves—and they can sit still for long periods when inclined to do so—they look like just another branch of the tree they are sitting in.

Looking at winter checklists from bird walks around here, for instance old lists I have seen from the South Coast Botanic Garden, one can tell whether the person who made the list birds by ear or not. If the list shows six or ten hermit thrushes, you can be sure the birder involved knew the sounds of birds as well as their plumages. For sure they did not actually see ten hermit thrushes! When the list shows no hermit thrushes to be present, it does not mean the birds were absent, just that whoever compiled the list did not do their birding by ear.

Still there are times and places where you can go to see these birds. Find a Christmasberry tree (toyon) in January or February and sit ye doon for a wee while. The ripe fruits hang



Hermit Thrush

Photo by Jess Morton

in luscious (for birds) scarlet clusters just ready for the plucking and eating. But don’t think for a moment that the hermit thrushes which are undoubtedly close by are going to make it easy for you to have a long clear look. Great patience is required for that, but what you will experience is an acrobatic circus by the birds.

You will hear them first, then spot where they are by the movement of leaves. With luck and quick binocular work, you might even get a decent look. More likely though, you will get a glimpse as one after another of them leaps up, loops and hovers momentarily beside a cluster of berries just long enough to pop one into its beak, and then plunges back into cover. Since each toyon has many clusters of berries, you will have to guess where to look next, but each pass will give you a little more insight into what a hermit thrush is and why they are such delights.

GREEN BIRDING, from Page 8

something that people who care about birds should do.”

Byhower notes that a larger commitment to green birding would mean taking a radically different perspective on birding. The first thing to go would be the notion of the giant life list.

“We need to have different goals than having a big life list, county list, year list or whatever,” says Byhower. “But green birding is

more about getting to know your local area and your local birds instead of just piling up huge numbers of species. It might mean having a good yard list — that might be your goal instead.

Byhower admits that it’s going to be hard for the birding community to change its values away from large diverse lists of birds.

“I understand that when you’re new at it you want to see all these things,” he admits. “And it’s all too easy for older birders who have al-

ready traveled the world and seen all the birds to pass judgment on new birders.”

In the end, Byhower says, it will be a gradual process. And perhaps one that people take on a little bit at a time. Instead of taking five cars to a neighborhood bird walk, perhaps think about carpooling. Try birding on a bike once in a while.

Reprinted with permission
www.audublog.org/?p=13485

MEET, LEARN, RESTORE, ENJOY

Chapter Calendar

Events

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.: **PV/South Bay Audubon board meeting** at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.: **Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers.** Our speaker for the night will be Dr. Randy Harwood, adventurer and photographer. He will present "Birding in Africa." Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.: **Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers.** Our speaker for the night will be Blake Morrissey of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, giving a presentation on California Condors. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Field Trips

Important Note: Due to construction at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, all second Sunday bird walks there are cancelled indefinitely.

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 8:30 a.m.: **"Tour de Torrance."** Join Audubon leader Ron Melin and friends on a ramble around a great local birding area. Meet at Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 4: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Sunday, Feb. 8, 8 a.m.: **Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** Audubon leader Martin Byhower will

lead this walk through the garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 8 a.m.: **Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh** with Audubon leader Bob Shanman. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Saturday, Feb. 14, 9 a.m.: **PVPLC Natural History Walk to McBride Trail.** Walk along the city of RPV's first trail and the site of the Conservancy's very first nature walk 23 years ago. This walk features panoramic views over preserved land out to Catalina and beyond. Easy. Visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, Feb. 15, 8 a.m.: **Bird Walk at Ballona Wetlands** with Bob Shanman. Visit www.torrance.wbu.com.

Sunday, Feb. 15, 12 p.m.: **Los Serenos de Point Vicente's Natural History Walk to Abalone Cove Shoreline Park.** Tour the tide pools teeming with fascinating marine life. Moderate to strenuous. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 8:30 a.m.: **"Tour de Torrance."** See Feb. 3 for details.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 8 a.m.: **Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan will lead this walk through the garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.



Snowy Plover

Photo by Evi Meyer

Saturday, Feb. 28, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: **Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh** with Audubon leaders Tracy Drake and Dinuk Magammana. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Sunday, March 1, 12 p.m.: **Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Abalone Cove Shoreline Park.** Tour the tide pools teeming with fascinating marine life. Moderate to strenuous. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm

Tuesday, March 3, 8:30 a.m.: **"Tour de Torrance."** See Feb. 3 for details.

Wednesday, March 4: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Sunday, March 8, 8 a.m.: **Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** See Feb. 8 for details

Wednesday, March 11, 8 a.m.: **Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh.** See Feb. 11 for details.

Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Linden H. Chandler Preserve. Experience this impressively restored 28-acre nature preserve with its lush oasis of rare riparian habitat and a new home for the rare Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly. Moderate. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, March 15, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. For details, visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Tuesday, March 17, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Feb. 3 for details.

Wednesday, March 18, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan will lead this walk through the garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Forrestal Nature Reserve. Walk through coastal sage scrub habitat and learn about the local geology. Moderate to strenuous. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm

Saturday, March 28, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leaders Tracy Drake and Dinuk Magamma. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Tuesday, March 31, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Feb. 3 for details.



NOTE: PV/South Bay Audubon field trips are generally free, but donations are much appreciated to support programs of the chapter.

Please visit the chapter website at www.pvsb-audubon.org, or www.southbaycalendar.org. Area youth and their families are encouraged to visit www.pvsb-audubon.org/AudubonYES.html.

BOOK REVIEW

Birds & People by Mark Cocker and David Tilling

Written by Jess Morton

Every once in a while a bird book comes along that is engrossing from start to finish. Each contains its pleasures and surprises. The best of them contain a combination of well-crafted text, fine artwork, careful observation and, most importantly, wonderful ideas new to you, the reader. *Birds & People* is a member of this rare class of books.

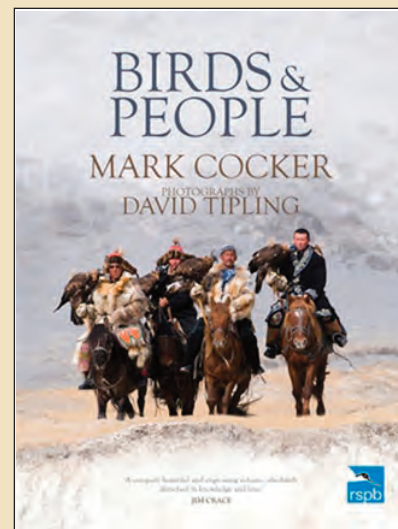
This book is a compendium of how the lives of birds and of people have intersected around the world and throughout history. The book was years in the making, and summarizes the observations and anecdotes of hundreds of people who contributed their stories about birds to Mark Cocker, who then combined that with his own deep knowledge of birds and wildlife and the work of many authors to present a distillation, bird family by bird family, of what birds mean to human beings, and as far as we can judge, what we humans mean to the birds.

Photographer David Tilling added his hundreds of fine bird pictures to illuminate the text. For some of the 144 families given a chapter of their own, the text and photos run to several pages. Most families, however, were covered in far less space (a page or two), and 59 families were simply listed at the back of the book because of their limited interactions with people. Even so, this is a huge labor of love, running to nearly 600 pages. Though much inside is light-hearted, the book is anything but lightweight!

This is not a book for listers, people only interested in checking the next bird off their city, county, state or whatever list before going off in search on the next checkmark. This is a book for those of us who care about birds and why and how we do. There are anecdotes, legends, myths, observations, photos, poems and stories here from all around the world and stretching back thousands of years, each shedding light on how someone and some bird somewhere and at some time came into contact with each other. The range of experiences recorded in the book is extraordinary, and there is something on each page that will light up the reader's sense of wonder and help broaden his or her view of the world.

Unlike a novel or textbook, *Birds & People* is a gift to those who love random sampling. Pick any page and begin. Chances are there will be a photo with a suggestive caption that will draw you into the text wherever you are. Likely you will want to find the beginning of the chapter about the family of the bird shown, but you really can begin anywhere because it's all fascinating reading, and the book has no end — there is merely a last page.

Birds & People is extraordinary. I commend it to your attention and interest in both birds and people. The title describes it well.



PALOS VERDES/SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 2582
PALOS VERDES, CA 90274

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TORRANCE, CA
PERMIT NO. 172

**Time-sensitive material—
please deliver promptly**

The Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, of which PV/SB Audubon is the local chapter, are dedicated to the understanding and preservation of our natural heritage.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: David Quadhamer, 310-833-3095
Vice President: Martin Byhower, avitropic@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer: Jess Morton (Acting), 310-832-5601
Secretary: Open
Past President: Nancy Feagans

DIRECTORS

Eileen Byhower Robert Carr Ollie Coker Tracy Drake
Stacy Herman Lillian Light Donna Morton
Brandon Winner

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Annual Fundraiser/Conservation Awards: Eileen Byhower, Donna Morton
Audubon So. Cal. Council Rep.: David Quadhamer, dquadhamer@yahoo.com
Birdathon Teams: Martin Byhower, avitropic@sbcglobal.net
Tracy Drake, tdrake@torranceca.gov
Jess Morton, jmorton@jgc.org
David Quadhamer, dquadhamer@yahoo.com
Birds of the Peninsula: Open
Bird Walks: KMHRP: Martin Byhower, avitropic@sbcglobal.net
Madrona/Polliwog/Ballona: Bob Shanman, wildbirdbob@gmail.com
Out of Area: Eric & Ann Brooks, motmots@aol.com
Tour de Torrance: Dave Moody, dsmoods@verizon.net
South Coast Botanic Garden: Martin Byhower, avitropic@sbcglobal.net
Bluebird Nest Project: Open
Calendar: Evi Meyer, evimeyer@cox.net
Christmas Bird Count: David Moody, compiler;
Ann & Eric Brooks, motmots@aol.com
Community Outreach: Open
Conservation Awards/Special Events: Eileen Byhower, Donna Morton
Education: Open
E-mail announcements: Jan Gardner, Janet.Gardner@ngc.com

Field Trips: Eric & Ann Brooks, motmots@aol.com
Hospitality: Alene Gardner, Alene.Gardner@sbcglobal.net
Hummin' Editor: Michelle Fisher
KMHRP: Martin Byhower, avitropic@sbcglobal.net
Mailings manager: Bob Shanman, wildbirdbob@gmail.com
Membership outreach: David Quadhamer, dquadhamer@yahoo.com
Programs: Candy Groat, groat99@aol.com; Bob Carr, robertfcarr@aol.com
Publicity: Open
Restoration: Harbor Park: Martin Byhower, avitropic@sbcglobal.net
Science Advisory Committee: Candy Groat, groat99@aol.com
Surveys: Three Sisters Restoration: Ann Dalkey, adalkey@pvplc.org
Snowy Plover: Ron Melin, er2melin@gmail.com
South Bay Birds: Dave Moody, dsmoods@verizon.net
Webmaster: Nancy Feagans, nancy@pvsb-audubon.org
YES Director: Marcos Trinidad, marcos@pvsb-audubon.org

NOTE: Send corrections to David Quadhamer (dquadhamer@yahoo.com)

Join and Support

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
Membership (National Audubon) \$35.00
Chapter Supporter (to support local programs)
Gift: \$25__ \$50__ \$100__ Other__ \$_____
Total Enclosed \$_____

Please make your check payable to the Audubon Society and mail it to: P.O. Box 2582, Palos Verdes, CA 90274

C0ZC430Z